



CURSOR 5.0

Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research

vol.3 | Issue 2

THE WORLD IS ONE FAMILY

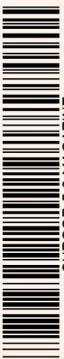


INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Growth of AI/ML/5 G networks,
everything and anything

THE WORLD IN 20 YEARS.

An Environmental Pandemic
talks about degrading
environment quality due
to human actions



CURSOR 5.0

VOLUME 3 ISSUE II

About

Messages

Featured Articles

Alumni corner

Events
&
Special events

Achievements

Creative corner

Team members

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Reader!

Beating the lockdown blues and despite the pandemic times, here we are once again, with the release of our online magazine CURSOR 5.0 Vol III, Issue II, July 2021

The outbreak of COVID-19 has affected every community in the world. It has raised uncertainties and disrupted the lives of many individuals. Despite this, we are resilient and carry on with our dreams and pursuits. We hope that the end of the pandemic is near. Your commitment to your personal, academic and professional development during these tough times gives us hope for the future and SICSR is committed to continue to join you in your journey during your stay with us and beyond and make it happy, safe and prosperous.

Cursor 5.0 provides a platform for students, staff, and alumni at SICSR to explore their creative side, and aims to render a visionary experience to explore their thoughts and ideas. We are excited to present creative articles, a sneak peek into our campus activities as events diary, awards and achievements and many more.

We welcome you as a reader to express your valuable feedback and help improve further in the upcoming editions. We will be staying in touch with you all in the further editions of CURSOR 5.0, as we look forward to making CURSOR 5.0 the organ journal of SICSR.

I would like to appreciate the collective efforts of the editorial team for their unceasing efforts in making the timely release of CURSOR 5.0 Vol III, Issue II, July 2021, despite all the challenges of COVID19.

Stay healthy, stay strong.
With Best wishes,
Dr. Jatinderkumar R. Saini,
Professor & Director, SICSR Pune.

FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Reader!

It is my hope that this message reaches you at a safe and healthy time in your life.

I wish to look back at the year 2020 and reflect on how far we have come since then. I miss the good times and the excitement that surrounded us before the pandemic and announcement of the lockdown. I also miss the seniors who are going to graduate this year. To all of you, I know that this is a special time for you, and I hope that you will join me in celebrating your achievements. You picked SICSR because of the exceptional education you would receive from the best faculty in their disciplines. You wanted to be surrounded by students who were engaged in meaningful discussions and who were also thinking critically about the world around them.

As difficult as it is for students to make the transition to online instruction, it has been equally challenging for faculty members to adapt to this new environment. Like you, they also value the interactions in the class and the sense of community. We will get through this. As the University community, we will get through this together. It is important that we stay focused on the things that are most important to us, such as making sure that our families are not left behind and we all are safe.

In these tough times, it is important to recognize the efforts and achievements of our CURSOR 5.0 members. This issue of CURSOR 5.0 Vol III, Issue II, July 2021 is no exception. I appreciate team CURSOR 5.0 for their untiring efforts. However, your feedback is very important for us. Please do share it.

My best wishes to team CURSOR 5.0.

**Warm Regards,
Dr.Sachin Naik,
Deputy Director,
SICSR,Pune.**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers!

"No matter how hard the past is, you can always begin again" -Buddha

The global pandemic has taught us that we can always make a new beginning, no matter how hard the past might be. With this hope in mind, Team Cursor 5.0 started gearing up for the next release slated for our Foundation Day on the 6th of July 2021.

These tragic times have taught us many valuable life lessons. Gratitude and Gratefulness! We are grateful to many people who make our communities feel safe. The feeling of connectedness and interdependency with the world has never been so clearer. True to our belief at Symbiosis,
वसुधैर् कुटुम्बकं – We are a global community.

Team Cursor 5.0 will serve as a great example of this spirit. The team is grateful in imbibing the immortal values of Symbiosis Family and express gratitude to unconditional guidance and support received from Dr. J.R.Saini, Professor and Director, SICSR and each one of you at SICSR.

Like the last two editions, this one too was planned, designed, and implemented in a completely virtual mode. A Series of meetings, numerous emails, calls for team members and calls for articles, every process of releasing the version was held in a completely online mode.

I appreciate the graduating team members of Cursor 5.0 in supporting the transition of activities so seamlessly with the newly inducted team of Cursor 2021-22. While I express my sincere gratitude to all our Student Editorial board of AY 2020-21, I would also like to appreciate the efforts of the present team. They are so quick in learning and implementing. So here we are, with the final product.

Team Cursor 5.0 is happy to place this edition CURSOR 5.0 Vol. III, Issue II, July 2021 in front of you on the auspicious occasion of the 36th Foundation day of SICSR.

The rich legacy of the past 36 years is so valuable to all of us. I reiterate that through this initiative we would like to connect the past legacy of SICSR with the current generation. I would request each one of you, staff members, students, and Alumni to consider CURSOR 5.0 as a platform to express your thoughts, share your creativity, and help us build a very informative college e-magazine Cursor 5.0.

The success of this magazine cannot be measured without support from you, "the reader". Please do contribute and also provide your valuable suggestions and feedback to the 'CURSOR 5.0' team.

**Dr. (Mrs.) Rajashree Jain,
Professor & Editor,
CURSOR 5.0, SICSR E - Magazine,
SICSR, Pune.**

**“ A Broken Rose-Tinted View
of the Lockdown “**

7

By: Bhakti Khubnani (BBA-IT 2019-22)

“ India's Vaccination Rollout “

8

By: Harsh Kahate (BCA 2020-23)

“ Higher Education in Post-Covid Society “

By: Manan Agarwal (BBA IT 2020-23)

**“ Emerging Technologies for the Economic
Development of the Nation “**

By: Tushar Laad (BCA 2020-23)

“ Are we heading to bleak future?“

By: Sandhya Agarwal (BCA 2020-23)

**“ India and its Vaccination
Strategy “**

By: Jayshree Pandey (BBA IT 2020-23)

**“ Could impartial education systems have
saved our nation from the pandemic? “**

By: Mohammed Taha Alibhai & Simone Gangal
(BBA-IT 2019-22)

**“ Work-from-home Culture
and future workforce “**

By: Maria Qaiser (BBA IT 2019-2022)

**“ Covid 19 :A catalyst in higher
education post pandemic “**

By: Vanshika Srivastava (BBA IT 2020 – 2023)

“ The Pandemic & The Future “

By: Rhea Shree S (BBA IT 2020-23)

“ A Broken, Rose-Tinted View of the Lockdown “

By: Bhakti Khubnani (BBA-IT 2019-22)



With the position of privilege comes the responsibility to not view the world with rose-tinted glasses.

Yes, it's not easy to get the understanding of the society from our sweet spots- in our comfortable homes and air-conditioned offices but if we, who have the resources and voice to make things happen for those in less fortunate positions don't work towards a better tomorrow for all of us, what is the point of enjoying the privileges that we do?
 "They say the sun shines equally on everyone
 And I don't think I've heard a bigger lie,
 For me, the sun is warmth and summer
 sweetness,
 And for my sister walking home -
 The harshest thing in the sky"

With India locked down over the coronavirus and no way to earn money, the migrant workers faced a grim choice of either walk the roads to home or die hungry in the city.

Lakhs of migrant workers were left unemployed by the full shutdown in the country, this sparked an exodus from metro & major cities with many forced to walk back home hundreds of kilometres on foot as public transport remained disbanded. Although some trains started operating, connecting to major state capitals of India, the larger point of the conversation is to highlight the apathy. The lack of consideration shown by those in power for those whose livelihoods and lives have been endangered in the past year.

I've seen people from the well to do socio-economic status belittle the struggles of those forced to walk home and it left me disgusted. How can we, who don't know anything about walking several miles to reach home and instead were at the luxury of sitting at home, ridicule the struggles of those who have to endure this dehumanising experience? But what I absolutely cannot fail to look past is how everyone, irrespective of where they come from and where they belong always seem to think that home, wherever it might be, is always the better place.

Keeping the above points in consideration, I continue to believe that the world, intrinsically and actually, is a good place. That despite everything we hear on the news every day, kindness survives and people are by and large - good at heart. That positivity is sitting folded in the seams, waiting to take over the world.

Better days are coming and if you are paying attention, you'll get a WHIFF of them too.

References:

Agencies, A helping hand for the migrant workers walking home, The Economic Times, Politics, March 28th 2020, 02:16 PM IST

Illustration by Tanishq Nakra



“ India's Vaccination Rollout “

By: Harsh Kahate (BCA 2020-23)



Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik, Vaccines-Possible Saviour.

