

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 lockdown made it exceedingly difficult or impossible to access participants for studies in a face-to-face setting

(e.g.: school closure, physical distancing)

Instead, researchers needed to use alternative means of administering online assessments with a reasonable degree of control





TYPE OF RESEARCH & SAMPLE

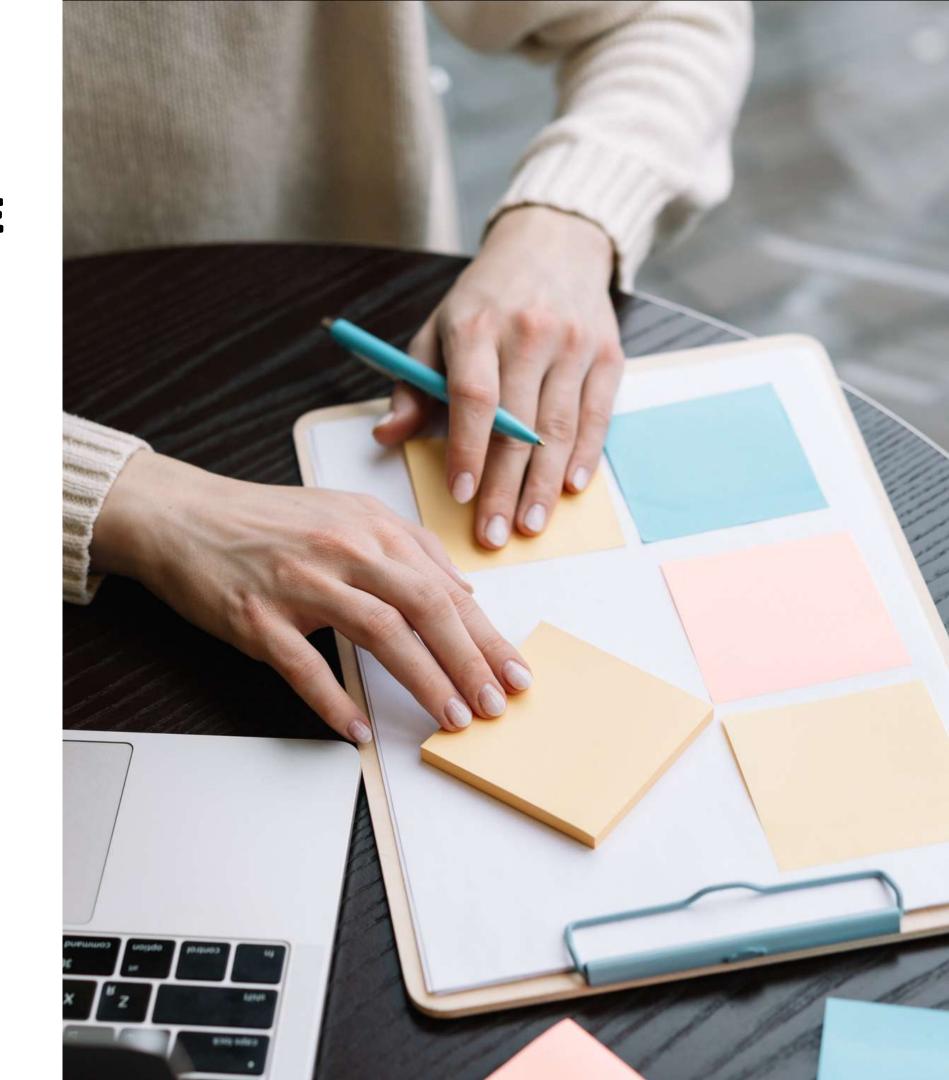
Educational settings: early to higher Education: public-private, municipality to Kosovo level

Sample: school principles teachers, parents, pre university and university students, school counselors



GENERAL METHODOLOGICAL/SAMPLE AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES

Ethical/Consent
Anonymity (eachers/parents/children)
Encouragement to take part
Time demands
Coverage



PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH:

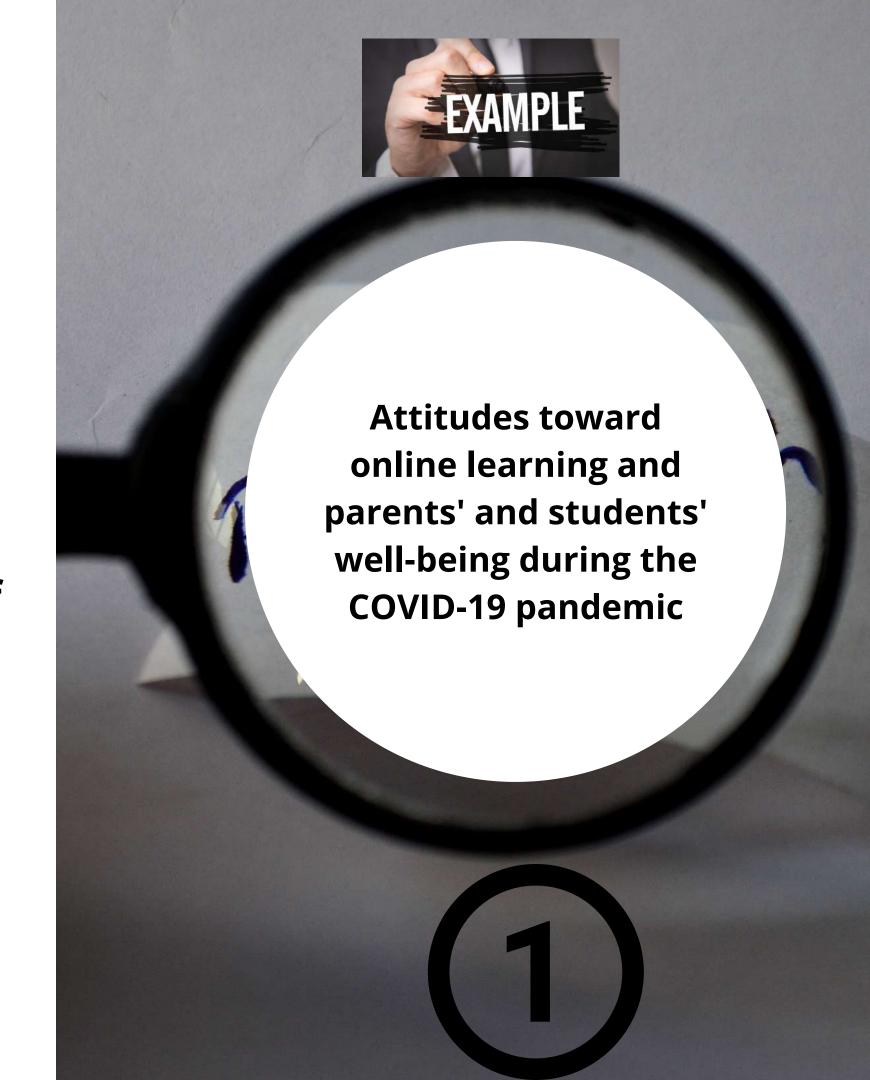
 Department of Psychology (Arënliu, Kelmendi, Konjufca) municipalities of Prizren and Kamenica, school directors, teachers (* NGO. TH.Y).

SAMPLE SIZE:

• 3598 students (grade 6-9), 455 teachers of students from grades 1 to 9, and 3431 parents of children from grades 1 to 9.

