



7 NOVEMBER 2022  
PRESS RELEASE

## Internet problems, lack of quiet spaces top challenges to remote learners—YAFS5

Problems with internet access and finding a quiet place to study were the two main difficulties experienced by young remote learners during the pandemic, based on the results of the 2021 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS5).

The YAFS5 asked students aged 15-24 enrolled in the School Year (S.Y.) 2020-2021 or Academic Year (A.Y.) about their learning modalities and how often they encountered a list of problems regarding remote learning, as adopted from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Global Crises Questionnaire Module.

The results of the study found that majority of students in the first year of the pandemic were mostly under offline modes of learning. Among students in high school or elementary, an overwhelming majority (79%) were under modular distance instruction, 9% were under online distance learning, and 12% were under blended learning in School Year 2020-2021. Among college students, 70% of whom were under synchronous online learning, 24% under blended learning, and 7% under asynchronous learning.

Almost on daily basis, a quarter of students experienced a problem with internet access, and the percentage is higher among modular distance learners (26%) and asynchronous college learners (35%), who may still need to access learning resources online. Meanwhile, 21% of college students reported having difficulty finding a quiet place to study, while 15% of students in high school or elementary experienced this every day or almost every day (see Table 1).

It is also worth noting that on a daily basis, 12% of modular distance learners had trouble understanding school lessons, while 17% of asynchronous college learners had everyday difficulty in motivating themselves to do school work.

These problems may have negative consequences on the performance of students, who have had to deal with the uncertainty of the pandemic and new instruction methods. Incidentally, students in 2021 rated their school performance lower than students in 2013 (see Figure 1).

The Department of Education has ordered the return of full face-to-face learning on 2 November 2022, while several tertiary education institutions still maintain some form of online or blended instruction.

Reference:

**Maria Midea M. Kabamalan, PhD**  
Professor, UP Population Institute  
YAFS5 Project Coordinator

Email: [yafs5.upd@up.edu.ph](mailto:yafs5.upd@up.edu.ph)



For more info on the study,  
scan QR Code



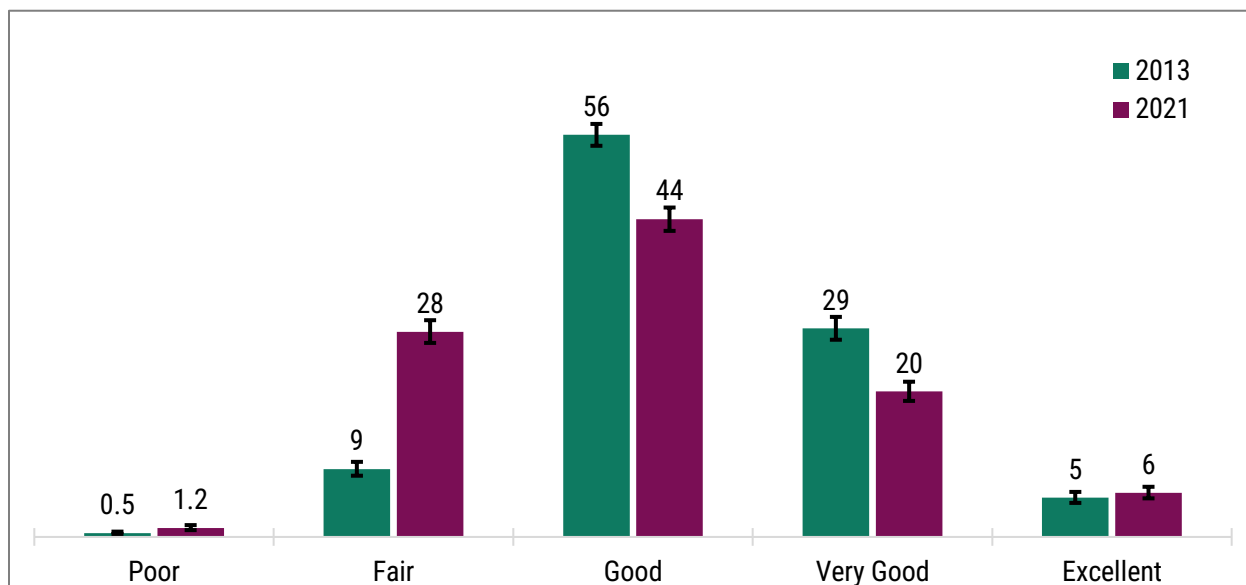
**Table 1. Percentage of youth enrolled in the academic year 2020-2021 who encountered various challenges in remote learning every day or almost every day, by level of schooling and by learning modality, Philippines 2021**

Problem	High school or lower			Total	Some college or higher			Total
	Modular distance learning	Blended	Online distance learning		Asynchro-nous	Blended	Synchronous online	
Problem with access to device when needed	14.4	10.0	8.9	13.3	14.4	15.7	12.7	13.6
Problem with internet access	25.6	18.8	19.4	24.2	34.7	28.5	22.4	24.7
Problem with access to school supplies (e.g., paper, pencil)	6.2	2.8	3.5	5.5	3.5	5.6	2.4	3.2
Problem with access to modules and other learning materials	8.4	3.9	4.7	7.5	12.6	8.8	4.8	6.3
Problem with finding a quiet place to study	13.6	21.3	18.9	15.0	24.2	18.7	22.0	21.4
Problem with finding time to study because of household responsibilities	11.1	13.7	7.5	11.1	11.7	12.5	9.9	10.7
Problem with motivating oneself to do school work	10.6	12.4	9.6	10.7	16.6	13.1	10.8	11.8
Problem with understanding school lessons	11.5	10.3	8.8	11.1	11.5	9.5	9.7	9.8
Problem with finding someone who could help with school work	9.3	8.4	6.0	8.9	1.5	7.6	6.8	6.6
<b>Percent of youth under the learning modality</b>	78.8	12.1	9.1	100.0	7.2	23.7	69.0	100.0
Number of youth	4,467	685	516	5,668	132	431	1,254	1,817

Excludes TV-based instruction and homeschooling (N=16).



**Figure 1. Percent distribution of youth currently in school by subjective school performance: 2013 and 2021**



Note: In 2013 YAFS, the enrollment reference was the last three months prior to the survey. In 2021 YAFS, it was the academic year 2020-2021.

