

ECO-FOCUS

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Editorial

Covid-2019 is an unprecedented threat to humanity. The threat is continuing with severe impacts on various aspects of human society. Now we all are in an uncertain situation. Under such situations students of our college has responded to my call. I wish to thanks them all for their contribution to this newsletter. Special thanks are due to Dr. Asit Kumar Biswas, Associate Professor, English Department and Dr Anindita Mitra, Associate Professor, Zoology Department for helping me for this Publication.

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We And COVID 19

Nabin Das, Department -- Mathematics, Semester - 2nd sem Roll - 1103

Hello, I am 21, a final year college student. Before 14th, March 2020 my life was going prettymuchusual. As this is our last semester me and my friends used to go to college daily to spend time together as much as possible . Then on a Saturday there was a notification for a month-long holiday due to COVID19. We were happy at first because we didn't get much time to go home after puja holidays to spend with our family. I came back home, so were my other friends who were studying at different institutions. We were hanging out together for a couple of days then the news started to come from different sources that the virus is fatal and many are already dead in different countries. We were now in lock down. Now it's a Pandemic declared by WHO. We were stuck at home. For the first few days there were many misleading details which made the people more confused. Then WHO asked us not to panic and follow some basic rules like to washhandsregularly, wear mask in public and maintain socialdistancing.

We got busy in different kind of activities like reading books,gardening, painting, cooking ,watching lots of movies,studying etc. Everybody started to embrace their hidden talents. There were new recipes, beautiful paintings all over the social media. We were connected by Internet. There were video calling, group chats etc. .The online classes were fun. We were very happy to spend lots of time together at home with our family.

Then days passed by and the scene started to change. The lock down gets more extended. There was no more music from balcony of Italy. More and more people were losing their life. Many people started to lose their job and many were still stuck at different places. The poverty started to show its true colour. The poor labours started to walf back to their home. Many died on road due to heat, hunger, tiredness, accidents and many other reasons.

News started to become more depressing . People started to become very frustrated from staying inside the home for long. There was death all over the world . Italy, America had already lost many of their citizens. We started to lose hope. Then slowly the death graph started to go low. Many labours returned home with government initiative. There were many

quarantine centres all over the country. Our doctors, medical staff worked tirelessly to save lives. The death rate was lower than many other countries. One day we all clapped for the devotion of our medical soldiers from our balconies to show them gratitude. The picture started to get better.

Then unlock phase started. People started to going back to their jobs following all the rules. Mask and sanitizer are now an essential part of our daily life. People are getting used to this NEW NORMAL situation.

Though this pandemic is not a good thing at all, it still has a few plus points among many negative points. The youths were helping the older peoples to get their essentials as they are most vulnerable to this virus. The common folk came forward to help others. We learned to do household chores in this time as the house help was not available. People recognized their talents. We started to value our daily meals and lifestyle as many were not even getting even that and some other good things happened. In this chaotic situation we learned not to lose positivity during the darkest time, to stay together.

In this whole time when I may not be able to meet my college friends but now we're eagerly waiting for this pandemic to end so that we can have a reunion to cherish the precious memories together. Till then I have their borrowed pens, books and thousands of happy memories together. Those classes, picnics, the memories of our mischievous acts during algebra classes, teacher's scolding, chit chats in canteen, cycling together around the campus will always be vivid. With all the memories I am signing off.

“We and the Covid-19”

Suchandra Sil

Life was just going through an anxiety of future and as much boring as it could be, and suddenly we got introduced to the name, 'Covid'. Life changed, quickly. Some people died. Some people took 'Covid' seriously but most of us just got more busy in our urban life. Then one day we saw people with masks, and we laughed at them. For the family pressure we're forced to take mask with us, but who cared. Then one day the Government declared Covid holiday. We took it for granted that it's going to be normal in someday. Few were mocking government, mocking Covid and the conclusion came, we got mocked by nature. Then more people died, and the government declared lockdown. People became jobless, locked at homes, no food, no hope and the crisis was increasing day by day. We got stunned!

Today is July 10 and I'm at home. Most of us are at home. Covid is such kind of an enemy that we can't hide from this. Ultimately the situation is, 'either live with Covid or die by hunger'.

Right now, the number of confirmed Covid cases has surpassed 12 millions worldwide more than 790k in our country. In our state the number has surpassed 27 thousand. Really, the situation is terrific. Even after the tremendous development in medical science these numbers are shocking. Even in this terrible situation there are companies, countries who still are looking for satisfying their greed. They are making people suffer for food, for medicines, for masks etc. But there are possibilities that we may find vaccine soon but we already have lost 555k peoples. But even now some have not realized the gravity of the situation and are still doing same things which might be responsible for the miserable end. But this isn't the whole situation. Also, nature is healing herself, wild animals are back to their old days and we have realized that we aren't the masters.but just a part of nature. Human behaviour has been changed, life before and after Covid has changed a lot.

Covid first broke out in China, Within two months Covid crossed the borders and spread out in other countries,and on 11th March, World Health Organization declared Covid-19 as Pandemic. But Covid wasn't the only threat to us. Earthquakes and Cyclones made the situation horrible. The Government took every step, schools and universities were closed. It was our turn to change our lifestyle most of us did, but many of us made the situation worst.

Right now, we've survived a little bit more with Covid, and now we know how to survive. But vaccine is nowhere, just living in hope. It's time to calculate exactly what the Covid did to us. The answer is- a huge economic loss. According to *The Economic Times* around 27millions youth lost their job and in India the unemployment rate increased from 7.7% to 24% in just three months March to May (by Statista). India was expected to lose over 32k crore everyday by the first 21days of lockdown and under the complete lockdown that turns into a disaster. Up to 53% percent of Indian business got affected and even now, it's just an idea.

