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Impact of Lockdown on Marginalized Section in India: An Observational Approach

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus is popularly known as covid-19 pandemic has captured the entire world and created the pathetic scene. There are many countries in the world could not sustain vast spreading of this virus and witnessed with many death toll in an unimaginable manner. The entire social system, economy, business, trade and commerce, export and import process and religious activities have been collapsed and threat and fear has been created by corona novel virus in mid of March, 2020. No one scientist, academician, medical expertise personalities, political experts, leaders in the world have not expected this kind of virus exist and broken down the mechanism of the functioning process in the world, where India is also not an exception. Therefore, this kind of the situation prevailed in the nation and people are under the psychological crutch.

Every day, one or the other way, the corona virus effects and impacts are reviewing along with the government preventive measures and medical provisions and also handling the situations in the country has been telecasts/broadcasts through the T.V channels, news papers, mass media etc, has attracted the mind to an author to have an observational survey to look into the lockdown and its impact on marginalized people in India and accordingly pursued and is the main considerations in this paper. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this observational investigation and confined to focus on marginalized sections only. The day today's news with different level of an approaches have been expressed by the people who have shared their ideas helped and encouraged to write this article along with the available literature reviewed through the internet. The lockdown is responsible force for broken down the mechanism of the human society in India to prevent the corona not spared further. The Government of India has declared lockdown mid of March, 2020 inevitable and accordingly sealed the internal and external borders by the last week of the March. In a later stage, due to the situations, the lockdown has extended in the country in a phased manner and accordingly, the mass of migrated people were working in different sectors as a working laborers suffered a lot and faced with the horrible situations. As a result, the observational survey has helped to understand the impact of the lockdown on the marginalized section in the Indian society in the light of capability theory and constitutional provisions.

KEY WORDS: Covid-19, Lockdown, Marginalized Section, Capability Theory and Constitutional Provisions.

INTRODUCTION:

Lockdown is responsible force for broken down the mechanism of the human society across the globe, due to the Corona Virus is turned into a COVID-19 spread the entire world and created human beings under threat. Government of India has declared the lockdown mid of March, 2020 inevitable for the country to fight against of this pandemic and accordingly sealed the internal and external borders by the last week of the March.

In a later stage, due to the situations, the lockdown has extended in the country in a phased manner. As and when, the situations arise the lockdown has relaxed to maintain the minimum revenue to the Governments both central as well as states. As far as world scenario of this pandemic is concerned, it has infected to the tune of 12.9 million people and the death toll has surpassed 5.66 lacks across the world with 216 counties along with territories where, India is also not acceptations (13-7-2020). India has also borne the brunt with cases increasing each day. The first case in India was reported on January 30, 2020 and till the date it is continued. India has recorded 8.78 lacks corona virus cases, 5.53 lacks recovered after getting infected and the death toll has reached almost 23,174 (13-7-2020) as per the Union Health Ministry Website in the country. Due to corona virus, people have realizing the importance of the life and value of the life. If the social system is prevailed without interface of the human beings, it is not a dynamic in nature, only it is matter of existence. Therefore, the role of an individual in a society is controlled by this virus and handicap in all facets of the society and created the fear and threat in the nation.

Recently, the Government of India has authorized to the States Governments to deal the situations and control the effects of corona in the respective states in the country. But, it is hearting to note that the cases are increases in a drastic manner and death toll is also continued to go and will be unwieldy in future. The global functioning system has been suddenly stopped by a dangerous Covid-19 within a stipulated time and made everyone in an embarrassing situations and entire world in a pathetic and panic position and blinked with darkness not only affected the trading, business, transportation system of the nation but also an individual life of the people in particular and society in general.

