

YOcee | EBook | Issue 3

CREATORS

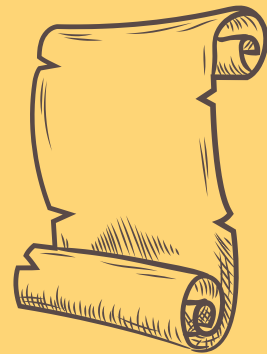
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A note from the team

Creating the third issue of YOCee's second Write Track has taught the four of us an important life skill - the skill of working together as a team and completing a task fruitfully. With surprises popping unexpectedly at every step and creative discussions taking place throughout, this short journey of ours has turned out to be an unforgettable one.

Our regular virtual meetings have allowed us to know each other better, and have given us an opportunity to read amazing works of budding writers. Making this EBook has also given us a lot of valuable experience on content creation using various digital platforms.

With great amounts of effort put in, we present to you - The Write Track: Season 2 - EBook 3



Fighting the Pandemic

- THANUSHRI MOHAN

At the start of this pandemic, my family and I did not take any preventive measures against COVID as all of us had high hopes that this pandemic will end soon. Day by day our hopes faded and we began to take very simple precautions such as wearing a mask. We did not get a hang of this new normal so we couldn't adapt to it quickly. Sometimes we forget our masks while going out or eat without washing hands and etc.



After hearing dreadful news on radios and news channels fear pierced our hearts. We got jerked and opened our eyes properly. There is a saying called 'Survival of the fittest', this tiny little phrase makes a lot of sense these days. People who can adapt, bend and adjust can survive this pandemic. We started taking precautions religiously until today we still take precautions.

12 months passed, and now Tamil Nadu is battling against the second wave of COVID 19. Doctors, nurses, hospital workers, policemen and government officials are really working hard to protect people from this pandemic.

We people should understand the seriousness of this COVID and act appropriately by taking preventive measures properly to protect our future generation.

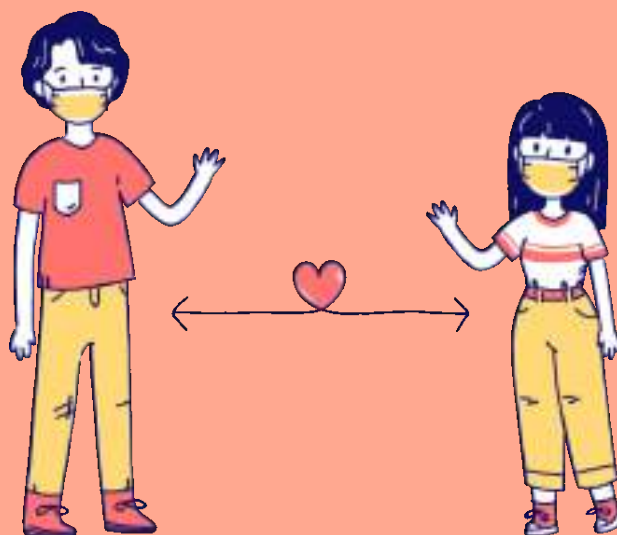
Here are a few precautions that OUR family is taking against COVID.

- Gurgling hot water mixed with rock salt, turmeric powder and cloves.
- Bathing only in hot water.
- Drinking pepper/turmeric milk.
- Steaming for about 3 min thrice a day.
- Wearing double masks while going out if necessary.
- Rinsing newly brought veggies into water mixed with rock salt & turmeric powder.
- Avoiding AC.
- Avoid going out unnecessarily.
- Adding more veggies to our daily food to boost our immunity.
- Maintain 6 feet distance and wear a mask while talking to outsiders.



Does your family follow the same precautions or is it different?

Together, WE can fight the pandemic.



Emojis or words

- SANJITHA S

There used to be a time where conversations with our near and dear ones took place only over the phone. It seems forever ago, but I remember the 'little me' calling my friends during summer vacations and whiling away an hour or so chatting, joking and laughing. Of course, in the process, we also ended up giving our parents a heart attack when they take a look at the call cost as you know, the unlimited talk time offer was not very popular then. Anyway, that's a different story.

Nowadays, thanks to all the free messaging apps like WhatsApp, Instagram, Hangouts, etc., all the telephonic chit-chats have now been converted into text messages. That's all good, but texts do not convey our emotions to the receivers. For example, there was an instance a long while back where I teasingly sent a message to my friend. Or so I thought. My friend misinterpreted the text and got slightly offended. Such misconceptions surely are bound to happen because texts do not have a tone. What to do to avoid all that? Lo and behold! Here, our emoji friends come to the rescue.

