

IAO

MAY, 2020

ACCREDITOR

Featured

**HOW TO ENSURE
STUDENT WELL BEING
DURING COVID-19**

**SOCIAL MEDIA
DURING COVID-19
A SAVIOR FOR
STUDENTS**

**TOP 5 BOOKS STUDENTS
SHOULD READ
DURING QUARANTINE**

Exclusive

**IN
CONVERSATION
WITH
DR. M. AMR. SADIQ**



**FEATURED
INSTITUTES**

**INSTITUTES DISPLAYING
COMMITMENT TOWARDS
QUALITY LEARNING**



Editor's

Note...

Recent events of Coronavirus have caused major damage to economies and businesses around the world. It's been months that schools are in lockdown with no hopes of opening again. Experts at IAO believe that the educational sector has been affected the most due to the fast spread of Coronavirus, as schools were the first to close down during the pandemic. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for educational institutes and recommended several disease prevention strategies. The Education Minister of Ontario Stephen Lecce announced that schools will remain closed till May to prevent the disease spread. "These are extraordinary times," The minister said, "We're moving quickly with two aims in mind. The first, to keep your child safe, the second is to keep them engaged in learning." The same tactics were implied by many other countries to keep the youth safe from the spread.

We have discussed the damage that the educational sector faced, timed, and again. Teachers are "learning to teach" from scratch, using new devices, modes, and methods. Students found it easier to adapt to changing methods as they grew up with mobile phone devices and computers around them. It is for the same reason that when it comes to academic difficulties and learning during quarantine, not much attention has been paid to student comfort because "they are Gen-Z, they'll adjust". Although, students might be more vulnerable to mental stress as compared to teachers. The workload during quarantine has increased exponentially as there's too much expected from them. We are dedicating our recent magazine to students who are studying at home and trying to keep up with their teachers. Apart from that, we are bringing interviews, a list of IAO accredited institutes, and much more.

Jeff Wright, Editor in Chief



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TOP 5 BOOKS STUDENTS SHOULD READ DURING QUARANTINE

The lock down keeps going as the virus keeps gaining traction. Only positive thing that has come out of lock down is that people are exploring their talents in their spare time.

If you are a student who forgot the concept of pleasure reading due to stringent academic life then this may be the perfect time for you to hit your bookshelf again. We have compiled a list of books that students may find informative, entertaining, and worth reading.



HOW TO ENSURE STUDENT WELL BEING DURING COVID-19

We have acknowledged the benefits of Online learning time and again during the past few weeks. It's not as if teachers have a lot of options when it comes to modes of teaching as the world is going through a lock down situation. Educators are doing their best to deliver education so that we can make it out unscathed from this lock down.

HOW PANDEMICS AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH

We are all caged up within four-wall during COVID-19. Apparently, we have all the time in the world to be productive. It is for the same reason that teachers expect students to do more when they are at home. Students who did two homework a day are now expected to do three. It is a common assumption that you have more spare time at home during the lock down. Although, the reality is different.

Research by IAO showed that students are less productive, motivated, and content in lock down. Many students in colleges and universities are showing symptoms of depression which is caused due to workload. Teachers have poured out a double amount of work for students and students' failure to submit work on time is resulting in increased stress. It is also a responsibility of teachers to ensure student well being during the lock down. Here's what teachers can do to make sure they are not a source of stress for students;



1. Give a Balanced Amount of Work

As mentioned earlier that many teachers have increased the amount of work considering that students are now at home. Teachers may want to understand the situation of lock down in a better way and not treat it as a vacation period. Apropos to that, teachers may want to give a balanced amount of work by taking student study hours into consideration. They may want to create a worksheet and distribute homework and assignments according to that.

Teachers may also want to prevent a sudden increase in work or assignments as students may find it hard to do it at home. If a teacher wants to increase workload then they may want to inform the students beforehand so that they can mentally prepare themselves and make extra time in their daily routine. Not only that, but students may also find it hard to do last-minute assignments as studying at home includes a lot of distractions from family, friends, personal life.

2. Engage more



We have also mentioned it in our previous articles that engagement is a huge issue when it comes to online learning. It can be stressful for students when there is a lack of engagement with teacher. Although it can be hard to maintain engagement with students in a live online class, teachers may want to take different measures to maximize engagement. For example, teachers can communicate with students through email and send them updates about class schedule, any changes, quizzes. They can also incorporate applications such as remind, TED, discord to maximize engagement with students and to stay in touch with them.



3.

Give them breaks

Teachers are choosing different modes and ways to conduct their lessons. Some teachers are going with live lessons whereas some are recording video lectures so that students can watch them afterward. If you are the former type who is conducting live video lessons then this step is for you. When you are conducting your live class make sure that you are taking enough breaks. This is beneficial not only for students but also for the teacher himself. Sitting in front of the computer for long hours can be tiring and stressful, therefore a break is important both for somatic and mental health. If your lecture is two hours long then you may want to give your students a few breaks during your lecture. It doesn't have to be a break to eat, instead, students can do random activities or take a walk for 10 minutes to freshen up their mind and body.



