

Boarding school as buffer to problems and challenges in distance teaching and learning

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Boarding schools in Slovenia are educational organizations and part of the Slovenian school system. In the education system, they represent additional educational opportunities for students who live, during schooltime, outside their homes. Boarding schools also play an important role in distance education; as a buffer of the problems and challenges that all participants in the education process. During this time, the educators in Boarding schools work individually with the students and with entire educational group. In this uncertain time, we helped students overcome the psychosocial distress brought about by the epidemiological situation in the country.

The purpose of the study is to determine the extent of our work during distance learning. We will compare to what extent the number of mental distresses of adolescents has increased, compared to the same period last year. We will also find out whether these mental distresses occurred to a lesser extent in students who otherwise live in Boarding Schools.

As a method, we chose a secondary analysis of data and the number of mental distresses in the adolescent. During the study, we will also conduct interviews with experts from the pediatric, psychiatric and pedagogical professions. With a short questionnaire, we will encourage students in boarding schools to share their feelings and experiences of distance education.

Our main findings are that there has been a sharp increase in the number of adolescents with mental health problems, which can be attributed to the epidemiological situation and distance education. Because of that, students missed an important part of socialization. Educators in boarding schools have made a positive contribution to overcoming the psychosocial distress of students.

In the study, we rely on existing theories and practices. However, we want to shed light on the new practices that educators in boarding schools have used during the period of distance learning.

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