Emojis are basically facial expressions and actions. So, the receivers can easily make out whether the text had been set in a curt tone or a joking one and so on. I would definitely say emoticons are my life-savers (or should I say friendship-savers?) as there won't be any silly fights between my friends over a simple misunderstood message. Also, they somehow add life to the text as they stand out with their vibrant colours.

At the same time, I am totally against conversations that purely consist of emojis. How would a person develop his vocabulary and communication skills by using only emoticons and not words!

In a nutshell, I personally feel that text messages must contain words as well as emojis 😊

INEXPENSIVE, BUT VALUABLE

- MAITREYI ARAVINDAN

Some things are very costly which you will want as it may be beautiful. But, everyone will have something/things that is/are not costly at all or you don't have to pay for. It can simply range from a special stone someone gifted you to something you made or have that makes you happy.

I too have things like that, I would love to tell you about them starting from my childhood!

1. My favourite toys when I was a kid:

I got this toy when I was small, probably when I was 2 years old. I used to love it so much that where ever my family and me went for trips to resorts, I always took that toy to remind me of home. If I got scared, I used to give it a big cuddle and sleep which made me feel better. As I have mentioned, I have another set of 4 toys. They are alien toys, their names are – Fear, Joy, Anger and Chilly. Before I didn't know that they were aliens and so I called them as "Maltcut". Even now, when I feel stressed or bored, I play with them.

2. My parents' and grandma's love:

I will always cherish the love I get from my parents and grandmother, as I love them the most. When they hug me or praise me for something, I feel like I have done something marvelous. My grandmother is the best! She has taught me so many shlokas, including the Vishnu Sahasranama, and has told me stories. She even plays with me when I am bored!

3. My white stone (it is actually a beautiful bead):

When I was just five years old, I was playing in our apartment park, where I found this beautiful and gorgeous bead, which was white in colour and was shaped like a triangle. I loved this little treasure and ever since I have had it with me and I haven't lost it.



4. My friends

My friends are very close to me and I love them. In our friendship, we even have animals with whom we play. Sometimes, for the smallest things, we end up having a quarrel, and within 2 mins the quarrel is over and we all come back together. Of course, this is also a part of friendship. If there are no fights and arguments, it isn't friendship. We all make surprise birthday parties for each other and have a lot of fun. We play silly pranks on each other too! We also cook together sometimes.

5. My cats' loyalty:

You all know that dogs are very loyal to their humans. But did you know that any animal can be loyal? Yes! It's true! If they all get good love and home, they all will be very loyal. My cat is very friendly and kind-hearted. It always is with me, even when I go cycling or walking in our basement. I would like to tell you an incident to support what I told you.

A few weeks ago, my friends and I were playing in our apartment corridors. After we finished playing, we all were going home. I was a bit nervous to walk in the dark and go to my block, but I went anyway. As soon as I started walking, my cat accompanied me till I was home, and then, he went to take a stroll around the apartment. Wasn't it awesome? This is also one of the things that I will always cherish in my life.

So, remember that the most beautiful things are always priceless!



DRINKING WATER - A PROFESSION?

- HUSSAIN TOPIWALA

When I learned that such an unusual profession exists, I was as stupefied and nonplussed as you will be after reading this writing.

There exists an interesting job that most of you might be unfamiliar with - the job of tasting water, determining its intrinsic properties, and rating water based on its characteristics.



Loosely called “water sommeliers”, there are a mere 112 people in the world engaged in this profession. In case you were wondering, certified courses exist for water sommeliers (just as how they exist for those wishing to become wine stewards), where an individual’s senses are trained to distinguish different types of water by their tastes, composition, nutritional benefits, origin, etc.

Ganesh Ayer is the first and only water sommelier from our country, who is the Director of Operations at Veen, a Finnish company.