Modern world is a complex entity which has provided the human beings to furform varieties of activities in different dimensions for their survival with high level magnitude and provided the bread and butter for many people in different geographical space on the world. 21st century is the challenging century, with so of challenges accumulated in a peak, are to be addressed in a proper manner not only in the science and technology, medical, engineering, environmental fields but also in the socio-economic along with the political crisis in the country. Therefore, to keep the human society intact, the scientists, bureaucrats, planners, politicians, social workers and entrepreneurs are to be struggling too hard to keep the human society quite happy by performing all the activities in the facets of human society by addressing them in an effective way through the proper execution of planning. The complexity has been created due to globalization, liberalization and privatization has reflected on industrialization, urbanization, and migration etc, has made the globe into a small village with so much dynamism in nature, where people have involved in every bit of its functionalities threaten by Corono Virus, which is more serious challenges to the world.

In India, Covid-19 has opened up the eyes of every citizen of the country to prevent this spreading virus which is turned into Pandemic extended its tentacles to capture the human society in its control. Corona is a horrible virus that created fear among people and threat in the life. It has already witnessed many lives in its fold and is further responsible of spreading in every corner of the country. The impact of the pandemic is visible across the sectors globally, but its impact on marginalized sections, women and children has been immense in India. This crisis is going to affect economy as never before leading to massive psycho-social impacts as well. It has several implications on humanity, the issues of health, the rapid decline of economy, shortage of medicines, sanitizers, masks, and other essentials, poverty, unemployment has undoubtedly taken centre stage and each has left a mark on the lives of people. To keep the people in a safe mode and to escape from the clutches of this virus the lockdown is the only way to prevent. As a result, lockdown is inevitable and not to spread this virus from one place to another by a person who has been detected positive. The infected persons have been taken much care, and kept them in isolation and suspected people have been kept in quarantine.

The isolation and quarantine are not new concepts to the human beings in the world. The entire world was under the experiences from the horrible diseases faced by the people occurs the world in the historical past. Globally, it has witnessed with a health issues caused by dangerous diseases like Cholera, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Plague, Small Pox, Yellow fever, and Viral Hemorrhagic fever etc. have been responsible for keeping the people in isolation and quarantine. Therefore, it is not a new to the world but definitely new to the present generation.

It is astonishing to note that this virus does not have proper medicine yet, particularly, no vaccine, no injection, no tablets and no syrup to control this virus. Therefore, it is the only method and means to control and restrict an individual as well as the society by practicing the preventive measures like maintain the social distance, physical movements, wearing the masks and hand washing every bit of it. The threat and fear of the life has been created by this virus and everyone has confined to home only. The family members have the freedom in the home with restrictions. Due to the advancement of science and technology; the kind of preventive measures have been taken up easily. The sanitizer, masks, hand-wash, detective instruments, testing with modern clinical methods, ventilators etc are also known to the common people with a concept of social distancing and physical movements in the society by this virus. Resource limitations for women has brought in a situation where women tend to neglect their own requirements while prioritizing life and budgets of others in the family and issues like menstrual hygiene, mental health and her nutrition do not feature in the list of priority.

Marginalized section is one, which denied the opportunities to lead the comfortable life on par with the people who are in the mainstream of Indian society is known as marginalized section. This kind of section is not related to any caste or religion but is emerged in Indian society with lack of voice against the discrimination, injustice and humiliation, meted out by the dominant sections with economically strong, socially highly affluent class with political base. The lack of awareness about their existence, no proper education and clear vision for future life is made them be a marginalized section in the country.

If anyone is interested to go into the deeper roots to dissect the Indian society in a minute of microscopic way of approach, one could find different compartments i.e. Marginalized Section in a broader way with Exploited Section, Discriminated Sections, Depressed, Oppressed and Suffered Sections along with Emitted, Limited and Omitted Sections prevailing in Indian society even in the constitutional force of a democratic country executing for the last 64 years.

In a lockdown, the Government has focused mainly on testing, treatment and prevention of COVID-19 but people and communities are going through various social problems as well in adjusting to the current lifestyles and fear of the disease across nations. In India, where abrupt lockdown has brought millions below the poverty line struggling for basic needs like food and shelter which then leads to unequal share in domestic responsibilities, to violence against the vulnerable members of the household.