Ultimately around 12.2 in our country people just lost their jobs but we have to serve their families. Government took steps but that wasn't enough. It was time to show some humanity and that was our only hope and we did it well. But I still believe, that the world will successfully overcome this crisis. In my thought Covid has just made us realize. How to live, by serving nature. Hope one day dreams will come true.

We and Covid-19
Sampripta Karmakar
(UG Sem 6,English Department)

The recent outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent need for social distancing has left many of us feeling isolated (both literally and metaphorically). Routineless life has become the new norm. Masks and sanitizers are the must-haves. The pandemic is weaving its way all around the globe turning the busiest places into silent mode, the cheerful households into moaning corners, the busiest people into jobless individuals. The world is turned upside down. According to Wikipedia, a pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people.

Covid-19 was first identified in Wuhan city of China in December 2019. Soon it started spreading its footsteps. On 11.3.2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. On 24 March 2020, the Government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting movement of the entire 1.3 billion population of India as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 pandemic in India. But the pandemic is much more than a health crisis, it is also an unprecedented socio-economic crisis. Stressing each of the countries it touches, it has the potential to create devastating social, economic political as well as mental effects that will leave deep and longstanding scars.

With factories and workplaces shut down, millions of migrant workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages, and uncertainty about their future. Following this, many of them and their families went hungry. While government schemes ensured that the poor would get additional rations due to the lockdown, the distribution system failed to be effective. With no work and no money, thousands of migrant workers were seen walking or bicycling hundreds of kilometers to go back to their native villages. Many were arrested for violating the lockdown and some died of exhaustion or in accidents on the roads. These news wrenched our hearts as well as showed us how privileged we are.

Sitting in the comforting corner of our home, ignoring the millions of people fighting for existence made me feel extremely selfish and helpless at times. Nonetheless, different charitable organizations both at national and local levels around the world are showing acts of humanity. The countless stories of the generosity of all the volunteers distributing meals and essential medical supplies to the needy and poor are inspiring hope for a better future.

A new way of working has been introduced "work from home". Work-life balance has effectively been thrown out of the window because there is no distinct separation between our workspace and personal space. In spite of this system, millions of people have lost their job putting a big question mark on the existing economic crisis.

It has a critical impact on children's education, particularly of those from marginalized sections. Besides the disruption in the school year, there is a risk that prolonged out-of-school learning may lead to alienation of children from school systems and exacerbation of existing inequalities. As a student, I can realize this situation to my core. In some ways, this situation is a great insight into what life would be like if everything was more heavily digitalized. Our social lives are now almost exclusively online, as well as our leisure and learning time.

I am confused about how to channelize my time not because I don't have anything to do, but because I am overloaded with thoughts. Prolonged time alone with our thoughts can be challenging for those of us with an all-or-nothing perfectionist mindset and a negative self-image. I am trying to keep myself as positive as I can. My days have blurred into news channels, hobby seeking, aimless searching on Netflix, and on exceptionally boring days, existential contemplation. I've noticed that it's become a lot more difficult to justify the time spent away from screens when there's so little to do away from screens. As it says "every cloud has a silver lining", I am still in the process of finding that pinch of positivity in all this. Due to the endless days, I am able to give a lot of time to my long lost reading habit. Being unable of going to college, I am visiting Hogwarts nowadays quite often, Sometimes riding a sad train with Anna Karenina or solving murder mysteries with Sherlock Holmes.

This dark time enables us to realize the importance of our family. In this unknown and unseen situation, a loving and assuring shoulder is all we need. Schools, colleges, and offices being closed, we get to spend a lot of time with our family which we were unable to do before during our busy schedule. This has to be a part of the silver lining.

Though my biggest problems right now are boredom and loneliness, it is still an exceptionally privileged position to be in. There are people in unbearable living situations, or people that have become ill, or lost family and friends.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the interconnected nature of our world – and that no one is safe until everyone is safe. With COVID-19 engulfing the entire world, this has transcended us from thinking words like 'I', or 'Me', to 'We' and 'Us'. Sooner rather than later, we have understood the power of togetherness. Only by acting in solidarity can communities save lives and overcome the devastating socio-economic impacts of the virus. I look forward to a time beyond this when everything feels a little less flat, and I'm back in college again.

We and Covid-19

Pratyasha Roy

Physics Department, 4th semester

I used to think that climate change was probably the biggest challenge we faced, but now I think actually an aging population might be the biggest challenge we face. Humankind is going through a new and unprecedented humanitarian revolution with the rapidly spreading COVID-19 pandemic. Surprisingly, the world has been caught by the severity of COVID-19. “From ‘death 0’ to ‘death 650k’” –it looks like death procession is running. The common terms in public conversation today- ‘containment’, ‘lockdown’, ‘curfew’, ‘isolation’, ‘stay home’, and ‘mitigation’- are the language of siege. I just want to thank all the healthcare workers for their unwavering and tremendous support throughout this pandemic. And I'd like to give my heartfelt gratitude towards all the corona warriors.

This pandemic is a game changer in the way we live our lives. We've taken lots of things for granted over the years. Now, we seem to value our existence. This pandemic has woken us up and made us think who we really are and how we live this life. Now, our priorities are changing. Health and environment will come first. It seems like we're engaging in the new normal. This pandemic has given us the opportunity to see the world differently and focus on new ideas to serve the humanity.

This lockdown forced me not only to stop complicating life but also made me wonder about the journey. It has allowed me to recalibrate and learn new things. It has shown how to manage our own money and wealth. We became able to know the difference between what we want and what we actually need. Many of us found that the most important support system at the end of the day is family. They are the people who are by our sides whenever we need. The idea that unequivocally matters the most is our health. We should do yoga or exercise to boost our immune system. Yoga practices aim at aligning an individual's bio-rhythm with nature and improving overall health. Altogether, I have learned that everything,

even that which appears minor, is important and that everything can be turned into a learning opportunity if we make it so.

