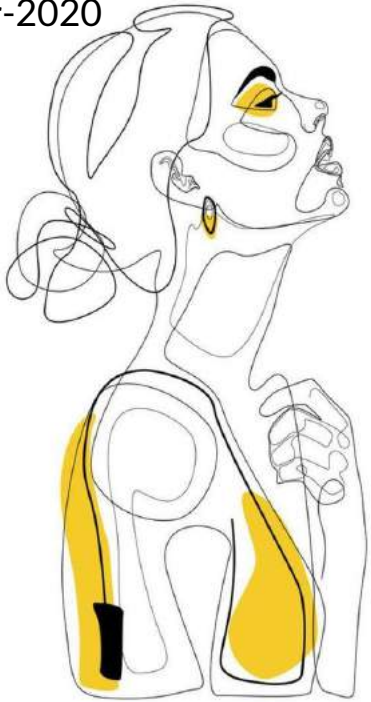
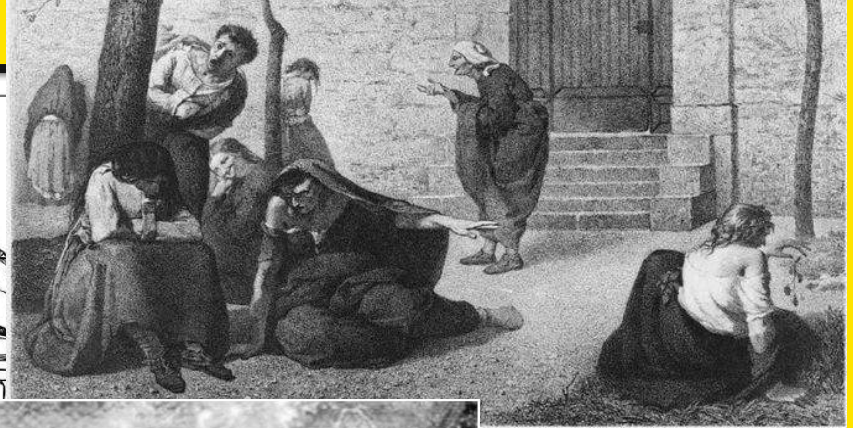


VOL-I
Year-2020



SOCIUS EDGE



An E-Magazine from the Department of Sociology, NEF College, Lokhra, Guwahati

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

NEF College, Guwahati



Date:11.07.2020

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Department of Sociology, NEF College is going to publish an e-magazine during the time of Pandemic of COVID-19. The effort of the faculty members and students in this hour is indeed praiseworthy. I sincerely hope the initiative will yield the desired goal.

We at NEF aim to provide the best possible educational experience through excellence in teaching and research activities for today's students and professional for tomorrow. The e-magazine will be an academic platform where students can flourish their creativity and get exposure in academics.

Best wishes!!

(Dr. Zakir Hussain)
Chairman

DR. Zakir Hussain

Director, NEF College

Lokhra, Guwahati

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

NEF College, Guwahati



Date:10.07.2020

It gives me immense pleasure that the students of NEF College intend to publish an online magazine titled as “Socius Edge” during LOCKDOWN period due to Pandemic COVID-19. I do appreciate the ideas and efforts for this type of creative activities of the students. It is beyond any doubt that our students are socially conscious and accountable to common people. Because it reflects (i) the present crisis of employment and economic problem of common people (ii) role of media in presenting news based on realities (iii) online learning and its problem and possibilities (iv) social issues such as natural calamities, racism, Islam phobia etc. helps to develop the abilities of the students for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable them to deal effectively.

This type of initiatives will definitely contribute to the need of the people in general and students in particular. I do offer my heartiest best wishes for successful publication of the magazine and its wide circulation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Nath', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Dr. Ghanashyam Nath)
Principal

NEF College

Lokhra, Guwahati

Department of Sociology

NEF College, Guwahati



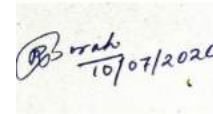
Date: 10.07.2020

It gives me immense pleasure that our students are going to release handwritten magazine, “Socius Edge”. In this pandemic situation, digital magazine has an important role for any kind of academic exercise. It has the ability to reach readers easily on a global scale. This is the time when students have to develop their abilities and hidden potentialities and this kind of magazine is the perfect way to find out the concealed talents and creativity of the students.

Therefore, the department of Sociology made an attempt to release an online magazine. I am sure that “Socius Edge” would be a milestone on the path towards our mission and vision of overall development of our students. It helps to develop the abilities of the students for adoptive and positive behaviour that enable them to deal

effectively with the demands and challenges of life. It will give an academic platform to students and exposure in greater academic field.

I congratulate and extend my words of appreciation to the editorial board and all the contributors for their sincere effort in bringing out this magazine within a short period of time. This is a platform for all of you to reflect your vibrant talent in a creative way. My best wishes are with all of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Rinku Borah', followed by the date '10/07/2020' written in a similar style.

Dr Rinku Borah

Head, Department of Sociology,

NEF College, Lokhra, Guwahati

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- **Pritirekha Deka**

EDITORIAL

It is a great pleasure to publish our very first virtual magazine through the online mode. The reason for such an attempt is the crisis brought about the deadly COVID-19. The Corona virus disease 2019 is an infectious disease caused by acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-COV-2) which is spreading rapidly worldwide. In these times of social distancing, with all educational institutions shutting down for a prolonged period of time, the online process has served as the most effective and efficient medium of socializing and gathering information. Willingly, this (COVID-19) time has compelled us to switch our arrangements of living and has also made us technologically more equipped. We can look at this period as an opportunity to learn new skills and as a time for self retrospection. We have made an attempt to share our thoughts through this online magazine.

The students of Sociology Department of NEF College, Lokhra, Guwahati have made an attempt to look at the crucial life of people during this crisis period through different sociological perspectives in the current social realm. Sociologically, we look at society, various issues or problems related to people and also how the lives of people are being affected. Putting our sociological lenses on, we tried to highlight the current situation and bring the changes in the notice of the people through this magazine.

Along with sociological perspective, this magazine also tried to bring out the creativity of students through photography, newspaper cutting and poems. We are encouraged to engage creatively in our daily lives, re-examine our lives and design our impression to the changing world. Without the guidance of teachers & fellow students, we couldn't complete this magazine successfully. Even though there could be errors, further suggestions on improvising the work is very much welcomed.