We will emerge soon

- Mustafa Topiwala

Those years weren't a phase, they were a black spot in our history,
They could never be forgotten, never be expunged from our memory.
An invisible, toxic army of a gazillion soldiers took over the Earth,
We were slow to respond, but we fought for all it was worth.
Our faces masked, our hands gloved, we were caged in our concrete zoo,
While doctors, nurses, and reporters painstakingly unremembered their loved
ones' rue.
With tears hidden behind safety suits, many, oh many, only watched with
hands stretched out,
As pieces of their hearts were buried deep inside the earth and they could
only be spectators throughout.
Streets were devoid of the games, the banter, and the laughs of children-
They had grown over time, in their longing for schools to reopen.
We attempted and crashed, but did we stop trying? No, we never did.
Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, fought for each other even if the
world did forbid.
Men and women lost their jobs and everything they had ever worked for-
We were all in the same boat, the boat had set sail, but it had washed
ashore.
When we had to distance ourselves from one another,
When we couldn't hold hands and pray together,
Did we stop trying? No, we never did. We attempted and crashed, but tried
again.
All of our life's stories have unique plots, though they have flipped to the
same page today-
But we will emerge soon, look at another man's face and think,
'He was there too,' and wonder how our stories came to interlink;
We shall watch a new sunrise in the absence of a friend, parent, or brother
And still, remember we were all in this together.

Would we miss Online Classes?

- SANJITHA S

All of us miss regular schools. We crave to meet our friends and teachers in person, to have fun in the playfield and to have chit-chats in the school corridors, etc. But would we miss any part of online schooling once we get back to our 'old-normal'?



Frankly, I never pondered about this question as I was too busy pining for all the activities (like school culturals) that I would have enjoyed participating in if only there were no pandemic and we all went to schools as usual.



Now, that I think about it, I do find certain things which I would miss once we bid adieu to online schools.

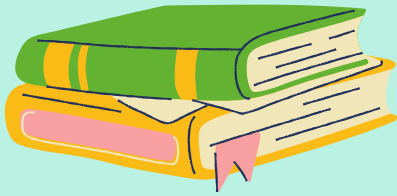
The first thing I would miss, (as silly as it may sound) is sitting cross-legged. No, I'm not kidding. For me, sitting cross-legged on a chair is hundred times more comfortable than letting my legs dangle from a school bench.

Second in the list comes recorded sessions. One big advantage of online classes is that the teachers record the meeting. So, if I didn't understand any concept, I can replay the recordings again and again until I get it. Also, if I miss out noting down any point which the teacher had dictated, I could easily look it up in the recorded video.

Lastly, I would really miss the online school timings. Normally, we have around nine periods every day and spend approximately seven hours in regular schools. However, online schools are just around four hours! Though teachers give extra assignments to keep us occupied for the rest of the day!

Trade in my physical books? No, I would not!

– Daya Lakshmi Mukundan



O R



Since I learnt how to read, I have always had a deep attachment to books. They have helped me escape into another world when our own proves a bit boring, as well as inspire me to write my own worlds. There's something about holding the pages between your hands, turning carefully so as not to tear them, and using the most random things as bookmarks (A betel nut? Sure, why not).

Reading enriches my outlook on the world and helps me see it in a different light. But physical books are rapidly being replaced by eBooks, AudioBooks, and others. The advantages of these are that they can be carried anywhere easily, can be waterproof. And you don't need to use a rubber band as a bookmark.

But many people think that physical books will never be replaced by these abominations (you didn't hear it from me). Personally, I think nothing can replace the feeling of a good old book in your hand. For one, if you buy a book, it's yours. If you buy an eBook, it's not. This is because thousands of other people have the exact same copy of that eBook. No stains from that time there was a huge plot twist. No dog-ears from your friend (who got a reprimand afterwards).

Physical books simply have some sort of unbreakable bond with their owners. They sometimes feel like they know all your troubles and sorrows. And they do smell amazing!

CURIOUS ABOUT THE SCIENCE BEHIND SKINCARE...

– MEDHA R

I would like to become an esthetician or a dermatologist when I grow up.

Estheticians are people who perform skin treatments like facials, manicures, pedicures, etc.

Dermatologists are people who are specialized in conditions involving the skin, hair, nails etc.



For about a year or two, I am showing a lot of interest in learning about skincare, skin problems and how to tackle them. There are many magic treatments that make you look young and suave. Though makeup and fashion isn't my cup of tea, I'm curious to know the science behind it, the ingredients incorporated, and its downsides.

And presently, the cosmetic industries are in vogue and are given more spotlights.

I have always been envisioning pursuing my passion and would work on a career with dedication and contentment.

And after spending a few years researching skincare, I would like to launch my own cosmetic (skincare) brand which is formulated with safe ingredients that suit any age and is vegan and cruelty-free.



