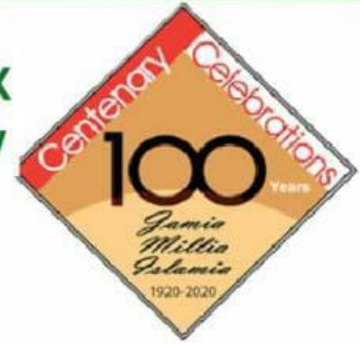




DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
UGC Centre of Advanced Study
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DASTAK

knocking the door of conscience

December 2021

Theme

" EXPERIENCE OF COVID-19 AND THE WAY FORWARD"



دستک | DASTAK | दस्तक

Knocking the door of your conscience

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From Editor's Desk

Dear Reader,

Since the start of the pandemic way back in 2020 we have managed to find every alternative to redefine our daily activities. In the same period we came to know of various online modes of education, teaching which in some way was efficient. It enabled to complete our education, hurdles of clearing exams and removing perplexity prevailing at the helm of it. Catastrophe defined our fate of study, education, admission and we started a new journey of our new semester.

As we are coming back to normalcy again while taking utmost precautionary measures, our literary activities presented in the student magazine DASTAK is back with its combined editions for the months of November December, 2021. In this edition we tried to engulf ideas from various ignited minds of our department which has shown the creative ability and leaves you captivating at the end.

Present edition provides a glimpse of few excellent pieces of articles, poetry and a couple of field work experiences to reflect upon.

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The Journey from negligence to fear- the way forward, Uday Kumar Saw (MSW, 1st Sem)

The spread of COVID-19 in India mainly took place due to the negligence. When situations first started, people took them so lightly that they mocked them and demanded proof of their existence. Indian people were full of confidence that their immune system was so strong that Corona Virus could not harm them. People were even saying that since the temperature of India is so high, Corona can't possibly survive. Some of them went as far as performing rituals and mantras to kill Corona. At this time, special attention has to be paid to improving the health care system by arranging proper infrastructure, such as medicine, equipment, beds, oxygen cylinders, etc. The government ignored the situation and wasted valuable time. Ultimately it took the form of a pandemic that became uncontrollable. According to statistics, 300 beds are needed for one lakh people in India, but there are only 50 beds per lakh people. Many people died due to failure of the system to provide appropriate treatment on time. When pandemic was taking place, people of India were also facing the problem of infodemic.



There were various types of false information being propagated through WhatsApp University regarding the spread of COVID-19, like it spread through a drug company, and 5G spectrums. COVID-19 can only be controlled by putting regular and continuous efforts into it. It does not seem possible to eradicate at the moment because of lack of international cooperation and lack of voluntary vaccines for children below 18 years of age. Hence, the only thing that can be done to control the COVID-19 is to make it an endemic condition. In order to ensure that the current available infrastructure can deal with the situation efficiently and prevent any further deaths. For an endemic situation to take place it is essential that herd immunity develops among the people as soon as possible. It can only be done through Natural Infection (coming into contact with infected persons) or by use of an injection that delivers vaccination. Once herd immunity develops in 60% to 70% population, the spread of COVID-19 will automatically slowdown or stop. For this to happen, India needs to produce more vaccines so that the process of vaccination can be increased. There are various challenges on the path to Herd Immunity. There is less global cooperation and there is a nationalization of vaccines and each country gives preference to its own citizens. Another challenge is vaccine hesitancy. There are so many rumors floating about the vaccine that people fear taking it. Some have overconfidence, some have financial concerns. The only way for COVID-19 to be controlled is when both the government and citizens play an active role and carry out their responsibilities responsibly. The government should do proper Genome sequencing so that they can know how much Herd Immunity has developed in the population. It is also imperative to encourage people to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and to ignore super spreader events. The administration of medical experts needs to be given more privileges; legal and constitutional reform must be implemented. Meanwhile, it is our responsibility to get vaccinated as soon as possible and convince others, to stop outings (only when necessary), to follow COVID-19 protocols, to help those in need, to control the spread of rumors, and to create a positive atmosphere. This is the only way through which we can get victory over COVID-19.

Hope, Saniya Zehra (MSW, 1st Sem)

Wait, what day is it? What year is it? Is it2020, still?

No, it can't be. Okay it's 2021, are the holidays over? What time is it? Can I go back to my college? No? Okay...I need a third shot? Ok, where can I go? Everything is booked? Ok....uhI'll wait.

Hang on....WHO'S DEAD? Ugh. We'll be fine. We'll be fine.

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused immense stress and undermined psychological well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted millions of lives across the globe. While some have been lucky to win the battle against the virus, several others have faced devastating consequences.



H-O-P-E the single most positively profound and frequently used word since the deadly Corona situation engulfed the world.

