

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Published by VERDE, Soreze, this 02.06.21

Survey by VERDE on school resumption: Parents remain concerned, contemplating to change school if staff are not vaccinated

Research and corporate finance advisory firm VERDE undertook a survey over the past 2 weeks to determine the readiness of parents to send their kids to school on the 14th June. The sample size achieved was 475, comprising parents of children of 18 years and lower, across the island.

The main findings which emanated from the study are provided below:

1. The willingness to send kids to school on the 14th June increases as the age of the kids go up. Only 11.1% of parents surveyed mentioned that will send their kids to day care. 25.7% of parents with kids in primary school intend to send their kids to primary school and 39.3% will send their kids to secondary school.
2. In general, 8.2% of parents think that day care should reopen on the 14th, versus 25.1% for primary schools and 35.6% for secondary schools. It is to be noted that this figure was obtained prior to the announcement made by the minister Kalpana Koonjoo Shah yesterday 1st June.
3. 15.9% of parents of day care kids have stated that they will consider changing schools if the staff of the school are not entirely vaccinated and schools reopen. This figure increased to 28.9% for primary schools and decreases to 26.8% for secondary schools.
4. When it comes to day care, 78.2% of parents have stated that there were no online classes, in months where the country was in lockdown. Of those who had online classes, 75% attended all their classes and 2.6% never attended the classes.
5. When it comes to primary schools, 42.8% of parents have stated that there were no online classes. Of those who had online classes, 47.2% attended all their classes and 13.6% never attended the classes.
6. When it comes to secondary schools, 56.2% of parents have stated that there were no online classes. Of those who had online classes, 64.0% attended all their classes and only 0.9% never attended the classes.
7. The reasons cited for not attending online classes across all age groups were: classes are boring, parents have to work and grandparents cannot manage the online classes and online classes being useless as kids cannot focus. For kids going to government schools, there were no online classes as the kids were on holiday.
8. 55.3% of parents believe that online classes are useful, 11.6% slightly useful and 23.1% stated that they were useless.
9. 23.0% of parents with children in day care believe that catch up classes will be required once schools reopen, against 77.0% for primary school kids and 65.3% for secondary school kids.
10. 93.5% of parents believe that school fees should not be the same when only online classes are being utilised.

11. When it comes to changing the calendar year, 42.6% of parents believe that it was a good idea, 28.8% believe it was a bad idea and 28.6% have no opinion. These 28.6% are attributed to parents whose kids go to private schools that have not changed their calendar year. Parents who stated that this was a bad idea have provided the following reasons: children are losing months in their scholary, winter holidays and not practical for parents.

12. When the question of reopening schools in a phased manner was put forward to respondents, 60.3% have stated that this is a good initiative, against 39.7% who said it was a bad idea.

13. Overall, 79.8% of parents believe that schools should reopen when the situation is better, and that online classes should be considered for now.

Venna Pavaday, co-founder and partner at VERDE says that: Following the announcement of the ministry yesterday, when put in a general context, 41.7% of parents feel comforted enough to send their kids to school if staff are either fully vaccinated or would need to have a PCR test every 7 days. 58.3% would still be uncertain about sending their kids to school. Reasons for this uncertainty were attributed to: still not safe as other kids may catch the virus, too many cases, vaccinations don't work, must wait until no more cases are present"

END



ABOUT

VERDE is a full-service strategic research and corporate finance advisory practice, built on the belief that our economies and societies are underpinned by and reliant on science to make informed decisions. We complement our tailored, integrated expertise with a vibrant ecosystem of digital innovators to deliver better, faster and more enduring outcomes. Clients come to us to solve industry-defining challenges in: strategy, marketing, data, digital transformation and strategy, advanced analytics and corporate finance mandates across all verticals in the Indian ocean region.

VERDE is licensed and regulated by the Financial Services Commission as an Investment Adviser (Corporate Finance Advisory) with license number IZ20000022.