4. Allow Mistakes

One of the most important things to do during this lock down is to be kind and nice to your students. Many educational institutes did not have online classes at all and the lock down may have put them in a spot where they haven't been before. Online learning may be new to many students and they may be finding it hard to adapt to the changes. Due to this student are more likely to make mistakes. Teachers should understand this and allow students to make mistakes and learn from them

Finally

When you find out that a student has made a mistake for instance missed a lecture, did not complete an assignment, or performed badly on a test, instead of yelling or degrading the student you may want to be softer to them and give them a second chance. It will be even more beneficial for students if instead of punishing the student, the teacher decides to have a chat with them and discuss the problems they are facing in online learning.

Monthly Announced

Featured Accreditations

With e-Learning gain popularity all around the globe, many institutes are opting more and more for accreditation from a reliable body such as International Accreditation Organization. Here are some of our most promising and esteemed institutes that aim to acquire IAO's accreditation.

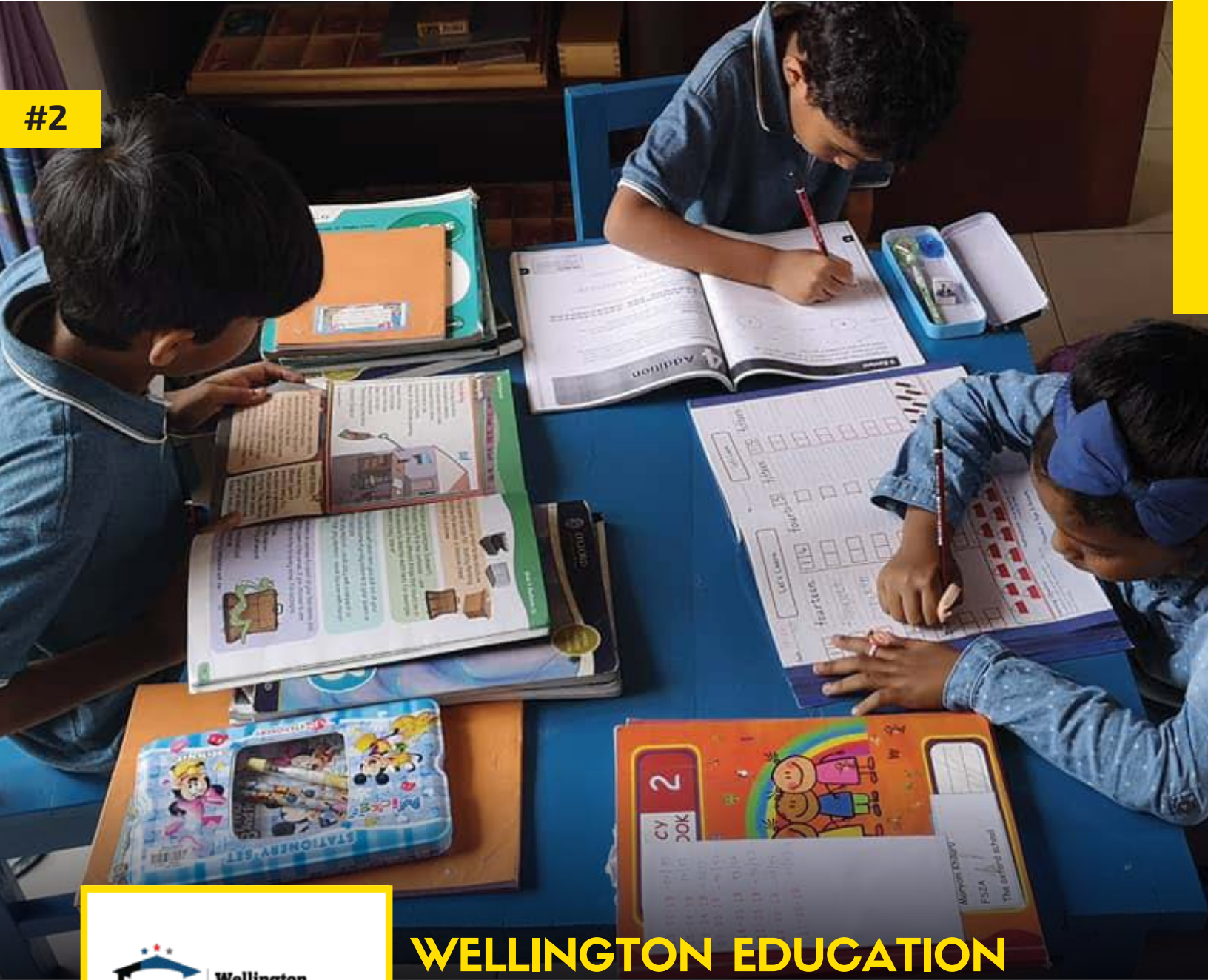
#1



LEAD GEN ACADEMY

Lead Gen Academy is known for its futuristic approach towards delivering education among students of the current age. They are coming up with unique ideas regarding curricula and course books. They aim to make education accessible to all with their student-friendly approach.