It feels like a decade ago when travelling, going to restaurants, colleges, hanging out with your friends and loved ones etc, was just a normal thing. Things that everyone took for granted but ever since the inception of this anonymous virus which took the world into pandemonium, sorrow and darkness normal human chores are somewhat considered luxury. The virus completely disrupted the normal working pattern of the world organizations, businesses, societies suffered a lot but more than that the social aspect of human beings perished through this dominance of virus apart from the magnanimous amount of deaths that took place across the globe many suffered psychological effect of the lockdowns, cases of domestic violence, suicides, depression also swelled up coupled up with deficiencies of health infrastructure in the various countries was also witnessed. Despite all the technological and medical advancement over the centuries, it literally seemed God was mocking us through the insurgence of this pandemic. Alas!! It seemed HOPE was the only abode left for humans....

Although in the midst of all the misery our very humanly social and moral facet came to life, just like a candle which although small when lit never fails to end darkness. People came out to help each other, donations in cash and kind despite being small in quantity were distributed to the needy. Due to the lockdowns loved ones gathered spend quality time together and shared past memories. The world broke the cliché methodologies of past and shifted to a more modern approach as they switched to online mode which was more economical and environment friendly from food to education, job and entertainment everything was just some clicks away. People wholeheartedly took part in getting themselves and their loved ones vaccinated, which made a record as India crossed vaccinated figures of approximately 2.5 Crore. Everything just felt new yet comfortable like a new world order had taken over us and nothing would had been possible if not for *H-O-P-E*.

मज़दूर, Zaib Hussain (M.A HRM, 1STSem)

सोच कर देखो सैकड़ों किलोमीटर का सफर।
 पानी है ना खाने को, कोई सामान मयस्सर।
 जितनी हमारी इबादतगाह आबाद है।
 देखो उतने ही हमारे दिलबर्बाद है।
 नन्हे बच्चों के लिए यह रात कितनी काली है।
 उनकी भूख को नहीं पता मेरी जेब कितनी खाली है।
 माथे पर शिकन लिए दिल में एक डर है।
 थक गयी आँखें मेरी, कहाँ मेरा घर है?
 इस शहर को बसाया था मैंने प्यार से।
 आज मुझे ज़रूरत थी तो डाट दिया धिक्कार से।
 मैं चल रहा हूँ इस आस में, कि सवेरा आएगा।
 जहाँ सो सकूँ चैन की नींद वो बसेरा आएगा।
 जो हालात है मेरे, क्या मेरी खता है?
 पैदा गरीब हुआ हूँ बस यह मेरी सज़ा है।
 मैं एक मज़दूर हूँ, मेरी कहानी कोई सुनता नहीं।
 मैं जानता हूँ हकीकत, कोई ख्वाब बुनता नहीं।



Optimism, Gratefulness & Acceptance, Shayna Khan (M.A HRM, 1st Sem)

The year 2020 was one of the worst year in human history. The humanity witnessed outbreak of SARS- COV-2 (corona outbreak). It started from Wuhan Province of China and in no time grappled the entire global economy. It not only left deep mark on health sector or economy but the entire system. Not a single sector was spared by pandemic. The upsurge of deadly disease invited nationwide lockdowns, closing of international borders and banning of international flights. Suddenly all businesses, factories, and economy was shut down. While on one hand Central Government and respective state governments were ramping up testing facilities, tracing and isolating procedures and preparing and updating health infrastructure, on other hand people were clueless about future. No one knew what's going to happen next. All people- men, women, children, elderly person, everyone suffered a lot.



With a battle being fought outside with pandemic and mass havoc created by it, humans dealt with internal problems as well. The sudden isolation from outer world, no social interaction with lockdown imposed and four walled impacted human and left a bad impact on their mind and personality. According to a survey, three in five persons experience mental health issues like anxiety, depression, stress, etc. And this ought to be obvious outcome because suddenly stability vanished and insecurities and uncertainty cropped up.

When lockdown was imposed and sudden lost of connection with outer world, I thought it was just 2-3 weeks lockdown but suddenly not doing something for so long, unproductivity and regular schedule got extended. Then uncertainty about future kicked in and I got anxious and depressed as any normal being. Then after realizing, I talked to my psychologist friend and she counselled me and asked me to accept things and try new hobbies and discover my new self.

When people were locked inside with office work and all routine activities coming to halt, people got a chance to discover themselves and explore new hobbies and try new things. Coming to my personal story, residing indoors, it gave me a chance to explore myself and try new things. To overcome my mental tension, I resort to content writing, learning new language and trying mandala art. I also try to explore different aspects of my personality. Now these activities have become inherent part of life and also became my therapist. Even during preparation of college entrance exams, when things seemed dull and bleak, it tried to overcome my insecurities.

In this lockdown phase, I got a chance to spend time with myself, set my priorities and work on bettering myself. In this phase, I get to spend quality time with my family which in normal days wouldn't have been possible. This phase has been a learning phase for me to come out of my shell and discover myself. I am grateful for everything I have and I have become more hardworking. I also learnt to acceptance of situation is important and one should think positive and become better version of myself.

