

Covid's troubled child

They have paid a high price for safety in the pandemic. As they return to school, how do we compensate for the two lost years of schooling and childhood?



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Broody isolation during Covid manifested in cognitive decline, physical and mental illness among many children; (Photo: Bandeep Singh)

Four-year-old Devyani (*name changed*) could hardly contain her excitement when told she would be going to school on February 21. She had joined kindergarten last year in a South Delhi school, but could attend classes only online, where she would first greet her teacher and then every one of her classmates. However, when her father took her to first day of school and her class teacher came out to meet her, Devyani shrank back, and asked her father, "Where did she come from?" Having seen her teacher only on a computer screen, the young child had trouble dealing with her in person.