- **JIRBON TOKBIPI**

- **PRATIKSHA GOSWAMI**

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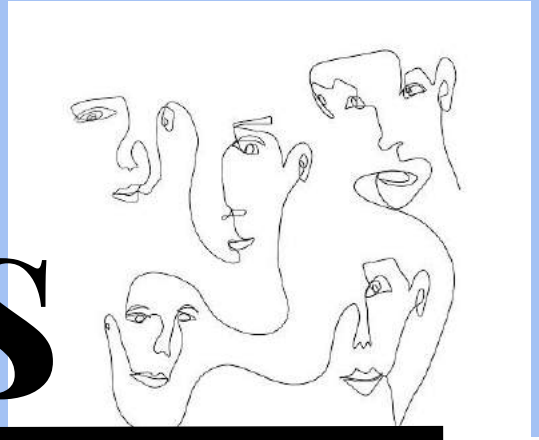
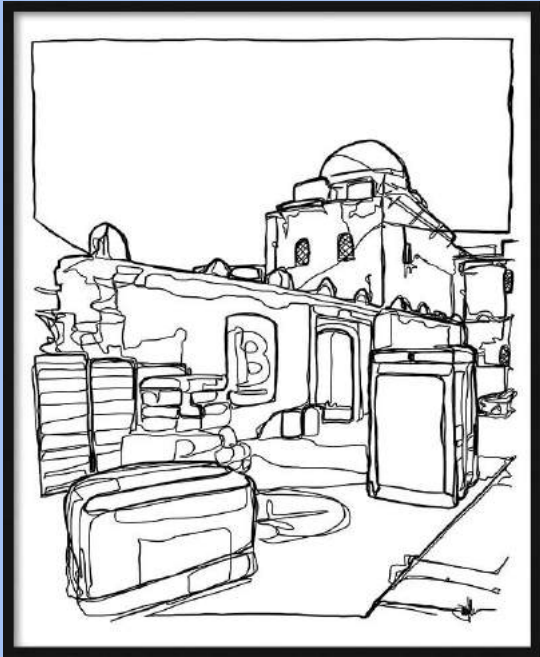
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SOCIAL

ISSUES





DIHING PATKAI “AMAZON OF THE EAST”

A wildlife sanctuary is an area where animals inhabit. Their surroundings are protected from any sort of disturbance from the outer world. Capturing, killing and poaching of wild animals are strictly prohibited in these regions. We often find animals in the mode of extinction and only to protect those animals these wildlife sanctuaries are built.

One of such wildlife sanctuaries is the 'Dihing Patkai' elephant reserve. It is the largest low lying forest in India. Dihing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam and covers an area of 111.19 km square rainforest. It was declared a sanctuary on 13 June 2004. It is also called the “Amazon of the East”.

This place has a rich biodiversity. Among the varied animal species living here are the hoolock gibbon, slow loris, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, capped langur, Indian leopard, Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, gaur, Himalayan squirrel, leopard, cat and By providing outlet for foundational theoretical and empirical sociological research on COVID-19 and society, this volume will interrogate structural and interpersonal responses to a newly discovered virus. Studies can focus on local, state, national/cross-national reaction to the pandemic.

This place has a rich biodiversity. Among the varied animal species living here are the hoolock gibbon, slow loris, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, capped langur, Indian leopard, Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, gaur, Himalayan squirrel, leopard, cat and Various species of other animals. This place has a rich bio-diversity of about 293 bird species. Till date, 47 mammal species, 47 reptile species and 30 butterfly species have been recorded here. Moreover the Dihing Patkai forest region consists of various groups of people following the same culture and also it includes the original inhabitants that are Assamese communities, Tai Phake, Khamyang, Khamti, Moran, Ahom, Muttack, Nepali people and Tea-Tribes.

It is very disappointing to find the Government in support of these either legal or illegal mining going on in Patkai region. It is actually heartbreaking because their commitment was of sustainable development without harming the nature. But right now a smell of man-made disaster is found to be seen as the Government's new law has left the door open for extraction of black diamonds by Coal India Ltd. It is the new order passed by the Govt. of India. NBWL (National Board for Wild Life) that has allowed the Dihing Patkai reserved forest for extraction of coal by, Coal India Ltd. This announcement was made on April 7th by the Chairman of NBWL and the minister of forest and climate change in India. Coal mining usually degrades the natural environment and leads to the destruction of habitat. It hampers the bio-diversity of the region resulting in massive dust and noise pollution in the surrounding environment.

As it is harmful for the environment people started protesting against the mining. Some NGOs have also launched some signature collection campaign. A report was passed which emphasizes that the Patkai region is already polluted with industries such as coal mines, oil refineries and gas drilling that affects the biodiversity of the region. Though the NBWL has allowed the coal mining process on April 7th, 2020 but illegal mining of coal was going on for long by the coal mafias, which affects the biodiversity of the forest.

This report has made an impact and the protestors are slowly gaining momentum over the issue. The protestors are urging the PM of India, the CM of Assam and all the responsible authorities to make a ban on these coal mining in Saleki and whole Patkai as its making an adverse effect on ecosystem.

The recent incident which took place in Brazil during the fire breakout in Amazon was quite inspiring. We saw how the native people raised their voices and pressurized the government to take effective measures to extinguish the fire and save the diversity. So as of now with a link to the Amazon of East why should we back down? Being a responsible and smart citizen we should protest against the mining that is taking place in Saleki.