DATA COLLECTION:

- Questionnaires on Open Data Kit app on tablets for students and teachers;
- Google Form questionnaires for parents:



CONDUCTED BY:

 Department of Psychology (Hyseni Duraku, Jahiu, Geci)

SAMPLE:

University Students (Convenience sampling)

DATA COLLECTION:

• Google Form questionnaires

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUE:

to identify responses from the same family unit without them having to provide identifiable information during questionnaire completion

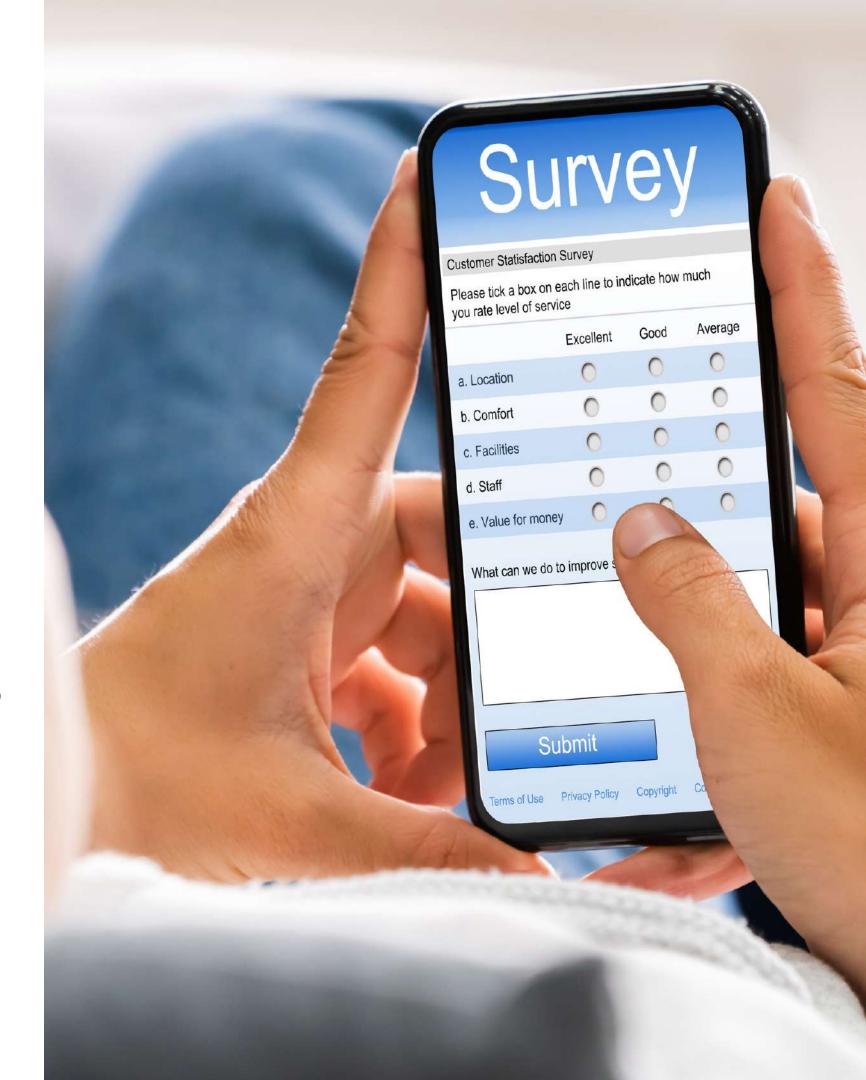


Methodological issue (EXAMPLE 1):

 Administering electronic questionnaires at a mass scale (via web or in-person via tablets or stmartphones)