These are some of the words that we are hearing everywhere nowadays. Are you vaccinated? Got your Dose? 2nd Dose completed? etc. India is one of the worst affected countries by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, and washing hands, vaccination is the only way to defeat the coronavirus. This shows the importance of vaccination; not only in India but all over the world.

However, has the Indian government or any state government took the vaccination seriously? My opinion is no. Firstly, the vaccination criteria were changed. There was no clarity on whether the central government would be purchasing the vaccines or the respective state governments. On 7th June 2021, the policy was changed again by the Hon. Prime minister for the third time. On 8th, 3.3% of India's population stays fully vaccinated while it is 42.11%, 19.2%, 24% in the USA, France, and Spain respectively. For any problem in India, the reasoning is done is based on the base of the huge population, so was it done in this case as well. However, this argument is baseless according to me. If we look at "developed" countries such as Japan and Canada, the number of people fully vaccinated remains only 3.9% and 8.5% respectively. It shows us clearly that this is not a question of the population but the strategy of the government. If the American, French, Israeli, Spanish governments were able to carry out the vaccination rapidly, why not the Indian government?

Ignorance!

In my opinion, the main reason is ignorance.

First of all, as per the Ministry of External Affairs' statistics, the number of the vaccine doses exported stands at 6.63 crores. While we can understand the vaccines exported under a contract, what is the reason behind exporting vaccine doses in a such large number as gifts when the people in your own country are dying!



Differences!

Secondly, the vaccination strategy was changed constantly by both the central and state governments. The vaccination was opened for the age group 18-44 without even taking the number of doses that were available/that would be available. As a result, neither the citizens in the age group 45+ nor the young people were vaccinated fully. For example, the government of Maharashtra announced the vaccination for young citizens and closed it for 10-15 days temporarily due to the unavailability of the doses. When India is one single country, why the rate of vaccines is still different in different states? Why some states prefer the 45+ age group while others 18+? Why certain states are getting more doses in consideration of the population while the others are getting fewer doses? No one has a response. It is only and only due to the unscientific approach towards vaccination and petty politics played by all the political parties.

To continue, certain facts have to be appreciated. As for the State-wise tally, Maharashtra has administered the highest number of first doses among the States with 1,97,48,461 doses. It is followed by Uttar Pradesh at 1,74,71,652 and Rajasthan at 1,47,23,621.

Statistics!

Maharashtra is leading in terms of second doses with 49,32,788 second doses being administered so far in the State. It is followed by Gujarat at 43,62,132 and West Bengal at 39,73,884.

(Source: Ministry for health and family welfare)

The State is also leading in terms of total doses administered with 2,46,81,249 doses, followed by Uttar Pradesh at 2,11,50,258 and Gujarat at 1,89,22,357.

Efforts!

Being the largest population in the world, everyone understands that it is a nearly impossible task to vaccinate 135 Crore people fully. To add, the vaccination speed and effectiveness in the first phase (frontline workers and healthcare people) has to be appreciated. That was the right way to carry out a vaccination drive.

However, the problem arises afterward.

While the British government was ordering the doses for the third shot, the Indian government did not procure the second dose even for 25% of the population. No efforts were made to purchase foreign-made vaccines like Pfizer and Moderna to make the citizens safe.

Domestic Vaccine!

It was a mistake to restrict the drive to just two Made-in-India vaccines: Covishield, the AstraZeneca Plc shot manufactured by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India Ltd., and

Covaxin, an indigenously developed shot produced by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Ltd. The duration between two Covishield doses was increased to 84 days without giving any idea, which might have created confusion.

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

Politics!

India's vaccination drive has also been politicized after the federal government asked the state governments to procure the vaccines. Public health experts and opposition leaders have called on the federal government to run the immunization program instead of delegating it to state governments. However, the right step was taken where the central government will be giving the vaccines, free of cost to everyone.

Conclusion!

Finally, it would not be wrong to say that the vaccination strategy of the Indian Government is failed. As mentioned earlier, no scientific approach was used towards the vaccines. When the people were dying and vaccination should have been the most important priority, we were busy with election campaigns and huge religious festivals. The recent steps were taken by the Hon. Prime ministers are correct and if the vaccination is provided by the central government in an adequate quantity, India should be covid-free soon. Taking the example of the USA and Israel, a nation can vaccinate fully its people. Mistakes are done by everyone, but the one who understands them and moves forward wins the race.

References:

- Ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India.
- Henrik Pettersson, Tracking Covid-19 vaccinations worldwide, CNN, July 6, 2021 at 3:48 a.m.

Illustrations By Tanishq Nakra



“ Higher Education in Post-Covid Society ”

By: Manan Agarwal (BBA IT 2020-23)

In the novel Coronavirus or Covid-19:

Many names were given to this deadly disease. One that shut down businesses, institutes, economies, and even entire countries almost overnight. A pandemic that forced everybody inside their houses or drove them to the hospitals, affecting every social and economic institute all over the globe. One of the major institutes was EDUCATION.

Impact Of COVID 19

For primary and middle schools, the situation was easily dealt with due to the lack of any major examinations. They followed the government's instructions without giving it a second thought and put a hold on their classes. Secondary schools, on the other hand, had to face some complications due to the class 10th and 12th board examinations. They had to make a humongous decision as they held their students' futures in their hands and are solely responsible for any hiccups which they cannot afford. Recently, there have been reports of cancellation of said examinations by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for both the classes but the Indian Council for Secondary Education (ICSE) has only decided to cancel the class 10th boards while leaving the status for class 12th in uncertainty. This came as a much-awaited relief for secondary schools and their pupils.



New Version of Education

Universities and colleges all over the globe faced this crisis as well but on a yet bigger scale compared to secondary educational institutes. They have a greater responsibility of producing the future leaders and workforce of their countries, respectively. Putting their semesters on hold or even ending them early was not an option unless they were willing to risk their reputation by adding to the incompetency of the general population. The solution they chose to tackle this problem was

“Online Classes”.

Colleges and universities around the world started conducting classes in the, now well-known, online mode, keeping up with the times, trying to impart their education and experience as best they could without being physically present. Teachers worked tirelessly to do their jobs while students used this time to avail themselves of endeavors that could not have been availed had they been attending college in the pre-covid society.

Students taking on multiple internships at a time and participating in every possible event they can has become the norm which is bound to give them a glowing resume by the end of the year. Such tremendous progress has been seen all over the world, across universities but these, sadly, are only the pointers for the proposition of the pressing debate, that is online classes with the opposition holding much better cards.

Cons of New Version

Not all students take their online classes seriously, without paying any heed to the fact that the knowledge they could gain might prove to be crucial in the future and the lack of it may even lead to their career's downfall. Students often join their classes just for the sake of attendance and if it was not a requirement, they might choose to not attend classes altogether. On the other hand, for the more studious ones, it often becomes difficult to grasp the concepts being taught and causes them to lose interest in the subject. But this does not at all mean that only students are the cause of such disruption in education. Teachers showing disinterest and not caring about their students causes harm not only to their reputations but also to their pupils. Even if they try their best to disseminate their knowledge, it is not the real deal that one would receive in the offline mode of classes.

Need to be back

Covid has given the entire world a really hard time and when I say this, I think I speak for everyone, we all want this atrocity to end, to go back out into the world without having to wear a mask first, and do everything that we did every day but never felt grateful for but now that it has been snatched from us. Even though getting everything back to normal is not within reach yet, I feel that a few things might still be very much attainable. The first ray of hope was seen at the beginning of 2021 when the 1st wave of Covid-19 ended. A lot of things achieved near-normalcy. But educational institutes could not decide the mode of classes in such a short time and turned out to be the smarter to hold out as soon enough the 2nd wave hit. This meant that it was only a matter of time before the situation became better, enough for the world to go back to the way it was. More hope came in the form of various vaccines being created almost simultaneously in various countries like Covishield, Covaxin, Pfizer-BioNTech, etc.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Changes

When campuses across the world do open up, everyone knows that certain changes will have to be permanently made into their lifestyles. Masks will become like smartphones, always to be kept on the person, and social distancing in public places will become essential to ensure a decrease in the spread of the dreadful virus. Being fully vaccinated will be a requirement to visit any public place or use any means of public transport. But the elephant in the room remains. How will the universities get back on track after this dry spell? Students have missed out on a lot of experiences they would have gotten only in the offline mode. Teachers have not gotten to know their students outside of their screens. The quality of education has overall dropped drastically since carelessness has been exhibited by teachers and students alike. As a result, teachers cannot recognize their students' problems as well as they once could, and students hesitate before approaching their teachers for any problems they face on the academic front.