Emojis

love them or hate them?

-Sthuthi Arun



Ever since Facebook and Whatsapp became a thing, we have all been pulled into texting each other more than actually speaking. Nowadays, people have become too lazy to even write. Instead, we all use emojis – fake smilies. We may not even actually be in the mood that the emoji depicts, but we still use them to punctuate our sentences.



Emojis can be unprofessional at times. I'm not saying emojis are bad and should be completely done away with, but I feel that they sort of mask our real thoughts. There's nothing a few words written from the heart can't express.

Of course, emojis can be proved to be useful to express feelings sometimes, but not always. Sometimes, words can prove to be far more effective than emojis. Writing down your thoughts can also improve creativity and vocabulary – something that emojis can never do.

I might miss a lot of now; yet I want the good days to be back

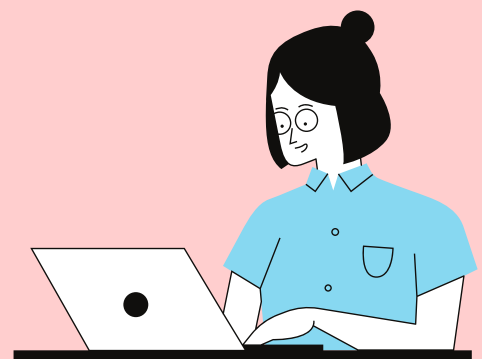
-MAITREYI ARAVINDAN

I have been waiting eagerly for corona to disappear and for schools to open. Though the online learning has had a different experience on all of us, we had to read, write and even learn only from home. Of course, I liked it very much and also enjoyed it. But, I feel going to school is better for everyone especially for the smaller classes (from Pre-Nursery to 4th grade), as it becomes too much screen time with classes and also TV. Sometimes I used to feel that my eyes are stressed and tired due to too much screen time. I go to dance and music classes which are also online in the 'new-normal'.

Even if school opens, there are few things I will definitely miss few things as I may not be able to experience this again.

ONLINE LEARNING:

Online learning while in school is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me as I will be completing school in 2 years. But we all pray for no more illness and pandemics to attack the world. So we might not get this experience again!

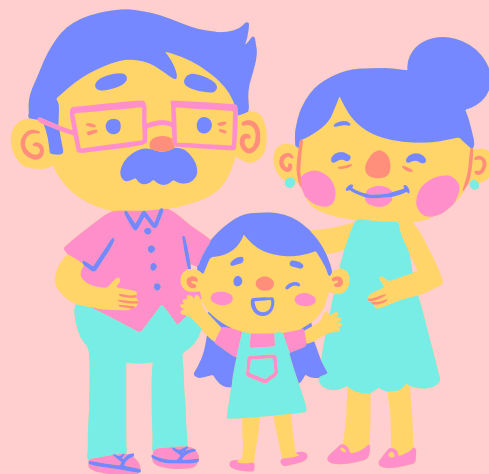


WRITING, LEARNING, AND READING FROM HOME:

This year, due to the pandemic times, we all had to do many things from home. School, offices, colleges, play, classes... everything was only from home. The main thing – studies was also from home. I will always cherish this experience forever (except the negative part as we should always think positive!).

SPENDING TIME WITH MOM, DAD AND GRANDMA, AS WELL AS FRIENDS:

My online classes always used to get over by 11 am, and so I used to finish my studies and homework by 4 pm. All my friends used to come to play by 4.30 pm and we would play till 8 pm. Once my school starts and the situation is going to be back to normal, I would come home only by 4.15 pm, and finish my studies by 7 pm. So, only on Sundays, I will be able to spend more time with my family and friends.



PLAYING WITH MY TOYS AND MY PET CAT:

When I feel bored and my family and friends are asleep, I play with my cat. But sometimes he too is asleep! Then what do I do? I have no option but to play with my toys. Sometimes if they are torn or broken, I act like a doctor and fix them! As I mentioned, I also play with my cat. He is good at running and catching games.

I run from him and he chases me and touches my leg, trying to tell “you’re caught!” and I too do the same thing to him! We have lots of fun together!



COOKING:

Cooking is one of my favourite activities! I love to cook! When my school starts, I only get weekends to cook. As I move to a higher class, I will have a lot to study and will have to concentrate on them!



Even if I am going to miss all these things, I pray for this virus to go and for all of us to live happily again!

Enjoyable punishment?