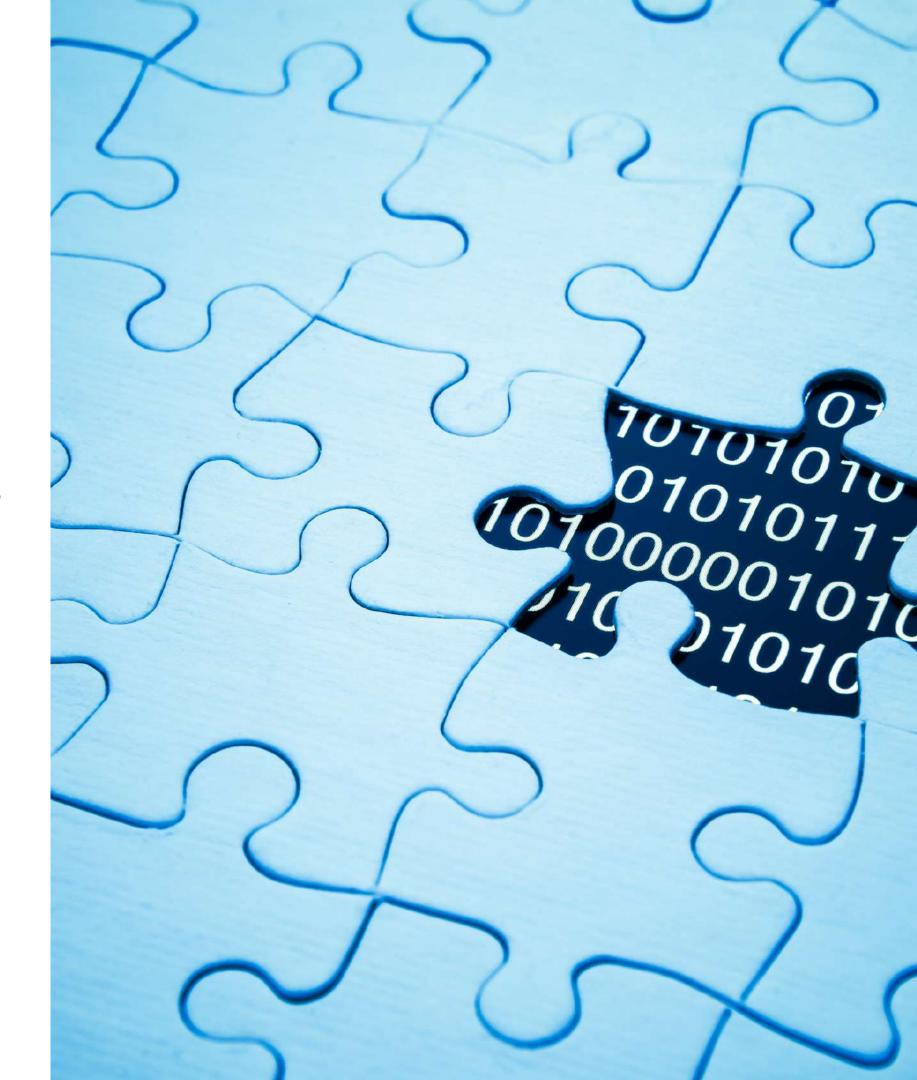
The main issue is getting participants to open and fill in the questionnaire

- This was solved with the support from teachers (sending the links to parents through chat groups that were created when lockdown started)
- The majority of responses from parents were collected in the first two weeks



Methodological issue (EXAMPLE 2):

 Following up anonymously with participants in electronic questionnaires for longitudinal studies

