Hyderabad Karnataka Librarians' Association

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Lockdown Period on Colleges and the Librarian's Role

Prakash B Waghmare
Government First Grade College, Manhalli
vagmare@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The whole country is lockdown due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) during beginning of 2020 and all the universities and colleges are shutdown. All officials and employees are informed to work from home and also suggested what can be done from home. The present paper emphasis on impact of lockdown period on academic and non-academic activities of colleges, students and faculties. The author elaborated what a librarian can do from home on online social media to get or informed and upgrade to its user community further, author furnished the impact of lockdown on routine library works.

Keywords: Best Practices; Colleges, Coronavirus, Covid-19, Information Services; Librarian; Lockdown period

1. INTRODUCTION

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) are two highly transmissible and pathogenic viruses that emerged in humans at the beginning of the 21st century. These Both viruses likely originated in bats, and genetically diverse coronaviruses that are related to SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV were discovered in bats worldwide (Cui, Li, & Shi, 2019). In December 2019, a novel coronavirus pneumonia was emerged in Wuhan, China. Since then, this highly contagious coronavirus has been spreading worldwide (Kooraki, Hosseiny, Myers, & Gholamrezanezhad, 2020) and recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19 (GOI, 2020).

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty in breathing. People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These

droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets (GOI, 2020).

2. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) LOCKDOWN PERIOD

The dictionary definition of lockdown is a security measure taken during an emergency to prevent people from leaving or entering a building (Dictionary.com). In India on the view of Coronavirus coivd-19 The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announces like this, "In the last two days, several parts of the country have been put under lockdown. These efforts by State Governments should be taken with utmost sincerity. In light of health sector experts and experiences of other countries, the nation is taking a very important decision today. From midnight tonight onwards, the entire country, please listen carefully, the entire country shall go under complete lockdown. In order to protect the country, and each of its citizens, from midnight tonight, a full ban is being imposed on people from stepping out of their homes. All the States in the country, all the Union Territories, each district, each municipality, each village, each locality is being put under lockdown. This is like a curfew only" (Modi, 2020). It will be taken very seriously on the basis of situation for instance Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said 'shoot-at-sight' order will be issued if people don't follow lockdown orders that have been imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus (India, 2020). Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte warns against violating coronavirus lockdown shoot dead anyone "who creates trouble" during a month-long lockdown (News, 2020).

3. IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) LOCKDOWN PERIOD ON COLLEGES

Government of India, MHRD and Department of Higher Education has directed to all the Chairman/Chairperson of the higher education to take the adequate precautionary measures to face the situation arising out of COVID-19 (GOVTofIndia, 2020). With this direction UGC has directed to all the Universities and Institutions to take precautionary measures (GOVTofIndia and UGC, 2020). Further Government of India, MHRD and Department of Higher Education stated to maintain Social Distance in the institutions and to work from home(GOVTof India MHRD, 2020).

All educational institutions are closed. This has also put a break on the education of students of universities and colleges. In such a situation, the UGC has made arrangements to gather knowledge from home, so that no one's studies are affected. There is also a facility for teachers to read the research journal on the portal. Students can also take admission in the new course online. UGC Secretary Prof. Rajneesh Jain has issued a letter in this regard to teachers and students. The letter also mentions ten important online links in which there are content for research ranging from all subjects released at UG and PG level (University Grants Commission New Delhi,).

Government of Karnataka, Department of Collegiate Education has also taken foremost precautionary measures. Firstly it directed to all staff members to take steps to stop corona virus and ordered not to conduct any kind of gatherings, functions, seminars and conferences. Finally department declared holidays to all the staff members and students (Https://dce.karnataka.gov.in). Further directed to staff members to follow the instruction given by the UGC.

Lockdown on colleges means lockdown to all the college works like official and academics. Unless the colleges having full-fledged ICT infrastructure it may get very difficult to have

contacts with college academic developments and its students also. Some of the academic assignments like NAAC and IQAC should be done uninterruptedly and this kind of works get effected. The colleges are not sure about the completion of 90 working days in a semester as per the UGC guidance. The schedule of exams, valuation and results could get bad impact on the duration of the next semester.

4. IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) LOCKDOWN PERIOD ON STUDENTS

The COVID – 19 has disrupted the education globally. In western countries scholars and students were asking for confirmation on extension of funding because their studies denied due to coronavirus. Exams in Scotland have cancelled, some countries announced that students will be given estimated grades if their exams cancelled, some countries were getting concerned over poor and rural students on online access to educational materials or classes. Students called for tuition fee refund and worried about examinations and future admissions. Students' academic year may get suffer and they miss placement opportunities also. Thus the students affected by Covid-19 globally.

