

COVID- 19, SOCIETY AND ROLES OF CHEMISTRY

Several chemists through their research work are contributing towards the global fight with the COVID-19 epidemic either by providing hypothesis, views, actual working in the laboratory, on solvent less chemical mechanism and or by arranging awareness seminars, science quizzes about pandemic situation, immunity development, diet plan to boost immunity, chemistry of corona virus and its effects, probable solutions, psychological effects of pandemic situation on the mindset of the society.

Employees are working from home except corona warriors on frontline from government and non-government sectors. Pharmaceutical institutions and industries such as FDA, ICMR, Serum Institute, Pfizer, Novartis, GSK, Alexion, Lily, Glenmark and many more working globally by prioritizing research and development to prevent the spread of severe Covid-19 infection. Though globally governments took decision on either choosing to fight with the pandemic through herd immunity or imposing lockdown, they are trying their level best putting forth more than sufficient efforts working 24 by 7.

We have to appreciate teachers, scientists, educationist whose jobs keep their young minds busy thereby diversifying them from this pandemic situation. Our media kept updating society day and night by giving news worldwide. Continuous and uninterrupted supply of internet facilities, water and electricity is commendable. Which was an essential requirement for communications and for keeping mind & body of all the warriors healthy who are working in society and hospitals. Education department is providing our children with online learning support, and of course provided relief to maintain mindset of our younger generation lighter. Technicians of department of water supply from local authorities are carefully monitoring and managing clean and uninterrupted supply of water that supports everything: research, healthcare, and daily life. Imagine the prospects of managing a pandemic when washing their hands is a luxury to millions of faces in India and other third world countries.

Of course, research and development has a critical role to play in such situation. Chemistry-based research institutions and drug manufacturers of all sizes are refocusing their efforts towards discovering more about the virus, developing improved testing technologies, and eventually creating a drug or a vaccine. Many offer services or devices that already use cutting-edge technologies in chemical science to measure smaller samples or achieve higher throughput.

Chemistry is inevitable at every step of our response to this virus pandemic. Beyond research, technicians are providing the specialized skills needed to run tests, maintain equipment and manage laboratory supplies - including the donations of chemicals for hand sanitizing and safety equipment that are going straight to doctors and nurses working on the frontline.

There are also thousands of teachers still working hard to give their students an inspiring education in chemistry, whether through classrooms or remotely online. Using the latest technology and some innovative thinking they're ensuring that, despite of massively disrupted school/college routine, there will still be students going to study and work in the field of chemistry in the years to come.

We've been documenting globally the roll of chemical science community in our response to Covid-19 pandemic - from the viewpoint of science of healthcare system which is directly dealing with the virus. We thank all the people whose work keeps us warm, clean and informed even if we stay physically distanced.

So let's play our own vital role in fighting with this pandemic.

Stay safe! Stay healthy!

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