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# **Economic Crisis and Psychological Disorder among University Students in Bangladesh Due to COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A Perception-Based Assessment**

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Every civilization is finally fulfilled through an ups and downs. Our forefathers have been conquering diseases, droughts, epidemics long time ago. At present we are also facing a severe crisis called COVID-19. This epidemic has made the world chaotic. The impact of this epidemic on university students in Bangladesh is noticeable. There have been adverse effects on the economic and mental health of university students. 700 students from 50 universities in Bangladesh have responded to this study through questionnaires and virtual interviews. More attention has been paid to the qualitative characteristics of the participants for data analysis. Long-term mental health risks and widespread economic inconsistencies in university students have been revealed in the study.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Epidemic, University Students, Economic Inconsistencies, Suicidal Tendency.

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## **1. Introduction**

Although the discussion of COVID-19 increased in the beginning of 2020, it became visible to the world in 2019. Like all other countries in the world, Bangladesh has not escaped its terrible form. Among the many horrific incidents, the attack of COVID-19 on the university students of Bangladesh is significant. According to IEDCR, Covid-19 patients were officially identified in Bangladesh on March 8, 2020. Since then, the attack of COVID-19 has been increasing at a geometric rate. As a result, universities, like all educational institutions, were declared closed indefinitely. Due to the closure of the university for almost two years, psychological problems and financial opacity were observed among the students. Constant session jam, family and personal health risks, declining financial capacity and online class inequality are responsible for the students' mental and economic crisis. Dealing with such a global epidemic is not an easy task for anyone. Due to the long period of closure, the educational activities in the universities have become almost uncertain. Due to lack of previous experience, distance learning opportunities are not distributed among marginal students properly. As a result, the educational activities of the students have severely hampered. Those who studied at their own expense also became unemployed due to lack of home tuition and private coaching. Financial grants were given to some students from the universities but it was not enough. As an emerging developing country, Bangladesh is also going through a difficult situation where even the developed countries were not ready for the terrible grip of COVID-19.

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## **2. Objectives of the Study**

The main objectives of the study are;

- Find out economic condition of university students.
- Identify psychological and physical health of university students.
- Identify income level of family member of students during COVID-19 situation.
- Signify the factors that affect psychological condition of university students.
- Ensure vaccination tendency among university students

### 3. Research Methodology

This research has been established through qualitative research design by analyzing contemporary data. At the same time in-depth analysis has been done on each topic. Primary data is used for the study. By structural questionnaire twenty six question were being asked to the concerned respondents. 727 students from 50 universities participate to the study but 700 accurate responses has been justified ultimately. The five point Likert scale denotes the level of tone of respondents that makes the research efficient enough. The attitude of students has focused by Likert scale during COVID-19 period. For more query virtual interviews has been called.. Trend analysis is given during COVID-19 situation as well as pre COVID-19 situation in case of income level of students and students' family. All of related info is analyzed through spreadsheet analysis program. Also some demographic data were collected where the attributes are gender, age, educational level and tentative monthly income. Conceptual info from respondents is collected by virtual interviews, eg; phone call, zoom meeting.