- PUJA KALITA
MA 2ND SEMESTER



LIFE OF POOR IN LOCKDOWN

At this time, almost the whole world is fighting against the Novel Corona Virus. Due to this pandemic a huge number of people have lost their lives all over the world. Though it is not yet confirmed and though inspection is still being carried out to bring into light the main culprits of the spread of this deadly virus, the world suspects China to be it's main offender. COVID-19 is a new strain that was not previously found in humans. In simple form, it is a mutant form of Corona virus family which is extremely contagious. With the slightest of touch or exposure to an infected agent, which can be either a human or an animal, this virus can be spread. The disease can be spread through droplets of the nose or mouth when a person with COVID -19 coughs or exhales. The Worldwide spread of the disease is severely impacting the Global economy and as per recent updates almost One-third to One -half of the Global population is now under a restricted form of lockdown. This Pandemic apparently altered the routine lifestyle of each citizen, be it a new born baby or a teenager, an adult, a middle aged person or an elderly citizen. Clearly, the world has stopped functioning since the last few months. Unlike the rich considerably theable category of people, life became extremely tough for the poorer section, especially the daily wage earners. This pandemic left no option for all the Government of the nations to declare lockdown according to their severity of the situation. This was a necessary step in the containment of the

spread of the disease which mostly emphasized on social distancing. However, as mentioned earlier this ultimately created a havoc in the lives of the poor people financially. They tend to be suffering from fear as well as hunger. Other than the financial problems, this unfortunate section has very less knowledge as well as very limited means to facilitate themselves with personal hygiene which is supposedly the most crucial part in the containment of this disease. The lockdown ultimately serves as inequity among sections which clearly and disproportionately affected the poor in plethora of ways- like taking food, shelter and other basic needs. Though the government released economic relief package for most of the vulnerable sections of the society even then the Indian government tend facing grand challenges to protect the huge population of the country mostly because of the casual behaviors persisting in most of the population against their own personal hygiene and a rather dispirited approach towards social distancing.

**- RAGINI PRIYADARSHINI SAIKIA
MA 2ND SEMESTER**

MEDIA IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



The spread of the COVID-19 has proved deadly, and this is a challenging time for the union as well as state governments as they work to address this health emergency. However, shows that in times of crisis, democratic governments may take a dangerous autocratic turn. In such a situation, journalism has a great role to play in a democracy, as it has been ideally visualized as a platform for objective information and critical-rational discourse. Thus, the health of journalism in a country can be examined in the times of a crisis.

However, corporate control over most media bodies also means that they become an instrument of the ideological apparatus of the state. There are many concerns associated with the COVID-19 crisis: ill-equipped public health systems, policies to combat the pandemic, and the lack of planning and support to the vulnerable sections. These issues demand serious examination, but the mainstream media, barring some courageous exceptions, seems to be forgetting its democratic role. The vilification of migrant laborers and a minority community whilst failing to critique the lack of measures to help these sections deal with the crisis is an important such indicator.

MANIPULATION OF DISCOURSE

Just before the announcement of the nationwide lockdown till 14th April 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly called upon print and electronic media owners and editors of the country and asked them to support government efforts to combat the pandemic and also advised them to present “positive news” related to COVID-19 (Sagar 2020). Plainly put, these were the owners and editors who control most of the Indian media at the national and regional levels who were advised to abide by the official narrative and present information was provided to them by the government about COVID-19.

Why would media houses follow government diktat rather than investigating the real state of affairs, unless they have associated business interests? Journalism is considered to be an ethical communicative practice in a democracy, but corporate ownership subverts the autonomy of journalism and the freedom of the press. Unfortunately, this conflict of interest has become a common feature of Indian journalism.

However, even though a majority of Indian media is under corporate control, there are many counter-voices both within and outside this grouping. Thus, the Indian Mediascape has become a battleground of ideologies. Many of these alternate counter-voices have raised genuine issues of social concern during the pandemic outbreak. The prevalence of international media on the internet and small media

organizations in the country has played an important role in disseminating factual and more nuanced information, but unfortunately, these platforms do not have the vast access that big corporate media platforms are privy to.

Most of the non-English mainstream media—both print and electronic—was seen to be playing a role that was far from responsible during the outbreak. A small section of the English print media has raised some pertinent questions, but they also have a select readership. The government, however, is not ready to listen to any rational criticism. The centre sought a direction from the Supreme Court on 31 March that “No electronic/print media /web portal or social media shall print/publish or telecast anything without first ascertaining the true factual position

from the separate mechanism provided by the central government” (Live law News Network 2020).The sudden announcement of the lockdown which gave people barely four hours of advance were notice created a nationwide panic, and the migrant labourers the worst affected. In the absence of work and other support in the cities, thousands of labourers and their families desperately wanted to go back to their homes. With no transportation available, many began the arduous journey on foot, and many were subjected to police brutality along the way, and some have died on the road back home.

The lockdown, thus, was worse than COVID-19 for the homeless and the poor. While a few in the media made visible their plight, a particular kind of media coverage and projection also led to the middle class blaming migrants for their “irresponsible behavior” during the pandemic (Abi-Habib and Yasser 2020; Ellis- Petersen and Caucasia 2020).

It seems most media organizations were compelled to cover the labourers’ plight because of its sensational value, but this coverage was inadequate. However, journalism still survives because of a few courageous journalists in mainstream media and alternative media platforms. Two English dailies with their ground-level investigative reporting (one of which is known for its investigative news stories) covered the disaster with more empathy. Many others in their attempts to show the reality faced the wrath of the government (Scroll 2020).



Further, even on social media platforms, doctors and nurses were heavily trolled when they voiced grievances about the lack of personal protective equipment (Bengali et al 2020).

MEDIA SHOW ITS ISLAMOPHOBIC SIDE

Media's ugliest moment, however, was its coverage of the news surrounding Delhi's abitha Jamaal Markus (meeting). Many participants had left after the Markus, but many were stranded in the mosque due to the lockdown and were later found infected. However, the media outrage that followed was clearly an extension of the already prejudiced and polarised coverage, as the Tabitha Jamaal was blamed for violating lockdown rules and for "corona jihad," "Islamic insurrection," and "corona terrorism." This is clearly an example of fake news propagated by the mainstream media to further the predominant agenda (BBC 2020; News Laundry 2020). Muslims were also attacked in various parts of the country.

News presented on the Markus immediately found space in social networking sites and public opinion was quickly constructed around the premise that Muslims were responsible for the pandemic. Never mind that even though the Markus incident triggered a spread, it is not as if it was planned. The first case of the virus was identified in India in January. The abject lack of planning by the government was not adequately questioned by the mainstream media. Nor was it questioned as to why such a gathering was permitted in the first place.

People of other religious groups also gathered at religious places in large numbers even after the lockdown, but they were not criticised in a similar manner. However, when some journalists did raise questions, they were threatened with legal action (Scroll 2020).



