Committe: Jr Unicef

State: Cuba

Agenda: Impact of Covid-19 on children

As all we know, Covid 19 is a pandemic and it originated from Wuhan – China on December 2019. Unfortunately, the corona virus has had deep impact on the whole world and it has affected our way of life deeply. Even the most deserted societies cannot escape from its bad results. Governments and societies have been forced to take precautions against this worldwide serious problem. Everyone in every society has to obey some rules and these rules are determined by health authorities. The most important feature of this process is the lockdowns. During these lockdowns, very limited people such as health, security and food professionals were allowed to go out and do their jobs. Face to face education was interrupted for nearly two years.

Republic of Cuba as the rest of the world has taken precautions against this pandemic. In addition to lockdowns and other precautions, we have developed three vaccines. Their names are Abdala, Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus. We have completed the vaccination of 88% of Cuban society. The vaccination rate for the children between 2-18 is 95%. We believe that all governments had better provide all necessary needs from medications and treatments to food for their citizens.

Moreover, during the lock-down, there were some abnormal psychological effects of lock-down upon the children. First of them was that the children between 6-7 performed a momism, second of them was that the children between 1-7 performed a serious stubbornness, third of the was that there was disrupted sleep schedule for the children between 12-18, fourth of them was that the children between 13-18 did not obey the rules. For that reason, professional health personnel should assist and support these children.

Besides these precautions, there were some more precautions for the children during Covid 19 lock-down as Cuba. One of them was that face to face education was stopped and tele-classes were created from 8 a.m to 4 p.m. In these classes some board games and interactive screen games were practised. There is a reality that face to face education is much more effective than tele-class education and many people think that the children with tele-class education cannot learn properly. We should organize extra lessons to fill this educational gap. Shorter holidays could be planned as a solution. The biggest problem we faced with is that for the 2013-2017 period, only 54% of households on the island had internet access and 62% had a computer. It is obvious that there is a lack of internet and computer shortages. On the other hand, most of the students have been addicted to their computers and other devices. All children need a safe, friendly and educative environment. Governments and families should act together to create these environments for young generations. We believe that social interactions between children should be increased by organizations such as cultural and festival activities.