- MAITREYI ARAVINDAN

When we make mistakes in school or at home, our parents or teachers scold us or punish us if the thing we did was wrong. And has that ever happened to you? I would like to share a funny incident that happened to me in school.

It was our lunch break when we had gone to the field to play after we finished eating. There, my friend and I got into an argument. It was about who won the game. I said I won and she said she won. This was going on and on, for the entire time, we were fighting 😊!

Then it was time over! Now, you all would guess, since the break was over, we would've stopped arguing. But the teacher left us free and we were still fighting about who won the game. Then, finally, the teacher called us and asked what happened.

We told her everything and, guess what? We started the argument again in front of her! We were almost shouting at each other. Then the teacher stopped us and said she is giving us a punishment. We got frightened and stood quietly. To our surprise, the punishment was to sit next to each other for the rest of the day!

We laughed and giggled so hard. Of course, she was my best friend with whom I had the argument. We enjoyed ourselves with each other and played so much. That was quite a day! Then we forgot about the argument and continued to be friends! 😊😊

I still talk to her about this silly punishment and we enjoy thinking about it!



THE JOY OF WRITING

- DAYALAKSHMI MUKUNDAN

I like to write because it gives me a deeper understanding of my own feelings and thoughts. It irons out all the ideas that are bouncing around in my head and gives me a place to express my true self.



I like writing fantasy-fiction, because anything goes. You could have an extra hand to scratch your back, cure diseases with a flick of a wand, or control oceans with your mind. It gives me a platform to think about my most absurd ideas and helps me develop my imagination.

I like writing songs because I come from a very musical family. So I come up with simple melodies and a few lyrics to go along with them. Sometimes I even practice the chords on our piano. I also enjoy writing poems, mostly because of the nuances of rhyming and playing with syllables.

Writing takes me to another world, a world that is silly and illogical, but still rich with stories that portray who I am as a writer. No matter how many books have been written, there is always something to say. There's always something that will be unique to you in your writing.

I write because there are always words to be written into being, stories to be told, and characters to be created.



MASKS - ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

- THANUSHRI MOHAN

Social distancing, wearing masks, washing our hands, sanitising often; are important precautionary measures that we must follow to prevent COVID from affecting us. However, sometimes we fail to follow all of these simple precautions due to excitement, joy or carelessness.



Many patients with significant respiratory issues are not able to wear masks as they have a big problem while breathing. Sometimes normal people are also facing difficulties while wearing double masks. People feel pain around their ears and around their neck due to the tight grip of their masks. Occasionally people who wear double masks may get rashes in their faces too. The masks we are wearing muffle our voices and can make communication frustrating. This is true for everyone right now, but especially for people with hearing complications.

People tend to forget to take precautions like social distancing when they get excited while they meet their relatives and friends after a very long time. All of the above-listed issues and problems can stop us from taking precautions completely but we have no other way to prevent COVID. As a result, we must do the best while taking precautions.

Though we face many issues like these our life and our family members' lives are more important, so it doesn't matter if we adjust to these secondary problems. We must learn how to adjust and adapt to these tough times.

In the future when COVID cases decrease, it doesn't mean we can immediately stop taking precautions. We have to continue until the end. We as humans can fight against COVID if we coordinate work together and never give up.



Careers that interest me

- Daya Lakshmi Mukundan

At the moment, I have many careers that I would like to pursue. Since I was little, I have always wanted to make an impact in the world, to be remembered. My career options reflect that.

Firstly, I have always wanted to be an astronaut. Space and everything beyond it intrigue me more than you could imagine. I would love to contribute to the next generation's knowledge about what is beyond our planet and how it affects us.

Secondly, law is an option that has been in the back of my mind. I want to get justice for wrongly convicted people and reverse the death penalty. Discrimination rampages our legal system, based on race, colour, gender, who we love, and more. To change these things is one of my life-long goals.

The earliest career that I remember wanting to pursue is acting. I have always been told that I am a good actress, and that I express emotions well. While I would leave that for audiences to decide, I do love acting, since it helps me be a more empathetic person sometimes, by learning how to put myself in others' shoes.

Since I started writing, it has definitely been a job that I want to take up. I love learning about new people and their stories, as well as making up my own characters and worlds very different from ours.



I take vocal lessons in Hindustani classical and am an avid music fan. I come from a very musical family, which does make me think about taking up music as a career. I love how it can express your emotions without saying a single word.