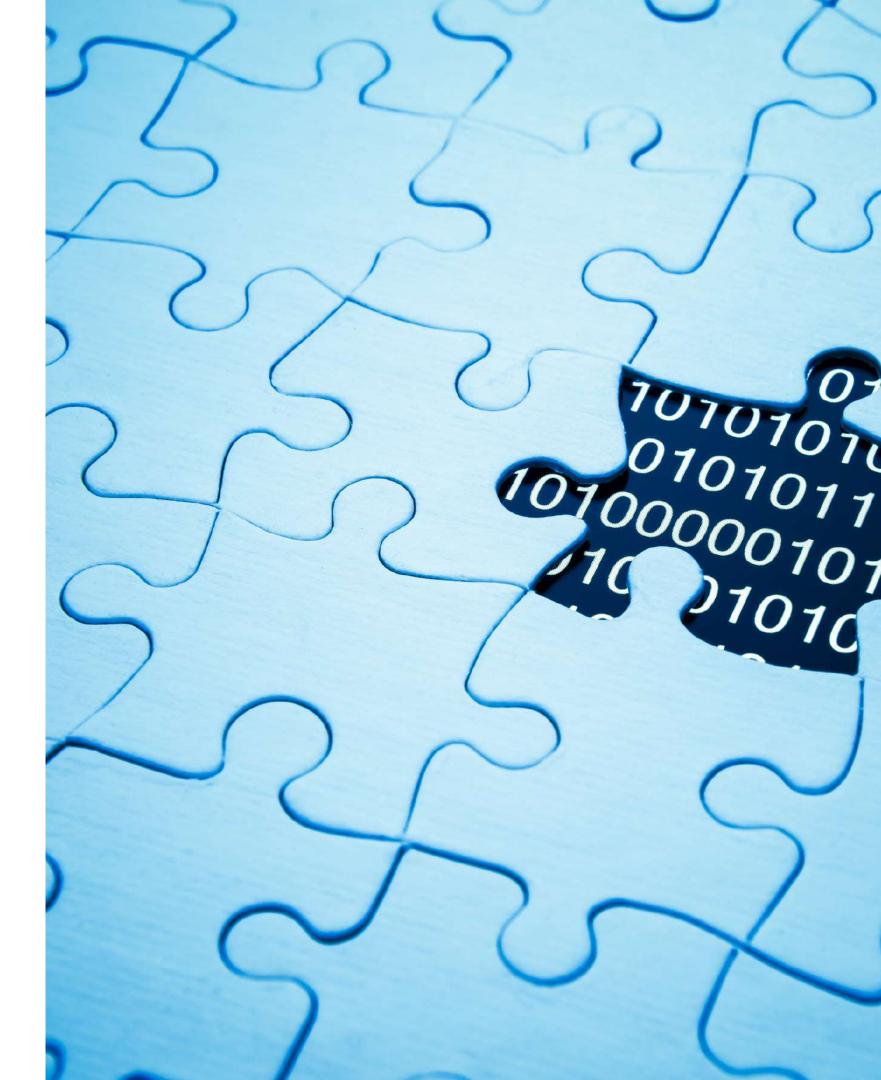


METHODOLOGICAL ISSUE (EXAMPLE 2):

- Code for matching data from phase to phase
- In a face-to-face setting, one can implement a master list (although cumbersome), but not in an online setting (without asking the participants to provide that code)