THE NEED FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY

Since most of the people are at home during the lockdown, it is natural to see a growth in media consumption. People are using various media platforms for COVID-19-related information, but what is provided is far from factual and does not further a critical rational discourse. Rather, the media has become a tool of propaganda and sensationalism. Some television news channels see a Chinese conspiracy in the spread of COVID-19. In such a “positive” atmosphere, the news related to labourers’ mass exodus and the Markus was mostly presented due to its sensational value.

The true situation would not have gained attention in the first place, if not for the ground-level reports by the committed journalists and social media coverage. The Janata curfew announced on 22 March before the lockdown failed as people came out on the streets in the evening, clapping, banging utensils, shouting religious slogans, and blowing conch shells, as if they could defeat COVID-19 with a show of such masculinity. Social distancing was forgotten. Later, people were again asked to switch off residential lights for nine minutes and light a candle or diya in their balconies. Can the virus really be eradicated by chants of “go corona?” Yet, the media became a part of this “festivity.” These exercises were lapped up by a majority of the news media, as it sells the big spectacle—a hyper real experience—and accepts the obeisance of a “supreme authority” along with a large number of citizens. The trivialisation of the crisis and a toxic “positivity” is ruling the media. COVID-19 is a serious threat to the nation and therefore many rational measures and “honest conversations” must be expected from the government, which cannot be beyond the critical radar of journalism. The government has created a Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund to combat the pandemic and many business corporations and common people have contributed to this fund. But, many questions have also been raised about the need for this fund, as the Prime Minister Relief Fund had already been working from 1948 onwards for such situations (Hindu 2020; Mody 2020). All these issues demand serious journalistic investigation in public interest.

The pandemic is also threatening an already-deteriorating economy, which also demands a thorough investigation

beyond the official narratives. The media, however, has worries related to its own economic situation. Print media, especially, is dealing with a resource crunch, dwindling advertisements, and worries of reduction in circulation and readership. With concerns of job security, inadequate resource support, and abuses faced by the police, many journalists are putting their health at stake to cover the COVID-19 situation. This scenario does little to add to the morale of honest and responsible journalists.

Some media houses have already begun cutting wages; an extension in the lockdown can create a new crisis in Indian journalism.

The role of larger media as observed during the pandemic, however, is not an overnight shift. It has been visible for some time now. The media has seen phenomenal growth during the last three decades, and India has become one of the biggest media markets in the world. The alliance between predominant religious fundamentalism and neo-liberalism has also shaped it. Profit, the promotion of majoritarian views, and the exclusion of marginalised voices have become its main features.

What should the role of governments be in such a situation and what is it that journalism is meant to do? This is the time to introspect and examine the role of capitalism, state, and the media to avoid creating a future that threatens



to destabilise democracy. Will this pandemic radically change society and governance models? Will the increased surveillance and policing become the new normal, or will we see increased efforts of building solidarity and cooperation? Our media needs to introspect and pose these questions.



-PRATIKSHA GOSWAMI
BA 2ND SEMESTER



RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

As novel corona virus pandemic spread worldwide problem around the globe at the same time started the racial discrimination against the people/ community. It fueled the hatred against the people. In this difficult situation some of them started to mistrust, and anxiety are rampant among them. It became serious threat and worldwide problem. It also became social stigma.

Racial discrimination which we usually means as discrimination against individual on the basis of their skin colour, or racial or ethnic origin. Which is happening in present world or within us. In India mostly the northeast and mongoloid look people are facing such discrimination. They became victim for this virus and make them as scapegoat.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) which is known to be pandemic situation for each one. In this situation where everyone is worry about the going on pandemic situation. In between this situation or pandemic situation some people started to discriminate people through their facial look in India. It rose as racial discrimination and even inequalities among the people and within the society.

The corona virus pandemic has unleashed a new kind of racism. Several people from northeast India are

call/called as corona, virus, Chinese, chinki, momo, in different names, representing them as corona virus because of their facial look. They are forcibly quarantined, saying them as corona virus. India's mongoloid looking people were spot on and called them as corona virus. They are deny by the apartment complex, or in society. This is not showing only racial discrimination but also inequalities among people because of the facial look. Racism is not an recent problem but due to this present situation it came out as light topic, which also represent inequalities. In this pandemic situation where some of the people are helping each other to fight together,

at the same time some evil mind people are representing their own country's people as corona virus. Which make the situation not only pandemic but also racial discrimination situation.



**-PRIYANKA KATHAR
MA 2ND SEMESTER**



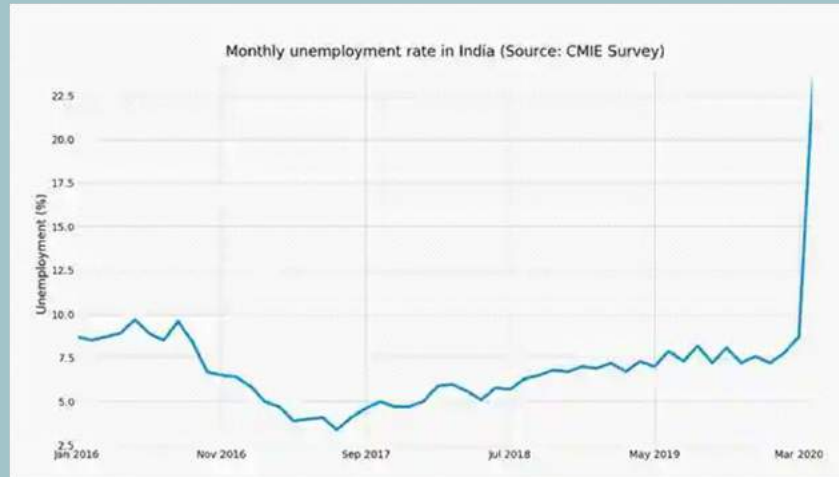
UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

Unemployment which in general terms it means an individual who is seeking for a job and who are employable, but are unable to find a job. The unemployment rate in India rose to 7.8 percent in february 2020, the highest since last october, from 7.2 percent in previous month. In recent time total unemployment rate in 23rd May 2020 is about 24.6%, whereas in urban is 26.1% and in rural is 23.9%.

Some of the causes of unemployment in India are lack of the state of physical capital, use of capital intensive techniques, inequalities distribution of land, rigid protective labour legislation, neglect of the role of agriculture in employment generation, lack of infrastructure, high growth rate of population, and many mores.

