

## *Editorial*

### *Covid, Return to Schools, Mental Problems and the Children*

The children returned to the schools over the last year and 2023-24 has been to all appearances a return to normalcy after a number of years of pandemic and home schooling. Yet there are a number of developments that are worrying. Among these are gaps in children's knowledge and development, behavioural changes noticed by parents and teachers in the children and unusual fears, worries and extreme grief affecting the children after return to schools.

Particularly worrying are mental problems reported by children, their parents or care givers. There have been many reports in the press, on radio and TV and on the various social media of the mental and social difficulties that many children are having and of the equal difficulties that teachers are having in our time.

As a university teacher working mainly with graduate students, I have found the same thing. In advanced classes of doctoral students with relatively straightforward tasks individually and in small groups, many of the students were struggling with the materials, the tasks and their own progression towards beginning or completing their research in order to write up their doctoral dissertations. Many seem to be having family troubles, or troubles with classes of their own students that are connected with the aftermath of COVID-19. Some hardly completed coursework at all. Some faced delay after delay in the system to their personal distress.

I would like to encourage authors out their working on these problems at any educational levels to consider the possibility that we will be trying here at the JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT to put together a special issue devoted to this general topic of post-covid mental and social issues that students and schools are struggling with.

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Editor-in-Chief