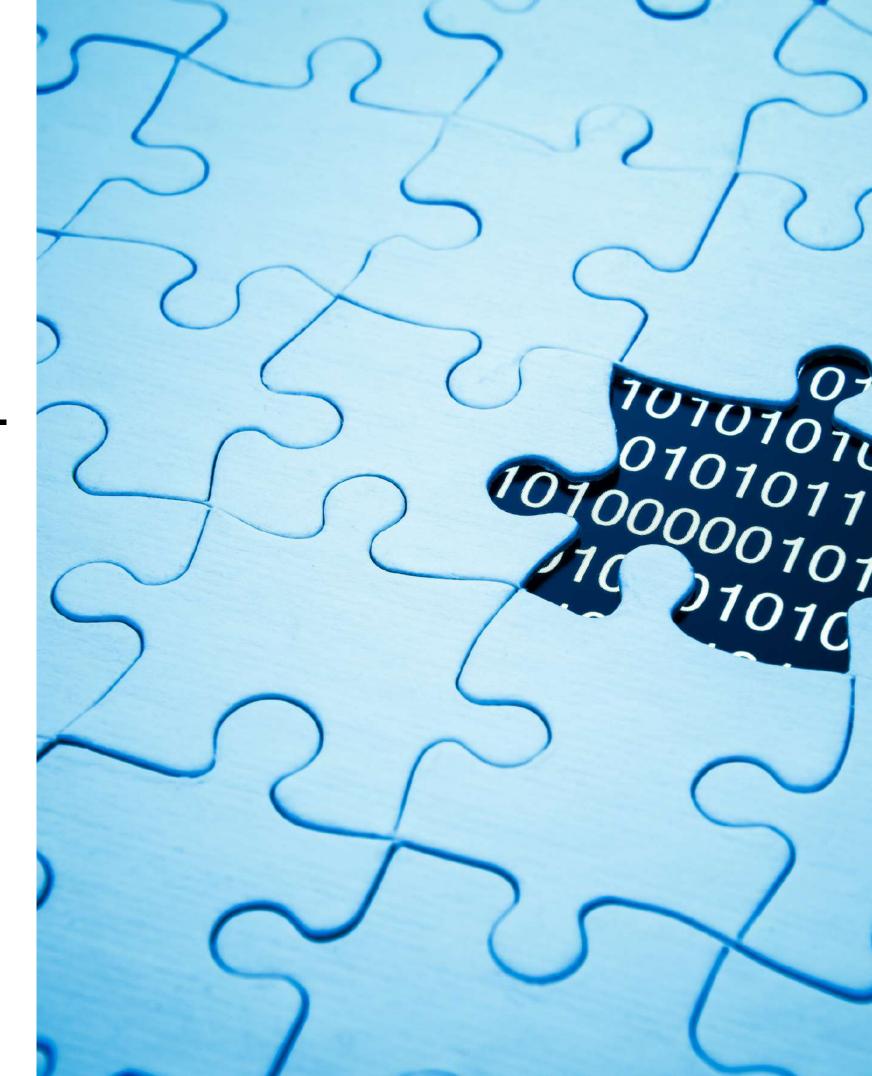
SOLUTION:

Sending out pre-filled (containing codes) electronic forms



FOR EXAMPLE:

- In the PTSD study, parents and their children completed the questionnaires by accessing the same link with the same prefilled code.
- This allowed the identification of parents and children from the same family unit without asking either party to provide identifiable information.



METHODOLOGICAL ISSUE:

Sending automated reminders and personalized links

 Although pre-filled links can be sent to respondents manually, it is often burdensome to do so and can potentially result in several mistakes.

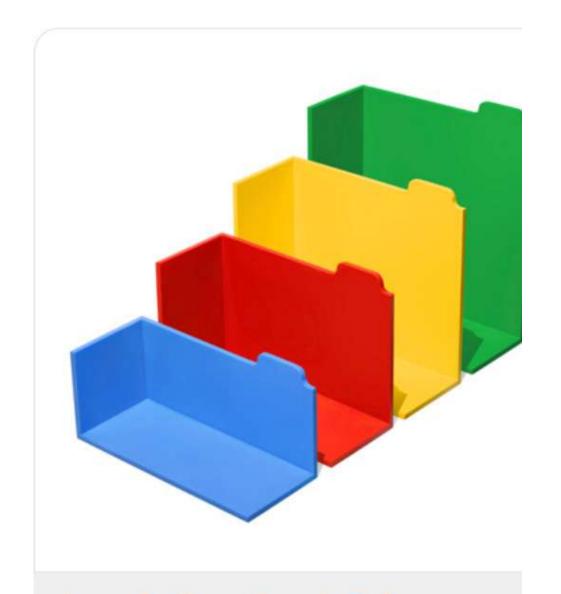
SOLUTION

- Instead, a more economic way to handle the distribution of links is by sending automated email messages with Google Sheets and a readymade Google Apps Script
- find out which participants have not yet completed the questionnaires through the unique codes, and regularly send reminder emails to them.



- Questionnaire distribution and completion becomes much easier if the researchers identify stakeholders who have influence and can intervene in the process
- In a longitudinal study, it's much easier and more effective to distribute prefilled questionnaires with unique codes rather than trust the participants to remember unique codes or to ask them for identifiable information





Apps Script - Google Drive

drive.google.com

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NIBIGOvQhDa Xj8QGxZqYtK1TO6kgZXhy ?usp=sharing