



New Learning from 2nd Wave of COVID-19: Global Importance of Social Awareness and Role of Health and Technology Sector

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COVID-19 pandemic is continuing since January 2020 throughout the world with loss of lives and significant economic loss as well as turbulence in the every section in the world including education and health. Irrespective of efforts taken up by World Health Organisation, governments of each country, research institutes and pharmaceutical industries, second wave of the COVID-19 heated badly and exert loss more than the first one. This attributes to the irrational behavior of human kinds and genetic feature of coronavirus that can mutate at significant way and coming up with new deadly variants with all new clinical manifestations. It is very essential to be aware, up to date in terms of our social behaviors, knowledge and attitude towards COVID-19 disease. In addition, use of technology can be a savior in this pandemic. Researchers are doing best from their end and contributing in the knowledge of COVID-19 and social awareness. In this special issue, we are disseminating the novel finding originated from laboratory experiments and survey-based observations and information gathered in the form of review articles. This collection of research and review articles are based on basic life sciences as well as technology based researches.

Studies published in this special issue highlighted on the prevalence of psychological distress among medical undergraduate students during the pandemic and therefore threat of reduced clinical skills and possible course extension among undergraduate students is in the mind. It is essential to develop positive attitude and satisfactory preparedness for self-protection during this critical period among these students as surveyed in one of the article published in this issue. It is also important to consider psychological health of medical/par-medical students as highlighted by Rosa et al. Knowledge and awareness about social awareness is equally important to win the battle against COVID-19. A survey-based study demonstrated that awareness for social distancing was higher among males than females and 65% participants were satisfied regarding social distancing and 60% felt stress and anxiety. Awareness is also important in the pregnant women regarding breastfeeding during this pandemic. Various pros and cons of this and precautions are suggested in the article.

There are number of novel pathological consequences that have emerged over the last 15 months of this pandemic and are these are also the cause of number of deaths and severe comorbidities. We have published review articles and case studies to highlights few of those comorbidities such as thrombosis, early pulmonary hypertension, alterations in the blood cell count and imbalance in the inflammatory markers such as C-reactive protein. Several therapeutics has been tried to combat primary as well as secondary complications of COVID-19 and we have published articles on the same. This issue also put a light of side effects of Vaccine that will surely

create awareness among the citizens. This pandemic also hampers the routine diagnosis of other disease due to threat of spread and unavailability of time slot. This is also studied in one of the article to highlight the possible disadvantages such as limiting care for the deadly disease like cancers. Dilemma related to results of diagnosis test is also highlighted. Author suggested that quality control and quality assurance of all processes should be done to check any pre-analytical or analytical fallacies. Clinicians and patients both are to be educated about the probable reasons of inconclusive tests.

COVID-19 pandemic brings up the new normal of online teaching in the academics. However, 15 months world-wide experience indicated that this is unable to replace classroom learning because its implementation and effectiveness failed to meet policymakers' expectations at the university level. Therefore, there is a need for the increase in teachers' competence and usage intensity regarding online learning in faculties and universities. Other than education, professional culture has also changed drastically such as work from home, virtual meeting and conferences. Various authorities are initiating schemes to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. For the women Saudi women encouragement is provided in terms of flexible working hours after the epidemic, part-time work arrangements, telecommuting, support during pregnancy, and parenting.

The software developed to propose an autonomous verification of a passenger as it displays the passenger's train/flight details and boarding area by recognizing them from the passenger's database. This removes the need for manual checking of the passenger before boarding. One of the studies evaluated the efficacy of Arogya-Setu application developed by Government of India. Geospatial technology used to develop contact tracing application for disease surveillance and prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease. The automated system is developed that for detecting the mask and non-mask individuals during. In addition, a suitable regression algorithm and the prediction was compared with other regression algorithms for predicting the number of cases which can definitely help to prepare for the worst in terms of healthcare and economical losses.

This issue covers articles focused on COVID-19 and its impact on social behavior, mental conditions, pathological severity, states of comorbidities and various attempt to win the battle using technology. These articles are from researchers across the globe who have presented finding from their regions and it is observed that authorities and citizens globally facing the same consequences of COVID-19 pandemics. I welcome you to read this special issue on COVID-19 which can definitely help to enhance your knowledge about this disease and can be a base or facilitator for your own research.