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What Covid-19 Pandemic Has Taught Us?



No country at first understood the terrible potential of the COVID-19 pandemic to destroy the country's economy and kill lives. Despite unprecedented advances in science and medicine, the COVID-19 pandemic is taking away thousands of precious lives every day, and the death march is getting longer and longer. However, one question has not been answered yet. Infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm in 2005, scientist Vaclav Samil in 2006, psychologist Sylvia Brown in 2006, Bill Gates in 2016, and many other scholars predicted the pandemic. Germany started World War I, which lasted for four years, beginning in 1914. The whole world split into two. Germany was accompanied by Austria-Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Middle East and Bulgaria; on the other side were Britain, Russia, France, Serbia, Belgium, Montenegro, Canada, Australia, and later the United States joined in 1917. World War I killed 20 million people out of an estimated 1.7 billion and injured 2.1 million. The German invasion of Poland in 1939 led to the outbreak of World War II. Seventy-five million people out of a population of 2 billion lost their lives in the war. Even after the two world wars, the war has not stopped. After the Vietnam war, war is raging in Afghanistan and many countries in Africa and Middle East.

After the death of 80 million people in the last three pandemics, this deadly COVID-19 pandemic came. The COVID-19 pandemic has so far claimed more than 0.8 million lives and affected more than 25 million people. Historians and sociologists can better explain why world leaders invite war and why they do not heed the warnings of experts. In fact, they do not care about the people. In order to confuse the people, they say, they fight to protect human civilisation and people. They actually protect the interests of a particular group. Otherwise, they could have taken measures to save the people long before the COVID-19 pandemic. People themselves are trying to survive this pandemic. Scientists and physicians are working day and night to develop vaccines. Economists are researching what can be done to revive the country's economy, which has been hit hard by the COVID-19, and teachers are thinking about how to bring students back to education.

Ordinary people are trying to find a way to save their lives and earn a living. The hen keeps the egg in her body warm for a long time to hatch from the egg. As a result of warming, various changes start inside the egg. The changes taking place inside the egg cannot be seen. Similarly, when it becomes difficult to survive even after long deprivation and struggle, a change takes place in people and they turn around. The rulers can-



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not comprehend this change taking place inside the people. All on a sudden people revolt against the rulers and throw them away from power. COVID-19 pandemic has taken advantage of weakness in health sector, poor IT infrastructure, outmoded education, dishonesty in business; and is destroying lives and the economy.

As an educator, I feel compelled to share my thoughts on solving students' problems with other educators. There are about 2 million students studied in universities in Bangladesh and about 30 million students studied in higher secondary colleges, secondary schools, madrasas and primary schools. Most university students have laptops or smartphones or iPhones. So, online education for them can be continued for a few more semesters. The big problem is the weak or disrupted internet connection and the extra burden of paying students for the internet. As an educator I think it is necessary to maintain the quality of education in both classrooms or online education. Teachers in Bangladesh have been teaching classrooms. They had no idea about

online teaching. Moreover, in the case of online teaching, lecture notes have to be prepared differently and proctoring is different in online examination. So, teachers need training, and a teacher's course load should be at a tolerable level. The UGC or the government can act for uninterrupted internet connection, and the universities themselves can take the initiative to pay the students for the internet. The main problem is with 30 million students studying in other educational institutions. Many of these students do not have the necessary devices to participate in online learning. So, it is not possible to bring them into the online education system. Need to find a solution to the problem. Students cannot be kept away from studies for a long time. In areas where the coronavirus is not prevalent, we can open the educational institutions maintaining proper hygiene regulations. However, it should be remembered that many educational institutions in the West are closed again after opening. Because the students started socialising freely without following the hygiene rules and sev-

eral of them got infected with the corona virus. The government has to act by thinking about proper compliance with the health rules. The government will also ensure that no one enters these areas from outside and no one leaves from inside. Online education can be introduced in the Corona affected areas. If necessary, students have to be given free or low-cost smartphones or iPhones and the cost of 'Student Data' has to be borne by the government or educational institutions. These continue to be the responsibility of the welfare state.

COVID-19 paints a picture of mismanagement in our healthcare system, identifying weaknesses in information technology infrastructure and inadequate use of technology in the education, industry and agriculture. From now on, we must prepare for the future COVID-19 pandemic or any threat to public health and the economy. The world needs to build a people-oriented state, not a state for serving the group.

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