

**Centre for Technology Alternative for Rural Areas (CTARA)**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**

**Assignment for Applicants for the MTech Program in Technology and Development**  
**April 2021**

**Instructions:**

- You are expected to answer one of the two questions (Question 1 **OR** Question 2).
  - Each of these question carries maximum marks of 50.
  - Your answers should reach the designated email address by **10.00 am (IST) on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**
  - If a computer and a printer is not available, the assignment could be prepared in the hand-written format, and then photos or scans of the handwritten pages (preferably converted into PDF format) could be sent with pages organized in a systematic manner. The responsibility of legible handwriting and proper organization of the answer pages in a PDF file lies with the applicant.
  - Send in your submission by email to the following address: [ctarapg21m@gmail.com](mailto:ctarapg21m@gmail.com)
  - The submission should be in the form of MSWord/PDF files (preferably PDF format). Please ensure your entire submission is contained in ONE single file with all the sections included.
  - **THE SUBMISSION SHOULD BE SENT AS A FRESH EMAIL. DO NOT SEND YOUR SUBMISSION AS A REPLY TO THIS MAIL.**
  - The **file name** should be given using the following template:  
MTech\_Applicant's Form ID (Starting with **B**)\_Applicant's Name.  
For example: MTech\_BXXXXXXXX\_Avinash
  - The **subject line** should be same as your **file name**.
  - Please ensure that the mail with the file does not remain in the Draft folder or remains unsent in any other manner.
  - You will receive a receipt of acknowledgement of your assignment by 5 pm (IST) on, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
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### Question 1 (Maximum Marks 50):

This assignment is about the effect or impacts of COVID-19-related restrictive measures (such as full or partial lockdown) on people especially from weaker social groups within society. You are expected to identify and interview **two respondents** to document such impacts on the respondents individually as well as on their families. The assignment primarily involves writing **two separate reports based on** detailed and extended **interviews** of these two respondents and then preparing a **short essay comparing** the content of the two **interviews** with addition of your **reflections** and **conclusions**.

The interviews should be extended and comprehensive, covering **all types of impacts**, economic, financial, social, cultural, familial, and even political. The interviews could be taken in person, but, in the prevailing circumstances, **telephonic interviews** would also be **equally acceptable**. (Please do not take unwarranted risks for taking in-person interviews.)<sup>1</sup>

The **two** individuals to be interviewed should be chosen by following these guidelines:

- There should be at least one **female** respondent.
- At least one of these two should come from families involved in economic activities representing **unorganized or informal sectors**. (This may include a small or marginal farmer family).

You should also collect **background information** on the socio-economic-demographic and other relevant parameters of both the respondents.

The following is a list of **illustrative research** questions (these are not interview questions per se and only illustrative, and you may add, drop, or revise these questions as you choose.)

- How did various COVID-19-related measures restricting movement and economic activities, such as lock-down, affected the individual respondent and her/his family?
- How did they cope with these economic impacts? Were the government programs and schemes helpful in this coping?
- What effect did these restrictive measures have on their relationships within their family?
- What effect did these restrictive measures have on their relationships with their neighbors, relatives, friends, and other social contacts?
- Do the respondents feel that these restrictive measures affected their health and health of their families? If yes, in what manner and why? If no, why?

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<sup>1</sup> The centre/institute will not be responsible for any risks or associated impacts faced by the candidates while conducting the interviews. Your submission of the assignment will be consider as expression of your acceptance to indemnify the centre or institute from such risks and their implications of such risks.

Similarly, it is the responsibility of the candidate responsibility to follow the norms pertaining to research ethics such as anonymizing the respondent names and keeping the information of respondents confidential.

These are just broad research questions; you may develop your own interview questions.

The **expected outputs** are: (i) **two short reports on the two interviews** (each at least 500 +/- 50 words) [15 marks for each report] and (ii) **a short essay comparing findings** of two interviews (with due considerations of the socio-economic-demographic features of the respective respondents) [Maximum 20 marks for the essay]. Please include your **concluding and reflective comments** in this short essay (at least 500 +/- 50 words).

Please mention **word count** at the end of both reports as well as the short essay.

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OR

### Question 2 (Maximum Marks 50): Writing Analytical Review Report

This question requires you to prepare an **Analytical Review Report** (about 1500 +/- 50 words) by conducting a **review** and **analysis** of **media reports** (newspaper, television, or social media) answering the following **three** questions:

- What were the **difficulties encountered** by **front-line workers** working with different departments and agencies of the **state government** or **local self-government bodies** delivering COVID-19-related services or goods to citizens?
- In what manner, the **front-line workers** and their supervisors attempted to **cope with these difficulties** they faced?
- What is **your analysis** and **reflections** about your findings? (Please avoid summaries and sermons.)

Here, **front-line workers** are specially those workers who were working in **direct or close contact with the citizens** or recipients of these services and goods.

Focus on frontline workers working with **public or government departments and agencies**.

Please entirely focus on what has been happening **in your vicinity**—in your city, town, village, taluk/block, or district. (Avoid state or national level news.)

Please do **not write summaries** of the news report. The report should try to **organize review findings** in an **analytical** manner, do **not describe** one or a few incidences, try to bring out findings at abstract level.

The criteria for assessment will include **quantitative as well as qualitative aspects** of **review findings, analysis and reflections**. You may have these three as sections in your report.

Please mention the **word count** at the end of the Review Report.

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