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**CTD: 18CY - CHILDREN, YOUTH AND CHILDHOOD: CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES
SUB-DOMAIN: 9. CHILDREN AND YOUTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

PANEL TITLE:

**LINGERING IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN IN MARGINALIZED
COMMUNITIES: CHALLENGES, EFFORTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been several health pandemics that challenged humanity earlier. Covid came to an industrialized world in which human mobility across oceans and land was at a level that the world had not witnessed before. Every health pandemic leaves a tale of human misery behind and its impact on the most marginalized sections of the populations is disproportionately high. Covid-19 according to rough estimates and available records impacted nearly 153 million people across 200 countries. Estimates suggest that 5 million lives are lost to its fury ((Jackson et al., 2021) till date. Lockdowns resulting in closure of educational institutions. was an emergency measure that most countries announced. By the middle of April 2020, 1.5 billion pre-school students were negatively impacted by school closures in 195 countries (UNESCO, 2020). As the mysteries surrounding the virus unfolded gradually, and science realised that it resulted in lower mortality rate among children as compared to adults (Pavone et al., 2020), preschools were opened cautiously and slowly. According to UNICEF, "Kids aren't particularly at risk from this pandemic. Despite the good developments, children's lives are being significantly impacted, making them a prime target" (para. 1). These observations argued that even though child mortality was low during the pandemic it impacted their lives phenomenally. This panel intends to bring together a group of experts around the world to share their work related to (a) the impacts of COVID-19 on children's (infancy through age 18) education and development and (b) the post-school closure intervention efforts to recover children's learning/holistic development. Panellists will focus their presentations on any of the following themes:

- The COVID-19 impact on the education and physical/mental health of children.
- Impacts of COVID-19 on teachers' professional/personal lives
- An analysis of educational and other policies adopted during the pandemic and later periods.
- Kinds of strategies/efforts adopted by schools/NGOs.
- Assessment of these initiatives by researchers/organizations

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