Present

As of now, there is no viable solution to this problem and on a personal note, I can come up with only a tedious one. Higher education institutes would need to run quick recaps of all the courses they taught and conduct small tests if not full-fledged examinations. Although this is neither an economic nor efficient method, it is most definitely an effective one. Universities and colleges will need to make some minor changes in their teaching plans to accommodate for the disregarding of knowledge during this pandemic.

Many of us first-year students have not even had the privilege of seeing our colleges with our own eyes, sufficing with only images off the internet. The much-awaited freshman's party will not be a freshman's party anymore which might not happen at all. Entering our colleges after fighting the guard for not carrying our ID cards might never come around. Sitting around the canteen with our friends laughing and having fun might just remain a dream. We might miss out on so many experiences altogether but let us not end on such a gloomy note. I hope we, the students, receive the higher education we were meant to and make the most of the post-covid college experience which will surely come soon.

References:

World Health Organization, who lists additional covid-19-vaccine-for emergency use and issues interim policy recommendations,2020.

Illustrations By Tanishq Nakra



“ Emerging Technologies for the Economic Development of the Nation ”

By: Tushar Laad (BCA 2020-23)

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic” – one of Arthur C. Clarke’s 3 laws. Being a science fiction fan, I am familiar with a lot of TV Series, Movies, and Books where advanced technology has single-handily changed the Economics of a planet.

In recent years complex science and technological tools have not only aided the global economy but have also played a role in driving it to the sky. Economics is all about the production and regulation of goods and services. In 2021, we all know what goods and services we need. It all comes to how efficiently those goods and services are procured, processed, and delivered. That’s where technology dives in, making the economics efficient.

Earliest tools made by humans have dated back to 3.3 million years ago, we discovered fire 1 million years ago, 20000 – 15000 years ago humans came up with technologies like wheels, pottery, and agriculture techniques, from 6000 BCE to 950 BCE came irrigation, sailing, iron, gunpowder, windmill, By 1876 we invented the telephone and after that, it was a gold rush. Every year a breakthrough! From Computer & Spaceflight to CRISPR and Artificial Intelligence we were at warp speed.

Considering the pace at which we ~~are~~ accelerating it safe to assume we will be looking at a very different world in the next 50 years. Who knows what’s next? Maybe Cold Fusion, Gene Editing, Artificial Gravity and I could go on and on.

Lead firms have persistently invested a huge amount of money in research and development. Mega Blocks like data science, artificial intelligence, space exploration, etc. have been explored by more and more private companies and leads us to not one but many questions.

“Is Research and Development worth it?

**Don’t we reach the peak of technological development?
Is it environmentally sustainable to use the help of new technologies?
Moving too fast?
Time for a global government?
Is technology overpowering us?”**

TECHNOLOGY

All these questions may turn into become good topics for debates but the point is some new technologies have opened to us a new world of opportunities. Emerging technological fields like biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, data science, etc have not only grown into a strong economic foothold but also delivered desired results.

Companies like Neuralink have safely and successfully integrated chips into monkey and pig brains and are well on their way to human trials. This has not only opened up a new field of science but ~~opened~~ up enormous economic opportunities.

Talking about India, Tesla and Starlink have slowly made their way inside this country of the ~~the~~ abundant workforce. Electric Vehicles have had a slow growth rate but no one can deny that they are the future. For a nation like India, these companies open up loads of economic opportunities, not only for businesses and laborers but also for scientists, students, investors, and many more people.



" Are we heading to bleak future?"

By: Sandhya Agarwal (BCA 2020-23)



COVID-19 is just a warning the main storm is yet to come
I can see the future of our planet and so I am numb
 I can't see people turning into a skeleton
 Corpses lying everywhere gives me a scare
 Those weary eyes of animals & cry of despair
 Those Withered plants which will never glare
 The scene shatters my soul I swear
 Now don't say you were unaware
 What else is left to say here?
 When you can see everything is in danger
 Why are you acting like a stranger?
 This environment is our sustainer
 But remember it is not biased
And so, I fear the day when the planet will be quiet

Illustrations By Tanishq Nakra



“ India and its Vaccination Strategy ”

By: Jayshree Pandey (BBA IT 2020-23)



“India's 86 Lakh Vaccine Doses In A Day Is Not Highest Record Across the world.”,

A false claim. With the onset of the second wave of Covid-19, India went under Lockdown again. The country opted to abandon its pandemic strategy and focus on mass vaccination. This strategy failed to stop the outbreak and it is now time to reverse it. Until herd immunity is achieved, private hospitals must continue acting as agents of the state, and impose only a limited markup on the stock they're given free from the national pool.

Starting May 1, the Great Indian Vaccine rollout will cover millions of people in the age group of 18-44 years. The priority then shifted to the healthcare workers and the frontline workers. Turn of those over 60 years of age who were most at risk of contracting the pandemic came. The demand for the vaccines started to outstrip the supply. Officials defended themselves by claiming that India had inoculated over 143 million people, which is more than the number of days taken up by the US and China. However, the reality is that only 50 percent of the population has been vaccinated. More than 60 million senior citizens have been covered by the polio vaccine since it was introduced in April.

The second Covid wave, which hit the country at the same time, brought a slew of problems. It unnerved the central and state governments, which were already struggling to contain the outbreak. The criticism that the Narendra Modi government received was due to the slow pace of the vaccination program and its export of vaccines that could have protected its citizens. From May 1, those above 18 years of age were able to get the pandemic vaccine. The country needs about 1.8 billion doses of preventive medicine. As the pandemic began to gain momentum, the governments of India and other countries were faced with an unsatisfactory situation. So, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stepped up efforts to boost the production and delivery of vaccines. To boost vaccine production, the Narendra Modi government has decided to allow the import of vaccines made by foreign manufacturers, including Russia's Sputnik V. Both firms needed to raise their share by July and August respectively to meet the demand. The companies have been asked to raise their share by selling a fixed amount of doses. To address the shortage of vaccines, state-owned laboratories and clinics will supply another 50 million doses of Covaxin in August. Dr. Reddys also planned to import finished vaccines once the price is fixed, reports IANS. It is important that the majority of the population gets the vaccines as soon as possible, says Dr. Jayaprakash Mulyil.



Distribution challenges

Zydus Cadila planned to raise its annual production capacity to 240 million doses, which includes 120 million doses in-house and the rest from contract manufacturing companies. Under the new strategy, which came into effect on May 1, the Centre and the states got 50 percent vaccine production from domestic producers. The remaining half goes to the Centre. A comprehensive plan for the vaccine's rollout was in the works, but the details such as the right temperature for the vaccine and its utilization were still not finalized. The Centre has allowed states to distribute vaccines through decentralization. This will enable people to get the vaccines without paying for them. To be successful, all stakeholders must work together to ensure that the entire population is inoculated. The planning and controlling the flow of vaccines to the right places will pose a greater challenge to public health experts than the cost of the drugs. Several states, including West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, have announced free vaccines for infants up to age 44.



Pricing problems

Analysts say the move is a political ploy to shift the blame for the lapses in implementing the Centre's plan. They also believe that a coordinated inter-state mechanism is needed to ensure that vaccines are distributed among states according to the severity of the pandemic. The Centre's bridge funding is essential to ensure that states can procure vaccines without resorting to the diversion of their funds. As per the Centre's decision, private health utilities will now be allowed to charge as much as Rs 600 per dose and Rs 300 to the states. Critics of the private market for vaccines also point out that many countries don't use them and provide them for free to the public in the context of a pandemic. For vaccine-makers, the differential pricing is justified since they spend large amounts of money on R&D. It is also beneficial for them since they can charge a higher mark-up than the cost. Public interest groups have questioned the high prices of vaccines when the money is being used to boost production. On their part, the vaccine producers say that their prices are the lowest globally. Krishna Ella, managing director, Bharat Biotech, says that the company's Covaxin-based vaccines are highly purified and require low process yields to produce. The public has been asking why the taxpayers should pay high prices for vaccines when the government is spending its money to increase the production of vaccines.

All costs of product development, manufacturing, and clinical trials were mainly borne by the company.



