

Can a global coronavirus pandemic change access to teaching in schools?

The current pandemic has affected all sectors of human activity. Education was no exception. Virtually all levels of education, except perhaps pre-primary education, have been forced to adopt alternatives. We can already state today that this period pointed out several problems not only of Czech education.

1. Obsolete technology

In many texts that came out before this pandemic, we could read about how well schools are equipped. Unfortunately, this time has shown that this is not exactly what some expected. There are relatively large differences between individual schools. Some schools have shown that although they have the technical means to teach online, their teachers cannot use the technique. The lack of suitable technology was also on the other side of the educational process for pupils and students.

2. The approach of teachers

The constant conservative approach of some teachers, relying on years of proven teaching methods, cannot be applied now. These teachers were then thrown into the endless waters of technology they could not use. Nor can one constantly rely on new teachers, who often get bogged down in the same dormitories as their more experienced colleagues.

3. Inconsistency

There are many approaches to how online learning can be implemented. It is not clear for sure (at least for now) which one is the best. Likewise, it is not possible to dictate to schools and their management how to proceed in online teaching. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, we were able to come across different solutions within one school. The non-uniform system of online teaching then caused pupils to have information on various platforms - often also through printed documents sent by post, email or to their parents' mobile phone.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the situation regarding the digitization of education and online teaching was underestimated. From another point of view, however, we can take the coronavirus as an accelerator of change at all levels of education and at the same time the opportunity to explore the benefits of online teaching and the use of ICT in education in the most realistic conditions.

Tomas Javorcik

Executive Editor