Now, social distancing and wearing mask seem very practical for our own and others protection. COVID-19 is transmitted by droplets. According to World Health Organization, there are some steps that we need to follow to survive. In addition to social distancing the critical element is appropriate measures of sanitation. And we shouldn't touch our eyes, nose or mouth without washing hands. We should cover coughs and sneezes with elbow or tissue and throw that tissue in the coveted dustbin. Although there is not vaccine discovered yet but scientists are trying very hard to make the vaccine that need to be used judiciously after considering drug-drug interaction and serious side effects. In addition to this pandemic dengue is working hand in hand in several parts of India. We have to fight together without any panic. We can do it and we will.

It is an uncertain time for everyone. It's time for us to be resourceful and to ensure the rehabilitation process is on the tract. This global novel virus that keeps us stay at our home, may be for months, is already realigning our relationship to government, to the outside world, even to each other. This pandemic has shown that humans are far more reliant on the government than they like to admit. This situation gives us the opportunity to plan our day differently, to restart hobbies and exercise and thus reduce times for conflicts. It means that we have to live everyday with the object of keeping our nose above water.

The world will not end but COVID-19 storm will and mankind will survive despite the loss of many lives. Mankind will live in a world that's very different from pre- pandemic. Hopefully, we spend more times with our family and take care of our health. Hopefully, we care less for glazing social-media posts and wise up and spend more time to figure out why are we here. It is darkest before dawn and better days await us.

We and Covid-19

Payel Pramanik

Department of Physiology, 6th semester

This is very critical phase for all of us. Please don't convert it into a greater disaster.

Just see both the sides of what will happen if you take the examination and if you do not take the examination. If students get infected with covid-19 while giving semester exam who will take responsibility for any loss of life. Actually, in India the students' number is the more important than the knowledge.

So please don't conduct any examination in this pandemic situation. This is not a game to play with students' lives. Recently Karnataka Government took examination and many students were affected by covid-19. We're grateful to our state govt for standing by us in such a moment. We believe the state won't submit and will stay firm at the decision already taken. Cancel examinations, promote students and save their lives. Our life has value.

We and Covid-19

Souvik Dana, 4th sem, Zoology Department

The world has survived different kinds of crises. People have seen world wars and the economic depression, but the human spirit has endured and survived.

CORONAVIRUS or as we say Covid-19, has brought the world to its knees. Business has been shut, schools and colleges are closed, travel banned. But as they say challenges create opportunities. Covid-19 may have turned our lives upside down but it has certainly provided an opportunity for all of us to rise to the occasion during this testing time.

Lockdown has its pros and cons. Insomnia, restlessness, backaches, tension and anxiety are some of the corollary. People started wasting their time in social media and other useless things. On the other hand, people commenced yoga and exercises at home. They started spending time with their loved ones. It helps developing hidden skills.

Firstly, lockdown has given a huge lift to online learning both in the metros and non- metros. Online education, for instance, has got a major boost. Educational institutions have taken online education to a new level by offering classes, coaching and courses in innovative ways to keep their students hooked at these times of lockdown.

Secondly, we have become more hygiene conscious. People have started taking personal hygiene more seriously. The ritual of washing hands or sanitizing things before use, which was started as a compulsion is becoming a habit.

WORK FROM HOME (WFH) is the third major change that has become a part of our lives. Well, honestly speaking it was never a new concept. Many IT companies in India had been performing it with perfection. Lockdown has taken it to another level.

Everyone is busy with the urban issues, whereas on the other hand the poor people or migrant workers faced with the situation of spending a few days in temporary shelters, which may be quarantine centers, while trying to reach to their native places, are filled with anxieties and

fears stemming from various concerns, and are in need of psycho-social support. As part of such support, following measures can be adopted:-

1. Treat every migrant worker with dignity, respect, empathy and compassion.
2. Listen to their concerns patiently and understand their problems.
3. Recognise specific and varied needs for each person/family. There is no generalization.
4. Help them to acknowledge that this is an unusual situation of uncertainty and reassure them that the situation is transient and not going to last long. Normal life is going to resume soon. Inform them about the supports being extended by Central Government, State Governments/ NGOs/health care systems etc.
5. Emphasize the importance of their staying in their present location and how mass movement could greatly and adversely affect all efforts to tame the virus. Make them realize their importance in the community and appreciate their contributions for the society.
6. Remind them that they have made their place with their own efforts and acquired the trust of their employer. Reassure that even if their employer fails them, local administration and charitable institutions would extend all possible help. Out of desperation, many may react in a manner which may appear insulting. Try to understand their issues and be patient. If somebody is afraid of getting affected, tell them that the condition is curable and that most will recover from it. Remind them that it is safer for their families if they themselves stay away from them. Instead of reflecting any mercy, seek their support in the spirit of winning over the situation together.

“Understanding the issues of the migrant population-COVID-19”

PIU BETAL

Increased reliance on digital tools to monitor the spread of disease raises serious questions about how to prevent governments from using those same tools to track individuals for other purposes after a health crisis has subsided. The ubiquity of mobile phones and the increasing share of economic and social activity conducted online had made it easier than ever to track people’s movement through their digital footprint. It is therefore inevitable that public health surveillance will increasingly be conducted through digital means. But increased reliance on digital tools to monitor the spread of disease raises serious questions about how to prevent

governments from using those same tools to track individuals for other purposes after a health crisis has subsided.