And I feel everyone can relate to my story.

COVID-19: The Selfish Conqueror, Zainul Abdeen (ADPH, 1st Sem)

The world has witnessed many great writers, poets across continents but what astonished me most was the quote of William Shakespeare, which goes like, "What's in a name?" but the name shows the larger perspective of the existence of everything. I am not writing this piece as a health care professional but as an ordinary man because you don't only have to be a doctor to witness and understand the sheer calamity the world had witnessed which is considered as, once in millennia. Across the globe there was only one voice which was piercing sharply into my head, when this will be over? And we are here still facing various shortcomings of our health infrastructure.



Countries dealing with existing humanitarian crisis or emergencies were particularly exposed to the effects of COVID-19. Responding swiftly to the pandemic, while ensuring that humanitarian and recovery assistance, reaches those most in need, was critical. During the COVID-19 crisis food security, public health, employment and labour issues, in particular workers' health and safety converged. Adhering to workplace safety and health practices and ensuring access to decent work and the protection of labour rights in all industries was crucial in addressing the human dimension of the crisis. Immediate and purposeful action to save lives and livelihoods included extending social protection towards universal health coverage and income support for those most affected. The workers in the informal economy and in poorly protected and low-paid jobs, included youth, older workers and migrants. Particular attention must be paid to the situation of women, who are under-represented in low-income jobs. COVID-19 has created huge impact in daily life ranging from health care industry to society. Healthcare has faced challenges in the diagnosis, treatment of suspected or confirmed cases, high burden of the functioning of the existing medical system, patients with other disease and health problems were getting neglected.

There was also large overcrowding on medical facilities. COVID-19 affected the sources of supply which in turn affected the global economy. There were restrictions of travelling from one country to another country. During travelling, number of cases was identified positive when tested, especially while taking international visits. All governments, health organizations and other authorities were continuously focused on identifying the cases affected by COVID-19. Healthcare professionals faced a lot of difficulties in maintaining the quality of healthcare in those days. It is rightly said that the more ignorant and greedy you become about your achievements the more the consequences.

What does a conqueror require to conquer a city? Artillery, tactics, armory and weapons of destruction; but do you know how COVID-19 conquered the whole world? it just used our methods, our tactics on ourselves. What do we know about a virus, that it multiplies, by using all our knowledge, the mathematical tools, of differentiation and integration, permutations and combinations, all the biology, about microorganisms, diseases and genetics about how virus mutates faster than anything that exist on this planet, we were still defeated. COVID-19 conquered us after all. The world has witnessed crumbled economies, shackled health infrastructure before but not of this kind and not of this intensity. What COVID-19 has taught us as a human being is the importance of fitness, health and good lifestyle, about society, empathy, unity but here is the greedy part the virus doesn't let that also. There is a need to strengthen our health infrastructure because as we know this thing will continue to knock on our door each and every time. I was a little unfortunate that I

got infected with the virus twice but on the other hand I find myself lucky to be alive, to have fought the battle, who won? Me or the virus? I don't know. We as a human being have come through evolution which has taught us to manage complicated things and come up with ideas and solutions. So here we are, if there is a disease, then there is a cure but that doesn't mean we can let our guards down, because this is our world and we won't let virus to conquer it again.

The Nth Wave, Salim Ansari (M.A HRM, 1ST Sem)

So much air to breath around,
Yet you fools keeps running round,
Take deep breaths and keep your ground,
Heard, a wise man of my country.

With rules, Supreme, feeble are bound,
All cries and voices, getting drowned,
Heaps and heaps of burning mounds,
Saw, a wise man of my country.

Questions were asked, faces were frowned,
Kings majestic, yet were crowned,
With howling posters, pompous sound,
Said, a wise man of my country.

If, people right, you did surround,
Went crying lies, that too profound,
With backing from the names renowned,
Could fool a wise man of my country



Waves of Emotions amidst COVID-19, Aajaani Saika (MSW, 1st Sem)

Virus – a tiny thing with a big impact. This reminds me of the phrase “The little things are not really little.” We were all familiar with the viruses’ names like malware, spyware, Ebola virus, influenza, and yes we can go on. But only if we knew, we were yet to welcome one of the deadliest of them all that would change our lives like nothing else could. Yup, we are talking about COVID-19. It doesn’t even need any introduction. That’s how popular it got among us in the past few months. And who would have thought? Not me at least.

I know I am supposed to talk about the aftermath of COVID-19 here and I will. I will talk about it but not from an economic or social point of view but an emotional point of view. I’ll talk about the after-effects of a deadly virus that took in me. It shook me, it changed me in and out as a human, as a daughter, as a sister, as a friend and in ways, I can’t define. Honestly, I have always believed that I’m way more privileged than a lot of people I have come across in my twenty-two years of existence. But to be someone who hasn’t been Covid positive till now takes me on a different level of privilege. I’m one of those lucky creatures whom the virus never touched and still haven’t felt the unbearable pain it inflicts (touchwood). But it saddens me to recall how my loved ones had to go through it. It was just last year when I was watching something on the TV and chilling, got her call and words barely came out of her mouth. And then she said, “My dad is very serious. We are all in the hospital. Please pray for him”.