#2



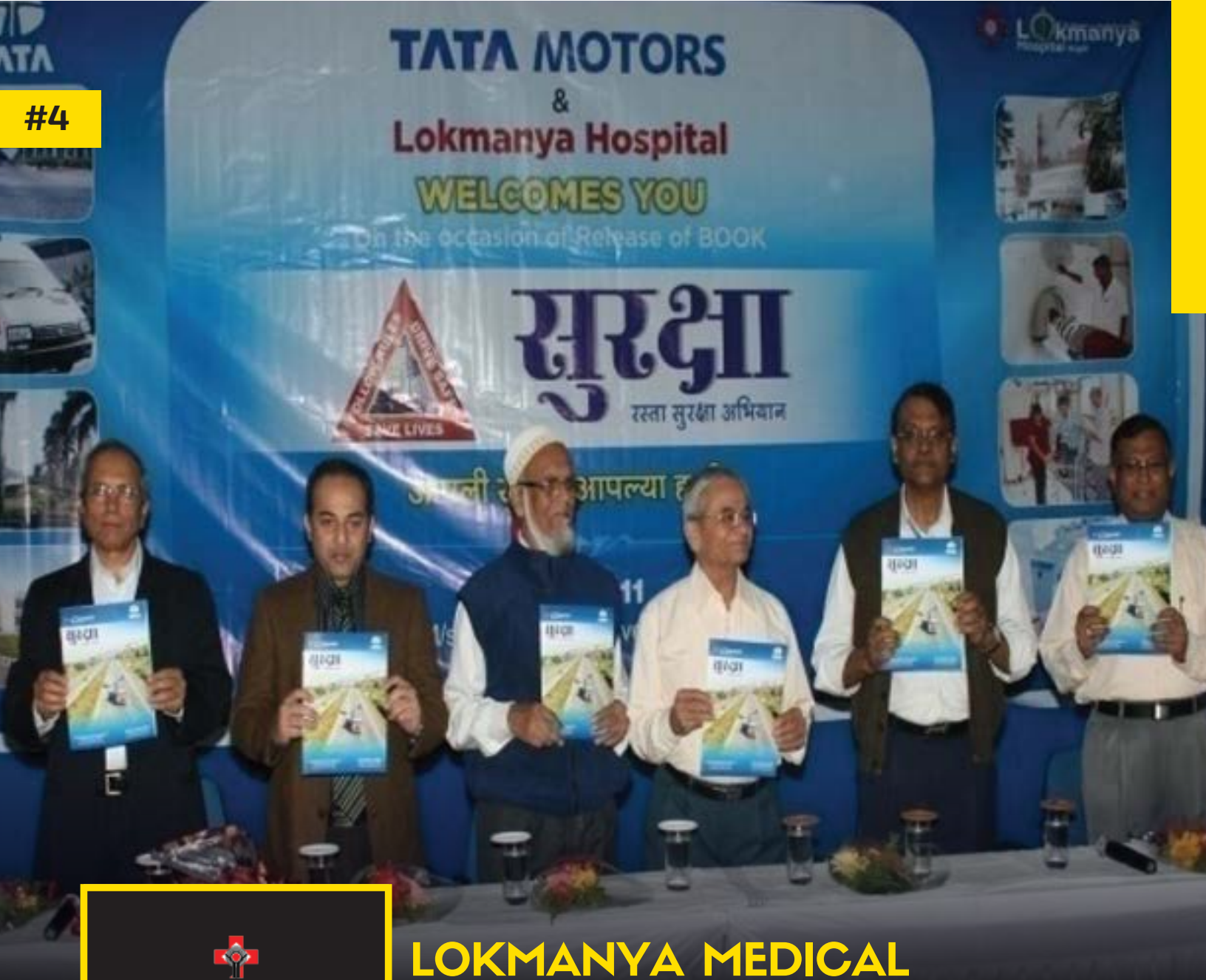
WELLINGTON EDUCATION CENTRE (WEC)

Based in Sri Lanka, Wellington Education Centre is a relatively new project that is thriving even in its embryonic phase. The institute is focusing more on quality education rather than quantity, with its small classes that are handled by experienced teachers. Their curriculum is globally competent and on campus culture is wholesome and student-friendly.



GLOBAL POETRY UNIVERSITY

Global Poet University is a unique project that is one of its kind. The management believes in the power of degree and qualifications, but wants to shed a light on importance and worth of talent, skill, and flair of arts. They take it upon themselves to push and promote deserving talent through their library and other resources.



LOKMANYA MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Established in the year 1985, Lokmanya Medical Research Centre is a well-known entity that has contributed a lot in the socio-medical field. It's a private research Centre that has been working towards the betterment in the area of health, education, environment, and sustainable development. They have also developed a name for themselves by tireless contribution in the field of Cancer care.