Policymakers must make a difficult choice when deciding whether to invoke extraordinary surveillance powers during a crisis and how invasive those measures should be. While the privacy community has focused on how surveillance measures threaten civil liberties, a lack of effective monitoring can also undermine freedom. Take, for example, the cases of France, Italy, and Spain, where, due to a lack of testing and monitoring and the resulting uncertainty about where COVID-19 is spreading, national governments have deemed it necessary to put their entire populations on lockdown (the same situation is now happening in California, with other countries and US states likely to follow suit).

More importantly, novel digital surveillance measures may also save a massive number of lives. Epidemiologist Trevor Bedford argues in a lengthy Twitter thread that “using cell phone location data combined with data on known positive cases to alert possible exposures to self-isolate and get tested” is one of three strategies that should be combined to combat the pandemic (along with a massive rollout of testing capacity and allowing people who have recovered from COVID-19 to return to the workforce). His analysis on the potential of using mobile phones for contact tracing draws from this paper by Oxford researchers, which argues that “isolation and contact tracing as currently practiced is unlikely to prevent an epidemic.”

The big question arose: **WILL THESE CHANGES CONTINUE AFTER THE LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED?**

As we all know, necessity is the mother of invention. These changes reveal that people from all walks of life have imbibed the alteration. Digital life has become a detox. Watching live you tube shows for hours have become popular.

According to Law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, WFH will become a norm in the post-lockdown world. Sanitizing things before using it is likely to continue. Social distancing and wearing mask in public is going to stay for a while. Last but not the least, catering to the welfare of people is not only the responsibility of the Government, but also the citizens.

RIYA MANDAL,
WE AND THE COVID-19: MY THOUGHTS
Department: Philosophy

The novel Corona virus disease that emerged at the end of 2019 began threatening the health and lives of millions of people. In December 2019 a new infectious disease was originated in

Wuhan, China and was named by World Health Organization (WHO) as COVID-19. From Wuhan, China, this virus has spread in the world. As of 10th July 2020, there have been at least 2, 78,149 active case, more than 7, 98,161 confirmed cases and 21,656 deceased in this Corona virus pandemic.

Corona Virus _

Corona virus is a family of viruses causing some deadly diseases in human and animals. In humans, these viruses cause respiratory tract infections that can range from mild to lethal. It primarily affects our nervous system and damages it. It causes diseases related to the respiratory system like coughing and sneezing. The Corona virus spreads from animalsto human. It can also spreads through contact with an infected person. The attack of coronavirus can caught pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, failure of kidney and also death.

This virus spreads through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes or through objects, making contact.

At this time there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. It can only be prevented by having some precautionary actions: 1) we should avoid having contact with an infected person. 2) Washing our hands with alcohol -based rub regularly. 3) Maintenance of social distancing and avoid large gatherings is important for keeping ourselves safe from itseffects.

The impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has far reaching consequences beyond the spread of the disease itself and efforts to quarantine it including political, cultural, social and economicimplications. In order to stop the spread of the COVID-19 authorities around the world announced lockdown in most of the countries.

The economic impact

The economic impact of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic in India has been largely disruptive. India's growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2020 went down to 3.1% according to the Ministry of Statistics. The Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India said that this drop is mainly due to the coronavirus pandemic effect on the Indianeconomy.

Many businesses have been forced to reduce operations or shut down and an increasing number of people are expected to lose theirjobs, Companies in the services industry major source of growth to many economic were among the hardest hit in the COVID-19pandemic.

Manufacturers have also been hit and world trade volume could once again plummet thisyear.

Educational impact

The pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the widespread closures of schools, colleges and universities. This affects over 1.5 billion students worldwide, accounting for 87 percent of enrolled learners.

Religious impact

The pandemic has impacted religion in various ways, including the cancellation of the worship services of various faiths, as well as the cancellation of pilgrimages surrounding observances and festivals. Many churches, mosques and temples were closed.

Psychological impact

The pandemic of COVID-19 has simultaneously induced an epidemic of anxiety. Social distancing and isolation are having significant impacts on people's mental health. Social distancing is leading to heightened feelings of anxiety and depression amongst the general public. People in low paid or insecure occupations experienced the greatest impact. Some people are fearful they will experience health or social anxiety after the lockdown. For some, social distancing has meant a loss of income. For others it has meant a loss of structure and routine as people struggle to balance working from home. For everyone it has meant a loss of face-to-face social interaction.

Domestic violence

Many countries have reported an increase in domestic violence and intimate partner violence attributed to lockdowns amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial insecurity, stress, and uncertainty have led to increased aggression at home with abusers able to control large amounts of their victim's daily life.

Impact on tourism and hospitality sector

Novel Coronavirus has already started to affect the Hotel industry and has cost the Indian hospitality industry losses of around Rs. 620 crore which in itself is a huge amount in the initial days of the lockdown. Many countries have introduced travel restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19, impacting the travel industry massively. The COVID-19 impact could render 3.8 crore people jobless which is around 70 percent of the total workforce in the tourism and hospitality sector.

All these impacts would depend on how long the epidemic lasts.

Prevention and treatment

There are no vaccines or antiviral drugs to prevent or treat human coronavirus infections. Treatment is only supportive. A number of antiviral targets have been identified such as viral proteases, polymerases, and entry proteins. Drugs are in development which target these

proteins and the different steps of viral replication. A number of vaccines using different methods are also under development for different human coronaviruses.

There are hundreds of coronaviruses, most of which circulate in animals. Only seven of these viruses infect humans and four of them cause symptoms of the common cold. But, three times in the last 20 years, a coronavirus has jumped from animals to humans to cause severe disease. The World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak “a public health emergency of international concern” on January 30. On March 11, 2020 after sustained spread of the disease outside of China, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 epidemic a pandemic. Public health measures like ones implemented in China and now around the world will hopefully blunt the spread of the virus while treatments and a vaccine are developed to stop it.

