

Internet+ and COVID-19 – A short report

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Abstract. – OBJECTIVE: COVID-19 broke out in China at the end of 2019 and spread rapidly around the world. The World Health Organization designated COVID-19 as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. China has adopted its own country-specific comprehensive prevention and control measures, and, as a result, the domestic COVID-19 epidemic became effectively controlled in China in mid-March 2020. During the COVID-19 epidemic, remarkable changes have taken place in China's domestic learning, living, and working methods, primarily in terms of the synergy between the Internet Plus (Internet+) strategy and the leadership of the Chinese government.

Key Words:

Internet+, COVID-19, China.

Case Report

At the end of 2019, COVID-19 broke out in China and spread rapidly around the world¹. COVID-19 is an acute infectious pneumonia caused by a novel coronavirus, which is mainly transmitted through the respiratory tract, is highly contagious, and has a high incidence². As of April 5, 2020, it has spread to 207 countries, and the cumulative numbers of confirmed cases and confirmed deaths are respectively 1,056,159 and 57,206³. The World Health Organization designated COVID-19 as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020⁴.

China has adopted its own country-specific comprehensive prevention and control measures, such as closing communities and cities, banning parties, delaying school, and restrict-

ing work to cut off and control the spread of the disease epidemic and protect vulnerable populations. As a result, the domestic COVID-19 epidemic was effectively controlled in China in mid-March 2020. During the COVID-19 epidemic, tremendous changes have taken place in China's domestic learning, living, and working methods, primarily in terms of the synergy between the Internet Plus (Internet+) action plan and the leadership of the Chinese government. In terms of education, the schooling of students across the country has been delayed. Thus, cloud education has been widely adopted to enable students to attend classes at home, which is a concrete embodiment of the "Internet+ education" (Figure 1A)⁵. In the government and enterprise work modes, cloud offices and cloud contracts have been adopted, reflecting the specific embodiment of the "Internet+ office work." For shopping, individuals use various applications (especially Taobao and JD.com) to shop at home, and can pick up items at local express delivery centers. This is based on China's mature interaction between the "Internet plus the Internet of Things," which contributes to the orderliness of life at home (Figure 1B)⁵. With regard to the control of personnel, China has adopted "green code" travel, in which citizens are assigned a color code to represent their health status, to monitor suspicious people in real-time, which represents the specific implementation of the "Internet plus travel". Concerning medical treatment, cloud consultations and cloud prescriptions have also seen geometric surges, and the combination of the "Internet plus medical treatments" has therefore also expanded.

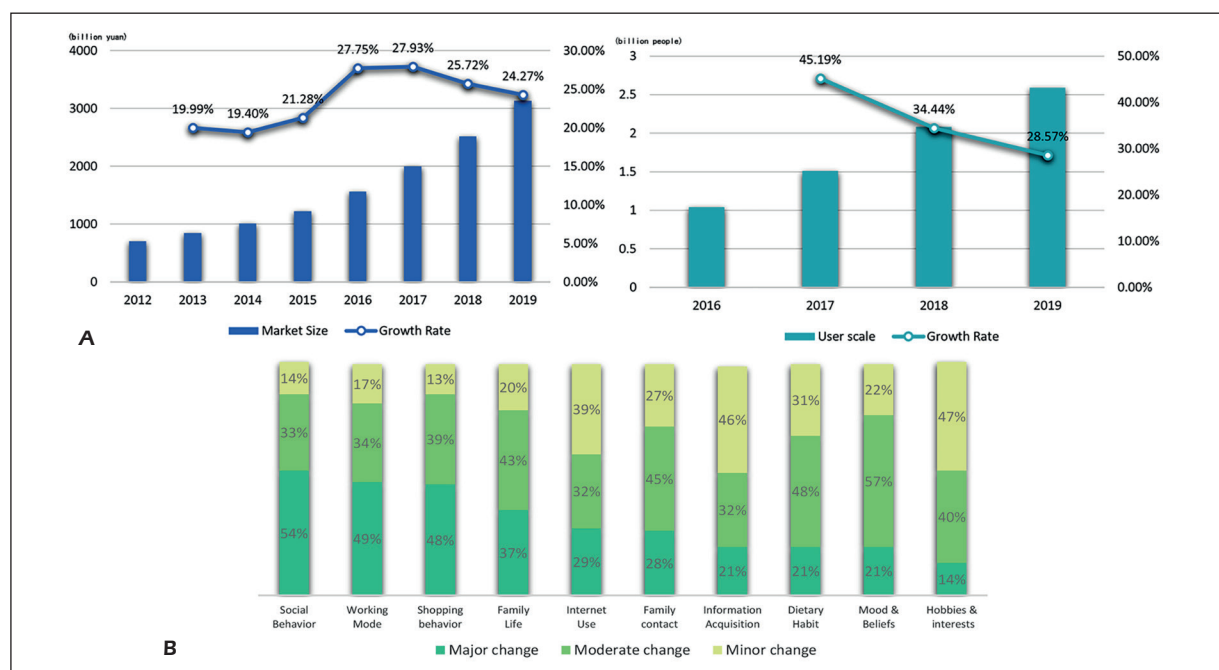


Figure 1. A, In 2019, the size of China’s online education market reached 313.36 billion yuan, an increase of 24.27% over the same period, which is expected to continue to grow at a high speed; the number of online education users in China will reach 2.59 billion, an increase of 28.57% year-on-year, which is expected to continue to decrease but remained stable. **B,** The outbreak of COVID-19 transferred social, work and shopping behavior to indoor activities, but had a relatively small impact on information acquisition as well as hobbies and interests.

In short, COVID-19 has changed life for many people. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that with the efforts of the people of the world, we will triumph together in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

Because no individual patients’ data was collected, neither ethical approval nor individual consent is applicable.

Availability of Data and Materials

All data are publicly available.

Authors’ Contribution

Conceptualization: Juan Chen, Ya-Cheng Guo; formal analysis: Yong-Ran Cheng, Zhan-Hui Feng, Lan Ye; visualization: Ming-Wei Wang; writing: Meng-Yun Zhou.

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