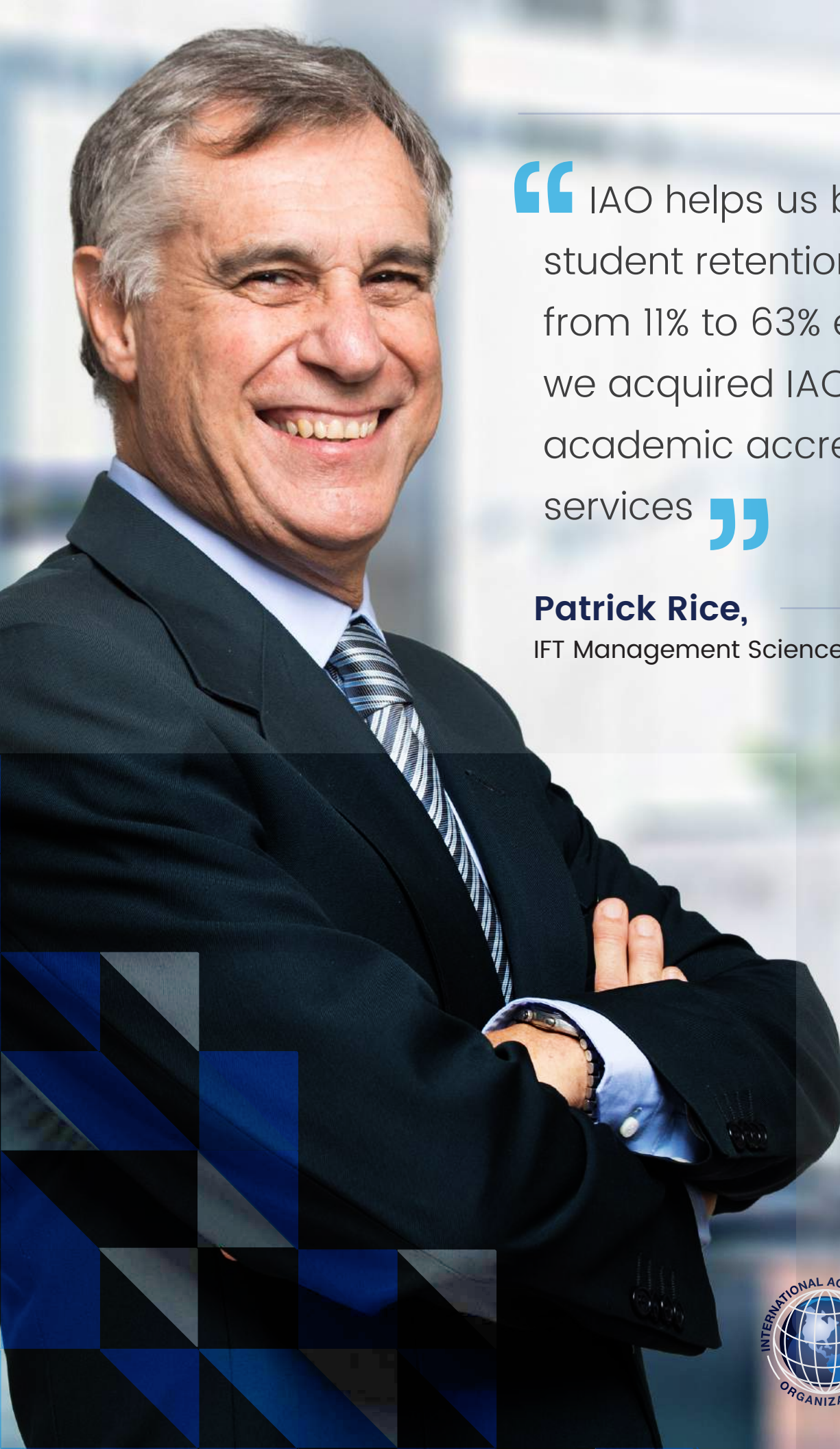


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**ON SKY
GLOBAL**

On Sky Global is a well-established entity in the educational sector that is known for their benchmark academic services both for professionals and students. They offer certifications in various courses ranging from technology, business, health care, language, and so on. They also offer learning solutions to businesses who are yearning for global recognition and advancement.



“ IAO helps us boost our student retention rates from 11% to 63% ever since we acquired IAO’s academic accreditation services ”

Patrick Rice,
IFT Management Sciences School



IAO

Exclusive

**IN CONVERSATION
WITH**

**DR. M. AMR.
SADIQ**



Academic Life:

Q: Could you please walk us through your academic background and achievements? Your extensive and varied experience can be a source of inspiration for many; please share the highlights and milestones of your professional journey.

A: My educational journey started after completing my degree from Egypt in 1980. As I was working in the hospitality industry, I decided to pursue a program in the same domain. Thus, I joined Penn Foster School and obtained a Diploma in Hotel & Motel Management in 1985. To further enhance and improve my knowledge and skills, I attended the Educative Education program at two distinctive schools, Alexander Hamilton Institute, and Cornell University. In 1987, during the annual vacation, I attended

I attended Manpower Planning Course at the American University in Cairo. Furthermore, I pursued a summer executive program at Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, Hospitality School in 1988. Working in the hospitality industry is quite challenging, particularly for Human Resources Department. So, I decided in 1989 to go through Management Development Specialization program with AH&MA, under the umbrella of Michigan State University. After career shifting in 2001, I took a further step to complete my doctorate degree in Human Resources Management, which I completed in 2005 with City University in the USA. It became my passion to keep learning and explore various approaches, therefore I completed a professional doctorate in management in 2016 from India. In between the years, I acquired certification in numerous programs.