References:

- Andy Mukherjee, In a nation of inequalities, India's vaccine strategy is bad economics, Bloomberg Opinion, April 27th, 2021 21:17 IST.
 - Mohamed Zeeshan, India Must Rethink Its Pandemic Vaccination Strategy, The Diplomat, May 19th, 2021.
 - Rohan Venkataramakrishnan, Why is India learning details of vaccination strategy from Adar Poonawalla and not the Centre? Scroll.in, April 23rd 2021 09:00 am IST.
- Illustrations By Tanishq Nakra

GOVERNMENT'S CHANGE TO VACCINE POLICY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Centre would no longer share responsibility for the country's vaccines program with states. The federal government now purchases 75% of the vaccines manufactured by private firms. This means that the state governments will receive the vaccines for free. It means that states and territories will now receive their allocated doses based on the level of disease and vaccine wastage in their respective states. India has administered a total of 235 million doses of vaccines since January. The drive, which began in January, is aimed at immunizing the country's adult population. June's Covid vaccine quota to be 120 million after 79 million in May

Around 120 million doses of vaccine will be made available for the Covid-19 program in June. The remaining doses will be given to the states and union territories for the benefit of the healthcare workers and people above 45 years of age. In June 2021, around 120 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines will be available for the country's immunization program. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, however, did not share details of the total number of doses allocated for June. Vaccination is an important step to prevent a disease from spreading, especially among the country's most vulnerable population.

Nearly 23 crores vaccinated, 3 crores infected, only 16 lakh cases at present. India, at the moment, vaccinating one Qatar per day. Hopefully from June end, India will vaccinate one New Zealand per day and one Israel per day by July. India vaccinated one Canada in the first half of May. In the entire May, India vaccinated one UK. Hopefully in July India will vaccinate one US. The Indian government has pledged to vaccinate all adults by the end of the year, a target many experts say would be difficult to meet at the current pace. Indian vaccines are the cheapest in the world and India is very few countries in the world to have a vaccine of our own. Seeing Surroundings, India hopes to be vaccinated as soon as possible.



" Could impartial education systems have saved our nation from the pandemic? "

By: Mohammed Taha Alibhai & Simone Gangal
(BBA-IT 2019-22)



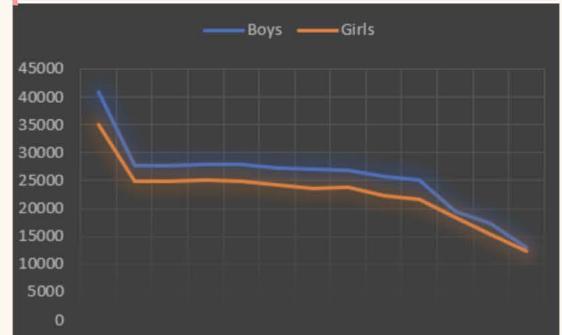
There is no greater pillar of stability than a strong, free and educated woman. This quote essentially captures our true sentiments with regards to empowering women by providing them with education. Currently, there are many barriers preventing women from soaring heights and obtaining the education they deserve such as poverty, child marriage, sex trafficking, gender bias, gender-based violence, the list really goes on...

The Covid-19 pandemic made this already existent crisis even more evident. The dire situation of a majority of our population during the second wave highlighted this question in our minds- Could we have averted this crisis even on a minor scale had we, as a society, allowed and enabled women to engage in various fields such as healthcare, security, writing and reporting etc.?



Our concern was found to be true after an examination of Pune's open data, which can be found at <http://opendata.punecorporation.org>. It uncovered some unexpected statistics about school enrollment between 2012 and 2017. Although we deemed it necessary to note that the lack of data inhibited further investigation for us. The presented datasets reveal that there is a stark disparity in the number of boys attending school in comparison to the number of girls attending school.

If we have a look at Graph 1, We have data for school enrollment for the year 2012. For starters, in Pre-Primary, there were 40892 boys and 35104 girls, Now if we go to Grade 2, there were 27663 boys and 24927 girls, This same trend where there is a considerable disparity between boys and girls is present in all the grades. In Grade 12 there were 12922 boys and 12395 girls, the only case where the difference between boys and girls was significantly low.



Graph 1

If we have a look at Graph 2, This is the data for school enrollment in the year 2016, this is after several initiatives were taken by the Central Government such as the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao Campaign. In this year there were 35863 boys and 31142 girls in Preschool, if we have a look at grade 2 there were 28659 boys and 25578 girls and this same trend continues for the other classes. The only exception here is grade 12, In grade 12 there 17492 boys and 18148 girls. This was the only instance where there were more girls enrolled in school compared to boys.

Graph 2

Furthermore, we should really consider the fact that this data is only from the city of Pune in Maharashtra. Further analysis has to be undertaken to see if this situation also persists in other cities and states. It is safe to make an assumption that this situation is worse in other economically challenged cities and states and countries all over the world, since Pune has one of highest literacy rates in India, with the rate being 89.56%.

Elucidating the central concept and theme of this article, we can empathize with the fact that a lot of us have experienced what probably feels like rock-bottom during this pandemic. However, this issue makes us wonder if we faltered as a society and brought this fate upon us.

To explain further, a city or a country is a system of systems. All systems or departments are interconnected.

These systems or departments don't work in silos. A problem that is faced by one department could potentially lead to negative consequences for the other departments too.

Now, this pandemic was severe in nature, it showed us that our health-care system lacked the competency to cope with the load of Covid-19 cases that emerged. However, this was not simply a failure of the health-care system. The health-care system is made up of doctors, and doctors are graduates of medical schools. We as a society should be enabling the young adults amongst us to choose a career of their choice, regardless of the individual being a boy or a girl, and if they chose to become doctors, they could also save lives.

However, based on the above evidence, we can conclude that the society we live in today is partial. It can be observed that boys, oft-times, are provided with a higher preference and status than girls. This rather misogynistic approach is not backed by any empirical evidence. There is no research that suggests boys outperform girls in school.

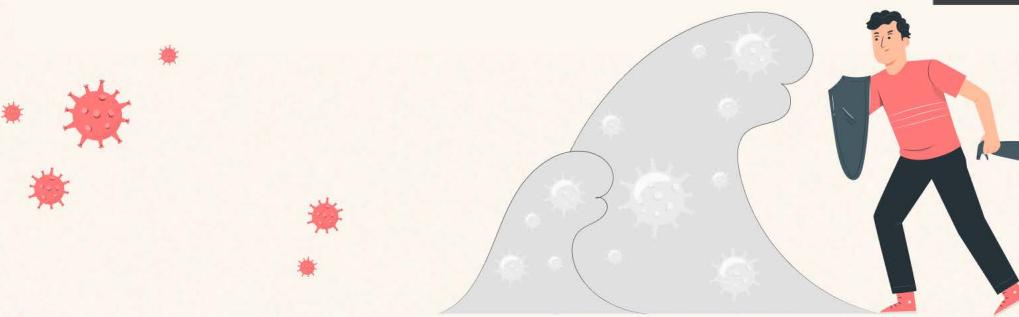
This bigotry and bias, is leading to devastating effects on the country. More research is needed to understand why there is a gender imbalance in schools.

However, as a nation, we need take an initiative to encourage all children, regardless of gender, to attend school. According to some research, the Central Government did implement certain measures in 2015, such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao movement, which aims to raise awareness and improve the effectiveness of welfare programs for girls in India. The program was partially effective, since the gender difference between boys and girls was minimized. However, we feel that as a society it is possible to do better. We should eventually put an end to all of this discrimination and bias, and only then will we be able to emerge from this rock bottom in the present and move onto a better future.

References

- [School Enrollment data for 2014-15. \(2014\). PMC Open Data Store.](#)
- [School Enrollment data for 2013-14. \(2013\). PMC Open Data Store.](#)
- [School Enrollment data for 2012-13. \(2012\). PMC Open Data Store.](#)
- [School Enrollment data for 2016-2017 \(2016\). PMC Open Data Store.](#)

Illustrations by Tanishq Nakra



“ Work-from-home Culture and future workforce “

By: Maria Qaiser (BBA IT 2019-2022)

As an apocalypse named COVID-19 dawned upon us, the entire network of companies and various industries ruffled. The world witnessed a rare change due to this pandemic and to elude losses occurred, this trend known as work from home saved companies and their employees from avid destruction which might have occurred. Well, this culture started as a perk to managing the companies but now it has been adjusted to all the arenas so well that in the future it is expected as such: By 2025, an estimated higher percentage of the workforce will be working remotely at least five days a month. According to many reviewers, it's just the beginning of this popular work from home culture.