I usually have a lot to say but that time was clueless. I didn’t know how to react. It had been a few days since he got Covid positive but there weren’t any serious issues. I was baffled. She never sounded so scared since I met her and she was panicking. I was trying so hard to console her and distract her by talking about the stupidest things in the least hilarious manner but it clearly wasn’t working. I wish to be right beside her, to simply stand by her and tell that uncle is going to be okay. But I was thousands of miles away. She was in Delhi and I was in my hometown in Assam.

I wasn’t able to sleep the whole night, kept turning and tossing and kept checking my phone if there’s any update. There wasn’t any. I felt a different kind of sadness but more that was having different kinds of realizations. I realized life is so unpredictable. Yes, life is very unpredictable, and all the good things that we have right now with us we got to value them before it’s too late. I knew it was way too late at night and Dad probably was asleep but I felt like calling him. He works in a different town from ours so he stays there and my mom, my little brother and I stay here together. I came back home from Delhi once my college closed because of COVID-19. Dad and my conversations used to be full of thumbs-ups and ok-s. We barely talked over calls. And I realized whenever we did it was he who had called and not me. I mean I called mom on my own but not dad. Maybe a few times but honestly those don’t count. I understood how lucky I am to have someone to call as a father. I have a father to call to. So many people don’t even have one. Tears rolled down my face. Even the thought of losing him someday for a second terrified me. I decided to call him the first thing in the morning so I sent a text instead. I wrote “It’s not Father’s Day today but I think you are an awesome father. Let’s watch a movie when you come next :D”

Also my friend’s father was finally stable the next day. It was tears of joy.

So basically COVID-19 had a lot of after effects on me. Because of it now I phone call my dad at least once in three days on my own. I stay with my mom and my brother so I don’t need to call them but I value their presence in my life, way more than I did before. I try my best not to take advantage of situations and people. I think thrice before saying something hurtful to the people I care about.

We don't know what we have got until it's gone. And nowadays I make sure I show gratitude to life and live it to the fullest. We never know when it decides to end.

Hence here I am quoting the legendary SRK's quote "***Haso, Jiyo, Muskurao. Kya pata Kal Ho Na Ho!***"

EK NAYA DAUR, Anonymous



Voh daur bhi alag tha
 Jab haath milana ek sabab tha ...
 Sab hasakar mila krte the
 Sath bethte, utha krte the
 Chahe paise kam the, lekin Aazadi ka khazana tha
 Kahin bhi ghoomo, na koi rok-tok , na naka-bandi ka zamana tha
 Jane kya hua, yakayak sab simat gye
 Pehle jo chlte the sath, ab che gaj ki doori me bant gye ..
 Lekin de rhi dilasa har ek Mazaar h
 Noor sa chamkega yeh shehr zaroor janab,
 Kyuki Inayat ney pakdi ek nyi raftar hai...

Orphans and semi-orphans-Protecting the most Vulnerable, Mohd Raghieb Ali (MSW, 1stSem)

It's time to give up myopic attitude and think beyond adoption.

COVID-19 wraths "I am unable to forget my parents." said the girl to her counselor at the child protection unit after losing her parents in COVID-19. A girl student and her brother lost their parents at Jegurupadu village in east Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. There are many examples like these two. According to NCPCR data, COVID-19 left 3.6k kids orphaned and 26k lost one parent, and as the process of collecting data is still on, these figures may rise. Unfortunately, things cannot be changed but improve by lessening the ill effects caused by the pandemic.



Vulnerability check: There are two main channels through which these children can get affected by this aftermath of COVID-19: post trauma related mental health complication and their increase chances of getting abused (sexually or physically), aspects that often tends to be over-looked in such crises.

An agenda for action: First, Immediate government measures must ensure that children receive protection against child abuse and neglect, have continued access to child physical and mental health services. Besides this, policies are also needed for fulfillment of their basic needs, care and education. Second, in addition to addressing this at policy level, we need to address it at individual and societal level, civil societies and agencies related to mental health and child welfare need to be made available 24*7. Third, we need to understand that adoption is only one of the options, it is not the only option. There are other relatives who can look after them so their desires must be in the first place. Otherwise, decision taken in haste will further expose them to abuse and exploitation. Fortunately, legislation did not give the attention to this subject as it deserves, until Supreme Court of India gave direction to government about the protection of children orphaned in the second wave of the pandemic. Moreover, Indian society is based on caste and family structures. In the case of orphaned children, difficult questions arise after the death of parents. The question of survival looms when relatives do not take any responsibility for the children.

