

Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 in India

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ABSTRACT: There is a close relationship of human health and courage to survive in crisis, war or pandemic, which is not new today. History entails huge examples, which clearly states that people have faced the terror of attack of viruses. The impact and the response of the emergency has shaped the world scenario for generations to come. The impact of COVID-19 is everlasting, affecting all sects of human life making it miserable with the prolonged availability or uncertainty of vaccines, lack of preparedness of health sector, stagnating economy with posing challenges in every section, affecting the life of human being.

I. AIMS

With this paper effort has been made to find out the ways for mitigating the risk factors and to analyse the impact it has on social and economic life of people. Focus is made on how to adapt to the changing scenario, in the COVID-19 crisis or how uncertainty has changed the life of 7.8 billion people in the world, making it vulnerable and struggling for survival, thrusting a question to rethink-How vulnerable human being became for survival and normal life? Is advancement and development bane for survival and nature?

II. METHODS

The literature search is been made using the key terms 'COVID-19' with "Lockdown", "Survival", 'social', "economic", "challenges", "pandemic", "food crisis", "gender inequality" from PubMed, Research Scholar, UNDP and World Bank Blogs from January 2020 to July 2020. Articles from various non academic websites were also reviewed for coherent result.

III. INTRODUCTION

Due to insatiable curiosity for luxury and accumulating capital, fearing to get poor is adversely affecting the aim and definition of development. Fear, greed, stress, inequity, illiteracy, racism, ignorance to nature has aggravated the problems and raised question mark to the future. Thus consequences have pooled having devastated, shocked and traumatized the

whole human race. The struggle and will to prevent the effects is always the optimum and proved to be the biggest fight in our history. The need to live is always the priority comparing to other needs. Life is the basic necessity followed by other needs. The outbreak of COVID-19 in china at the end of 2019, has endangered the life on the earth, infecting people through transmitting viruses with the close contact and the droplets emitted by diseased person. It spread widely through exposure to coughing, sneezing, respiratory droplets or aerosols, which penetrate the human body via inhalation. Till now it has affected 213 countries and territories around the world.

CURRENT SCENARIO OF INDIA :-

The first SARS-COV-2 positive cases in India was reported in the State of Kerala on 30th of January 2020. From then cases rose rigorously. On may 8th 2020, total of 14,37,7888 suspected samples were tested in National Institute of Virology (NIV) pune and found 56,342 cases positive. On 30th august 2020, among total 35,46,590 cases, found 76,7741 cases are active, in which 27,14,833 cases are recovered with 64,016 deaths in the country. (Source-wikipedia).

To protect against this deadly virus, Indian government has systematically taken necessary initiatives, strict measures including rescuing efforts and surveillance measures for the citizens returning to their country. India being the second largest populated country in the world facing difficulties in treating the patients. Guidelines and strict punishments, violating the pandemic, to control the COVID-19 spread. It has flashed 24/7 disease helpline (91-11-23978046 and 1800-180-1104). As WHO declared COVID-19 outbreak as pandemic on 11th march 2020. Indian government also paced fast to take immediate action, to detect and reduce the transmission to save life of the people. The WHO country office for India is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare working closely with (NCDC) National Centre for Disease Control, (ICMR) Indian Council of Medical Research, National Disaster Management Authority and NITI Aayog, supporting National and State Governments

fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. It formulated policies and strategies to strengthen National and State health system to support Prevention, Implementation, Management, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation, widening the health system, preparedness efforts wherever possible. The World Bank funded India, providing grants to public and private companies and Research Institution for development of vaccines, diagnostics, medical devices addressing public health priorities. While India was steadily public health system, it requires further robustness to respond disease outbreak and pandemic. The collaborative and transdisciplinary approach had been established, working at local, regional, national and global levels with the World Bank, FAO, WHO.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

The effect of the COVID-19 is so stupendous, its spread is so colossal that WHO had to declare it as pandemic. The only way to restrict its spread in current situation is to follow social distancing and to avoid moving out and contact with others. Considering the preventive measures, the whole country had to shut down except necessary activities with minimum interaction. Inescapably the Indian Government also took strong steps against the pandemic and secure its people's health, by sealing all international and external borders with imposing lockdown from 22nd of March and continuing it in different phases according to the necessity of the time. With this the Nation and its people facing challenges, almost 95% are co-operating to the measures taken by government.

Necessary preventive measures, such as wearing a mask, regular handwashing and avoiding direct contact with infected persons, along with following meaningful medications to improve the immunity of individuals, adapting traditional medicines in the form of AYUSH (Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) have been suggested globally. India, as is a 2nd largest populated country of the world with 1.34 billion people, inevitably is scared, because of the tremendous spread and transmission of the virus. Meanwhile in the struggle to fight and prevent the transmission, government has done tremendous efforts to control it. The government has to make hard and intellectual choice between public safety and survival and revival of the economy.

