OIRT Journal of Information Technology

Available at: <https://journals.otuirt.com/index.php/OJIT>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Binta Suleiman Abdullahi^{1*}, Muhammad Iliyasu Baballe², Faisal Muhammad^{3,4}

¹Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur, Bangladesh

²Department of Health Informatics, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, Dhaka Bangladesh

³Department of Public Health, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Daffodil International University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

⁴Otu Institute of Research and Training, London, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author: Binta Suleiman Abdullahi, Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur Bangladesh. Email: abdullahisuleman@iut-dhaka.edu

Copyright: © the author (s), publisher, and licensee OIRT. It is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided there is a proper citation for the original work.

Keywords: COVID-19, Global Health, ICT, Pandemic

Article History

Received: August 12, 2021

Revised: August 19, 2021

Accepted: August 24, 2021

Dear Editor

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has become a serious global challenge that has tremendously impacted socio-economic, cultural, and educational lives over the past few months. It has led to a worldwide recession, a stoppage in all fields of life (Muhammad, 2020a). This disease is caused by a respiratory virus that spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose and droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (Ho et al., 2020). The typical respiratory disease caused by coronavirus includes; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), to mention but a few. The condition indicates the following signs, complications in breathing, coughing, and other problems in the pulmonary system. This infection can cause kidney failure, pneumonia, and even death in more severe cases (Sabino-Silva et al., 2020). As a

result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have implemented social distancing measures to reduce the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus (Muhammad, 2020b). The lockdown measures were imposed in most countries worldwide to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (Muhammad, 2020b).

The one thing that sustains people's lives during the current pandemic is Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as social media, virtual learning, broadcasting, marketing, etc. Technologies such as mobile phones and computers have significantly impacted our lives during the COVID-19 pandemic (Iyengar et al., 2020). The communication, marketing, learning, teaching, and general operations of our industries and government were carried out using either one or more technology. In a layman's language, ICT is nothing but

computers, smartphones, or any digital device used to send and receive messages. One of the effects of ICT during the pandemic is that it promotes and increases communications between different regions and populations around the globe virtually. It has transformed society during the lockdown, where almost everything had taken place online. ICT allows direct online commercial and business transactions instantly, affecting people's lives, boosting the economy, and preventing the further spread of the virus. These applications are all used to communicate and give instructions to manipulate data for business, educational and managerial purposes and other governmental and nongovernmental duties during the pandemic. It affects every aspect of education, from teaching-learning to assessment and evaluation, and facilitates mobile learning and inclusive education, research, and scholarly communication. Social Media (such as Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.) kept people company while living at home; smartphones, televisions, tabloids, and other technologies were solely used for entertainment, broadcasting, and exchanging goods and services. We want to conclude by emphasizing the need for more use and development of information technologies for the post-corona period.

Conflict of Interest: None

Funding/Support: None

REFERENCES

- Ho, C. S., Chee, C. Y., & Ho, R. C. (2020). Mental health strategies to combat the psychological impact of COVID-19 beyond paranoia and panic. *Ann Acad Med Singapore*, 49(1), 1-3.
- Iyengar, K., Upadhyaya, G. K., Vaishya, R., & Jain, V. (2020). COVID-19 and applications of smartphone technology in the current pandemic. *Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews*, 14(5), 733-737.
- Muhammad, F. (2020). COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Economic Challenge. *Hormozgan Med Journal*, e104280.
- Muhammad, F. (2020). Social distancing and lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic will not work in Africa. *Middle East Journal of Rehabilitation and Health Studies*, 7(3).
- Sabino-Silva, R., Jardim, A. C. G., & Siqueira, W. L. (2020). Coronavirus COVID-19 impacts dentistry and potential salivary diagnosis. *Clinical oral investigations*, 24(4), 1619-1621.