The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a massive disruption in everyone's life, specifically in study, career, and job. In my country, the first case was reported on 8 March 2020, and the government imposed the first country-wide lockdown from 23 March 2020 to 30 May 2020. We are facing several lockdowns, and our government does not provide a permit to reopen the university physically until now.

During the first lockdown, I just started the last semester of my undergraduate study. In about six months, I would receive my bachelor's degree and plan to join the industry or go out for higher study. Everything came to a stall. We did not know how long the lockdown would continue. The students' halls were evacuated, and we were receiving news of affected faculties, staff, and students. We became worried about our study and career.

Luckily, some MOOCs like Coursera, Edx.org offered free or reduced prices for their best courses. My university provided a license for these free offers. I studied deep learning specialization taught by Andrew Ng, a famous computer scientist from that domain. This specialization contained five courses. It helped me understand the mathematical background of deep learning, how to organize a deep learning project, impacts of hyperparameters tuning, and real-life examples of deep learning models. This specialization later helped me to apply machine learning models in different research projects. I also learned about the two most common machine learning frameworks, PyTorch and Tensorflow. I did an additional course from Edx.org on Human-Computer Interaction. These courses helped me to be acquainted during the first lockdown in Bangladesh. I also participated in building a telemedicine application during that time. Our team tried to create a solution to remove barrier between doctors and patients in lockdown. We explored cross-platform mobile application, system designing, user-centric design philosophy.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we usually had to choose a thesis supervisor and thesis topic at the start of our last year of undergraduate study. We got one year to study the topic, of there was no exception. After working for one year, we may take additional time after defense in the last semester to write a paper for conferences or journals. In the pandemic, our team got extra time between the semesters because of lockdown. As our regular study halt, we could solely focus on our thesis work. Our thesis supervisor could have more than one meeting in a particular week. So, we could finish our studies before resuming our class online, submit to a top conference, and get accepted. We may need to worry about thesis defense in normal time as it carried out a vast credit hour. But during the lockdown, we were able to focus on our research work. We had an excellent experience working on a camera-ready version of an accepted paper and discuss how to extend it for a journal paper. However, if we cannot graduate at the right time, we may lag from getting into the industry and higher study.

Our faculties were also worried about our study alongside our parents and us. They started experimental online classes for one week to know possible obstacles to continue these online classes. Then our university administration surveyed the students and faculties about smartphones and internet access. The university administration provided interest-free loans to the students to buy smartphones if they did not have one. They also purchased the license for Microsoft Teams as our online learning platform. In this platform, faculties conducted classes, provided assignments, and took quizzes. Before resuming the ongoing

term, the administration of the university took an important decision. They declared the term as an ungraded term. Every student should be graded with two outcomes, S(Satisfactory) and F(Fail). It was an excellent decision, as our faculty and students did not experience coping with this scenario. Many students could be sick and live in a rural area where accessing the internet was difficult. For me, it came to me with mixed feelings. Though I understood the reasoning behind the decision, I need 0.04 points increment to touch the 3.5/4.0 cutoff. But I continued my study as previously, and one of my labs' works that semester was in the top-30 of a nationwide AI competition.

As we had a restriction in movement during this pandemic, we could only meet our local friends. It could help to release the stress of staying at home most of the time. But this was not true for everyone. One of my closest friends and classmates committed suicide in January 2020 during our final term of the last semester. We always felt that if our semester went physically, we may never face this type of situation.

After my graduation, I started working in a local software company. We faced another lockdown after the first month of joining. As we had to work remotely, I could save my time from traveling and tiredness. In that time, I could contribute to research work remotely with a team from the University of Calgary and another team from Auburn University. It helped me to organize my work schedules and increased my capacity to work under pressure. Besides, I could explore different domains of computer science.

Though my family and I were cautious, we got affected by the delta variant in August 2021. I had to suffer for about three weeks from COVID-19. But most of my family became COVID-19 free after one week as they were fully vaccinated. Though I missed a deadline for ICSE in late August, I loved to spend more time with the family, making the bond strong among the family members.

We have been facing the COVID-19 for one and a half years now. At this time, I graduated with an ungraded semester, published a paper, lost one of my closest friends from suicide, had a full-time job where I worked remotely and suffered from COVID-19. It has some positive sides like increasing the bond in the family, focusing on research works. But sometimes it is stressful to stay home all the time. We have limited recreational space due to the restrictions. I missed most of my graduate programs due to COVID-19. I felt that life was concise. We need to focus on the things that matter most, and we must work on something that we should enjoy.