“We and the Covid-19: Your Thoughts”

Sukhen Pal, Sanskrit honours, 4th semester

‘What must underlie successful epidemics, in the end, is a bedrock belief that change is possible, that people can radically transform their behavior or beliefs in the face of the right kind of impetus’ ---Malcolm Gladwell.

Our earth has been facing numerous natural and man-made problems, such as earthquake, eruption, wildfire, flood, cyclone or tornado, tsunami, meteor shower, warfare, pollution, global warming, and the like, from the time immemorial. It should be mentioned that the man-made problems have started negatively influencing the entire world much later in comparison to the natural problems. However, every time we the human beings get initially terrified and confused and finally overcome the particular problem applying our brain, tolerance, and will-power. Now coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has set its foot on our nectarous and heavenly earth and has already snatched the lives of many people leaving their near and dear ones helpless and insecure. The Covid-19 has brought so many problems in the life of a human being. Since it's a very contagious disease, we are not being able to physically contact with one another. As a consequence, we are supposed to maintain a minimum social distancing from one another. We feel sort of trapped and incarcerated within our own confinement. We feel like moving toward the realm of death day by day. A day takes its beginning with the news of demise of many people. We all are preoccupied with the fear of the incessant spread of the Covid-19. However, it should be mentioned that this pandemic disease has inserted its detrimental and negative effects in the education system of

all the countries, and thereby creating a great deal of problem in the life of a student. Having seen the present horrific scenario of Covid-19-era, I would like to point out some of the problems, particularly pertaining to the domain of education.

The Covid-19 is really a great danger. It is a kind of obstacle in the life of a student, since it's preventing a student from properly achieving knowledge by being physically present in the actual classroom. It's a long time since I appeared in the actual classroom for the last time. If I date the day when our college got closed, it will take us back to 16th March, 2020. I have been facing many problems from that very day till now. I know that this virus has harassed all of us a lot, particularly snatching our arbitrary freedom of physically attending the classes. However, Personally I prefer the actual classroom to the virtual classroom as the former one comprises much more practicability in comparison to the latter. Thus, the Covid-19 has completely destroyed a student so far as it's negative effect on a student's study is concerned. Another major problem Covid-19 has created is related to the transportation system. Presently the transportation system has become very weak and loose. As a result of it, students from different districts and states are unable to go to their respective colleges and to their respective hostels and messes. A student may get infected with coronavirus if he travels along with patients of Covid-19 in any vehicles. So, I personally think, if the college get opens, it may hamper our health since the probability of physical contact is obvious. Hence, I would like to continue my study over virtual platforms. Thus, keeping the present scenario in mind, I think it's really impossible for a student to attend the actual classes apart from appearing in exams until and unless the situation is normal.

Another major problem is associated with a student's mental condition. The rapid spread of coronavirus primarily has given birth to a kind of horror in the mind of a student, and thereby increasing his/her mental stress apart from diminishing mental strength. How can I forget to mention the inconstant official notices of The University Grants Commission and those of the universities regarding examinations? This really decreases the confidence of a student and creates mental disturbances. This is how the students are getting perturbed. According to me, colleges and universities must help the students to get rid of any problems in lieu of increasing them.

I think there are so many minor problems apart from what I have already mentioned above. So, I am not going to point out those problems. The Covid-19 has its good effects too. For example, it has reduced environmental pollution to a great extent. It has helped people in a way to expose their inborn talents like singing, acting, dancing etc via social media. It has

ensured the proper use of technology which surely saves money and time. Due to Covid-19 we can spend times with the members of our family. Before I conclude, I would like to request our Hon'ble Principal to do what is beneficent and necessary, particularly during this catastrophe in the form of Covid-19. With the expectation of getting rid of this pandemic and of having a better future soon, let us follow what our scientists and doctors suggest.

Novel Corona Virus Pandemic

Subhadeep Pal, 6th Semester

The first outbreak of the Novel corona disease occurred in December 2019 in China's Yuan Province. Symptoms of the Disease are mainly fever, dry cough, fatigue. It can also cause colds, shortness of breath, sore throat, and diarrhea with many similarities with the common cold.

Although there is no specific treatment for this disease, this does not mean that testing is pointless. If the patient is diagnosed with the disease, the patient can be isolated so that the virus does not spread to other healthy people. It is also possible to get a clear picture of the number of infected people in a country if tested. Only then the nature and speed of spread of the virus can be determined. The test is currently being conducted in 52 laboratories in India.

In fact, it is possible to collect samples for this test anywhere. Usually, a cotton swab is inserted into the patient's throat, with which saliva is collected and sent to the laboratory. Blood tests can also be done to detect the presence of antibodies in the rapid test. However, since the corona virus is an RNA virus, in the first stage of the test, if the patient has a virus in a sample obtained from the body, his RNA is first converted into DNA. The presence of the virus in the sample can be easily deduced from the replication of the DNA, which is then replicated innumerable times in the PCR method. In that case the affected person is called corona positive. And if there is no virus, no copy is made. In that case the affected person is called corona negative. It takes 24 hours for test results to come. However, in the case of large sample tests, it may take up to 48-62 hours to perform all the steps at once.

Always try to keep hands clean. Washing of hands thoroughly with soap at regular intervals is necessary. The palms of the hands, fingers and wrists should be washed thoroughly with soap (for at least twenty seconds).

The sanitizer may be used to clean hands.

When sneezing or coughing, one should use the tissue paper. The tissue paper should be thrown in the dustbin with lid. Public gatherings should be stopped. If possible, one should do office work from home to maintain social distance.