According to CMIE weekly report, the unemployment rate fell from 27.1% to 24% for week ended may 10, while the labour participation rate rose from 36.2% to 37.6% as the government opens up industries in a staggered manner. Employment rate also rose from 26.4% to 28.6%.the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis has led to a spike in the country's unemployment rate to 27.11% for the week ended 3rd may, up from the under 7% level before the start of the pandemic in mid-march, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) HAS SAY. THE Mumbai- based think tank said the rate of unemployment is the highest in the urban areas, which constitute the most

number of the red zone due to the coronavirus. According to 27th May total unemployment rate is 24.0% in India (urban is about 26.5% and rural is about 22.9%).



CMIE's weekly series of the date pointed to a steady increase in unemployment since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Unemployment in India is not a new problem but if we see the present situation due to the pandemic situation unemployment seems to be rising more higher.

- **PRIYANKA KATHAR**
MA 2ND SEMESTER



HOW COVID-19 IS AFFECTING THE SOCIETY

In a matter of months, the novel coronavirus [COVID-19] has quickly spread around the world and undermined seemingly stable social systems. Although researchers and practitioners from public health, epidemiology, and medicine currently dominate public discussion, the field of sociology uniquely qualified to assess the social causes and social consequences of COVID-19. The successes and failures of local, state, and national governments in containing the spread of the virus have ramifications for the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and social institutions.

Sociologists are well positioned to make intellectual contributions to public discovers, debates, and policies about epidemics, pandemics, and their corresponding social response.

This special issue seeks manuscripts that advance sociological perspectives on the intersection of coronavirus and society. By providing outlet for foundational theoretical and empirical sociological research on COVID-19 and society, this volume will interrogate structural and impersonal responses to a newly discovered virus.

SPECIAL ISSUE: COVID-19 AND SOCIETY AREAS OF INTEREST

- .The rollout of, and adherence today at home orders.
- Social distancing and potential exposure among vulnerable populations [inmates,homeless person, disabled individuals, the elderly,etc.]
- The economics and labor-market consequences of COVID-19.
- The consequences of harder closings for migration, commerce and international relation.
- Communication messaging about COVID-19, including disinformation and 'fake news'
- Emergency response preparedness and inequalities in healthcare access and irraltecting.
- Resource hoarding and consumerism during social crisis.
- Innovative methods and measures to account for coronavirus exposure, including the measurement of uncounted or misclassified cases and deaths.
- Differential responses by local, state, and national governments in 'flattering the curve'.
- The use of social networks and technology in contact tracing and social support.
- The consequences of globalization for supply chain disruption in the delivery of medical supplies, food, goods, and services.
- Gender inequality in work-life balance following employer work-from-home policies.
- Educational disruption in the lives of children and students.
- Demographic [race, gender and age] disparities in coronavirus cases and deaths.
- The implication of stock market declines for retirement planning and old age support.
- Changes in levels of environmental pollution, energy consumption, and particular matter.
- Changes in criminal justice and law enforcement policies to limit the spread of COVID-19.

This article sheds some light on what sociology in general and epidemics sociology in particular has to

say about pandemics and emerging infectious diseases, like the coronavirus, at a time when some would claim this topic to be the increasingly exclusive terrain of microbiologists and practitioners in public health. Societies worldwide are caught up for the times being in an extraordinary emotional mailstrom which seems, at least for a time, to be beyond anyone's immediate content. At the very beginning of this new epidemic when so much was unknown, and the virus was confined to the wuhan province in China, there was in people's imagination the prospect in that it might or might not reach our shore. The epidemic of fear in this regard is also an epidemic of anxiety and suspicion. There is fear that he/she might catch the virus and suspicion that may already have it/might pass it on.

As the number of confirmed cases of illness started to spike. As did public anxiety which is carely fullled by a feeling of powerlessness and vulnerability. A second characteristic of fear this epidemic disease seems to be the obsession with new habit of frequent washing hands and keeping the distance from others to avoid sneezing and caughing. There is also the sudden interruption in social empathy that usually comes through shaking hands. All this keeps the person overwhelmed with the newly emerging responses and also obsessive of germs that goes beyond a concern with cleanness. People start developing a compulsive fear that the virus may be transmitted through my number of different routes. As the virus kept encroaching and abreading people became more anxious about it and when it personally touch their lives. A third striking features, closely linked to the two above is the way that fear and suspicion becomes wholly separate from the reality of the epidemic when the psychology of rumours and social media's false news start playing a role. The media false news can take different matters to the human mind. The people have their rational mind but they also have a more primitive, gut reaction where and when the herd instinct kicks in and where people suspend judgement and start doing what everyone else is doing. So, this coronavirus [COVID-19] affects so much in the society.

**-K.LALSANGPUH
BA 2ND SEMESTER**

BAGHJAN OIL WELL TRAGEDY



The blowout at an oil well near Baghjan village in Assam took a turn on June 9 with a major fire outbreak at the well. For almost two weeks, the people living in Baghjan and nearby villages have been facing the impacts of the blowout – an uncontrolled release of gas – from an oil-producing well under Baghjan oilfield, operated by the public sector unit Oil India Limited (OIL). The impact of the fire was particularly severe on the residents of Baghjan village, located around one kilometre from the site, who were already living in a relief camp following the blowout on May 27, amid ongoing COVID-19 restrictions as well. According to one of the residents, Satyajeet Moran, “People of our village now had to evacuate the relief camp set up in the village school and go and seek shelter at Jokaimukh village, which is 12 km away from here. After the blowout, this fire has completely finished our village. Many houses were burnt along with widespread damage to property.” OIL released a statement saying that the well caught fire while the clearing operation was on at the well site. While the initial statement reported no casualties, on the morning of Wednesday, June 10, bodies of two fire-fighters, both of whom were employees of OIL were recovered from a pond near the site by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The firefighters have been identified as Tikheswar Gohain and Durlov Gogoi, both of whom were missing since Tuesday evening after the fire broke out.