Furthermore, in the situation when child don't get space in relatives places, hostel is the first and last resort of survival for orphaned children. But several state governments do not allow a child to stay in a hostel beyond the age of 18. After they graduate from school or college, they have no home to return to. In addition to this, many of them face problems with government documents, from Aadhar to PAN cards, death certificates of parents, etc. In the absence of a place to stay or a support system, many orphan children end up making wrong choices, or are drawn into a path that leads to poverty and worse.

Ways ahead: It is extremely important to understand the role of the government in handling this sensitive issue. The government is legally bound by the Constitution to ensure the welfare of children. Continuous efforts on the line of educating and awaking society will only leads to eradication of stigma related to mental health care as psychosocial interventions not only work with psychology but also with the involvement of society in order.

A Reflection on being confined, Mehak Jafri (MSW, 1st Sem)

After math of COVID-19 and the way forward who would have thought shaking hands would trigger death? Who would have thought separation from loved ones during sickness would be salutary? Who would have thought covering your faces would turn out to be a symbol of liberalism? All these facts seem impractical but have become new normal in the course of COVID-19. Sometimes I wonder if all this is happening because I didn't forward that WhatsApp message to 10 people. Over the centuries human beings have been encountering death dealing pandemics that translated into loss of lives of millions of people. One such pandemic, SARS CoV2 came about in 21st century, "popularly" known as COVID-19 or Coronavirus. It has drastically changed the management of India and the globe. COVID-19 has, to date, infected more than 16 million people around the world, 34,772,657, only from India, and over 0.6 million people have succumbed to it, amongst whom 479,133 were Indians. It has affected more than 220 countries. The pandemic of 2020 did not respect and spare people on the basis of religion, caste, religion, age or gender. It has shaken the roots of healthcare system and has left a long-lasting impact on the world's economy in general and the hospitality industry in particular. Though, the virus spread equally around the world, its negative economic impact was unequal. The economic impact was more severe and devastating in developing countries than in developed ones. India, being a developing nation became a major prey to the

virus. The economic activities came to a halt. The ventures like transportation, industries, service, manufacturing, education and related mobility also seized to exist. Thus, deteriorating the economy of nation drastically, lowering the GDP to 2.62 lakh crores USD (2020) that plunged Indian economy into recession. This led to increase in unemployment rate specially amongst young workers, the rate jumped from 8.4% in 2019 to 24.4% in 2020 and it may persist for years. The daily wage earners too faced severe consequences that resulted in poverty. Poverty rate has increased by 16% in rural areas and 20% in urban areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced school closures across the globe and compelled student to go along with virtual classes, this ended up worsening the education system due to lack of access to technology in numerous areas of India. The rapid spread of virus and increasing number of casualties due to same, highly affected mental health of people, constraining people to opt suicide and self-harm. According to NCRB data, India recorded 418 suicides daily in 2020. The pandemic is a global challenge that needs to be curbed. Though, the Government has adopted significant measures yet, the urgent policy measures are needed to support an already anguished population. The scale of investment needed is huge. However, lockdown restriction eased in subsequent months has shown recovery in employment rate and related fields. Government needs to continue combating the pandemic, whilst also minimizing

the disruption of economy and of critical health and other related fields. The infrastructure needs to be augmented and economic welfare and household income needs to be guaranteed. Government must come up with schemes to compensate the losses faced by different sections of society and cater to their needs. The pandemic rightfully place long due attention of policymakers for investing in different sectors, prioritizing health sector. The government must

strive to help community identify a plan of action to pursue its goal by locating specific issues and consequent action to launch a long struggle. People are longing for post COVID-19 Life, without any restrictions or so called, NEW NORMAL. But, we all know, nothing in nature blooms all year hence, so won't the pandemic. It is our collective task to strive for heading out of the pandemic and change the world. The government and the citizens must adhere to vanish the outbreak to live a tranquil life.

Speech Bubbles, Sagar Kumar (M.A HRM, 1ST Sem)

1.HR: Why should I hire you?

Me: Because this company needs someone who knows why he should hire People.

2.HR: Late Again!

Me: Yes, it makes the day seem shorter!

3.HR: How do you expect such high pay, when you don't have any experience for this position?

Me: Well you see, job turns much harder when you don't know what you're doing

4.HR: Pawan, keep your revised salary confidential...!

Me: Don't worry, I'm equally ashamed of it!

5.HR: What's your strategy to avoid mistakes and blunders at work?

Me: It's simple. Never do work when at work!

6.HR: Don't bring me problems. Bring me solutions.

Me: If I had solutions, I wouldn't bring you anything.

7.HR: Why did you leave your last job?

Me: ...The company relocated and didn't tell me where?

8.HR: What do you do at your previous job?

Me: Mostly mistakes!

9.HR: Are you on drugs?

Me: You and I both know that you don't pay me enough to have a drug problem.

10.HR: Imagine that you are on the 6th floor, and it caught fire, how will you escape from that

place?

