Committe: Jr Unicef

State: The United Arab Emirates

Agenda: Impact of Covid-19 on children

The Covid 19 pandemic period has been one of the most important problems the world has experienced in the recent years. The pandemic, which created a massive trauma effect for the whole world, has caused negative effects in many ways. Due to this deadly virus, the pandemic left deep traces in the world both socially and economically. People’s daily lives, habits, behaviors and relationships have changed unexpectedly. As in many countries, the United Arab Emirates has taken a lot of measures to minimize the damage of the virus.

The first case in the United Arab Emirates was on January 29, 2020. After the death of two people in March 20, an 11-day sterilization campaign was started. Markets, shopping malls, public buildings and even streets were sterilized by spraying. Firstly, schools were announced to be closed for 4 weeks on March 8. After 3 weeks, it was announced that the schools would be closed until the end of the academic year.

Most schools in the United Arab Emirates have reopened at the beginning of the 2021/2022 academic year with a lot of Covid-19 measures in place. The ministry of health has announced that the entire population has been vaccinated against Covid-19, and this is the first in the world. With a population of 10 million people, United Arab Emirates has vaccinated everyone who has passed the age of 3. In our country we had a diverse range of vaccines such as Zeneca, Moderna, Biontech, Sinopharm Sputnik V which were used in Covid-19 vaccination programme in December 2020.

Considering that education in the United Arab Emirates began with the admission to kindergarten at the age of 4 to 5 years, one of the biggest victims of this crisis has undoubtedly been children. Children who could not attend school had to continue their educational lives through computer-based systems. In most cases, difficulties in accessing and adapting to distance education have led to huge losses in the education of children. Schools were not only places of education for children, but also the opportunity for socialization and emotional development. For this reason, the closure of schools has also led to many problems such as difficulty communicating and staying away from social activities in children. The closure of schools was not the only incident affecting children during the pandemic. There were also growing concerns about the stress faced by families, with unemployment, financial uncertainty and curfew restrictions.

To sum it up, children determine how they will react to situations in which they are strangers by observing adults. Therefore, a lot of work falls on parents to minimize the bad marks that the pandemic process has left on children. The child should be given a message that he is safe and to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on children all countries should be a union and conduct campaigns for children. They should help them socialize and interact with people. Beyond these, schools need to organize events such as camping tours where children stay with their friends. Each nation should provide free guidance to give families about how to reduce the impact of Covid-19, how to continue living as before or how to reduce psychological impact on children. And finally we know that children are more sensitive individuals than parents, and that they are emotionally and physically extremely affected by this pandemic. Since children are our future, we should think about what we can do for children now and in the future.