India, having complex cultures, nurture complex societies, which is its beauty but during crises, suffers gravely, having intervening impact on gender, age, status, employment, income and

education of the communities. Its impact on poor and marginalized people have been vulnerable especially to old, women, children and sick people in developing countries. During the shut down, the existing gender inequality has deepened exposing the amplifying vulnerability of the women, facing problems with earning less, job insecurity, unpaid care work, saving less, poor reproductive health, forced labor and domestic violence. All these problems are often rooted in gender social norms that exposes the women insecurities during crises. The closure of schools and childcare had also affected them most, since they provide unpaid care for the children and older adults of the house. Globally women do 2.5 times as much unpaid care work and domestic work as men, underlying gender inequality that affect women's fundamental capabilities, health and opportunities. This laid more responsibility on the government, to implement more flexible work arrangement, providing facilities to lessen the burden, conducting media awareness campaigns to change the ancient social norms, guarantee free health service and shelters for survivors of violence and providing legal help ensuring the continuity judiciary services.

To avoid escalating affect of COVID-19 the government has closed the transport services, factories hindering production and triggering unemployment. Based on the studies, economist said that there is job loss of 40 million peoples (MRD Report) in country, mostly in unorganized sectors. Restriction in travelling, cultural celebration meeting has aggravated social stress, adjusting to the current lifestyle. Poor people including displaced people facing food crises, often lack sufficient economic resources to access health care, and nutrition facilities in remote areas. There is high rate of malnutrition resulting in weak immune system increasing the risk prone to infections, deteriorating the impact of pandemic by increasing the mortality rates.

Rising the levels of food insecurities, lack of earning incomes and the lack of access to health care facilities due to restricted movements has aggravated the levels of malnutrition rates and poor health of children, women particularly pregnant women and elders. School's lockdown has also grave impact on health of poor children relying on school feeding programs. It is also a major concern increasing food crises. The daily wage earners have lost their earning as a result of regulations on social distancing and restrictions to mitigate transmission. It has vigorously reduced consumers demand with decline in purchasing power. All these situation could create the condition of social and political

unrest with soaring unemployment , limited or poor access to food , fueling discontent , violence and conflict in the community , coping with urgency , inappropriate planning , insufficient preparedness, time consuming access to health facilities of health sector and government to mitigate the shock has resulted in severe consequences in terms of mental health, deteriorating mental fitness, infuriating stress , anxiety , depression , frustration emerging day by day with the increasing shut down of movement or restriction .

Media information have provoked generalized fear and anxiety together with the awareness of preventive measures of COVID-19 . It has resulted in psychological reaction which varies from panic behaviour , pervasive feeling of hopelessness and desperation which is associated with negative outcome including suicidal behaviour. With the inequality of income resources along with 1.4 Billion children schools closed indefinitely poses extreme challenges to implement the tech based system of education in rural areas . Access to modern technologies ,to maintain interaction, plays a crucial role in education system during the pandemic . The major portion of rural children are lacking education , due to lack of modern technological resources , leaving behind the main stream .

With the announcement of lockdown, impact get worsened with its prolonged increase, on the poor people both in rural and urban areas. This crucial period , implies calling for everyone to act socially more responsible towards their duties as a member of the society. Sharp rise in unemployment , stress on supply chain , decrease in income generation , collapse of hospitality industry , impact severely resulting in increases in poverty , pushing more people below poverty line, worsening the pre existing gender inequality, hurdling the health and nutrition indices , posing setbacks to previously exiting health care system.

The colourful social knitting of Indian society lays thrust on interdependence , within families , relatives and communities . Social distancing and lockdown proved to be setback to the social fabric of society also.

IV. CONCLUSION:-

The stark reality on this planet in the need to survive , stay healthy which is impossible if we ignore further disruption of nature. The COVID-19 pandemic has questioned the potential of human being to cope up the global challenges . In this struggle humanity is taking turmoiling effect with coming up as – collective action , responsible behavioural changes towards human life , survival , equity , environmental awareness and the most to live safe and happy. . All this depends upon the global and National strategies to prevent and control the crises as COVID-19 , infuture . Due to enormous problems raised during pandemic , governments effort to mitigate it, worked inadequately . The lower income earners and poor faced tremendous problems and likely to face in the future . There is a need to strengthen the National and International Health Programs and Awareness towards the Sustainable life with Environment preservation Programs and Initiatives.

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