I have always loved teaching. Although this isn't an option that will give me a very big platform to express myself, I love little children and their unique mindsets. It makes me think about life in a different way. A teacher is an invaluable part of one's life, and I would love to be that for someone.

Lastly, I would like to be a therapist. People need someone to help them during their darkest times and make them come out of those times loving themselves and the life that they are living.

Most of my career options offer me a large platform to help others and make the world a better place. And they will help me be remembered, whether by few or many.



DOCTOR SPEAKS: VACCINES - THEIR IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME

- SAMYUKTHA CHANDRASHEKAR

The Coronavirus has brought the whole world to a big stop! It has become the antagonist of everyone's story. Doctors, nurses, frontline workers and everyone have been striving hard to achieve a better tomorrow. Vaccines for people aged 18+ have been released and everyone in the nook and corner of the world is being vaccinated. Many thoughts about the vaccination have been going through in our minds.

Here is Dr. Major R. Ramakrishnan, sharing his views on vaccination.



Dr. Major R Ramakrishnan, MBBS, MS, DNB (ENT) is an ENT Specialist. He started his career as a general practitioner and after a year joined the Indian Army as a medical officer. Subsequently, he worked as a resident doctor in Command Air Force Hospital in Bangalore. In 2009, he joined SRM Medical College in Potheri as an assistant professor where his responsibilities included teaching medical students. He is currently a consultant and surgeon with various leading hospitals in Chennai. He has authored and co-authored a number of books and articles for medical journals and publications.

Q. WHAT IS VACCINATION?

A. Vaccination is an effective way to prevent diseases. This can be used for bacterial and viral diseases, but it is mostly used for viruses. Diphtheria is a good example of a vaccine, which is used for bacterial infection. Few vaccines are used to eradicate diseases, like small pox, measles, etc.



Q. WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION?

A. The spread of the virus was identified in December 2019. There was very minimal time to develop reliable vaccinations. There is a 5-6 stage process before the public is vaccinated.

Due to the lack of time, the tests were directly conducted on a small batch of volunteers rapidly. Normally, it takes 10-15 years to develop the vaccine. Vaccines were approved for emergency use authorization (EUA) by the DCGI (Drugs Controller General of India).

'Pfizer and Moderna' vaccines are provided in the US. In India, the citizens are being vaccinated with Covaxin and Covishield.

Covishield:

Covishield is an mRNA vaccine, which provides a dose of the spike protein.

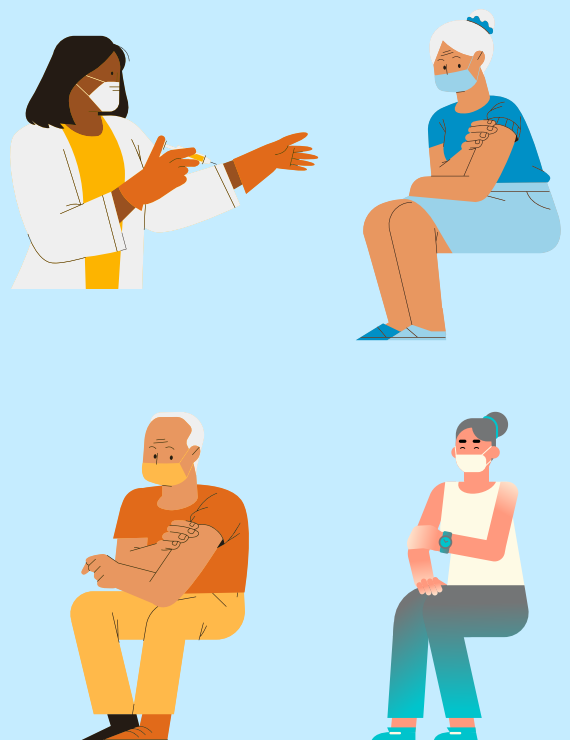
Covaxin:

Covaxin uses inactivated Coronavirus.

This is an old technology while the Covishield is a new one.

Q. WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED? WHO SHOULD AVOID IT?

A. Everyone SHOULD be vaccinated. Clear guidelines on who can/cannot be vaccinated have been released. It is safe to get vaccinated based on medical advice. Patients under long-time steroids and chemotherapy cannot be vaccinated. Consulting a physician is highly recommended.