Experience:

Q: Currently heading the institute, what are some of your long-term and short-term goals for the education system?

A: I greatly believe that a diverse educational system ought to be considered in order to cater to all types of students. Therefore, we are working to introduce educational programs for busy working executives in both the short and long term.

Q: What do you think your biggest challenge is working in the education industry at such a key position?

A: From my point of view raising the professional status of teaching, designing new curriculum, promoting flexible learning arrangements, focused growth, are some of the challenges.



Q: During your entire career, which milestone felt most accomplished and why?

A: There are several milestones in my career, but 2007 was the turning point when I achieved the best HR Executive Award from the USA. I wasn't expecting it as I was competing with very competent HR executives from various countries. The 2nd milestone was in 2014 when I was ranked one of the HR Most Influential International Thinkers, London, UK.

Q: Educationists are advised usually to share their experience and learning. What method of information-dissemination would you say is most effective for this purpose?

A: When I teach or conduct training programs, I always use critical thinking approach (The Socratic method also known as the method of Elenchus, elenctic method, or Socratic debate). It is a form of a cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals) in addition to the case study approach.



Interest & Opinions:

Q: Recently, there have been many reports and trends of students opting for alternate methods of education such as distance learning, diplomas, short-courses, etc. instead of traditional degrees. What's your view on this?

A: Well, a blended learning approach is an answer. People should be able to use all possible ways to gain an education. Nowadays people need to work and learn at the same time, thus full-time attendance particularly at the university level is somehow difficult. We need to balance our life.

Q: As an educator, what's your perspective on the current education system in your region and how do you think it can be improved or revolutionized, if required.

A: Unfortunately, we are still using traditional modes, as distance education or self-study are not recognized or appreciated in the region. We need to think differently and adopt a new way of thinking.

Ending Notes

Q. Please share your philosophy of the ideal education a person can achieve regardless of its methods and processes. E.g. it could simply be a moment of enlightenment or a life-long struggle to gain perspective, how would you like to describe 'the best education or lesson' one can get.

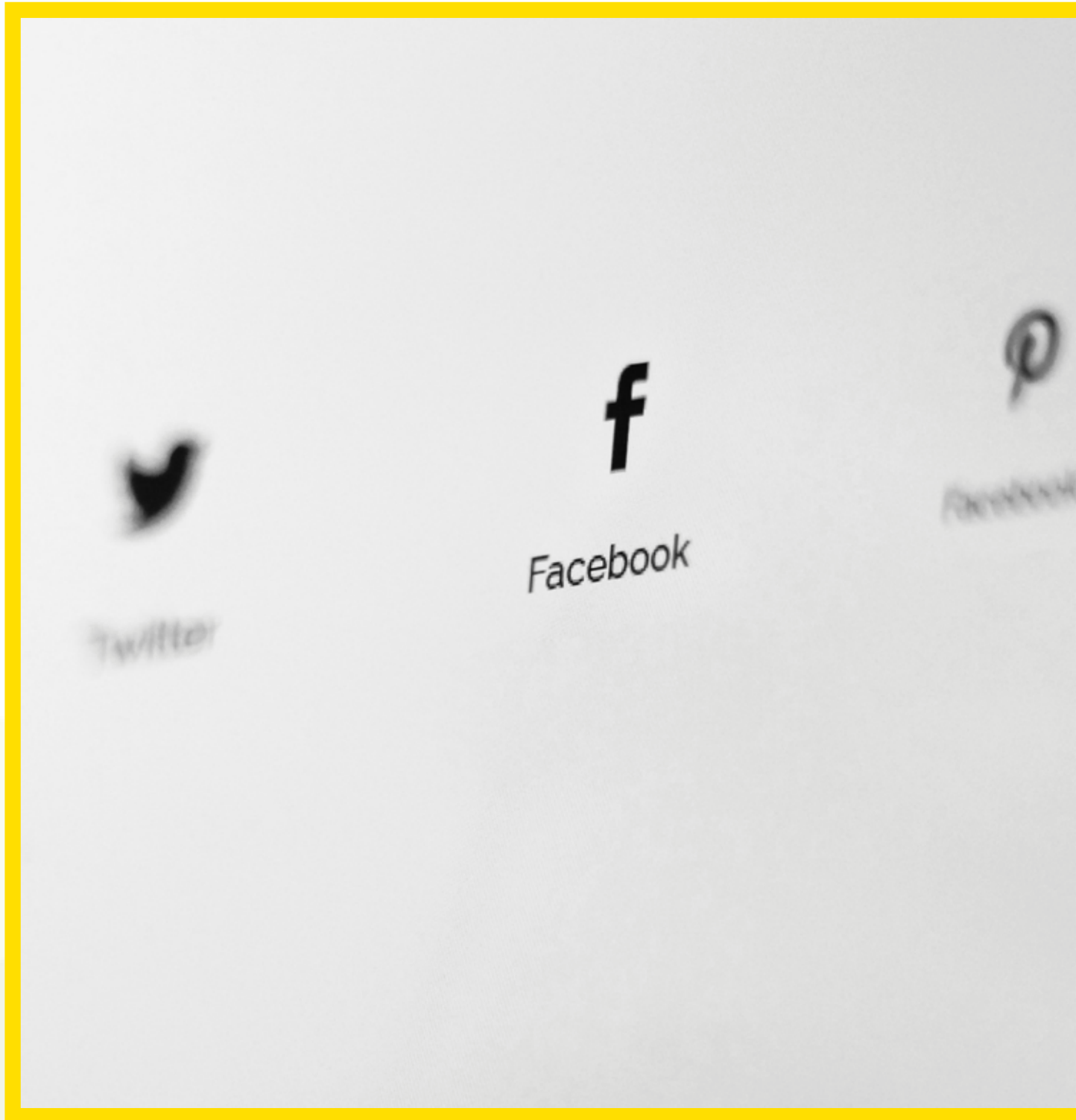
A: Regardless of the methods, educating oneself is endless, however, people ought to consider real-life cases to overcome current or future challenges.