### 1. Result and Discussion

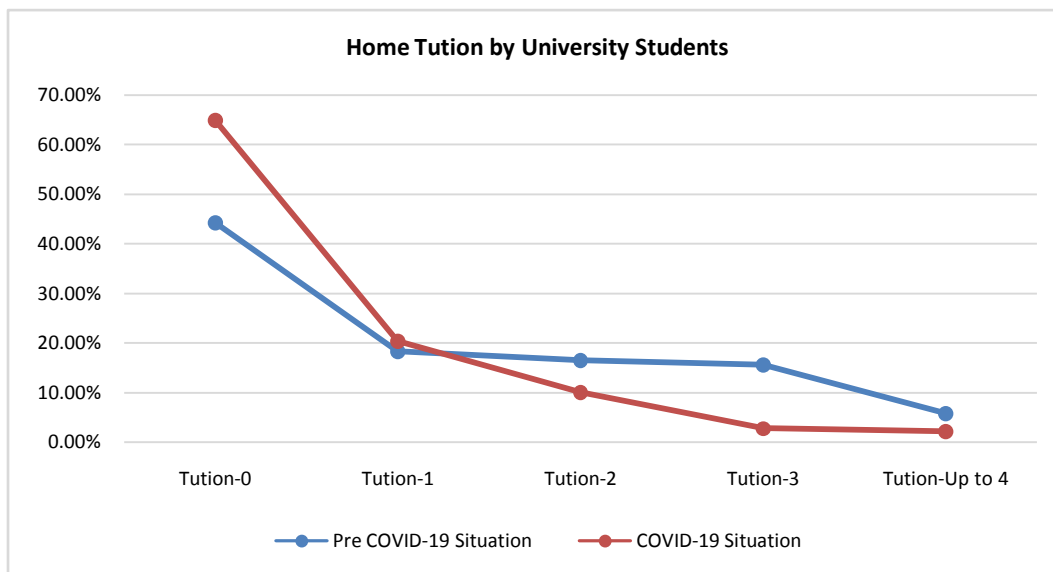
#### ✓ Demographic Profile at a Glance

Due to heavy restrictions of COVID-19 primary data could not be easily collected. Although I have already collected a numerous data from 50 universities, it was not quite easy task for me. From 727 respondents I sort out 700 accurate respondents.

Particulars		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	18-20	113	16.1%
	21-25	512	73.2%
	26-30	75	10.7%
Gender	Male	456	65.2%
	Female	244	34.8%
Year (Degree)	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	161	23%
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	56	7.9%
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	95	13.6%
	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	121	17.3%
	Undergraduate	165	23.6%
	Postgraduate	102	14.7%
Study Expense	Family Income	472	67.4%
	Own Income	202	28.9%
	Scholarship or Funding	11	1.6%
	Other	15	2.1%
Part Time Job	Having Part Time Job	235	33.4%
	No Part Time Job	465	66.6%
Financial Aid from University	Getting Aid from University	44	6.3%
	Not Aid from University	56	93.7%
Infected COVID-19 (Students)	Infected	145	20.8%
	Suspected	113	16.1%
	Not Infected	442	63.2%
Infected COVID-19 (Family)	Infected	202	28.9%
	Suspected	100	14.2%
	Not Infected	398	56.9%
Death Rate (From Family)	Death	85	12.1%
	No Death	615	87.9%
Vaccination	Vaccinated	585	83.6%
	Not Vaccinated	115	16.4%
Online Class during COVID-19	Satisfied	147	21.1%
	Not Satisfied	363	51.9%
	Neutral	190	27%
Suicidal Attempt	Taking Suicidal Attempt	78	11.2%
	Suspected	76	10.8%
	Not Taking Suicidal Attempt	546	78%

✓ **Analysis Result (Graphical Representation)****Home tuitionservicesby university students in Bangladesh.**

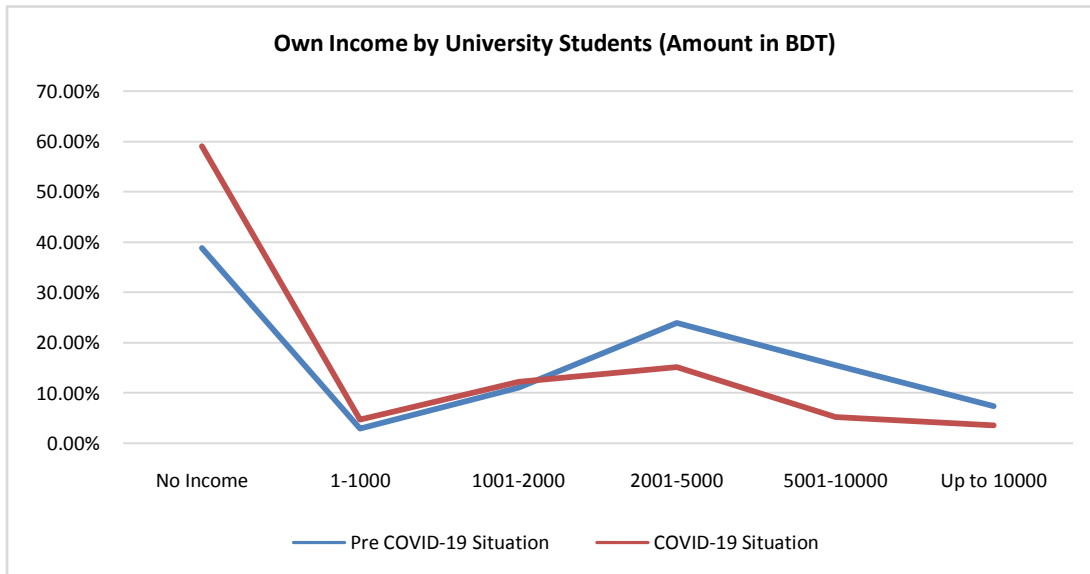
	Tution-0	Tution-1	Tution-2	Tution-3	Tution-Up to 4
<b>Pre COVID-19 Situation</b>	44.20%	18.20%	16.40%	15.50%	5.70%
<b>COVID-19 Situation</b>	64.90%	20.30%	10%	2.70%	2.10%
<b>Changes</b>	-20.70%	-2.10%	6.40%	12.80%	3.60%



