

## *The Silk Road to Online Teaching During Covid*

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Walking by the Liffey; I was in a jiffy.  
The world is falling around its ears.  
Health is in crisis and people are in fear  
COVID-19 has got it covered;  
Death and devastation; it has delivered.  
Social distancing removed all chit chat  
Not enough physical space, where we once sat!

College is closed; go home and teach;  
Try your level best and to your student, please reach.  
The faculty was in agony, especially me!  
Online teaching was my bonnet with a bee  
Where will I find the strength?  
To teach the students online at length.  
Me and technology were two pods of a different pea.

Up came the knights in shining armour- the technology guys.  
Don't worry Asha; here we are, and we are wise.  
Panopto and Blackboard Collaborate Ultra  
This is what we suggest and what you get.  
Off you go young one with this tutorial  
This is the world of online teaching material.

And I started! Oh! Where do I start?  
Video, recorder and microphone.  
Oh! Face to face was so smart!

Trial and error and error and trial  
Hold on dear students; this will be a while  
But I will get there and be ready  
To hold your hands and keep you steady  
While you negotiate folders of online learning  
Keeping the oil full and midnight lamp burning.

The wise librarian sent a kind gesture!  
Don't worry teachers and students and don't fluster.  
Book loans and fees have been excused  
Here more articles from generous databases that you can't refuse.

The student unions did all they can  
To send the students home to their mom and their nan.  
We are all here, they said to give you a hand  
In times of uncertainty in COVID land.

Nearly there but look! Here pops an email.  
College update - what I saw, my face went pale.  
The new decree, you cannot do an OSCE.  
Change your assessment to follow national guidelines  
Don't bring COVID to mainstream;  
Keep it at the side-lines.

Now I was in a dither, all I knew was face to face assessment.  
This was all due to COVID; causing me harassment.  
Spoke up my head of department and my module team  
Hang on Asha, don't yet yelp  
We are a team and we are here to help  
Together we will concentrate and get over at any rate.

Creating a bright future for our students is our speciality  
Sending excellent midwives to the people is our target

By the time COVID is spent, we will be done.  
Getting all the student midwives across the line.  
To the future, confident, shining, smart and fine.

It wasn't a walk in the park.  
With one living and two bedrooms.  
Our home wasn't exactly Noah's Ark  
Two students, actor patriarch and matriarch as teacher  
COVID! Never in my dreams did you feature  
When we moved to Ireland and were house hunting.  
Now to suit you, we have added a marquee and some bunting.

And yesterday, I got a lovely e-card  
From the class rep who has worked hard  
To collate responses from all the students  
Thanking us for the hard work and the time we spent.  
This learning was an eye opener  
Chalking up to experience and learning from it  
Take a deep breath of relief.

No hold on, no time to sit back on laurels.  
Here comes the e-timetable and again we begin.  
Getting easier and better every time COVID!  
You laughed at us and now we laugh at you  
We have seen one learning in this crisis through.