Q. Thank you for taking the time to answer a few questions for IAQO Accreditor. Do you have any parting words of wisdom for educationists and students?

A: Just keep learning, if you have a passion to excel.



SOCIAL MEDIA DURING COVID-19 – A SAVIOR FOR STUDENTS



The bond between the internet and generation Z is extraordinary. There's a reason that the current generation is named after the digital age i.e. the digital natives. Mobile phones are not a mere device for them but have become an extension. They are hugely reliant upon their mobile phone devices, internet, and social media.

Coronavirus has impacted the lives of many people around the world in a negative way. Everyone is having a hard time adjusting to the changes, but the young generation is finding it easier to adjust. The reason is simple, they grew up with the internet and find it easy to stay at home and do things through the web. Learning has shifted entirely to the internet. Lectures have moved to zoom videos, notes turned into google files and attendance into excel sheets. This transition hasn't been smooth for many, but impeccable features of the internet have made it easier for educators. Among many remarkable things that happened during this lock down, one thing was the wholesome collaboration between the teachers and students. Considering the fact that the majority of the teacher makeup is not fluent in tech-language, therefore, students played a key role in finding innovative ways to boost learning. Many teachers were stuck at Zoom when it came to online learning, however, students had different plans.

Tech-forward institutes are not using mere video call applications to conduct their classes. They have allowed students to provide their input to improve class quality and learning methods. Social media is one of the most unexpected sources/tools of learning for students. During the lock down, social media has spread smiles through relevant pictures and videos, however, it can be an extremely effective tool of learning, if used correctly.





1- Facebook for Engagement

Facebook has been around many years, and it is only recently that people are realizing its true potential. Unlike other social media sites where the focus is directed towards a particular thing for eg. Images, videos, messages, etc. Facebook is a versatile platform that provides multiple features. Teachers are making full use of this social media site to boost class engagement.

We inquired the teachers about e-Learning challenges, and the majority of them believed that class engagement is one of the major challenges in e-Learning. Unlike face-to-face learning, in an online class, there are fewer opportunities or reasons for students to communicate with one another which results in reduced engagement. Teachers are using Facebook features such as group posting or group chat to promote communication between the peers. There are many teachers who are creating groups for different sections/subjects so that students can discuss relevant topics with more ease. Moreover, Facebook Live allows teachers to engage with students and update them about class/homework.

A hand holding a smartphone displaying a Twitter feed. The top tweet is from 'Philippe Wampfler' with the text 'Mittlerweile gibt es für Jänner...'. Above it, a blue banner reads 'COVID-19' and 'Neuigkeiten zur Covid-19 Situation in...'.

2-Twitter for Updates

Twitter is a platform that teachers have been using long before COVID-19. Unlike Facebook, twitter is a simple, convenient, and easy to use platform. It is everything that a traditional teacher could wish for. Many teachers who are not tech-savvy find it difficult to understand complicated social media concepts and features. With a 280-character word limit, twitter keeps things simple and uncomplicated. If you are a teacher who is not exactly a fan of social media, then you may want to shake hands with twitter. Many teachers are using twitter to post quick updates about class timing, schedule, assignment guidelines, and other details.

It is also an excellent platform to engage students with one another by starting a hashtag. There are also many pre-existing educational hashtags on twitter that students may find helpful.

Finally

There are several other social media platforms that teachers may want to check out. Pinterest is a great platform for art teachers where they can post images and pin them. Platforms such as Reddit and Tumblr can also be used for educational purposes as they have many features in common with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Before choosing a platform for learning, teachers may want to analyse student activity on these platforms. Choosing a social media site where your class students are inactive may not be the best idea. Hence, social media is not all about posting videos and causing stress to the teachers, but it can be a source of solace for both students and educators.





3-Instagram For Lectures

Instagram is mostly used by people to upload their pictures and videos. However, the live video feature of Instagram is extremely beneficial if used correctly. Teachers are conducting post-class summary lectures on Instagram by creating a private account so that only followers can join their live sessions. These lectures are extremely useful as they summarize the class into a short video where students can type down their questions regarding the lecture and get a quick reply from the teacher at the very instant. Typically, in an online setting, students are required to send an email to the teacher and wait for hours for their reply. This is not only frustrating for students but negatively impacts productivity as well. Through an Instagram live session, teachers can communicate and answer students' queries promptly. Not only that, but teachers can add a creative touch to class announcements by uploading poster images on Instagram.