The capability approach is a widely influential theory in contemporary political philosophy, social justice, development studies, studies on poverty and inequality, and in public policy. It was formulated by Amartya Sen and further developed by Martha Nussbaum. Sen (1993) defines the capability of a person as that which reflects the alternative combinations of functioning the person achieves and from which he/she can choose one collection. The distinguishing characteristic of the capability approach is focuses on what people are effectively able to do and to be.

To differentiate functioning from capabilities, the fasting person and the starving person examples is holds well. While both encounter similar level of functioning (i.e. nutritional deficiency), the fasting person has the capability to be adequately nourished, that is to say, he/she could eat if he/she chooses to do so, while the starving one does not have that capability. Therefore, the marginalized section able to do and to be but could not, due to the denial of the privileges in the nation.

Individual Perception

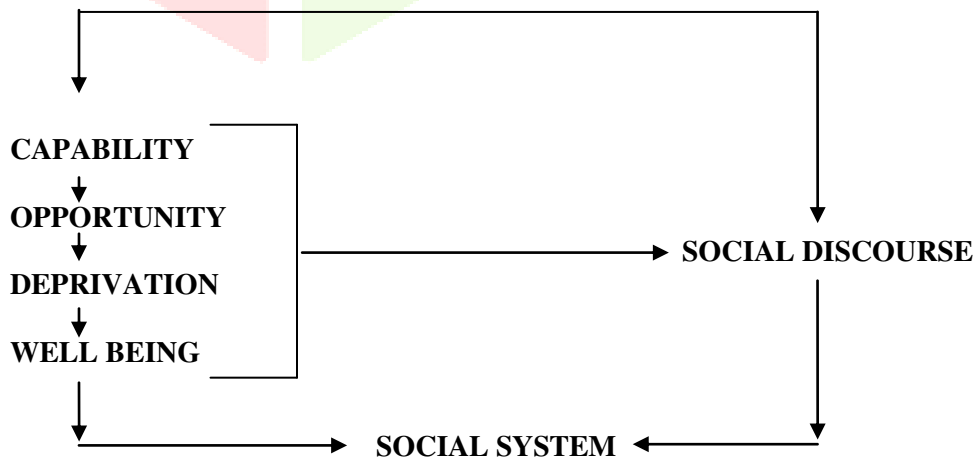


Fig.1

The fig.1 diagrammatically represents that the social system is responsible for an individual growth; if not the social discourse is a matter. Therefore, the capability is determined by the different lifestyles that an individual state of being it represents the alternative combinations of things a person is able to do or to be. Thus, capabilities represent various combinations of functioning. Capability is also a set of vectors of functioning reflecting a person's freedom to lead one type of life or another. These basic capabilities refer to the freedom to do some of the basic things necessary for one's survival or to keep one out of poverty. If the achieved functioning constitute a person's well-being, then the capability to achieve functioning will constitute the person's freedom, that is, the real opportunities (to achieve well-being).

Capabilities refer to the notions of freedom and reflect the real opportunities people have to lead or achieve a certain type of life. Capabilities are the substantive freedom a person enjoys to lead the kind of life he/she has reason to value. The kind of environment is influencing the people and encouraging them for the empowerment will leads to different life path proves the capabilities. The most basic capabilities for human development are:

1. to lead long and healthy life,
2. to get a proper education and knowledge,
3. to have access to the resources and social services needed decent standard of leaving and
4. to participate in the life of the community and to furform the effective role in the nation building process and future generation.