Pandemic scenario

Even being entirely distributed and scattered research shows individuals, teams and entire workforces can perform up to the mark even more efficiently at times. Surprisingly the performance received from employees is astonishing as metrics show better performance as compared to before the pandemic scenario. Employees have seriously realized their roles and have worked efficiently even staying at home, at times even ignoring all the comforts which might have tempted them to become lousy. It is not easy to work from home as you are constantly surrounded by all sorts of luxuries, comforts, and your family to make you feel relaxed but it all depends totally on your dedication and urge to work even if you haven't got that professional aura around you to constantly motivate you.



Pros and Cons

In this world, everything has its positives and negatives. Let's look into some pros here, first of all, what I sensed is working from home means less office space so this is a perfect cost-cutter methodology for any company because maintaining headquarters and several branches require a considerable amount of money to be spent and implementation of work from home would be sufficient to save money and many researchers believe that big infrastructures and lavish office spaces will become a chapter of the past.

Although many companies are planning a new combination of work culture which will include work from home and on-site working as well giving it a new touch under the name of hybrid work model. Here employees can come to the office for in-person meetings to discuss any discrepancies, discussions, changes, updates and strategic plans to be implemented, and for the rest of the days of the week, employees can work individually at home. This diversification would allow offices to get rid of cubicles and to create more spaces for meetings and events.

Considering all aspects work from home requires more engagement and alertness as engagement is much harder virtually if they need to be in touch with new opportunities as an office there is consistent air of professionalism present at any moment which is not available at home. It is very essential to keep in check the performance of every employee, instead of hours spent on work the focus should be on the quality of work done, various tools are being developed to counter the efficiency of the workers. Planning and strategies are still going on to improve the performance check like for example instead of annual updates weekly or monthly updates are now being taken into consideration for better efficiency and productivity.

Analysing some of the con's security plays one of the major threats as working from home makes data vulnerable and can be accessed by others if proper cybersecurity measures are not taken care of. Due to lack of professionalism, it might be difficult for some employees to be constantly engaged at home but surprisingly this pandemic has proven that work from home can be efficient without losing alertness and productivity, in a survey more than ninety percent of employers said productivity was the same as or higher than before the pandemic, even with their employees working at home.

Life of Pandemic Work

People believe that working from home can be lesser exhaustive as there are various means to get recharged at home quicker than a professional workspace, for instance, you can take a break in between and enjoy your hobbies such as cooking, singing, dancing, and many more activities preferred. Also, some individuals believe at home you can be in your comfortable clothes and sit more comfortably which can ease the stress of work to be done on time, this trend called work in pajamas got very popular as employees are very happy to work like that. As when workers have to go to the office they have to be in a formal dress code as prescribed by the organizational norms. As all these factors contribute to the growth of work from home culture the future promises a better endeavor for this culture. It is not easy to implement this culture overnight as a whole because it will require a lot of changes to be specific which include freeing office space and redesigning according to every company's own needs and requirements, investment in digital infrastructure is very important because it will serve as the backbone of this culture setting up each worker's system to be worked upon, assurance of proper connectivity and the security aspects including investment in cybersecurity is to be taken care of.

Working System

To be honest work from home is not possible for some industries like for example manufacturing industry as some labor force is always required to be present on the ground though they can implement advanced technologies and automation techniques. So keeping in mind the right organizational goals and strategies, up-to-date technologies and most importantly the appropriate leadership companies, teams, and offices could go remote even at once. However, if leaders support organized communication, brainstorming for implementation of various ideas and problem-solving approaches, initiatives to amplify knowledge online; encourage virtual socialization, team-building skills, work with government stakeholders to ensure regulatory compliance of various ensured rules and regulations, set an example by becoming WFA employees themselves, all-remote organizations may indeed emerge as the future of work. I believe we are re-entering a world that doesn't quite feel the same as the one we left last year and some of the experiences have led us to form new habits that are here to stay so if adapting to a new culture could be more promising there is nothing wrong in that.

References:

Caroline Castrillon, This Is the Future Of Remote Work In 2021, Forbes, Dec 27, 2020, 04:00pm EST.
Illustrations By Tanishq Nakra

" Covid 19 :A catalyst in higher education post pandemic "

By: Vanshika Srivastava (BBA IT 2020 – 2023)

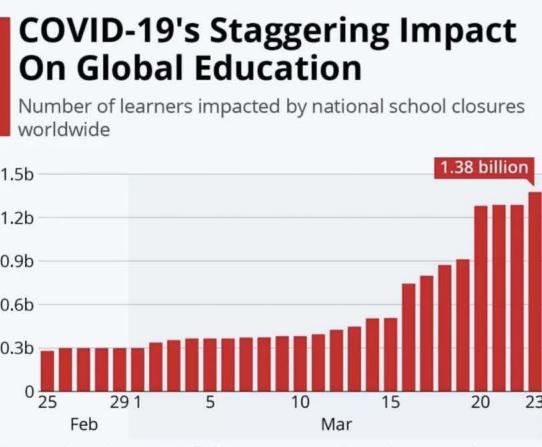
"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

-Rabindranath Tagore

Originated in the city of Wuhan, China, the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic spread to various countries and impacted the lives of many at a global level. Business and Education industries were affected majorly when lockdowns were announced worldwide as cases grew over time. They were compelled to shift to solutions that are technology-driven to follow the Covid 19 protocols. While the businesses have adapted to work-from-home (WFH) policies in the ongoing pandemic, around 1.5 billion students and youth across the world are or have been affected by closures of schools and universities. The following graph by UNESCO shows the effect of COVID-19 on global education.

Education is not the same anymore as it was years back when it originally began. Due to the pandemic, the education industry needed more innovation, and technology played a major role for all the officials, students, and teachers. Thanks to technology which helped us to stay connected as communication is an essence of our existence. In terms of education, creating content and deploying delivery systems, and harnessing a smooth flow of information are necessary. The education model that was being followed for past years has been rigid and reliant and therefore needs to crush the old model to become more flexible and accessible. Generation Z and Generation alpha are the current generation name, considered for most of the school students and technology is a part of their consciousness.

The unprecedented challenge interrupted the education industry at the fundamental level globally. Students couldn't apply to universities abroad. Without prior planning, there was a sudden shift to the online learning model. Talking about India particularly, it was a hectic task to formulate this method as the curriculum wasn't devised for such a type of learning and teaching format. The greatest risk involved here is the drop in attention levels resulting in learners becoming passive learners. On top of that, a large proportion of the student population is facing a digital divide, and India being a developing nation portrays how the rural side remains untouched to opportunities and unknown to technology. There have been significant changes in admission practices, criteria, and the overall recruitment process which calls out for better and innovative mechanisms to the entire process.



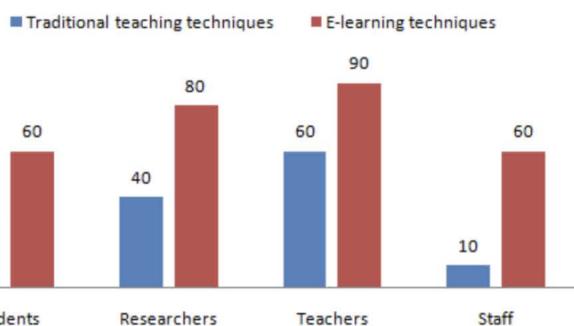
It is often said that any change or transition that causes disruption is also likely to bring some new challenges and opportunities along with it. The revolution of the teaching and learning model of the higher education system worldwide and particularly in a country like India was exceptionally impressive and challenging. After the Universities and colleges shifted to an online model of learning, teachers were required to become more tech-savvy. They had the opportunity to enhance the quality of the learning material being provided by them to give better resource outcomes.

Now, when the vaccination drives are across the world, the focus of higher education authorities is shifting towards the post COVID methodologies that will be applied when students join back the institutions as education systems will never be the same as they were

earlier and this opportunity must be seized to recalibrate, proactive and bring reforms in teaching methods.

According to the graph given below by the World Economic Forum report, even before COVID-19, there was already high growth and adoption in education technology, with global EdTech investments reaching US\$18.66 billion in 2019 and the overall market for online education projected to reach \$350 Billion by 2025.

Conceptual understanding (in %)



The coming future of education will have no reason to overlook the need and role of utilization being played by technology as it may be the most effective plan of action to empower learning in all types of age groups that are looking forward to incorporating technology as a way and part of their daily lives. These generations carry the ability to influence education by way of various evaluations and evolutions, as they are the major part of the pandemic, and are living in the circumstances that will help them to grow and learn.

The 'New Normal' requires a new arrangement of learning called blended learning. Because there will be the involvement of learning systems and related management tools, it will bring about more receptivity and transparency in academics and therefore will be an advancement in the methods of designing and delivering quality content to the entire education system.