- ❖ The opportunities for home tuition service during the COVID-19 situation have decreased at a greater rate than pre COVID-19 situation. 20.6% students has lost more home tutoring than before.

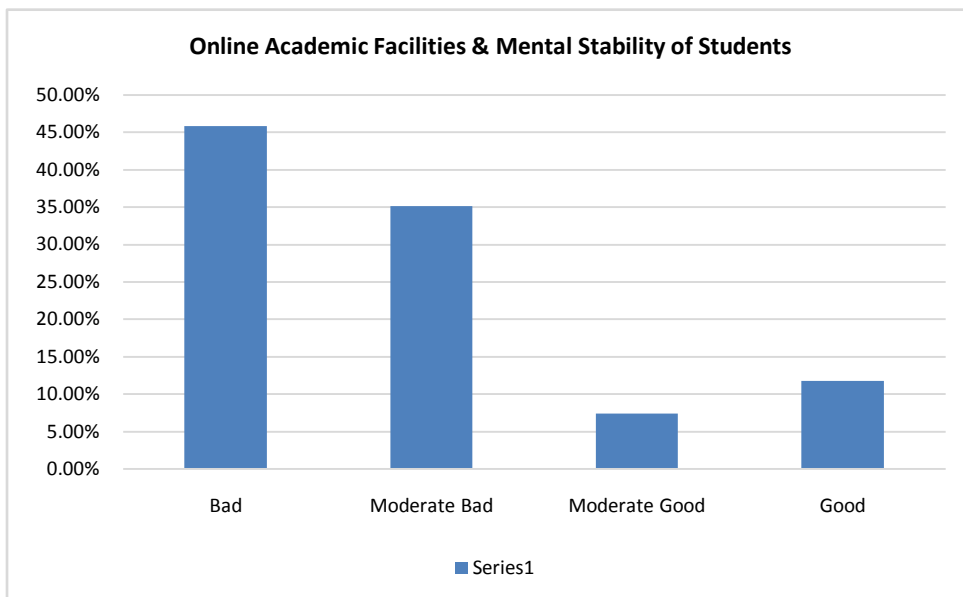
**Income from home tuitions and part time income sources by university students in Bangladesh.**

	No Income	1-1000	1001-2000	2001-5000	5001-10000	Up to 10000
<b>Pre COVID-19 Situation</b>	38.80%	3%	11.10%	23.90%	15.60%	7.50%
<b>COVID-19 Situation</b>	59%	4.80%	12.20%	15.10%	5.30%	3.60%
<b>Changes</b>	-20.20%	-1.80%	-1.10%	8.80%	10.30%	3.90%



