

Takshashila Policy Advisory - COVID-19: Reopening Schools in India

June 9, 2020

Executive Summary

As part of the response to COVID-19 in India, various state governments had closed all schools by mid-March. Maintaining social distancing and hygiene is difficult in schools and hence, schools can easily become a hotspot for the spread of the virus. Further, since this is a novel virus, its impact on children's health is still being researched and largely unknown. The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) estimates 30-80% of those infected in India to be asymptomatic¹ and it is possible that children may also be asymptomatic carriers of the disease. However, keeping schools shut will impact the development of children and take a toll on parents who are working at home and taking care of young children. In this context, various state governments are considering re-starting schools for the new academic year. This document highlights the following recommendations to assist governments in their decision on the re-opening of schools.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Defer decision to re-start physical school till at least October 2020
2. Employ technology for delivery of education – use Television, internet, and phone to reach students
3. Allow flexibility in attendance
4. Enforce social distancing and hygiene in schools
5. Focus on the mental health of students and teachers

[Read the full document](#)

Authors



Nitin Pai

Nitin Pai is co-founder and director of the Takshashila Institution, an independent centre for research and education in public policy. His current research includes the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific; defence economics and the politics of radically networked societies.



Shambhavi Naik

Shambhavi Naik is the Chairperson of the Advanced Biology programme. She has a PhD in Cancer Biology. Shambhavi's research covers India's policies in areas of emerging technologies, with a focus on healthcare and higher education.

◀ [Takshashila Policy Advisory - A Policy Guide to Pooled Testing](#)

[Takshashila Strategic Assessment - India, COVID-19, and West Asia](#) ▶

The Takshashila Institution

Connecting good people to good ideas and good networks.

[Subscribe to the Takshashila Dispatch](#)



Think Tank

[Research](#)

[Commentaries](#)

[All Things Policy](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Principles for the Use of AI](#)

Education

[Policy School](#)

[OpenTakshashila](#)

[Political Mandala](#)

[Takshashila Library](#)

About

[Mission](#)

[Milestones](#)

[Career Opportunities](#)

[Donate](#)

Legal

[Ombudsman](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Locate Us

[The Takshashila Institution](#)

[2nd floor, 46/1, Cobalt Building, Church Street](#)

[Bengaluru, Karnataka, India - 560001](#)