

EDITORIAL

The detection of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and its subsequent spread throughout the world marked the beginning of havoc, chaos, disruption, and despair as it caused the deadly disease, Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19). With people dying in the hundreds and thousands worldwide from COVID-19, governments became proactive; borders were closed, lockdowns were imposed, all kinds of guidelines were issued, every public institution came to a standstill. While common people were terrified of contracting and spreading the disease, the healthcare sector—hospitals, medical practitioners, healthcare workers, scientists, researchers, pharmaceutical industries stood out to address the challenges. Scientists and researchers geared up their study about the nature and spread of SARS-CoV-2, providing the much-needed input for the pharmaceutical industries to develop vaccines and other possible ways of treatments for COVID-19. The impact of COVID-19 was felt by one and all. The education sector was not spared; in fact, it was one of those hardest hit not just because of the closure of schools

and colleges but because of the impact it had on the students' and teachers' mental health. We had to immediately transition into the online mode of teaching-learning, which was a challenge for all stakeholders—curriculum developers, teachers, students, parents, etc., either due to lack of devices, lack of knowledge of handling devices or use of online resources, internet connectivity issue, etc. The high possibility of SARS-CoV-2 having made its way from the wild has taught us that we can no longer afford to play with nature.

Considering the above-mentioned devastating impacts of SARS-CoV-2 on our lives, a special issue is being brought out. The special issue will be in two series, each containing ten articles. In the first series of the special issue, we have included articles related to SARS-CoV-2, mental health, drug repurposing, online teaching-learning, community participation, COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, and the importance of effective communication.

In addition to the articles, this issue also contains Science News.

We welcome your valuable suggestions. Happy reading and happy learning!