Interviewee: That's so simple, I will stop my imagination.

11.HR: What if the earth rotates 30 times faster?

Interviewee: Chill, we will get our salary every day.

12.HR: The starting package is \$500, but later it may go up to \$1500.

Interviewee: Ok, then I will come later.

Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki, Salim Ansari (M.A HRM, 1st Sem)

“He is gasping for oxygen. Please do something doctor, *nahi to kuch hojayege. Please kuch kariye.*” She cried as she looked in her father’s failing eyes. He was trying to say something through his flailing hands, but was unable to convey his feelings. It felt like he was consoling her through the window, she has been looking from, this whole time and countless other times which were now vague in her memory. Every second seemed a millennium in itself. It was in the morning, just 8 hours before, when she was with her family, in their living room, laughing and living, as it was supposed to be. Never did she know that the coming hours would change her life, in the worst way possible. In the evening, Poonam’s father started to feel heavy in his chest, and started feeling feverish. The symptoms of COVID-19 were broadcasted all over the city, through all mediums. Any signs of cough, fever, itchy throat or shortness of breath, had to be taken seriously. Instructions were to go immediately to the closest point of contact and seek medical interventions. Within an hour of feeling the heaviness in his chest, his breathing started to slow down and his temple was burning. Poonam brought the oximeter from her room, and clipped it to her father’s finger. The reading alarmed everyone. Just an hour earlier it was showing 94percent on the screen, now it had dropped to 73. The situation was changing dramatically. They had to do something urgent, something quick. Each second was taking away oxygen from his lungs and it was a race against time.



Poonam’s brother went outside to fetch an autorickshaw. As soon as he came, she along with her father and mother, went straight to the hospital. Along the way she could hear blasting from the loudspeakers in the marketplace, “*Do gaz duuri, mask hai zaruri.*” Everything around seemed blurrier than usual, the familiar sounds seemed eerie, with heart and mind in a race of their own. She tried to make sense in all of the chaos.

She tried reasoning with herself, everything will be fine, *recovery rate toh 95% hai, koi dikkat nahi hogi, aur papa ka immune system bhi toh strong hai*, but every time she tried explaining it to herself, every time it became more difficult to console, as if something inside her knew she was fooling herself. The autorickshaw honked loudly. Her mother cried, “*Poonam, beta jaldikaro, papa ki tabiyat bigadti jaa rahi hai*”. She gave money to the rickshaw driver and went inside the hospital to fetch a bed for her father.

As soon as she entered the hospital, she saw people running wild inside, everyone had this puzzled look on their face. Faces holding fear, anger, misery and helplessness, all in one. Someone was running to secure a bed, someone was trying to get the lifesaving Remdesivir, someone was running to get an oxygen cylinder, someone was just running because they didn’t know what else to do. It was a mirror of her mind, a total chaos. She gathered herself and went to the counter and enquired about the emergency COVID-19 ward. She narrated the condition of her father, who was still outside the hospital, fighting for his very breath. Luckily, there were beds available on that day, and her father got admitted in the ward. A sigh of relief, she thought. At least now he is under medical supervision, he is on safer side now, chances of him, making it through has increased, she thought to herself. His father had oxygen mask on his face, his eyes a little more hopeful, and his spirits a little elevated. His heartbeat had become normal, and oxygen levels were stabilized. A silver lining.

At around 2 in the morning, he started gasping for breath, and signaled Poonam to call the doctor. She went hurriedly to the doctor on duty and told him about his condition. He came, checked his vitals, and ordered the nurse to prepare his bed to be taken to the ICU. The dreaded ICU, Poonam thought to herself. This is what was bothering her the most, this is what she was hoping not to happen, and everything was happening in just the opposite way. The silver lining started to dim again. All she could do now was to accept. Accept and just pray, for things to come back to her again.

Even her thoughts were betraying her right now. There she was standing on the door of this ICU, seeing from the small glass opening, his father' struggle to live. Every ounce of hope left her, and she started sobbing

Uncontrollably in front of the doctor, saying, "He is gasping for oxygen. Please do something doctor, *nahi to kuch ho jayega. Please kuch kariye.*"

Countless like Poonam have fought this battle when the COVID-19 wave hit the country and took the nation by storm, literally the cytokine storm. The lax attitude of the government and the people, led to one of the greatest tragedies to happen in India, in modern history. We as children heard stories of plague coming in the countryside sweeping entire populations, but to see that unfolding in front of your eyes, is truly devastating, in everyway. The chaos that unfolded in the streets, be it the migrant crisis during the first wave or the dead burning visuals in the second wave, had everyone questioning humanity and its existence, at least once during the ordeal. The trauma caused from the last two waves has not even settled and the eventual coming of more waves is already haunting us in the form of mutated variants. In these testing times, we need to be prepared and most importantly optimistic. Hope has sailed us till now, and it is alone which can lead us out of this disaster, sooner or later.