When we say blended learning, it refers to the amalgamation of eLearning tools along with in-human learning styles to reap the benefits of this combination. The expected result of the adopted approach will be assignments, projects, and school bags now lighter. Another advantage of blended learning will be the decrease in the future threats which might arise and attack the traditional outlook of teaching. Therefore, if in the future such a crisis arises, we will be prepared to safeguard the education industry with existing and planned alternatives. E-Learning solutions along with smart technologies will ease out the tasks related to assessment like evaluation of answers, setting up question papers, preparing mark sheets, etc. This will not only save time and effort but will also allow the teachers to concentrate on more important tasks like improvement in teaching techniques, soft & digital skills, designing and enhancing more practical friendly course material. In the realm of pedagogy, the teachers, who were considered to be 'knowledge givers' are gradually changing roles and becoming 'facilitators' for the learners. Despite the technical and distance barriers faced by students, Governments across the globe are trying to bring new reforms of learning by providing open resource eLearning access to all students.



AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and is considered to be a gift in the digital learning world to human mankind. The advancement of technology and strategies makes learning more collaborative and engaging as compared to the traditional strategy. The reason being that AI can perform the repetitive and common tasks which were initially done by human beings, it impacts the world on a large scale. Teaching techniques will be impacted in a way that more time shall be spent on the crucial tasks. Also, AI can transform learning experiences.

The COVID-19 crisis brought uncertainty to the job market as well. There was a shortage of jobs, demand was low and supply was high. Therefore, to maintain agility and to keep up with surrounding technologies college students and professionals started to build skills in AI, data analytics, machine learning by the way of certifications so that they can be resourceful for a longer time. Workshops and other online training as part of EdTech products are in demand.

The pandemic also made students realize that soft skills are very well in need to survive in this unpredictable world. Decision making, creative problem solving, negotiating, communicating and self-awareness are a few of the many required skills. To ensure these skills are part of the priority list for all students, resilience must be generated into our educational systems. Apart from this, the pandemic made education authorities realize the importance of open-end resources and the distribution of knowledge despite the distance between countries and societies. Exploration of technology to its full potential can give amazing output, nourish the young minds and make them empowered citizens of this country.

Although most of the online education systems validated success globally, in India, E-learning would require time to develop before it is seen and adopted as a mainstream learning style and is functionally available to people.

Higher education in India needs to be more open-sourced and collaborative at the international level. Most of the courses should be more flexible in terms of curriculum, should be innovative, self-reliant, socially responsible, and based on a practical approach instead of mugging up concepts on a theoretical basis. The current negative points need to be converted into future opportunities.

Target programs need to be organized and should include the most vulnerable children with equipment and connectivity. Digital curriculum and materials (digital libraries, lessons, learning items, etc.) should be made available to more and more learners across the country. To maximize the full potential of education, skills, and technology across the nation it is very necessary to decrease the digital divide and bring students to the same level of learning. The backbone of India must be strengthened for a better future of higher education. Universities have a responsibility to consider their role in making our societies more equal – through access to higher education, curricula, and course content, and their operations and structures. Education post-Covid- 19 will acquire and derive the learnings from STEM and shall play a significant role on various issues.

Covid-19 may have been the catalyst for a revolutionary development that has been long pending. What is to be witnessed in the aftermath of a pandemic crisis is connected to the occurrences, innovations, and alternatives that are part of the experimental approach of education authorities and learning bodies. Perhaps, the world may never be the same as it was before Coronavirus but as it is said that every cloud has a silver lining, similarly we can count upon the futuristic changes and adapt to it irrespective of what it contains and accept the 'New Normal'.

References:

- India Today Web Desk ,Covid-19 lockdown: How the pandemic bringing change in Indian education system, India ,May 4th, 2020 18:36 IST.
- Parija Rangnekar,How Will COVID-19 Impact The Future Of The Educational Sector? ,eLearning Industry, February 10th , 2021
- Joanna Newman, Slim Khalbous and Hilligje van't Land, Higher education is key to building back better post-COVID, University World News.
- D Chandrasekharam in Dornadula C, Post Covid-19 education system, The Times of India, May 17, 2020, 10:04 PM IST
- UNESCO, Education in a post-COVID world: Nine ideas for public action, June 6th, 2020.



| EVENT DATE | EVENT TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| 6th January 2021 | Text Mining | Dr. Priti Kulkarni |
| 1st February 2021 | Recognition of Handwritten Chemical Expressions | Dr. Shilpa Mujumdar |
| 15th March 2021 | Systematic Literature Review: A step by step process | Dr. Sarika Sharma |
| 12th April 2021 | A whirlwind Tour of Bioinformatics. | Dr. Farhana Desai |
| 3rd May 2021 | Introduction to Cognitive Science | Dr. Pravin Metkewar |
| 2nd June 2021 | Design Teaching - Design Thinking | Dr. Rajashree Jain |



CURSOR 5.0

Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research

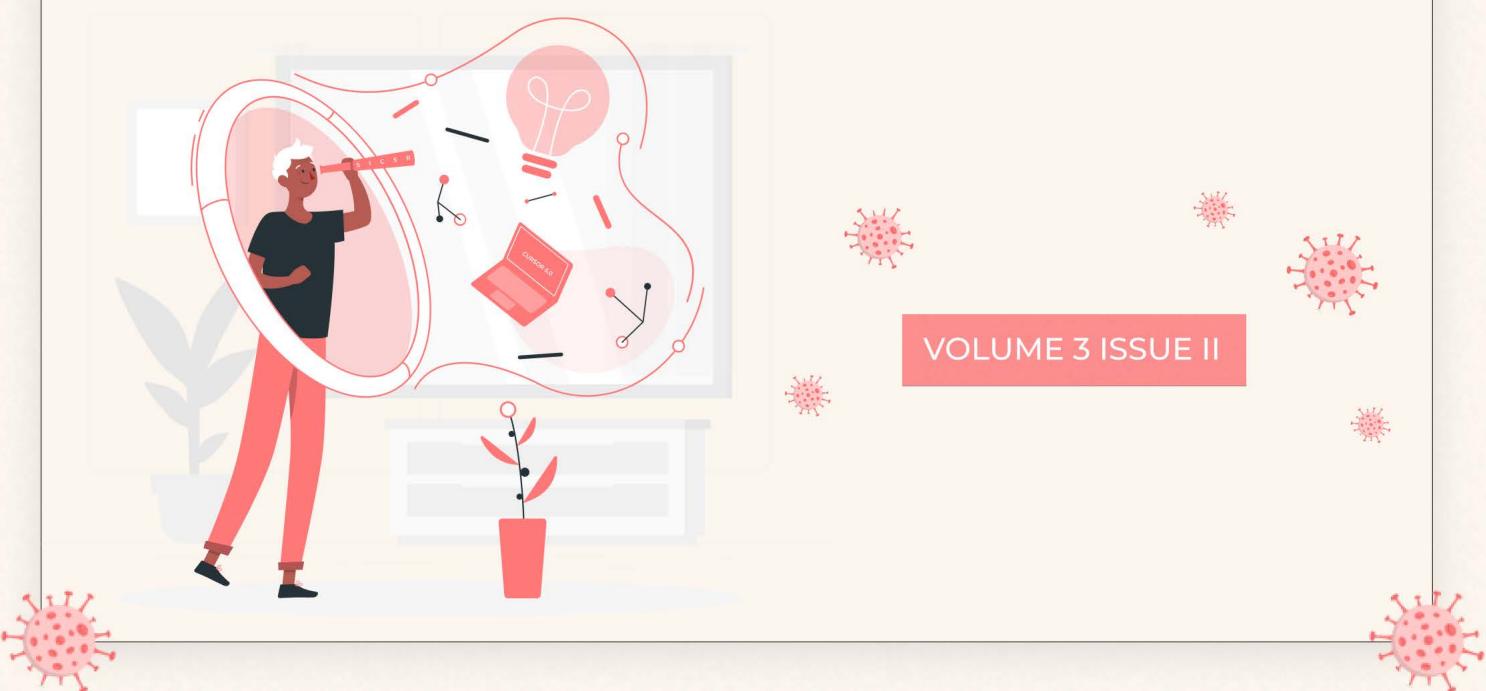
CURSOR 5.0 is an official magazine of Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research (SICSR), published quarterly. Through this endeavour Students of SICSR would get a platform to express themselves through various forms of writing like updates and/or reviews of technology trends, research articles, comments on current topics, literary/creative writing, etc.