The fire has also aggravated the environmental impact of the blowout, with the site of the well less than a kilometre from the Dibru Saikhowa National Park (DSNP) and only 500 metres from the wetland Maguri-Motapung Beel, an Important Bird Area (IBA). Naturalist Anwaruddin Choudhury came down heavily on OIL, saying that the public sector unit's lack of expertise and incapability has pushed Maguri Beel to the brink of death. "Today's fire has completely destroyed Maguri Beel. It is a massive loss. We don't know how many years it will take to revive Maguri. So many birds, reptiles, fishes which were the lifeline of Maguri have vanished. There was a herd of wild buffaloes seen regularly in Maguri. Even they are nowhere to be seen since the last few days. They couldn't control the well in Baghjan and now if they start drilling in DSNP, it will be all over. They can't justify mining in DSNP." Last month, OIL received environment clearance from the Ministry of Forest and Environment & Climate Change (MoEFCC) to carry out drilling and testing of hydrocarbons in seven locations under Dibru Saikhowa National Park, which locals and environmental activists have been protesting.



The blowout happened while workover operations were going to produce gas from new sand (oil and gas-bearing reservoir) at a depth of 3729 metres. The oil well, which has been operational since 2005, was producing around 100,000 (1 lakh) Standard Cubic Metre per day (SCMD) of gas from a depth of 3870 metres. More than 2500 people from 1610 families were evacuated from the affected areas and stationed at relief camps set up at Baghjan Dighultarrang M.E School, St. Joseph School- Baghjan Tea Estate, Gateline LP School, Dighultarrang and No.1 Baghjan L.P School, said a statement from OIL. Meanwhile, OIL has

also declared an area of 1.5 km around the gas well as a safety zone, where entry is prohibited. While Baghjan has been the most affected by the blowout due to its proximity to the well, villages located further downstream like Notungaon, Milanpur, Hatibagh, Bebejia and Barekuri have also suffered. Droplets of condensate (which is the residue from gas condensing after coming in contact with water) have reportedly spread up to a radius of 5 km, falling on trees, tea gardens, grasslands, water bodies, and on the roofs of houses.

On World Environment Day on June 5, hundreds of local villagers gathered to protest against the damage caused by the blowout and demanded compensation. On June 6 2020, OIL authorities passed a statement announcing that an amount of Rs. 30,000 will be provided to each of the impacted families as immediate relief after a tripartite meeting with the district administration and Baghjan Gaon Milanjyoti Yuva Sangha. However, there is no clarity on whether the list of beneficiaries will include affected people from the downstream villages. The ill-effects of the blowout are not just limited to health hazards. The locals are claiming that this incident will severely affect their livelihood as well. Agriculture, fishing and animal rearing are the main occupation of most people in this area. But now because of the oil spill, agricultural land will become infertile and no farming will be possible for many years. Also, fishes and domestic animals are dying in large numbers because oil has contaminated grasslands and water bodies. Condensate contains hundreds of chemical compounds, many of which are highly toxic and carcinogenic in nature. If the soil in nearby areas is contaminated by condensate, its fertility will be surely affected. However, to know the extent of the contamination, a proper study needs to take place. The fertility of such land can be regained by decomposition of hydrocarbon by using technology but it is a costly process. In the natural course, it might take a long time.

**-PRITIREKHA DEKA
BA 2ND SEMESTER**



COVID- 19 AND ITS IMPACT ON STUDENT LIFE

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since a long time. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 as students are and the youth are the most important human resource of any country and students with their daily travel have the highest chances of getting the virus and spreading it with rapid pace.

Students in their final year of their graduation are the worst sufferers of this virus and they are unsure of the uncertainty of the duration of the virus and about what the future holds for them. As these students are pretty much unsure of when they might have their examinations, if any is to be held in the future. This virus has also led to an eventual year loss of the students as student with backlogs see a dark future beside them and time is passing on like a sand glass glass with not much time left to compete in this very competitive world

School and college closures impact not only students, teachers, and families, but have far reaching economic and societal consequences. School and college closures in response to the pandemic have shed light on various social and economic issues,

including student debt, digital learning, food insecurity, and homelessness, as well as access to childcare, health care, housing, internet, and disability services. The impact was more severe for disadvantaged children and their families, causing interrupted learning. In India itself many poor students who don't have access to internet are missing their all important education, as knowledge and education is their only way out of this poverty. Moreover many students who go to other states to study and barely make out a living there, have to pay rent to their landlords even if they are not residing there, creating a overall financial crisis for their families during this pandemic.

Assignments are given to students as a daily activity, which is a great way of learning maintaining social distancing, but the question is how much is it helping the students in which we are living in generation where it has been very common that students are machines and no importance is given to knowledge gaining rather than producing finish products in form of assignments. In a pandemic where life is full of uncertainty students are been fed on assignments.



What about the students who don't mug up things as important to knowledge gaining over than some daily exercises? Well assignments do help in the punctuality and overall development of a student but has anyone asked the mental state of a student when they are being deadlines of an assignment before teaching them why these social distancing measures and online education is practiced.

Students must first be taught how much importance online classes are only then they might take it seriously and many are just pretending to attend the classes. This overall impacts the educational growth among the students. Making everything about marks creates a sense of unwanted competition during the time of uncertainty where death is nearby. Instead of giving deadlines students are taught about how these assignments are going to help them. A track of syllabus should be kept as many students are not even sure when their syllabus is getting completed.

The poor student with lack of internet are not only missing assignment deadlines but also it creates a sense of social distancing in the form of social inequality where they might be suffering from inferiority complex due to less availability of the necessary commodities of online education. Thus I would like to conclude here that online education is only perfect and can only be used as an alternative when everyone has the access to it and understands its value otherwise it's of no use. Government should look after the poor students during the tragic days and take some drastic measure.

Promotion of students on the basis of home assignments and previous year results is a complete slap to those hard working students who might have a bad semester and has now no alternative to increase their marks in this competitive world of numbers.