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TOP 5 BOOKS STUDENTS SHOULD READ DURING QUARANTINE

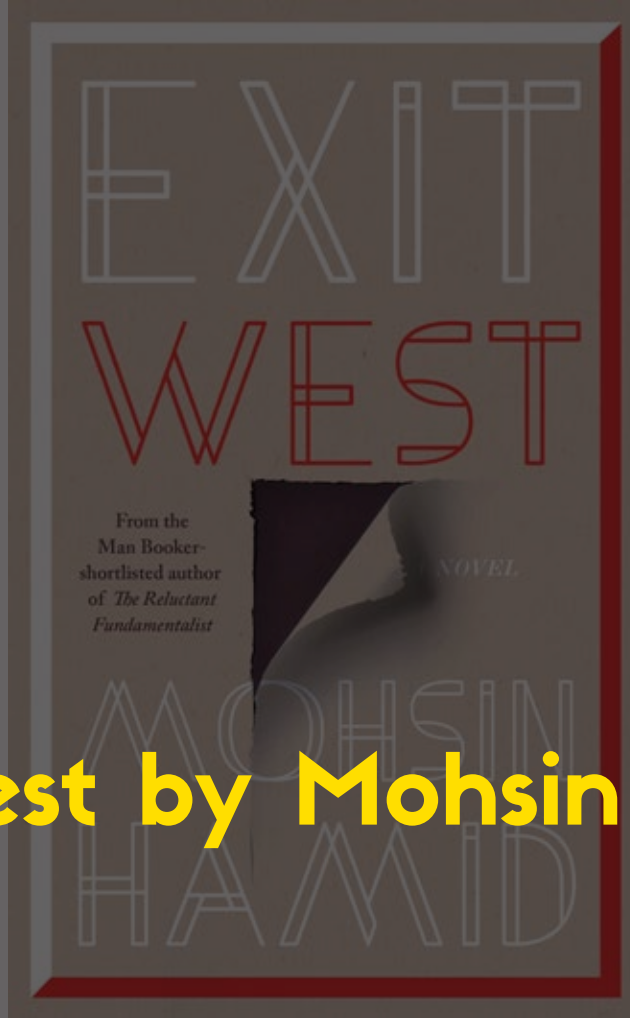


We have been in a Coronavirus lock down for almost 50 days now. Although 50 days may not seem like a time long enough to change the fate of the world, the intensity of the virus has transformed various areas of human life. The economy has weakened, environment has purified, world health has deteriorated. All in all, mankind is suffering at the hand of a virus that is invisible to the naked eye.

Under such circumstances, the small-time period of 50 days feels like an eternity of a lifetime. The lock down keeps going as the virus keeps gaining traction. Only positive thing that has come out of lock down is that people are exploring their talents in their spare time. We have seen art bloom around us in the most beautiful way. People who always wanted to explore their talents are finally getting a chance to do so. It is the perfect time to follow your passions that required time and effort.

If you are a student who forgot the concept of pleasure reading due to stringent academic life then this may be the perfect time for you to hit your bookshelf again. We have compiled a list of books that students may find informative, entertaining, and worth reading. Take a look;

1-Exit West by Mohsin Hamid



Mohsin Hamid beautifully captured refugee problems in his internationally acclaimed novel Exit West. The themes of migration and third world problems are captured with artistic finesse. His quality writing and imagination secured him a spot-on Barack Obama's list of favourite books.

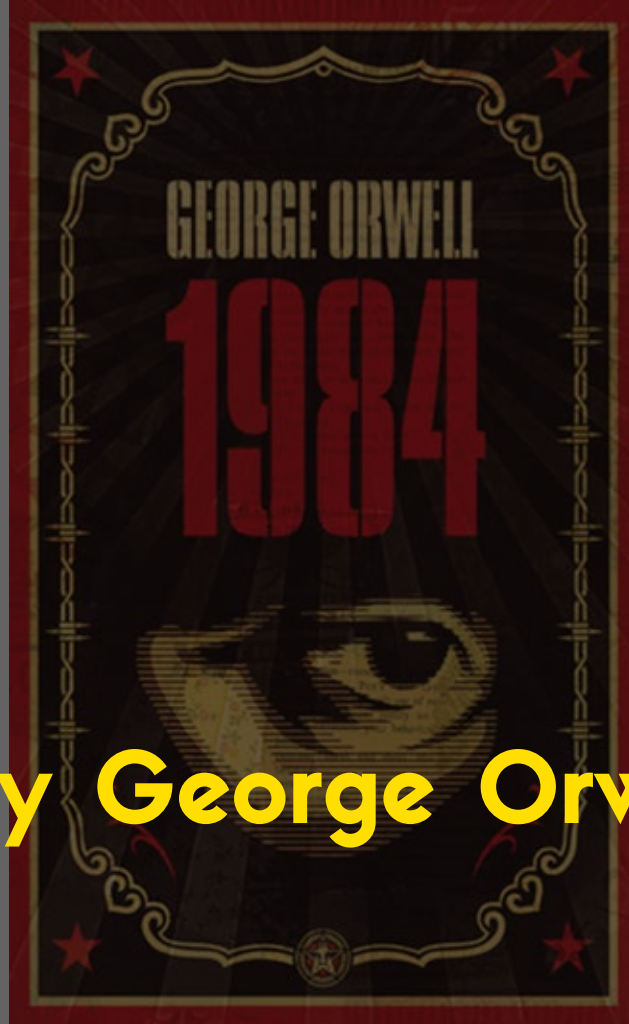
If you are a student who is a fan of travel stories then you may love this book. It is an ideal read for students who want to expand their imagination and gain some insight into creative writing. Hamid has used his writing skills to develop characters that are realistic and emotional. One of the ideal things about this book is its reading time. It is a short read that is ideal for students who don't enjoy reading.