CURSOR 5.0 also encourages freedom of expression and will act as a medium for the exchange of thoughts of faculty members, students, alumni and other stakeholders of the institute.

CURSOR 5.0 also be a quick look-book for all the important events, news, notifications of SICSR.

Overall the magazine aims to give its readers a great experience and exposure.

Happy Reading!



DAKSHIN BHARATHI

Country : MUSCAT, OMAN



How has the online mode of education been accepted by you and your family?

(Family's perspective is also important, although less than the student's)

The online mode of education is seen as an opportunity as I was able to gain knowledge and experience from various angles which I was not able to get during offline education due to a lot of my time being consumed in travel etc. Online mode of education was easy to onboard, thanks to my amazing faculty members and Symbiosis as a whole who have played a major role in the transition from an offline mode of education. My family really appreciates this mode of education since it has helped me pursue and learn things out of the box by engaging in various activities such as Internships, online certifications, etc.

Do you plan to visit Pune or even India if Covid was to loosen its grip on the world?

I definitely plan to visit Pune in the coming years as I have spent 3 years of my Bachelor's education in this wonderful and peaceful city. Pune has immense access to Tech hubs and various activities that students can engage in and learn from.

How is education different in (their home country) in comparison to India? (Way of imparting knowledge, testing methods, etc.)

Education in India is more rigorous with cut throat competition which helps students engage themselves in a competitive environment. A lot of emphasis is given in terms of studying, setting goals, and pursuing life in a disciplined manner. Students and faculty members of various colleges provide an in-depth learning and vibrant environment for students to grow up and think out of the box which enables students to think and do different things.

What has been the most helpful source of support from the university?

My university has provided me with continuous newsletter, emails and online activities to keep students such as myself engaged. The college has played a major role in partnering with imminent leaders to help their students grow through knowledge imparting online sessions which has helped students to grow their knowledge and networking opportunities.

How has the pandemic changed you?

The pandemic has given me an opportunity to retrospect on my ways of achieving goals and pursuing a disciplined life which would help me stay on track to achieve my future goals. The pandemic has additionally given me an opportunity to dive into the online world that helped me gain an ocean of knowledge at the convenience of my home.

HARSH SINGH

Pursuing MBA-ITBM AT SCIT, PUNE



What do you think about online lectures?

It has been an unprecedented online learning experience. It has been almost a year since this process began, and we are still continuing. I think most of this process is not only related to the pandemic, but is also a part of the future. People who couldn't connect to a physical location are now studying and getting a degree online, which is one benefit in the current situation.

Based on my experience that I had in college for about two and a half years, those were really fun times to be with friends who would wait in the canteen and share food. The experience shows an unparalleled understanding of the online format, even if it takes an hour, but I prefer offline lectures. We can share online talk with teachers and clarify our questions, instead of writing emails and replies, etc. Asking questions after reading can indeed have a significant impact on the overall learning process.

Why did you choose higher learning over a job ?

A lot of changes have taken place after the pandemic. I thought I would go for a job, gain a few years of experience, and then go for post graduation, but during that time I realized that even after the pandemic, most of the experience will be similar to WFH, and then I will be missing out on the real experience. Most of my time will go in creating PowerPoint presentations with a family typist in excel. These presentations have gone through my mind, and finally I decide to learn better now? I will at least be able to acquire more skills and be able to figure out the points of improvement in my career.

How was the journey towards the preparation of masters degree ?

My path to a master's degree is really incredible, but it suddenly occurred to me that something would happen. The preparation for the master's degree starts 4 months before the start of the exam. From CAT to SNAP, CMAT and NMAT, I tried to prepare for all types of exams. The only thing I knew was that the competition is very special and one should not lose hope if they come across failure. Failure doesn't mean the end of the world but helps you to prepare even harder and better so that you can do better than before.

How was your interview process?

A short thing about the interviews, the interviewer is prepared to press the nerves which will trigger you into telling something wrong or they are ready to roast you. It is not their fault or they are not trying to insult you but it is more of a way to check if at all you can handle pressure. In every management student or a leader it is expected that the student has patience and this probably is the most efficient way to check if you can be patient and stressful situations my suggestion would keep calm and listen to the question first usually what equal to is the lesson the first half of the question and they will give a roundabout answer that starts with an introduction their given main answer and they give a conclusion and then an example but in actual the person only wanted an example for a specific targeted part of the question they are there to ask you questions and you need to listen to this question before answering something totally different where he loses interest in you so as advice listen to the question and answer what is asked that's what my interview journey has been.

SAKTHIRAJAN BALAMURUGAN -

Startup : "FUTUREVEAL"



According to you, what are the few ways in which one can stand out while applying for jobs?

The first and foremost thing is to read the JD i.e job description properly. There are plenty of jobs that you will be eligible for but not suitable for !

Read about the company you are applying for a job like their past, current performance, future goals etc. Having knowledge about this will help you predict their requirements and crack the interview easily.

Create an Informative Resume.

Give a proper and perfect self introduction.

Have a perfect answer for the million dollar question " Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years ".

Tell about how you would contribute in achieving their goals.

Never stop yourself after a rejection in an interview and think that it is business that you are made for ! Keep on trying and plan for a business when you think you are ready for it.

Which additional skills do you think are valued in such circumstances?

Nowadays certificates of crash or online courses are playing a major part. Always have some skills of data management. Anything related to playing around with existing data is given a serious glance and importance.

What do you think about offline v/s online working?

I am a fan of online working but at the same time have it clear in my mind that online working is nothing without offline working. Because it is collaboration that is always going to make strategies go beyond the limit rather than a one focused idea or way of working.

Did pandemic have any positive impact in your career?

Yes it has had a positive impact in my career because it was just pure challenges that we faced in terms of marketing work. I learnt that the audience can be targeted even when all of them are inside their homes. And this was just more easily possible by Digital Marketing. When I founded my startup called "Futureveal" back in 2017 made me feel that these digital marketing services are going to be the future for a while. Now I am confident enough that reaching any audience is my cup of tea and I enjoy doing it. This pandemic has increased my self confidence even more and got me ready with better solutions for bigger problems.

Do you have any advice for your juniors who will soon be sitting for placements?

First of all, If you are sitting with a dilemma of Masters or placement. Then I would suggest masters ! Finish your studies and then jump into a job or business. Until you finish your masters, encourage yourself to do freelancing.

Apart from that if you want to do a job then you should maintain a high scoring result. Just kidding guys !

Be confident about what you know and always make the interviewer feel that you would love to work with them. Show them that you will get to learn a lot of things when you work with them and all such stuff.

What were the things that kept you going during the pandemic ?

The start of the pandemic was really sudden and made me realise that it isn't the right time to invest anywhere. So instead , I planned to develop my skills in order to get in action when all of this pandemic stuff comes to an end. The things that kept me going in the right direction was my positive mind, thirst to learn new things, help others in need and express more about what I felt for my family & friends.

To be honest, everyone came across that one point during this period when they felt powerless and most of the thoughts were pointless.Even I had a point where I was stuck upon the question that what's the use of learning and developing yourself so much . But you need to understand one thing that hope is everything in this world !

In fact all of us have now understood the value of having our loved ones around us and started sharing our thoughts more frankly.

What are the challenges that one might have to face while sitting for placement amidst pandemic?

In my opinion , the real world interview process has just been replaced by the reel world when it comes to placement amidst pandemic . Everythings happens over a laptop and a smartphone. I think the employers are facing challenges in hiring, to be honest !

The only thing I would suggest to everyone is to have nice conversation and communication skills because it is your responsibility to make the interviewer understand your answers or opinions. It's always better to have nice communication skills.

Suggest some of the ways that juniors can follow in order to utilize the time they have in hand with ongoing pandemic.

The things you have to do are really simple :-

Ask yourself what you want to do ? If you don't know the answer then do what you like. Think about a future in what you like.

Eat healthy and Exercise everyday (Any Kind).

Try Cooking your own food.

Try learning new stuff related to anything (knowledge is something no one can steal from you).

Be positive about whatever you think of doing in future.

And finally be safe and secure.

MANISH PATIL WORKING IN WINVESTA TECHNOLOGIES



Hey thanks for having me to be a part of the cursor 5.0's upcoming issue, feels great to be one of the students who once contributed towards the magazine and now being a respondent to the alumni corner of the magazine.

According to you, what are the few ways in which one can stand out while applying for jobs?

Confidence, skills, exploring / explorer attitude, command in language and the way you present yourself..be it CV, phone call, video call or in person.