In view of this, one has to prove the capability with an ability wherever the opportunities are arise in the society. Therefore, the constitution has given equal rights to everyone to lead the life comfortably through the ability and opportunity

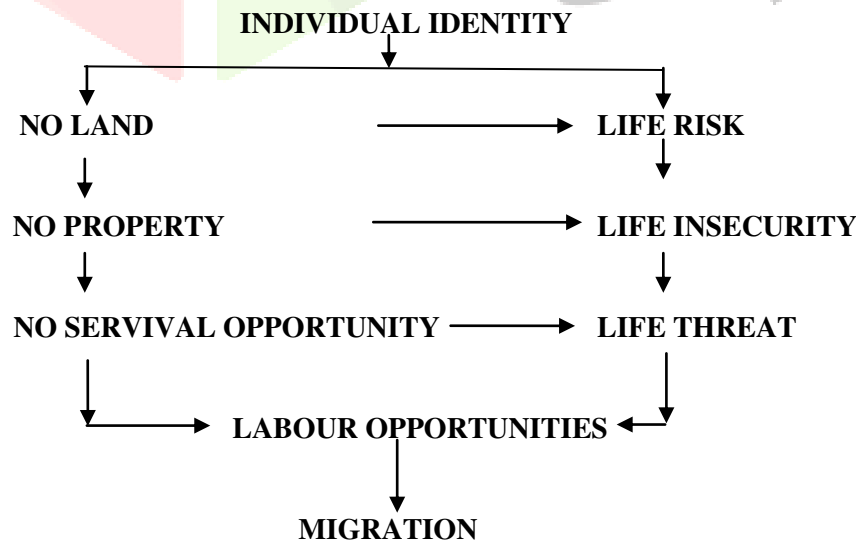


Fig.2

The fig.2 is indicates that the migration is an inevitable to the marginalized people for their survival and accordingly migrated and comfortably adjusted their work. In the mean while, the COVID-19 has disturbed their normal life and threatened their survival. As a result, the impact of these areas has been observed.

1. Impact on Labours.
2. Impact on Agricultural Labours.
3. Impact on Labour in rural unorganised sector
4. Impact on Service sector- banking, Hotels, restaurants.
5. Impact on Health & Education (sociological impact),
6. Psychological Impact,
7. Impact on Transportation system.
8. Impact on Industries, particularly, Textile, Apparel, Automotive, Aviation, Chemicals, Poultry, Consumer durables, Entertainment and Sports, Pharmaceuticals, e-commerce and the IT and BT fields.
9. Impact on Tourism,
10. Impact on Export and Import and
11. Environmental impact.

CONCLUSION:

It is surprising to note that the covid-19 virus does not have medicine, particularly no vaccine or injections, tablets, syrup etc, to cure the virus. The only preventive measures are to be taken care by maintaining the social distance and physical movements along with the immunity level of a person. The maintaining the social distance is the only method and means to control and restrict an individual as well as the society. The threat and fear of the life has been created by this virus and everyone has confined to home only.

The marginalized section must understand their rights to live in this democratic system and aware about their rights. The elected representatives from Gram Panchayats to the Loksabha and nominated members in the assembly as well as in Rajsabha are working too hard at the time of election for requesting the people to cast their vote to their favour or a party by knocking the door of the people in the booth level for canvassing.

But, it is heartening to note that the massive humanistic operations have not done by the people whom have elected by such people, it clearly reflect that they do not have any human concern, human value, and commitment is missing in this situation. Due to this, the marginalised people were underwent horrible hardship. Therefore, in the democratic system of the society, one must have a wider way of thinking by the intellectual community in a larger extent and the progressive people along with the political field oriented persons.

This kind of a silence by the responsible leaders in the political system is leads to a greater threat to the marginalised section which is not a healthy sign of future prospects of the nation. Therefore, the marginalised section of the society must understand the constitutional provisions and one should aware their rights to utilise to the maximum extent for their survival. Therefore, the Political Power is the Master Key to Open All the Doors of your Successes statement of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's holds well in this situation and also given a good guidelines for future generation that your emancipation are not in the hands of anybody but, definitely in your hands only, thereby to get the progress and prosperity of your life in all respects.

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