**TOPIC:**

Social distancing as an effective tool for suppressing the transmission rate of corona virus

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The novel corona virus that emerged from Wuhan China in November 2019 has spread to over 120 countries; more than 700,000 people have been infected with a death toll of over 37,000 people.

Although there is currently no effective treatment or vaccine for the virus, the major challenge is the unprecedented rate of transmission, enabled by the pre-symptomatic transmission feature of the virus. This is where a person who has contacted the virus with no symptoms infects other people. With the high infection rate, medical facilities and personnel are grossly inadequate for the number of infected people, hence leading to more deaths.

As a strategy to flatten the transmission rate, many governments have implemented non-pharmaceutical interventions in the form of social distancing. Closing schools and non-essential businesses, banning public gatherings and events, and in some extreme cases complete lockdown of cities where the epidemic is at an advanced stage.

The problem with implementing social distancing as a mitigation strategy is that it needs full co-operation and adherence of the residents. People need to understand that in the absence of an effective treatment, social distancing is required to suppress the transmission rate of corona virus.

If awareness and commitment to social distancing is not fully achieved, the transmission rate of corona virus will continue to grow, putting more pressure on medical facilities and personnel, leading to more deaths.

In event that a treatment for corona virus is developed, there is still a time lag for when the treatment will become effective.

**DATA SETS**

We are planning to use datasets from WHO, Kaggle and CDC sources.

**AUDIENCE**

College students – to create awareness on the importance of social distancing as a strategy to overcoming the corona virus epidemic.