If one feels sick, one should stay at home. If it is essential to go out, one must use a mask to cover nose and month. However, if one feels very sick, has a fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should go to the nearest doctor immediately. He will look into the matter and ask for an examination if necessary. When a virus is infected in a country, it spreads in four stages.

These are-

Stage 1 - Imported Cases - If someone from an infected country returns to their home country after being infected, it is called first stage infection.

Stage 2 - Local Transmission - If someone comes in contact with a patient from abroad and infects him, it is called second stage infection. The most important thing in this case is to minimize the possibility of transmission from one infected person to another healthy person Corona virus infection in India is now at this stage and the infection can be prevented at this stage only if everyone maintains social distance.

Stage 3 - Community Transmission - When someone is infected without coming in contact with a patient from abroad or any corona-infected patient, it is called third stage infection. Infection at this stage occurs much faster, across much larger areas.

Stage 4 - Epidemic - This is the last and worst stage when the infection spreads very quickly in the form of an epidemic. Once this stage of infection has occurred, it is impossible to say when or how to prevent it.

World Epidemic Novel Corona VirusPrity Sharma

Corona virus was first found in the city of Wuhan in China in 2019. After that more or less 83581 people were affected in China. Then slowly the virus had been spread throughout the world. Italy had suffered a lot after China. About 242149 people had been affected by the pandemic Covid-19. About 4 thousand people in China and 34 thousand in Italy died. About 213 countries are affected till now. About 12151947 cases have been confirmed and death troll raised to 551133 throughout the world. The Covid-19 pandemic in India is a part of worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus 2019. The first case in India, was reported on 30th Jan 2020. As on 9th July the ministry of health and family welfare declared a total of 742417 confirmed cases and 456831 recoveries, and 20642 deaths in India. India currently has the

largest number of confirmed cases in Asia. After United States and Brazil, India has the highest number of confirmed cases in the whole world.

On 24th march 2020, the Government of India ordered nationwide lockdown for 21 days. This lockdown was announced when the number of confirmed cases in India was about 500. Again in phase-2 on 15th april lockdown was extended for 19 days. In phase-3 on 4th may 2020 lockdown was declared for 14 days. In phase-4 lockdown was declared for 14 days from 18th may 2020.

To control the spread of Coronavirus in india, Government banned people from stepping out of their homes. All services and shops were closed except pharmacies, hospitals, banks, grocery shops and other essential services. All educational, training, research institutions were closed. Non-essential public and private transports, sports, academic, cultural activities were stopped.

In West Bengal about 24823 cases have been confirmed till now, out of which 7705 are still active and near about 827 were died, and 16291 patients have recovered till now.

WE and the COVID – 19

Suman Dutta Department of Geography

COVID -19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. Coronavirus is a group of RNA viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, these viruses cause respiratory tract infections that can range from mild to lethal. COVID -19 is the name given by the World Health Organization (WHO) on February, 2020, for the disease is caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. It started in Wuhan, China in late 2019 and has since spread worldwide. COVID-19 is an acronym, 'CO' stands for Corona, 'VI' stands for virus, 'D' stands for diseases and '19' for 2019.

The Mode of Transmission: The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplet of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, and mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it.

EFFECT on HUMAN BODY: virus infects our body by entering healthy cells. There, the invader makes copies of itself and multiplies throughout our body. The new coronavirus latches its spiky proteins to receptors on healthy cells, especially those in our lungs. Once

inside, the coronavirus hijacks healthy cells and takes command. Eventually, it kills some of the healthy cells.

Most common symptoms:

1. Fever, 2. Dry Cough, 3. Tiredness

Less common symptoms:

1. Aches and pains, 2. Sore throat,3.Diarrhoea,4. Conjunctivitis,5. Headache,6.Loss of taste or smell,7. A rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes.

Serious symptoms:

Difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath, 2. Chest pain or pressure, 3.Loss of speech or movement.

The pandemic had posed a threat to the whole education system. Schools, Colleges, Universities have been shut down. Educational institutions have found a way to overcome this immensely challenging series of events. On line classes have become the new norm for Educational institutions and it has come with a few benefits too.

With COVID – 19, nature is sending us a message that,we need to recognize the interrelationship between Nature and Human being. The Global experience is teaching that, containment measures and aggressive contract tracing are mandatory to keep the infection under control until an approved treatment or a vaccine is available to the global community. This will help in detecting, preventing and combating future Pandemic based on our experience from COVID – 19 out breaks.

It's time to give up Conventional thinking based on stereotype and finally start acting from a moral perspective. After all, our best bet is a happy future for all who live on earth, our common home.

“WE AND COVID-19”

KIYA MURMU, Department: Philosophy (Honours)

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) originated in Wuhan, China and has quickly spread to various countries. India, with a population of more than 1.34 billion, has difficulties in controlling this pandemic. As a resident of India and mainly of West Bengal we're going through a very troublesome situation. The Indian Government implemented a lengthy lockdown to reduce the transmission of the virus but it has already impeded industrial sectors, education etc which causes the fall of economy.

Besides economy, the lives of the commoners are ruining. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near total closures of schools, colleges and universities. As B.A. final year students, our batch is facing various problems regarding our exams. Our mental peace is totally demolished by now because of the uncertainty of the examination. We're in a state where we're not sure about our future. We neither stay holding our last semester studies, nor move forward with higher education. It's true that our teachers have tried their best to conduct classes through Google classroom, Google meet etc. but there is nothing equals to a real classroom. In this situation this is not possible but at least we can expect some good steps like postponing our exams for at least 6months.

We'll get our degrees later and those 6 months will be added to our job career. As we all know that if the number of COVID-19 cases increases, it would be a catastrophe for India. So it's totally up to us to protect our nation from this pandemic. To date, we have found it is one of the greatest challenges to human beings in fighting against COVID-19 in the history but I hope we'll see the ray of hope soon. Till then we've to stay at our own houses to stop COVID-19 from spreading. The more we stay at home, the faster COVID-19 stops spreading. "Stay home, stay safe" should be our moto for now.

