

My Experience with the Pandemic and how to adapt future pandemic

My Experience with the Pandemic

It has been a year and a half since a new virus broke out. An unknown virus which scared the world was named Covid-19 has changed our lives substantially by bringing in a pandemic. It has now been declared as endemic!

As a student, I was and am majorly affected by this situation. While understanding about the virus, we had to stay indoors most of the time. Outdoor play being negligible, we had to adapt to a newer method of learning. That's HBL-Home-Based learning. Though initially it looked fun and positive, I realized there were some challenges too. We had to go through many difficulties like switching from one mode of online learning to many more platforms of online learning. We also had to keep track of our online timetable which seemed more hassle than being in school and follow the routine. I missed my friends and all the activities too. There were issues while submitting our work and we needed help from our parents who were busy working from home too.

Being stuck at home has helped us develop our resilience and perseverance. We have had the opportunity to sit back and understand that it's ok to get bored. While trying to find a way out of our situation by embracing the new norms, I feel we have observed how our parents have helped us handle any challenges that come up. Our teachers constantly conducted Zoom meetings to check in on our emotional wellbeing and ensured that we were safe. Our leaders of Singapore kept assuring us that we were being cared for apart from constantly supporting us by giving away free sanitizers and masks.

We played our part by helping an elderly neighbor with her grocery shopping as well as extending our help to other neighbors who returned from their trip by buying groceries and providing food while they were serving their Stay Home Notice.

How to adapt future pandemics?

The more I've learned about Pandemic, the more I've wanted to do something to help make the world a better place. I started by trying to become as eco-friendly as possible. I cut down on my single use plastics and became an avid recycler

We've also learned that not all learning has to be conducted within four walls of a classroom and that education can be about more than what's in a text book. This past year has taught us about patience, independence and connection. It's taught us all how strong kids are, and how fragile our way of life can be. It's shown the importance of teachers and how we need to make sure they are supported and their concerns heard.

Skills upgrade is not occasional process, it has to be part and parcel of everyone's life for both young and adults alike. Learning is a lifelong process and for certain period of time only.

Any pandemic can be overcome as a community and trust in each other. Pandemic readiness can be made as a life skill in the schools are practiced like we do our fire drill regularly.

Our school has initiated Peer support group for helping each other to overcome any stress related challenges. This program should be continued one to help face any future pandemic skillfully and easily.

We realized that masks are a very useful tool and sanitization should be a part of life going forward, which will ensure to be prepared for any future virus attacks.

I truly believe that people and science can make a difference to face any pandemic situation.

Digitization is the next big thing, I practically experienced about this from the Ice-Cream Cart uncle recently, for just a dollar ice-cream, he asked my mom to pay it thru "Paylah". We were surprised, but he explained that times are changing and he has to adapt to the digitization by enrolling himself to a program in community club, "Seniors go Digital". This is a great learning that go digital initiative would ensure that any challenges can be overcome through this.

Twenty years from now, a kid just like me will be learning about what I went through, in a history class. And I think that's pretty amazing!