Oh Reaper My Reaper, Rahim Yusuf (MSW, 1st Sem)

The knower and knowing	O reaper! My reaper!
Seems close, are far apart	I beg for the marrow of life
Confined in selves	I weep for the image of time
Thwart, laugh on weeps ,Alas!	I laugh for the dead poet inside
Free thinkers are dead poets	I hope to cover all your miles
Bearded, retarded and the dying grass	O reaper my reaper
To fly, high over o lands	Take my hands I say
To dive deep in hearts	Fly millions of miles away
Agonized and bent	

Reflections from Field

Anwer (ADPH)

It was a great experience to do field work with renowned government institution like Department of Women and child development under the supervision of most experienced social work faculty. We got to know a lot about the public health initiatives by government, its challenges in policy implementation and institutional work culture. Being a placement coordinator, it was great to regulate placement cell which again give a lot of knowledge and experience about current market related to the course and an opportunity to interact to different organizations. After joining vision 2026 as a health fellow the teachings of the department contributed well and the journey with department faculties contained with some training session by them in the organization as well. Vision 2026 is a flagship programme under which 7 different organizations are working with different goals. Working on the projects like Mobile Medical Van, Health awareness programme, Health Surveys the journey of gaining knowledge is continue with the opportunity to apply what we learned from Social Work Department either theory or field work. The links we gained is still beneficial to us as I am still working with some local Anganwadi workers for overall development of the community.



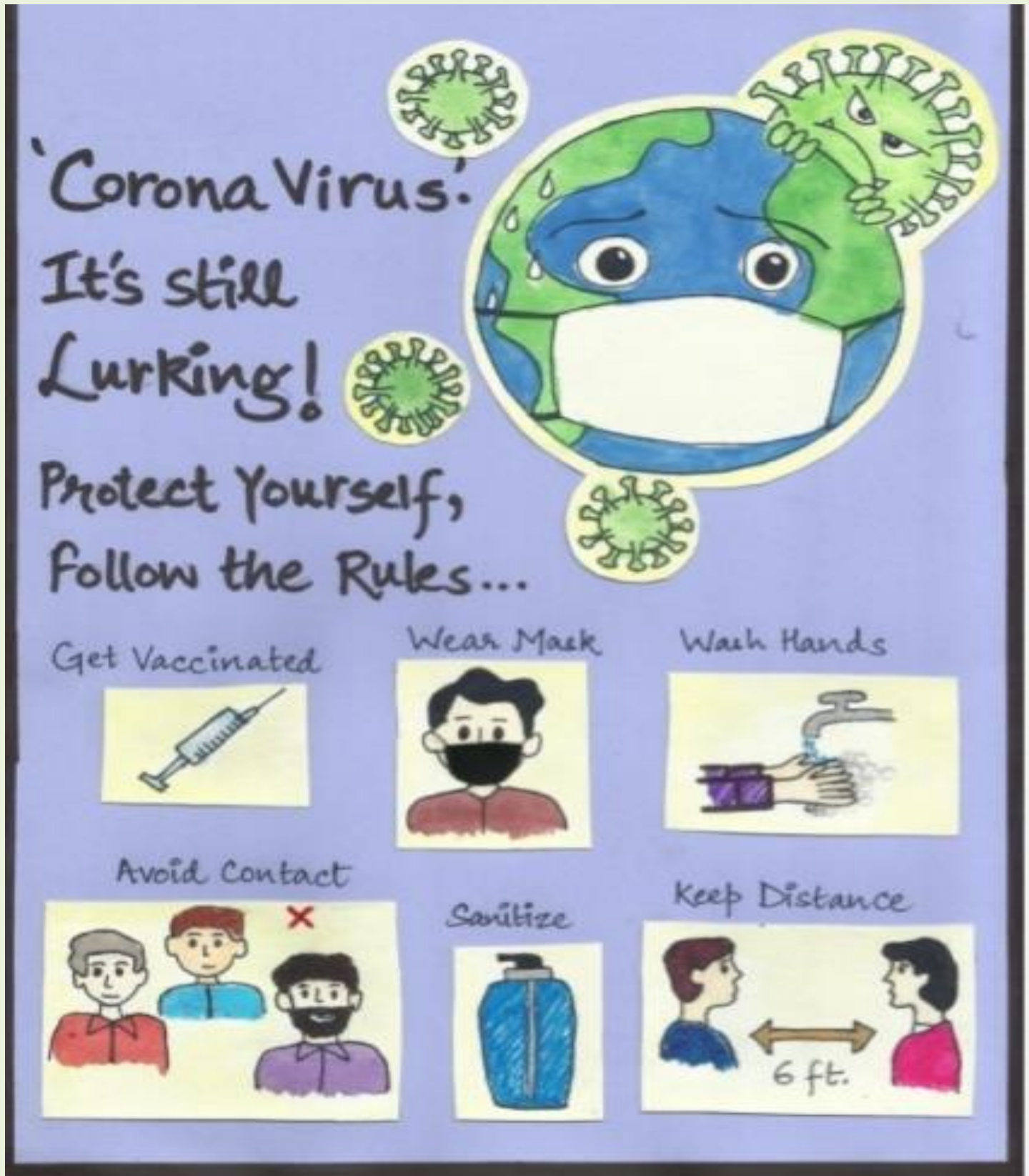
Ruksar Anwer (ADPH)