WE AND THE COVID -19

Arpita Gorai , 4th Semester, Botany Dept.

COVID -19 is 'China Originated Virus in December 2019'. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome CoronaVirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which causes COVID -19, was first identified in December,2019 in Wuhan city, China, has quickly spread to various countries. The first SARS-CoV-2 positive case in India was reported in the state of Kerala on January30th, 2020. Subsequently, the number of cases rose drastically. By the month of May, 2020, around 14,35,000 suspected samples had been sent to National Institute of Virology, Pune, and some other related laboratories. Among those , around 56,300 were tested positive. By the end of May , Maharashtra , Delhi, Gujarat were reported to be the hotspots for COVID-19. The Health Ministry has identified 130 districts as red zones , 284 as orange zones and 319 as greenzone.

There has been a great impact worldwide due to the COVID - 19 on global economy, unemployment, education,poverityand many more. India is now the third worst affected country.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic impact of the 2020 corona virus pandemic has been largely disruptive. The country has witnessed a huge shock due to this pandemic. India's growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2020 went down to 3.1% according to the Ministry of Statistics. The Chief Economic Adviser to the Govt. of India said that this drop is mainly due to this pandemic effect. India's GDP estimates a downgrade; State Bank of India research estimates a contraction of 40% in the GDP. Although in the present scenario, the degradation of the economical status has been recovered by the liquor shops and dealers. This initiative has shown an apparent recovery on the country's economy.

Unemployment rose from 6.7% to 26% by the middle of June. During the lockdown, an estimated 14 crore people have lost their job so their salaries were cut for many others. More than 45% of households across the nation have reported an income drop. Major companies in India such as Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Forge, UltraTech Cement, Grasim Industries, Aditya Birla Group, BHEL and Tata Motors have temporarily suspended or significantly reduced their operations. Young start-ups have been impacted greatly as funding has fallen. Stock markets in India posted their great loses in history.

EDUCATION

The pandemic has significantly brought a major disrupt in the Indian educational system, which has to a critical determinant of the country's future. The higher education has been affected as well. By the second week of March, the schools and colleges began shutting down temporarily as a measure to prevent the spread of the corona virus. There is no certainty of reopening the educational institute till now. This is a crucial time for the education sectors board examinations, entrance tests of various universities, competitive examinations, semester examinations of college students, internships and campusing are all held during this time. This pandemic thus affected more than 285 million young learners in India, disturbing the societal consequences. The structure of schooling and learning including teaching assessment methodologies was terribly affected. Online teaching methods were adopted by the schools and other educational institutes. But here follows a major drawback. The e-learning program was not accessed by many students due to economical, social, environmental or network issues. So these students are subjected from this opportunity/system of learning. so, the whole system suffers.

This is how our country and the peoples' lives have been affected by the COVID -19 pandemic. The Government has taken different initiatives and strategies to restrict the spread

of the virus. The lockdown session launched by our PM Modi is still onto its effect; the social distancing strategies are highly maintained. The Government of India had introduced an app named Aarogya Setu , to educate citizens about the novel corona virus and help them make informed decisions amid crisis. The govt. of West Bengal has also taken an initiative to provide free ration such as rice,wheat,pulses to each and every person monthly. Now, it's time for us, the citizens to maintain and follow the guidelines and prevent ourselves from this obtuse condition and as per our extent, help others (the economically weaker sections) as a concern individual. Moreover, this lockdown (quarantine period) has made us realize how fragile, but also how beautiful and special, life really is. "Homes blooming like gardens, cities deserted, people locked up in their houses. Yet again life proved to be precious, and wealth inexpensive." It gave us an opportunity to slow down in this fast changing world and to appreciate what really matters family, friends and ownself. It helped us to discover our latent talents, those got hidden under our daily busy schedule. We could discover the 'new us', the desire to live, rather than merely survive.

“WE AND THE COVID-19”

STAY SAFE !! STAY HOME !! DISCOVER YOURSELF.

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of corona virus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally. The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome(SARS)and some types of common cold.

About 80% of confirmed cases recover from the disease without any serious complications. However, one out of every six people who gets COVID-19 can become seriously ill and develop difficulty in breathing. In more severe cases, infection can cause severe pneumonia and other complications which can be treated only at higher level facilities (District Hospitals and above). In a few cases it may even cause death (Source-WHO).

While corona viruses are common, corona virus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus that had previously not been identified in humans. The key features of COVID-19 are respiratory symptoms with a fever and cough. Like all new infections, understanding COVID-19 is important and changes rapidly. The CDC is proactively monitoring the virus and taking measures like providing guidance for health care workers and issuing travel recommendations. The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of

an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, and mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it.

COVID-19 spreads mainly by droplets produced as a result of coughing or sneezing of a COVID-19 infected person.

This can happen in two ways

Direct close contact: one can get the infection by being in close contact with COVID-19 patients (within one Metre of the infected person), especially if they do not cover their face when coughing or sneezing.

Indirect contact: the droplets survive on surfaces and clothes for many days. Touching any such infected surface or cloth and then touching one's mouth, nose or eyes can transmit the disease.

The incubation period of COVID 19 (time between getting the infection and showing symptoms) is 1 to 14 days. Some people with the infection, but without any serious symptoms can also spread the disease.

Practice Social Distancing:

1. Avoid gatherings such as melas, haats, gatherings in religious places, social functions etc.
2. Maintain a safe distance of at least one Metre between you and other people when in public places, especially if they are having symptoms such as cough, fever etc. to avoid direct droplet contact.
3. Stay at home as much as possible.
4. Avoid physical contact like handshakes, hand holding or hugs
5. Avoid touching surfaces such as table tops, chairs, door handles etc.