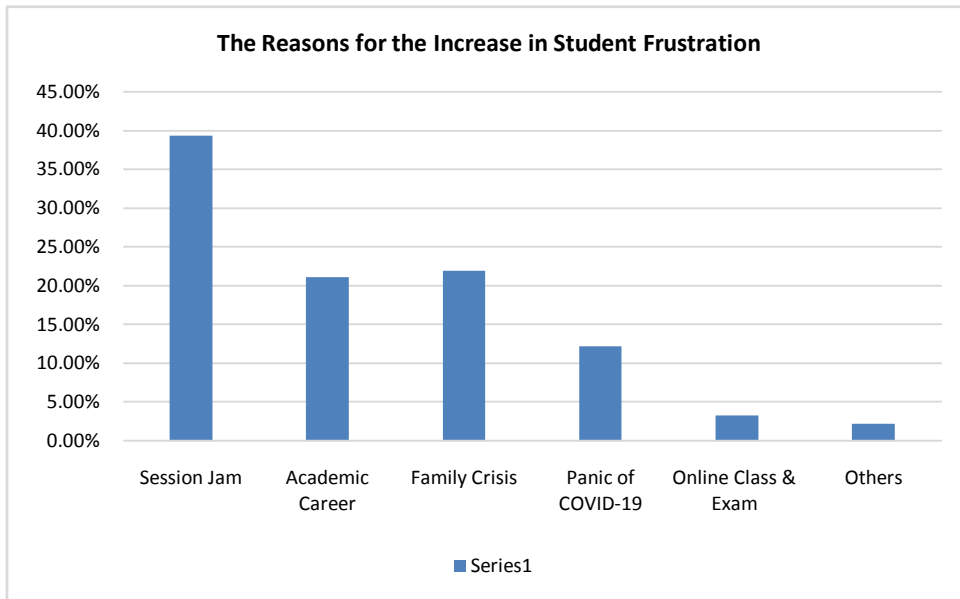
❖ In COVID-19 situation, the income of students who work part-time and teach home decreases. 20.2% students become more incomeless than before.

**Online Academic Facilities and Mental Stability among the students**



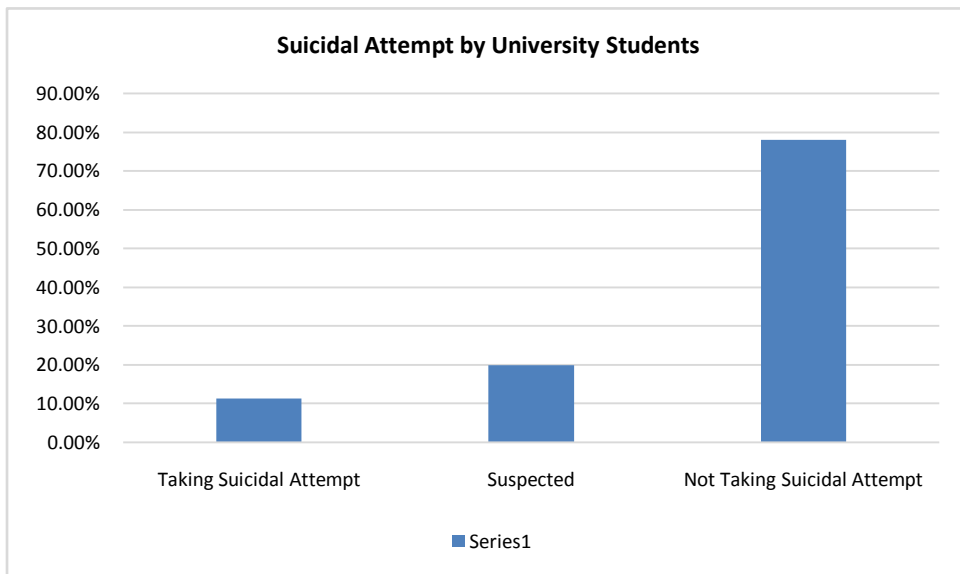
❖ Online academic facilities and mental stability are not in a favorable condition. Most students feel that their mental condition is not good at all. And they also think that the institutional benefits are not satisfactory enough. Many of the respondents express bitter experiences against these.

