

SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FINDINGS

This poster presents the findings of focus group discussions conducted with school children in Kathmandu, Nepal, in January 2023 as a part of the FACE-UP project. The discussions aimed to explore the children's experiences of using masks and the key factors they consider while choosing masks for themselves.



WHO TOOK PART?

67 children from two schools in Kathmandu

- 37 boys, 30 girls
- Age range 7 to 12 years
- 34 students from a public school, 33 from a private school

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Sample masks used in focus group discussion



Why children wear masks

- Many children started using masks after the spread of COVID-19
- Children used masks to protect themselves from viruses, dust, smoke, and bad smells
- Children learned about wearing masks from parents and teachers

Where children wear masks

- Children used masks mostly for outdoor activities such as travelling, playing, walking on the street and at school to protect themselves from COVID-19 and air pollutants

Challenges children face wearing masks

- Most children were comfortable wearing masks
- A few children mentioned challenges such as difficulty breathing, sore ears, and sweaty mouth area
- Even though they felt uncomfortable, children still wore masks to feel safe

Types of masks that were popular in the sample as a whole

- Masks with ear loops were more popular than masks with head straps
- Plain and patterned masks were equally popular
- Vertical and horizontal shaped masks were equally popular
- White, black and coloured masks were equally popular

Differences in the types of masks popular with boys and girls

- Plain masks were more popular with boys than girls
- Patterned masks were equally popular with boys and girls
- There were no clear differences for preferences in the colour of masks between boys and girls
- Vertical and horizontal shaped masks were equally popular with boys and girls
- Masks with ear loops were more popular than masks with head straps for both boys and girls

Differences in the types of masks popular with younger and older children

- Head straps were more popular with younger children than older children
- Most of the older children preferred black masks more than coloured masks

Differences in the types of masks popular with children from the two schools

- Masks with ear loops were a bit less popular with children from the private school