Practice good hygiene:

1. Wash your hands frequently using soap and water
2. Always Wear mask.
3. Do not Spit or shout in public places to avoid the spread of droplets
4. Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unclean hands.
5. Ensure that the surfaces and objects are regularly cleaned.
6. The best way to protect you from contracting coronaviruses is by using the same daily habits that help prevent the spread of many viruses, including the common cold and the flu.

To help prevent the spread of disease always:

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. Wash with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. Stay home when you're sick (and keep sick children home from school).
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- 6.
7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELF-ISOLATION, SELF-QUARANTINE AND DISTANCING?

Quarantine means restricting activities or separating people who are not ill themselves but may have been exposed to COVID-19. The goal is to prevent spread of the disease at the time when people just develop symptoms.

Isolation means separating people who are ill with symptoms of COVID-19 and may be infectious to prevent the spread of the disease.

Physical distancing means being physically apart. WHO recommends keeping at least 1-metre distance from others. This is a general measure that everyone should take even if they are well with no known exposure to COVID-19.

HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR A MEDICAL MASK?

1. Before touching the mask, clean hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
2. Take the mask and inspect it for tears or holes.
3. Orient which side is the top side (where the metal strips).
4. Ensure the proper side of the mask faces outwards (the coloured side).
5. Place the mask to your face. Pinch the metal strip or stiff edge of the mask so it moulds to the shape of your nose.
6. Pull down the mask's bottom so it covers your mouth and your chin.
7. Do not touch the mask while you are wearing it for protection.
8. Discard the mask in a closed bin immediately after use. Do not reuse the mask.
9. Perform hand hygiene after touching or discarding the mask – Use alcohol-based hand rub or, if visibly soiled, wash your hands with soap and water.

10. Be aware that there is a global shortage of medical masks (both surgical masks and N95 masks). These should be reserved as much as possible for health care workers.

HOW TO GROCERY SHOP SAFELY?

When grocery shopping, keep at least 1-metre distance from others and avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose. If possible, sanitize the handles of shopping trolleys or baskets before shopping. Once home, wash your hands thoroughly and also after handling and storing your purchased products.

HOW TO WASH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES?

Fruits and vegetables are important components of a healthy diet. Wash them the same way you should do under any circumstance: before handling them, wash your hands with soap and water. Then, wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly with clean water, especially if you eat them raw.

AAROGYA SETU- the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched a smart phone application called Aarogya Setu to help in "contact tracing and containing the spread" of COVID-19 pandemic in the nation. The World Bank lauded the early deployment of such technology to combat the pandemic. Amid growing privacy and security concerns, the government released the source code of the app, making it open-source on 26 May. The Government has promoted voluntary adoption of the app in its guidelines and standard operating procedures. Today, the world is a global society, where we all are together, connected to each and every part of this world. No matter where we stay, we can be with others. Until 2019 everything was going on fine, but suddenly in December 2019 a huge pandemic struck the world commonly known, as covid -19. Till date the original reason for the origin of this virus is not known but it is said that this virus took its birth in Wuhan laboratory. Scientist were doing researches on this virus. If we consider the present situation around us we will get to know that this virus has caused a huge disaster in today's world. If we consider covid- 19 cases in India it has rose to about 800000 cases till date. According to the latest report given by World Health Organization the covid-19 cases will raise to the peak by the end of August, and by September these cases will raise approximately about 25000-30000 per day. This is not good. More or less each and every person is really suffering due to this condition. Students are not able to take down their regular classes and go to school or colleges which is really going to harm and is harming the country's education system. Competitive exams such as JEE and NEET exams are going to be postponed. Schools and colleges have been shut off due to this covid19.

Normal people are not able to step out of the homes to go and earn money. Due to this India's annual income rate is continuously decreasing. This rate is falling down at a great rate. Even if we keep these factors aside there are two main reasons which are causing a huge problem of depression in the life of each and every individual. These factors are anxiety and fear of death.

But we all know that as each coin has two faces similarly this pandemic covid-19 also has two faces. If a part of the population is huge problem. Some positive sides can be seen as well. We can say that this covid-19 is a boon and also a bane for mankind. Often, we see that working parents don't get time to spend with their children and these children feel that their parents are not with them. But this condition, the covid-19 has removed this sense. Now the children are able to stay with the parents locked in the homes and spend some time with their parents and even grandparents. This covid-19 is really a great time, a great opportunity for the nature to recover and nature has already done it. The Ozone layer which protects our earth from the harmful UV rays was getting depleted completely day after day. In recent years it was discovered that the Ozone layer has developed a hole on it and this hole is situated above Antarctica. But recent researches have given proof that the Ozone layer is completely healed. The signs of pollution are completely reduced. We cannot see pollution or smoke around. We are breathing the fresh air of nature which our ancestor and grandparents said that they used to breathe at one time of their life. If we go to the cities we see that the trees and the plants are completely covered with a crude layer of dust. But now it is no more. If we go we cannot see that crude layer of dust because due to this covid-19 the pollution level has rapidly gone down and, our earth is all green around. In this situation the students who were thinking for the future career can get ample amount of time to discuss about the career with the parents and pursue the best career suited to them.

It's a request from each and every individual living in this world to the young scientist to please come forward and develop a vaccine for this covid-19, which has not been discovered yet. Everything for a certain time is ok and people are well accustomed to it but when the time taken by anything is too long people really are harassed. A similar condition is with covid-19. We pray to God to please remove this covid-19 as soon as possible, because nobody is now happy with this covid-19.

.....THE END.....