**The reasons for the increase in students frustration**



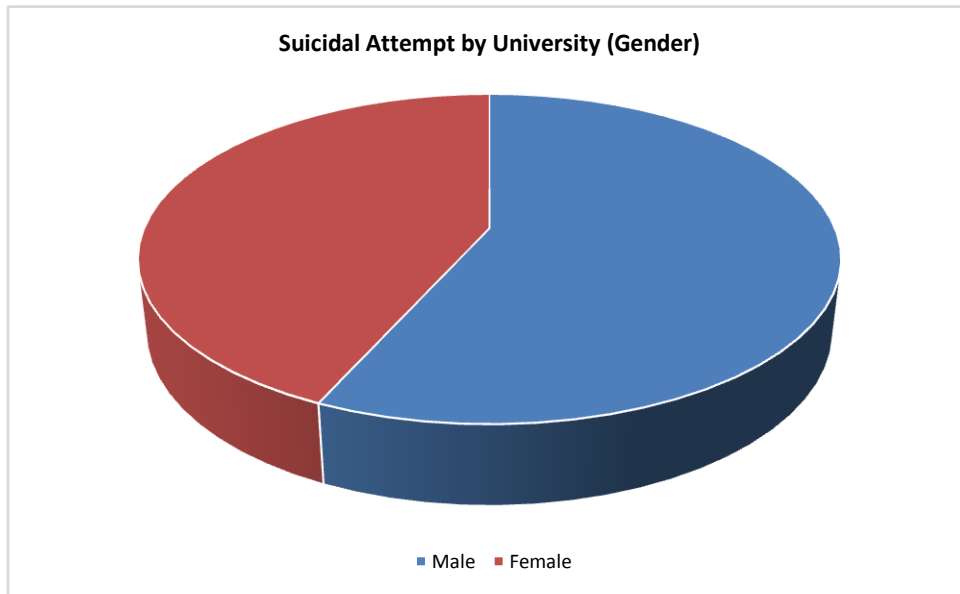
- ❖ In this pandemic situation, students have blamed session jam, unsecured academic career, family crises and panic of COVID-19 as the reasons for the increase in frustration. One student from Begum Rokeya University said, "I am going through a very painful day with the intense session jam at the university and the family financial crisis."

**Suicidal attempt by university students**



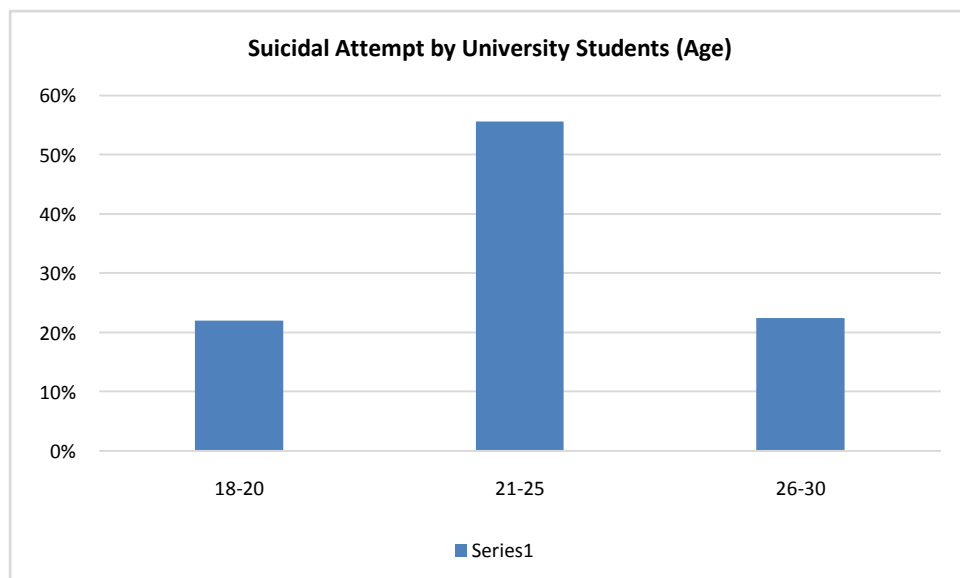
- ❖ Already 11.2% (78 out of 700) of students have attempted suicide. The number may seem small, but it cannot be ignored. 10.6% (76 out of 700) of students think that they may have tried to commit suicide subconsciously. These incidents are very horrible.

**Suicidal attempt among male, female**



- ❖ The tendency of suicide attempts has been noticed more among the boys( 57.3% of 78 students).

#### Suicidal attempt by university students (age limit)



- ❖ Most of those who have attempted suicide are between the ages of 21 and 25. And most are in the 4th year and undergraduate pass stage. The research shows that the condition of most of them is very depressing. One student, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "I am extremely angry and frustrated because of the long time university closures, session jam and family financial crisis. I have tried to commit suicide a few times. My life has become chaotic. I am living a very painful life as a member of a middle class family."

## 1. Conclusion

There has had a negative impact on the economic and mental health of university students in Bangladesh in COVID-19 situation. The severity of the psychological damage to the vast majority of students is unimaginable. The income limits of those who studied at their

own expense and the financial capacity of their families have dropped significantly. This loss has adversely affected not only the personal lives of the students but also their families. There is also a tendency among some students to attempt suicide which provides a terrible signal for the near future. A long-term and structural plan of all parties concerned, including the government, is needed to make up for this huge loss.

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