

Lockdown Diaries

The year 2020 started on a good note for me. School was fun during the months of January and February. Exams began early March. School shut for an early summer vacation on 16 March 2020. I came to know from my sister about a new virus spreading all over India. Slowly newspapers and T.V. channels spoke about the new virus which spread all over the world including India. I came to know that the virus started in China in end December 2019. This virus spread from person to person traveling from one country to another. This virus was given a name called Covid 19.

People in India were infected and cases kept increasing day by day. On March 22, 2020 PM Modi informed the people through news channels about the growing cases of corona virus and told the people to stay home and stay safe. PM Modi announced one day Janta curfew on March 22 and in the lockdown people were asked not to go out. I was not allowed to go out of house. I was stuck at home with my family, my sister was working from home and my mother was at home too. She couldn't go to office. We were all very bored indoors as we had nothing to do to pass most of our time. I would either watch TV or movies on Netflix. On some days I would practice yoga which Swati ma'am had asked us to do. On some days I would practice typing. But after few days I got bored of it. I wanted to go down for a stroll or to the near by shop to buy things. Since there were active cases in my area my family didn't allow. Every morning I used to wake up with a hope that the virus would end all the world would be fine.

My birthday was soon approaching and I was sad that I couldn't celebrate it the way I wanted to. I couldn't go out with my family for lunch or dinner. But my family made sure I enjoyed my day. We ordered Chinese for lunch and pizza for dinner. My sister's best friend who stays in the same area had come home for dinner. We decorated the house with a Happy Birthday banner which my sister's friend had got for me. We had a fun evening chatting and celebrating my birthday, making it the best quarantine memory. Then came Easter, which is one of the main celebrations for us Christians. Every year I used to go to church with my family for the Easter service, but this year we had the church services online on youtube. I was looking forward for my aunt to come to India but international flights were banned.

Sometimes in the evenings me and my friends Yashit and Aryaman used to connect on whatsapp video call and talk. At times we would also add our ex pre voc teacher Laura miss to the call and talk to her. My friends Nikunj and Dhruval also would call and we would all talk on video call. There used to be some days where my sister and me would try out dishes like pani puri, sev puri, chocolate mousse, oreo mug cake, custard and more as a lockdown treat for us at home.

I was eagerly waiting for school to start so I could meet my friends and teachers. We were told by the teachers that we would have virtual school for few months till the government of India would allow schools to reopen. We had started online schooling from 10 June from 9:30am to 12:30pm. every day was a new experience for us to learn on the laptop and seeking Notes and home work from google classroom. Every day in the morning we would wake up early to keep

everything ready for school on our own. I would keep my laptop and books ready to join the call on time. The teachers would give us a break during class. Virtual school does not feel the same like it would be going to school and meeting everyone in person. I miss the school breaks where me and my friends would sit together for snacks and lunch. I miss games class where Rajashree miss would take us to play some indoor and outdoor games. Before I would go with some of my classmates every Tuesday for swimming, but now we cannot go. I miss the school bus ride on my way home after school. It used to all be fun.

I hope that the virus ends soon from the world and everything would get back to normal. I can start going to school once again and go meet my relatives and go out with my family on weekends. My dad and my aunt can then travel back to India and come meet us. We could then celebrate all the upcoming festivals together as a family.