All these are the key ingredients for you to make yourself stand out and lead you to opportunities that may not be directly pointing towards you!

In my case , I applied to jobs which required experience of 2-3 years and was served with a host of opportunities all because of the above mentioned skills.

Which additional skills do you think are valued in such circumstances?

Since we're all away and voice and video is the only way to connect, the ability / skill to be dependable and communicate well is one of the most important aspects that one needs to possess / develop.

What do you think about offline v/s online working?

I believe offline working is where you can interact with people whenever you want and whenever you see them. The beauty of knowing someone in person is unmatched and is something that we're all missing.

While online working also has its fair share. You can stay home, enjoying your work from your place of comfort. The advantage I feel of online work is that there is clarity of what needs to be done if well communicated and one wouldn't feel pressured to deliver under in person situations. Also communication is where everyone has developed much. Online work also may not have any time limits as strict as offline work, but that is where you need to maintain your work life balance and make sure you keep things aligned if deviating.

Did pandemic have any positive impact in your career?

Yes it definitely did, I was to join Infosys based on my BBA-IT qualification, but since all got delayed I took the step to upskill myself in the field of design (UI / UX) and added upon my BBA-IT qualification to secure a huge leaped opportunity which I could have only have been able to pursue after at least spending a minimum of 2 years of experience.

Do you have any advice for your juniors who will soon be sitting for placements?

My advice for juniors is to make sure that you are able to present yourself in a very sophisticated and well understood manner because you all have been studying over the air for quite a few months now and you may be asked if you really studied well? To combat that, make sure that you have at least done some or nominal work and have some experience / exploration activity that you did parallel to study which you can advertise and give confidence to the recruiters..cause that's what they look for! Apart from just books and marks. (ouch toppers...no offence ;;)

What were the things that kept you going during the pandemic ?

Even though we had so many things going around that impacted our thoughts, lifestyle, still we're all fortunate to be safe and away from the virus. During the pandemic I kept myself busy by binge watching TV, sharing fun stuff with family and exploring new recipes and devouring them.

On the contrary, the pandemic has been a great opportunity to explore my talents and things that I wanted to pursue which I had been procrastinating for a while now. During the early months of the pandemic I was not worried about what and how things would turn out as I did with college submissions and exams, and had secured a campus placement at Infosys.

About a few months into the pandemic I decided to take up a professionally structured course for UI UX, which has been my core interest for a long and one of the things that I had been active in doing in college and as a freelancer. I feel great and proud to have taken this course as I have been able to understand more in depth about this field and love my involvement in this profession.

What were the challenges you faced while sitting for placements amidst the pandemic?

Frankly, I was fortunate to have secured a placement well in advance before the pandemic hit 6 months in advance to be precise.

Talking about the hurdles, I feel that one needs to be confident wherever the interview is, be it in person or over the air. The hurdles that one could come across is what to answer / what to say and what to do in an interview, but really it's you who can be the driver to the interview. Be confident and steer your way, it'd be great!

Any suggestions that you would like to give to your juniors ?

Be an explorer, try to see what's going on, see what your interest is and try it out. Be open to doing odd jobs and embrace and be proud of yourself for all that you've achieved and are doing. Best of luck !

MUSKAN MEHROTRA PLACED IN DELTAX



What do you think about offline v/s online working?

Offline and Online working both have a lot to teach us, online working pushes you to follow a proper routine, take breaks frequently and adapt healthy habits. But also, it can impact your physical health too, backaches, if the posture you're sitting is wrong, headaches, from too much screen time, over exhausting oneself is also a very common con when working online. Talking about offline working, Offline working is ofcourse something which I prefer as, it gives us a more practical experience, and contributes in building all the soft skills (i.e communication skills, presentation, negotiation, corporate etiquettes e.t.c) which one might not be able to naturally develop during online working. Offline contributes to your personality development as well as your physical health.

What were the hurdles that you faced while sitting for placements amidst the pandemic?

The hurdles which I faced were basically, long interview processes, the interview processes differed company to company, it could be only a week long process or could go on till 2-3 months.

No updates from the companies end, only a few companies which came for our campus placements used to keep us updated about our application status, rest of them didn't bother to. During all this, our placement officer helped us throughout, be it making a decision on what and how to choose a company to constantly updating us with what might be the next step of our placement procedures.

Which additional skills do you think are valued in such circumstances?

As most of the process is online in pandemic , one's presence of mind, and confidence is of utmost importance apart from the regular hard skills required for the job role. Communication is also one major element which helps you to connect and network with people whether you are going for an interview or talking to your colleagues.

MANISH KUMAR SINGH WORKING IN DIGITAL API CRAFT LTD. BANGALORE

Batch : BBA-IT 2018-21

About Alumni:

Mr. Manish is working as a Solution Architect with Digital API Craft Ltd. Bangalore. His area of Specialization is Digital Transformation. He is a writer/poet by hobby. Many of his articles and poems are published in various national and international magazines and newspapers. His Hindi poetry collection titled "Kuchh Hakikat Kuchh Falsafe" was published a while back and is available on Amazon.

At the end, just a few lines from one of Mr. Manish's poems:

Raat gahri hi bhale subah hogi to sahi.
Naye armaano ki bhi jagah hogi to sahi.

Kaanto se bhara daaman aur maila ho to kya,
Muskuraane bhi ki kai vajah hogi to sahi.

Paar paane ki andheron se koshish to karo,
Zindagi fir khwaabo ki tarah hogi to sahi.

Insaan kare himmat to kuchh naamumkin nahi,
Houslon ki fir se wapas fatah hogi to sahi.

Link of the post published:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6816260284961878016>

TAMANNA OBEROI

Country : UGANDA, EAST AFRICA



How has the online mode of education been accepted by you and your family?

To begin with, I don't think we had a choice since everything shut down so we had to shift to an online system. Nowadays everything is modernized and tech-savvy so it was pretty easy to handle so it was accepted by both parents and students alike.

What problems have you faced in terms of having to study at odd timings due to your home and university being in different time zones? I believe there is a 2-and-a-half-hour gap.

Firstly, there was a problem with my meal timings. I would miss meals with my family because I would be studying and by the time I would be done studying is when they would all be done eating. Secondly, since these are 2 different countries, whatever happened here never affected India so when our semester 1 exams were going on, so were the presidential elections here and the president at that time shut down the internet completely and I had to miss my examinations for 3 subjects which I am giving now. There are a lot of other problems but you learn to deal with them.

How is education different in Uganda in comparison to India? How they impart knowledge to you and other things you find different?

Before I joined a college in India, I was told that education in India is all about just cramming. They don't really teach you; you just have to cram and remember everything but I don't think that's really the case since I have finished a year here now. The major problem I faced was how we address our teachers here. In Uganda, we don't address our teachers as sir/ ma'am but we say Mr./ Miss followed by their name. So, it took me a little while to get used to saying ma'am and sir but eventually it caught on.

What has been the most helpful source of support from the university for you?

So, there is this health and well-being department that the university has which constantly sends me emails about meetings happening all the time. It's been really good to see that Symbiosis takes care of the mental health of their students and faculty seriously which is not very common among Indian universities.

How has the pandemic changed you overall as a human being and the effect it has had on your personality?

It's given me a lot of time for self-discovery. I have learnt things about myself that I never would have had I not had so much time alone. I learnt how to cook and improved my singing skills more than I could imagine. I never thought I would ever be able to do these things. It's given me time to build on my relationships with my family and siblings who aren't really around. So, they came back home and the pandemic gave us time to rebuild everything.

What is one part of the Indian culture that you are excited to experience?

DIWALI! I'm so excited to come and see how India is during that time. We do celebrate it over here but it's not as huge as it is in India. I mean the colors and the festivals, it's all so normal here and I don't know what that "Diwali excitement" is. That's what I look forward to the most.

In what ways do you like to get involved with your university friends in this online mode?

If I'm being very honest, it's very hard to make friends by only just communicating online. I mean you can make a friend with whom, for a week, you can talk about anything other than academics but then it all becomes so work-related and then you only contact them when you need something. I don't even know how to answer this question because it's so hard to make and keep friends this way.

What are the problems you think you might face in India?

I really don't know because the people in India have a very different mentality compared to people over here. And the few times that I have come to visit my family in India, I'm always so scared, even to walk on the roads. I would always make sure that I would take someone with me. It's also hard for me to communicate with people because of the difference in language and I would always ask my sister to translate for me. When people would figure out that I am not from India, they would try to cheat me out of my money. I've faced this problem a few times already.