WINNER OF THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE

2- Life of pi by Yann Martel

Life of pi gained fame as soon as it was published. Anyone who is into writing and literature knows about this book and understand its worth. Although there are many students who only know this work because there have been many commercial movies made on the story. If you found those stories intriguing, then you may want to give this book a chance. Our avid readers believe that book is 10 times better than the movie itself and deserves a chance.

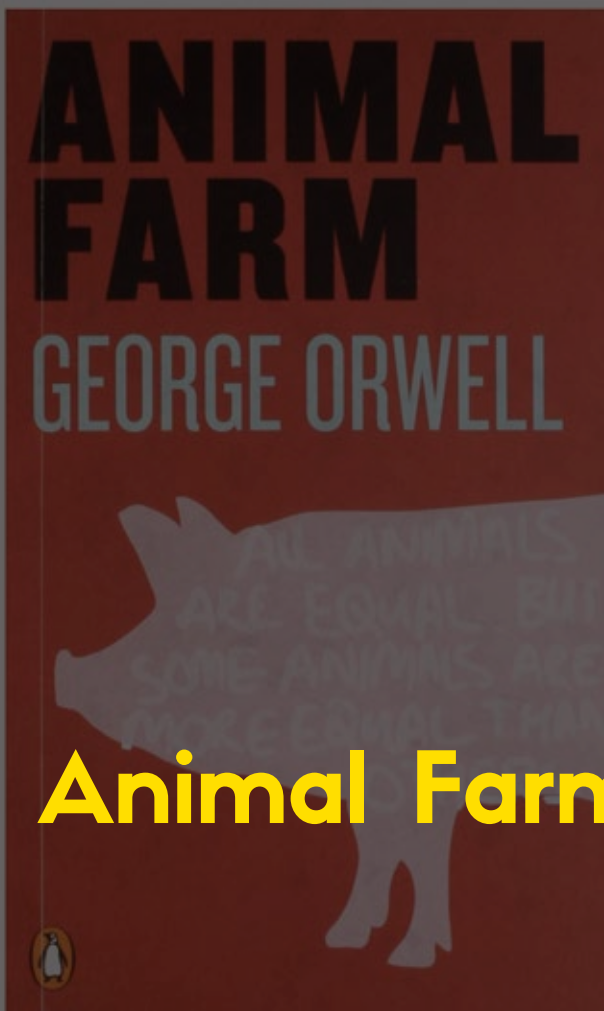
Yann Martel who is the author of this book used imaginative powers to bring the story towards a memorable climax. This book is an ultimate tear-jerker and is an ideal read for students who are trying to expand their knowledge about literature.



3- 1984 by George Orwell

1984 by George Orwell is a book that almost every student is aware of although not all have read it. Now is the ideal time to start reading this book as it has a lot to offer to reading addicts. Orwell has covered controversial topics with great ease and has made them easy to understand for students. Although it is a political read, the book has a lot of morals and lessons for those who read it. From state treason, blasphemy, lying false punishment, he has covered a lot of uncomfortable topics with his choice of correct words.

It is highly recommended by literary professors and teachers due to its historical value and moral lessons. If you are about to enter college then you may want to read this book already as it may help you in your academic ventures. There are many books that you are going to read in college by George Orwell, this book is ideal to introduce yourself to George Orwell's writing style and tone.



4-Orwell's Animal Farm

Animal farm is another famous creation of George Orwell. It is a novel that is written in the form of a fable to target some controversial themes and topics at the time of its release. Due to the controversial themes discussed in this book, it was likely that the book would get banned. Although its satirical nature and writing style saved its release. The book was initially published in the children section so that everyone could have access to it. It is an ideal read for all the students who are entering college as it may be a part of your academic curriculum.



5- Stephen Hawking's A brief history of Time

If you are a student who is not into fictional stories and novels, then this may be the perfect read for you. Although Stephen Hawking is mainly known for his research in the field of astrophysics, specifically about black holes, his books are equally cherished by the readers and literary critics. In his book A brief history of Time, Stephen Hawking discusses basic concepts of cosmology and universe. If you have just discovered your love for physics, then this should be the perfect book to get started on cosmology, astrophysics, or the universe.

These are our top six picks for students who are bored at home and want to be more productive. There are so many other books and genres that students can explore. We will be featuring more books in our coming articles to make this quarantine productive and entertaining.

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