In India, February March and April are the most important months for academic and non-academic activities. Students get affected on:

- *Students and Sports*: generally in all institution sports competitions were conducted in these months and the same will get cancelled due to coronavirus attack
- *Students and Extra Curricular Activities*: at the end of academic year extra-curricular activities like cultural programs, gatherings, alumni meets, parents meets and degree day may get cancelled
- *Student's exams and result*: in the month of March and April Annual/Main exams will be conducted by the respective universities but in this lockdown period students get difficulty in the preparation of exam due to non-availability of library and faculty in the colleges and in future effect on the results.
- *Students and Admission*: still students and the staff of the colleges are unknown about the reopening dates of colleges, admissions and exams also. Those students who are going to complete their degree may lose their next academic admission or they may get loss of a year due to change in the academic year.

5. IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) LOCKDOWN PERIOD ON LIBRARIES

Shutting down libraries has a tremendous impact on the user communities that we serve. In this lockdown period librarian must try to keep upgrading to its users probably by using online tools. On the same way lockdown period effects on the routine work of the library also. Let us discuss how it will be effected on each library work:

- Acquisition: there will be no books ordering in this lockdown period, and ordered books will not get delivered which creates billing and payments problems within the given time.
- Cataloguing: cataloguing, barcoding and other work gets shutdown even books which received before lockdown also
- Circulation: this section plays like blood circulation in the human body. The issue, return and reservation of the documents gets closed but on other side the library software generates overdue reminders and generates due fines
- Serial control: library will receive the online serials but not gets processed due to lockdown and it generates reminders to the vender's though library has received it.

Some libraries were receiving Newspapers and magazines without users which causes unnecessary expenditures.

Lockdown period effects all the library work but librarian and library staff should be alert and ready to perform all works after reopening. Users may get rushed after lockdown period, library have to manage all works simultaneously, one should not collect any kind of overdue fines and should be extra careful in the acquisition and billing/ payment work.

6. THE LIBRARIANS ROLE IN THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) LOCKDOWN PERIOD

Librarian may called as Cybrarian in this lockdown period, because ICT tools are the only way to serve the user community. Just because we are not physically to be in library doesn't mean that library can't continue. We the librarians are already being with user community by providing many services to its users and it doesn't have to stop just because of our buildings are closed at the moment. We can make the difference by using social networking sites.

These social network services have many communication tools such as chat, messaging, email, video, voice chat, file sharing, blogging, and discussion groups to interact with our user community. Facebook allows individual librarians to create their library profiles. Librarians can create a social network page to reach users of the library. Social networking services could enable librarians and users not only to interact with each other, but to share and exchange online resources in electronic environment. Library users can create accounts with the library network services and can find other users having common information needs, recommend online resources to one another. Besides these, librarians can also recommend online resources to users through their social network services.

Librarian can also provide information about Coronavirus, its precautionary measures and tips on work from home. It's time to librarian to show their professionalism energy, creativity and drive in each services, further just say yes to all the queries raised by user community and find the online solution without entering the physical library. In the lockdown period doing something is better than doing nothing so stand up, step up and lead by saying YES.

7. CONCLUSION

Though there is a much impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdown period on colleges and students, still librarian can play a very vital role virtually without having physically in the library building. Social networking sites can be used to communicate with library users by providing necessary e-documents. Library activities closed down which may effect on financial transaction of the library so librarian have to give extra care after reopening. Managerial skills applies to handle all the works simultaneously. Librarian can show their concerned by providing information about Coronavirus Covid-19 and precautionary measures on social sites.

REFERENCES

1. Cui, J., Li, F., & Shi, Z. L. (2019). Origin and evolution of pathogenic coronaviruses. Nature Reviews Microbiology. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41579-018-0118-9
2. Dictionary.com. (n.d.). Lockdown. Retrieved April 1, 2020, from https://www.dictionary.com/

3. GOI. (2020). Detail Question and Answers on COVID-19 for Public. Retrieved March 31, 2020, from https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/MindingourmindsduringCoronaeditedat.pdf
4. GOVT of India. Precautions to be taken in light of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). (2020).
5. GOVT of India. (2020b). SWAYAM.
6. GOVT of India and UGC. Precautions to be taken in the light of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (2020). India.
7. Https://dce.karnataka.gov.in/. (n.d.). Department of Collegiate Education. Retrieved on April 1, 2020
8. India, N. (2020, March 24). Follow Coronavirus Lockdown Rules, Else Will Have to Give "Shoot-at-sight" Order: Telangana CM. 24.03.2020. Retrieved from https://www.news18.com/
9. Kooraki, S., Hosseiny, M., Myers, L., & Gholamrezanezhad, A. (2020). Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak: What the Department of Radiology Should Know. Journal of the American College of Radiology. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacr.2020.02.008
10. Modi, N. (2020). Lockdown. India. Retrieved from https://www.narendramodi.in/
11. News, A. (2020, April 2). Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte warns against violating coronavirus lockdown. Retrieved from https://www.abc.net.au/news/
12. University Grants Commission New Delhi, I. (n.d.). University Grants Commission New Delhi, India. Retrieved April 2, 2020, from www.ugc.ac.in

Acknowledgements