

From the Editor's Desk....

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The Guru of all Gurus – Covid 2019

Come March 2020 and Indians had their first experience with what is a 'lockdown'. For all of us it was a first in our lives and most felt that 15-30 days was what it would take to get over with it. Data and statistics claimed otherwise ... but as human psychology goes, one thought that surely it could not be so bad.

The lockdown, besides commencing a gamut of new experiences also opened up new opportunities in many areas. Education featured prime. Here, it is not my intent to discuss how schools and educational institutions re-structured their delivery and got on with teaching. It was suddenly as if the world had opened up and one could sit at home and listen to a lecture in Harvard University, attend WHO workshops, participate in group discussion with experts and receive certificates for online participation. The world of learning, teaching, listening was not merely at our doorsteps but literally in our drawing rooms and bedrooms.

When the positives of this new experience are considered, indeed the world has shrunk further and everyone is suddenly more available, albeit virtually. Evidently, this was not a new technology which emerged with the virus. It was there, but not explored, used and utilized to its fullest potential. So, Guru Covid has taught netizens and non-netizens to develop an almost inseparable relationship with their electronic gadgets. Most of us are spending evenings listening to webinars and attending workshops. Suddenly, everyone is a speaker, an expert. But then, are they? Here, is it not a prerequisite to be analytical about the information received by us from anyone delivering a lecture. Sharing knowledge is good... but one does need to consider the person, the qualification and the experience of the speaker. Given the influx of webinars invading our personal lives and time, it would be prudent to scrutinize and filter what we are listening to and more importantly who we are listening to. For healthcare professionals, whose lives became busier during the lockdown, and now dealing with the effects of the pandemic, the necessity to obtain knowledge from credible sources is imperative and a de rigueur.

To sum up, it's good to listen to experts which Covid guru has taught us to do. However, there is no replacement to reading journals and research in academia and research. I hope this issue of the JSIP will be of interest to readers in pursuit of new knowledge and ideas in clinical practice.

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