

### Life Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 broke out in 2019 but had been declared a pandemic early in 2020. This affected me mostly when the time the college had possibilities of changing the curriculum online. Since I am international student, I had to look into the possibilities of travelling back home. I soon had to take a flight to fly back home among the scares of the virus. I had to be extremely careful while traveling especially in maintaining hygiene. After I returned home, I had to be in quarantine for two weeks in my room. For me, and others, the main concern would be the change in course format. With everything online, I had to complete all my work according to the deadlines and as per the time difference. It has certainly become tough for me to follow the lectures, study and complete my work. Moreover, I believe that the benefit of face-to-face learning can never be outdone by virtual learning.

During this time of “social distancing”, I have mainly been keeping touch my friends and family through social media, video and voice calls. I don't think that there is anything particular I would want people to know about me but in future people should certainly know about this time and the devastating effect it has had on people, especially the affected and doctors. In my community the poor and daily-wage earners are the worst hit as there is no source of income for them now. Even though the government is taking measures to ease the situation it hasn't helped all of them on a large scale. On a broader basis, I have been seeing incidents of racism and discrimination towards Asian communities which I feel is not correct. The virus is not a result of the common people belonging to a community.

Overall, I feel the pandemic has taken a toll on the entire world. On one hand the social distancing and isolation has helped the environment but the humans are poorly affected and helpless.