Q. WHAT ARE THE MYTHS/FEARS OF GETTING VACCINATED?

A. 1. Worried about safety due to the 'information pandemic' and circulation of fake news. People are concerned due to the number of deaths, which are represented.
2. Few are careless and do not understand the seriousness of the current situation and do not get vaccinated. People have a common thought that they are not prone to get affected.

Q. THE THIRD WAVE AND ADOLESCENTS GETTING AFFECTED IS ONE OF THE FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED TOPICS NOW. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT DURING THE THIRD WAVE?

A. Initially during the first wave people aged 50+ were affected. In the current second wave, people aged 30 + are getting affected. I believe that children and adolescents will be vaccinated as soon as possible which will reduce the impact of the third wave. Continuing online learning and abiding by the guidelines is highly recommended to reduce the risks of school students getting affected. We would have to wait and watch to determine the intensity of the upcoming wave.

Q. FINAL THOUGHTS?

A. Every disease has four waves until it dies naturally. Unless most of the population is vaccinated, the virus is not going to die anytime soon. It is going to take time to completely eradicate this pandemic. We expect the situation to get better in the next 2 years, sometime in March 2023. We can start seeing signs of getting better around November 2021.

Q. NASAL VACCINE- WHAT IS IT AND WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT IT?

This is a very effective vaccine -The virus enters your body through the nose and throat. As the name suggests, the nasal vaccine is sprayed the same way so, it works efficiently in the body. However, there are two main challenges:

1. A delivery mechanism is needed for the drug to be sprayed
2. The nose should have the ability to absorb the provided drug.

Once these are resolved, the vaccine would become ready for use. This is a very effective way to get children vaccinated, as it is easier than the injectable vaccine. Multiple doses can be provided which is an advantage.

Vaccination to the rescue!

- SWATHI. S

Children of the 21st century are familiar with the words lockdown, pandemic and respiratory problems. More than those, other trending words among the kids are 'COVID-19' and 'Corona Virus'. The date of arrival of this infection is unknown but was reported on 31st December of 2019 as pneumonia. Later, the organism was named as COVID- 19 on 7th January of 2020. While the rest of the world was unaware of this occurrence, the affected ones flew to many countries. Thus, an endemic virus became a pandemic one. Though the virus' form has been changing every time, there were many efforts made by every country in the world to solve the crisis.

The word 'Corona' is derived from a Spanish word that means 'Crown'. As already noted, the change in the form of the virus is one of the main reasons for different waves of disease. By March 2020, several countries including the USA, Italy, Spain, Germany, China, France, Iran, UK, Switzerland and Turkey were suffering due to this widespread germ, especially with the USA facing a massive outbreak of COVID-19. Later, the positive cases decreased gradually. Since April 2020, other countries such as India, Peru, Russia and Brazil were also affected by that invisible organism.

Upon continuous discussions with the Medical Council of India, the Indian Government came up with vaccines 'Covishield' and 'Covaxin' in view of safeguarding its citizens. Foremost preference for vaccination was given to people who are more than 60 years of age, followed by people who are above 45 years old.



Measures have been taken by the Indian Government to start vaccination for the age group 18 years & older. The decision needs to be taken to commence a vaccination program for children below 18 years. Nevertheless, it is important that many people come forward to get vaccinated to prevent further spread of the disease.

Measures have been taken by the Indian Government to start vaccination for the age group 18 years & older. The decision needs to be taken to commence a vaccination program for children below 18 years. Nevertheless, it is important that many people come forward to get vaccinated to prevent further spread of the disease.

“If we are going to face a war, we must be well-fortified and be well trained to face it. Similarly, our bodies should also be ready to combat COVID. The body should be resistant enough to the external substance that enters the body. To increase the resistance, we need an armour. Such an armour is the vaccine that helps to fight against the syndrome. At least to gain temporary strength, we should be vaccinated with prescribed medicine. For example, parents are insisted to vaccinate their children below 5 years to avoid post-effects amid COVID. In the same way, the vaccine also helps us to increase the antibodies and fight the pathogen”, says Mr. Sundar, a Chennai- based engineer working in an automotive company.



“People should be made aware of the situation and help everyone to be inoculated. The person who is waiting to be vaccinated at the centre, is checked for illnesses such as diabetes, blood pressure, and other health conditions. Then the person is provided with the injection and advised to be seated in the hospital for about half an hour in order to observe if the person has any post-vaccination effects such as headache dizziness, fever or body pain. If the person’s condition is normal, then a tablet which helps to reduce the temperature during fever is provided”, says Mrs. Sivakami, a retired nursing superintendent from Government Hospital, Periyar Nagar.