- **JITMITRA KASHYAP**
BA 4TH SEMESTER

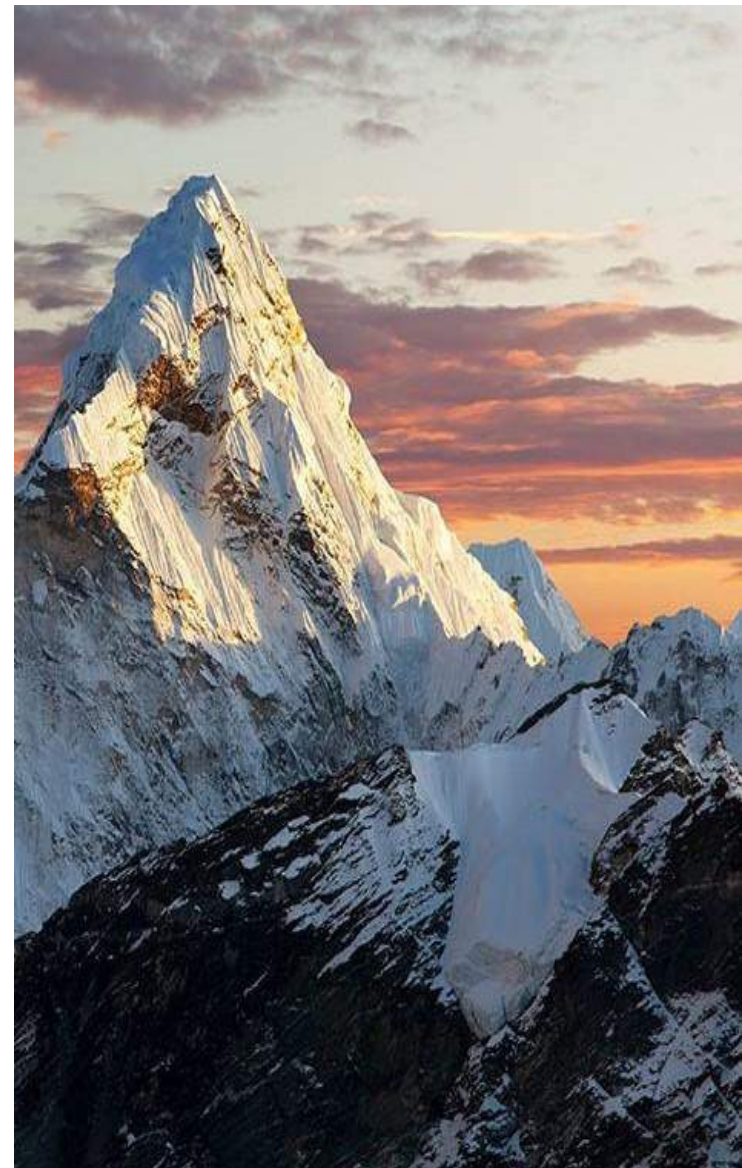


POEMS & STORY



TOP OF THE WORLD

I was the one, who was very new there,
It aroused a different feeling
An atmosphere of love, friendship of joy;
Sports, music, entertainment all around,
Fresh air, in the outskirts of the city
Filled my mind with glee!
And then, came the time for me
To be friendly with the new company
I fully got engaged in this wonderful world,
With freedom and joy all around me!
Happily, I flew high in the sky that day;
I felt like I was on the top of the world
Then, slowly and very steadily
I decided to choose my own friend circle,



Because without friends, one's life is not complete
And these friends of mine became my help, support and strength for me.
And this love, friendship, support and beautiful surroundings,
Were found in my own dear school!
I am very thankful to the Almighty as He has given me such a place,
To learn all the good lessons of life that would help me become
A great person one day, and that day,
I will not only feel from my heart
But I will say proudly-
"I am on the top of the world".

- PRATIKA GOSWAMI
BA 2ND SEMESTER

AT THE END OF THE DAY

End- and be- any, make ends hour, at the end
on my haze, elf's well
that ends well, at a fair end , an ends as itself ,
any good must come to
an end , tie is loose ends , end on the line ,
defanging on the end, end
as sight , coming to a man end, end as took,
hour a terrible end, to
end on the ticks, team end, on the semiotics
end , light at the end of
the tunnel , choking both ends does the end
justify the bound ,



short end on the brand, know which end is is ,
now- end, toss- end ,
you haven't heard the end on it, follow me to
the ends.

-RAJOSHREE DEY
BA 2ND SEMESTER

THE WORLD WAITS

Behind closed gates,
The world waits-
The looming threat of death
Is not poetic for the sick
While the healthy are not wealthy.
Sweating under the white-coats,
Seekers of the antidote.
The prefix Dr. is coveted no more
But you can't leave the fore;
Not just for one nation like soldiers,
The whole world on your shoulders.
Of the diseased and the deceased,
The numbers increase
And today's cloud has no silver lining,
Has the sun stopped shining?
The machinery halts
With mixed results.
But we must look at the bright side,
Right?



Dust settles on the pavements,
But footsteps rattle the basements.

Maybe tomorrow,
The lining will show
And so the world waits
Behind closed gates

-CHONGNUNMAWI L KEIVOM
MA 2ND SEMESTER



FRAGMENTED STORIES

'Hi.' An unfamiliar voice called out to me as I was struggling to gather my already dried clothes on that windy day.

'Hey.' I replied. Though with a very clumsy tone without making eye contact.

He was my neighbor in the same apartment. We never really talked. Much.

'So how was your day?' he asked. He seemed too calm to interpret what exactly he had on his mind which was basically very much awkward for me.

May be he knew much more about me than I imagined. Or may be he's one of those creepy stalkers who ultimately serves as a psycho lover whom you can't resist because of various reasons...I muttered to myself.

'Fine fine. Not that great though. You were from which floor exactly?' I asked with a fake curiosity with one eyebrow lifted up like those in the satirical detective movies, well just to stretch the conversation. I just needed some fistful distraction due to some unfortunate events that took place in my nowhere perfect life. I just needed some fistful distraction due to some unfortunate events that took place in my nowhere perfect life.

‘Okay. Third floor dear. You just visited my home yesterday and my mother opened the door for you remember anything? Well leave it. Mind if I ask you something?’ Raj paused with a cautious look on his face which was the most cutest thing I have encountered in awhile. I was a bit scared though, with some never ending questions entwining inside my small brain. Had he seen me crying ? Or does he know I smoke here on the terrace. Or worse, the whole society knows I smoke. My heart pounded with anxiety.

‘No, don’t.’ My heart wanted to say this.

‘Yeah, go on.’ My mind however hammered out my heart and won over it.

‘Would you mind going on a date with me?’ What? Is this guy serious? I was about to get a heart attack from his stupid question and hell mean we hardly talked for what? Like 5 minutes- My inner self spoke to me...Again

‘No. who are you? Shakti Arora?’ Again my heart wanted to say it out loud (and just to cut it short, Shakti Arora is my all time favourite soap opera actor whom I have been crushing on for like forever).