Fieldwork experience has been good so far. I have learned a lot, and I have had the great experience to work with the Women and Child Development Department (WCD) New Delhi. I came to know the work process and chronology of the department staff. By working on a field, I found my more interest in this profession, as I am a B.U.M.S doctor as a profession. So being from medical field I connected with community so well regarding their health and its wellness.

I learned politeness, kindness, patience and to convince/counsel people towards their health and wellness. Although it's not an easy job to be there on field. It requires lot of dedication towards your profession and hard work too. I am planning to do master's in public health and still searching for a job in this field.



Shagufta Khan (M.A HRM, 1st Sem)



Student enrollment in higher education

Every year some students apply for higher education within Jamia and outside. The pandemic has not curtailed the motivation for pursuing M.Phil or Ph.D, this year also many of our students has taken forward Jamia's legacy to other institutions. The subsequent table provides the glimpse of it.

Students enrolled in higher education

S.No	Name of students	Course	College/ University/Institution
1	Farsheen Ali PV	M.Phil	Madras School of Social work, Chennai
2	Mohd. Laraib Akhter	Ph.D	Department of social work, Lucknow University
3	Shakeb Sarwar	Ph.D	Department of social work, JMI

Amrita Paliwal, (M.A HRM, 1st Sem)



Placement Updates

The placement committee under the guidance of Prof. Ushvinder Kaur Popli, Director- Field Work and Placement, Dr. Rashmi Jain and Dr. Sanjay Ingole, Co directors has worked tirelessly in planning, organizing, networking, managing, welcoming and entertaining the recruiter for the M.A Social Work and M.A Human Resource Management.

Placement season generally start in the month of the November with placement brochure being released by the fieldwork team. Since 2020, everything from designing of placement brochure to coordinating with placement agencies has been done digitally. This has been the evidence of leaping with technology.

During last semester notable placements have been the following:

S.no	Name of student	Name of Organization	Annual salary package (lacs)
1	Anjali Asija	Vedanta	7.95 lacs
2	Aswani Pathak	Vedanta	7.95 lacs
3	Leena Singh	Vedanta	7.95 lacs
4	Qazi Khadeeja Arif	Vedanta	7.95 lacs
5	Mani Kashyap	Empower Pragati	3.75 lacs
6	Mohammad Aman	Empower Pragati	3.75 lacs
7	Mohammad Faisal	Empower Pragati	3.75 lacs
8	Syed Mohd. Hammad	Empower Pragati	3.75 lacs
9	Ayesha Najeeb	Medha	3.48 lacs
10	Mohammad Shadman	Medha	3.48 lacs
11	Mohammad Imran	Medha	3.48 lacs
12	Srestha Bhattacharya	Medha	3.48 lacs
13	Ishita Bhattacharjee	Medha	3.48 lacs
14	Ridhima Rathi	Medha	3.48 lacs
15	Madiha Shariq	Pradan	2.88 lacs in training,7.2 lacs as executive
16	Zaid Ahsan Siddiqui	Pradan	2.88 lacs in training,7.2 lacs as executive
17	Zara Amin	Pradan	2.88 lacs in training,7.2 lacs as executive
18	Sabira Yaqoob	Pradan	2.88 lacs in training,7.2 lacs as executive
19	Risha Nusrat	Pradan	2.88 lacs in training,7.2 lacs as executive
20	Rachel Tanvi	Pradan	2.88 lacs in training,7.2 lacs as executive
21	Shan Mohammad	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	4.89 lacs
22	Mohammad Saif	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	4.89 lacs
23	Samia Khan	Sarthak Educational Trust	3 lacs
24	Manavey Solanki	Samaj Pragati Sahayog	3.24 lacs
25	Ayesha Saeed	Samaj Pragati Sahayog	3.24 lacs
26	Khyati Arora	Maa Anandmayee Memorial School	4.2 lacs

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Employability workshop / Skill labs will be organized for students of final semester for the purpose of preparing students to handle placement concerns such as Interview skills, resume writing etc.
- Webinars on Topics and issues relevant to social work.
- Webinars on Topics and issues relevant to HRM.

We would like to express our gratitude to people who contributed towards this magazine. We could see a great sense of integrity and commitment towards the magazine. DASTAK is amalgamation of our efforts, your thoughts, feelings and emotions.

We received overwhelming response for this edition. Thanks so much for taking the time. We are looking forward to connect with you for future editions as well. It's truly a magazine standing for saying: of us, for us and by us.

THANKYOU

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