Below are some of the precautionary measures to be followed even if a person is vaccinated.

- Social Distancing (at least 2 metres)
- Wearing mask (preferable: triple-layer mask or double mask)
- Frequent hand sanitization
- Home quarantine (if found with any symptoms)
- Avoid long-distance travelling

This is a time period that is very tough but not a situation that would persist permanently. It is evident that people who follow methods of maintaining good health possess a good immune system. This has undoubtedly provoked the thought process to do a re-engineering for better living. Overall, this rampant problem has taught a lesson to us to lead healthy and hygienic lives.



Priceless Valuables

- MEDHA R

An item you have that isn't expensive but means a lot to you
The dictionary!
Dictionary is such a prized possession for me. That's the only object which never fails to amaze me no matter how small it is. The popular price in which they sell for giving an ample of information is amazeballs.

It's such a treasure to me that I always have the dictionary beside me wherever I go. Once I forgot to take it with me and it was such an onerous task to find the meanings of the words. Though online dictionaries are available I always resort to the printed ones.

Are valuable things always expensive ?



ONLINE LEARNING LEFT US WITH TIME TO PURSUE NEW HOBBIES

- STHUTHI ARUN

Since March 2020, the kind of school we are all accustomed to has gone forever. The pandemic has greatly impacted the educational field. There is an extremely low chance of us ever returning to school.

But, it's not all bad, is it?



We now have plenty of time to do other things, study, and explore other new hobbies that might not have been possible before. Online classes are just about four hours compared to the usual eight hours we had during pre-pandemic times. Plenty of time is saved on travel, expenses, etc. All we need is a good device and a strong internet connection. And a comfortable room, of course.

The only thing that would've made this experience better would be our classmates. It's been more than a year since I have interacted with my classmates. We only WhatsApp each other, but it can never be the same.

Otherwise, We have really adapted to the online platform. Undoubtedly, education will go on like this for the next few years, but it will certainly be missed when the pandemic finally ends

EMOJIS - HOW THEY CAME TO BE

- Shalini Ramesh

Messaging apps revolutionized communication.

From letters passed on by pigeons, to morse code, to telegrams, to telephones, and now apps – Humans have found innovative ways to pass along information. Now, we don't have to wait for hours for messages in morse code to be decoded. All it takes is reaching out to your night stand, picking up your phone, couple of taps, and voila! Now, you can tell your friend on the other side of the world 'Happy Birthday!'.



In the late nineties, Shigetaka Kurita invented something that change the whole game. He created a set of 176 characters that represented real-life emotions and expressions on 12*12 pixels for Japan's leading phone operator – Docomo. Emojis were born. The word itself is a of Japanese origin meaning 'Pictogram'.

Later, in the year 2009, Apple engineers Yasuo Kida and Peter Edberg submitted a proposal to create 625 new emoji characters into the Unicode Standard. The proposal was accepted in 2010, which made emojis accessible to everyone!

The cute little icons helped us get our message across, without having to bother with lines and lines of text. As times change and develop, so are our emojis! We now have emoticons to represent social distancing, wear your mask, and more! The iconic yellow faces now have multiple skin colour options, to include people from different backgrounds in on the fun!

If the dizzying array of emojis don't make you, well dizzy – this will! Different generations have their own interpretations of the iconic little circles. Millennials may think that the skull emoji represents death, or doom, Gen Z interpret that as 'I'm dying of laughter'!

One thing we can ALL agree on, is that these emojis have made our lives easier. Texts are much more engaging, personal, and shorter – than they ever been.

You could have an extra hand to scratch your back, cure diseases with a flick of a wand, or control oceans with your mind.

How would a person develop his vocabulary and communication skills by using only emoticons and not words!

“Together, WE can fight the pandemic”

Our faces masked, our hands gloved, we were caged in our concrete zoo,

Lo and behold! Here, our emoji friends come to the rescue.

There exists an interesting job that most of you might be unfamiliar with...

Writing down your thoughts can also improve creativity and vocabulary - something that emojis can never do.

There's something about holding the pages between your hands, turning carefully so as not to tear them, and using the most random things as bookmarks

Would we miss any part of online schooling once we get back to our 'old-normal'?



The most beautiful things are always priceless!

An invisible, toxic army of a gazillion soldiers took over the Earth,

This is a time period that is very tough but not a situation that would persist permanently.