But instead.... I said.

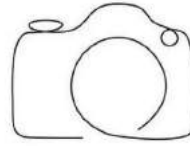
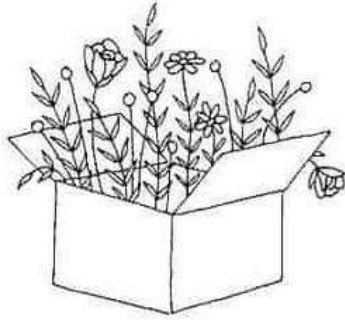
‘Sure! I’d love to.’ (with a very affiliative smile)

What the hell am I upto man? Well clearly I am not this person, ready to go on a date with just anybody. And this guy seriously? I have rejected him for what..... like everytime.

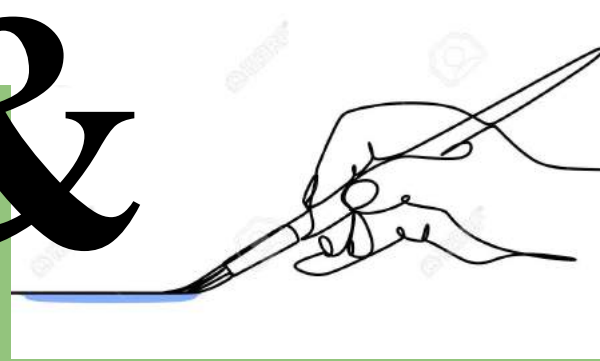
Only until now.....

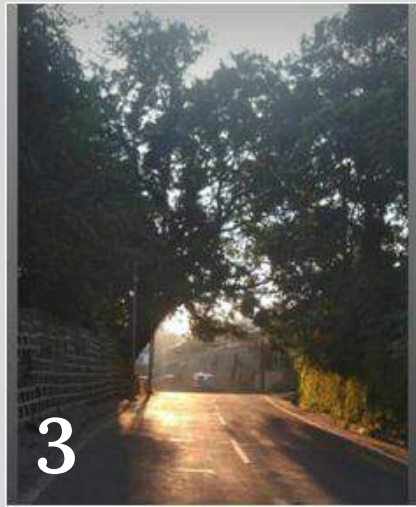
To be continued

**-SHINY BHARADWAJ
MA 2ND SEMESTER**



PAINTINGS & PHOTOGRAPHY





2 ROGUE CIEL





(1 & 6) Photography by **BORNA TUMUNG** (BA 2ND SEM)

(2) Photography by **JIRBON TOKBIPI** (BA 2ND SEM)

(3,4 & 5) Photography by **CHONGNUNMAWI L KEIVOM** (MA 2ND SEM)

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(7) Painting by **SHINY BHARADWAJ** (MA 2ND SEM)

(8) Painting by **JIRBON TOKBIPI** (BA 2ND SEM)

(9) Poster made by **PUJA KALITA** (MA 2ND SEM)

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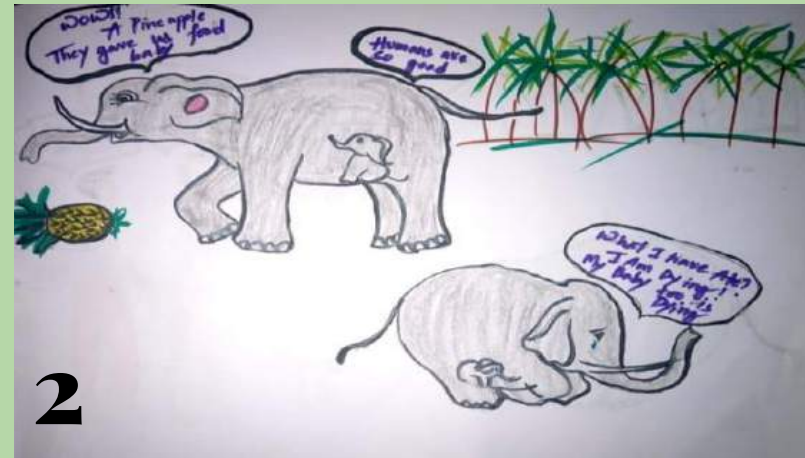


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PADMA NAMA
BA 4TH SEMESTER



Myths and facts about COVID'19

By the declaration of COVID'19 being a pandemic by WHO and around 129 confirmed cases in India out of 182560 cases reported worldwide, a panic within people has been generated with lots of myths that revolve currently through social media and common public leading to misbeliefs trying to calm the chaos but causing to worsen the situation instead. Here are some common myths that revolve around the scenario of COVID'19 and facts that need to be known.

Myth 1: Corona virus is manmade.

Fact: Some sources suggest that the virus SARS-COV-2 was designed in laboratories of China and the pandemic is due to its leak by mistake. While some sources say that as the virus outbreak has occurred at the time of tension between some countries, the outbreak could be strategic. But the research claims otherwise. The SARS-COV-2 is a virus that has been transmitted from a bat soup which was consumed by a human in China and got transmitted gradually to other individuals and it also closely resembles the two viruses MERS-COV and SARS-COV which are also found in bat.

Myth2: It is not safe to receive a package from China.

Fact: The corona virus cannot live for long on surfaces of paper cardboard or other material used for packaging. So till the time you will receive your delivery, you will receive dead and unharmed virus with it.

Myth 3: Spraying alcohol on body can cure corona.

Fact: As mentioned earlier, the corona virus affects after entering inside the body, so spraying your body with alcohol won't help. But you should use alcohol or chlorine based sanitizers to keep your hands clean, as virus can spread if it is present on your hand and you touch your nose or mouth. Spraying alcohol can prevent corona but cannot cure it if already inside.

Myth 4: Antibiotics are effective against the virus

Fact: Antibiotics are effective against bacteria. SARS-COV-2 being a virus, is resistant to antibiotics. Some cases of corona virus attack have been treated but according to sources, the drug regime followed by the doctors were antiviral drugs like ritonavir which is antiviral drug used in the treatment for HIV among several others.

**-BOMIN BORANG
BA 2ND SEMESTER**

SOME MEMORABLE

MOMENTS

TO BE CHERISHED









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