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Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on the society

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Abstract

Sudden declaration of the blanket lockdown was essential to stop the adverse result of the deadly disease to the community spread. Whereas, blanket shutdown has its own downsides, but it has been proved as an impoundment measure similar to China. But, few believe that there could be alternative ways than the **Lockdown**. This study was carried out to investigate the issues and challenges faced by the researchers to find out the potential results to the impact of lockdown on the society.

Key words:

Covid-19

Lockdown

Introduction

The government of India confirmed the country's first case of Corona virus disease 2019 on 30 January 2020 in the state of Kerala, when a university student from Wuhan traveled back to the state. As the number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases closed 500, PM Modi on 19 March, asked all citizens to observe 'Janata Curfew' (people's curfew) from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday, 22 March. At the end of the curfew, Modi had said: "Janta Curfew is just the beginning of a long battle against COVID-19". Following this while addressing the nation second time, on 24 March, he announced the nationwide lockdown from midnight of that day, for 21 days. He said that the only solution to control the spread of corona virus is breaking the cycle of transmission by social distancing. He also added that the lockdown will be enforced stricter than the Janta Curfew. Later on the janta Curfew turned into the Total Curfew. The impact of the curfew is clearly visible to everyone, but to save the nation, it is mandatory to breakdown the chain. There are many impacts of lockdown, few are mentioned below: In many books its clearly mentioned about different Epidemics Where this Epidemic did not surprised Historians They further Compared this ongoing disease with PLAGUE (1900) and SARS (2003). Societies and their citizens misunderstand the relative importance of the health risks they face. The future course of Covid-19 remains unclear. Nonetheless, citizens and their leaders need to think carefully, weigh risks in context, and pursue policies commensurate with the magnitude of the threat.

History

Human corona viruses, first characterized in the 1960s, are responsible for a substantial proportion of upper respiratory tract infections in children. Since 2003, at least 5 new human corona viruses have been identified, including the severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus, which caused significant morbidity and mortality.

Social Impacts

Virus caused a very large impact on society, particular in India. During the early period of Corona virus outbreak, tension surged in the community. All this happened due to the lack of original information, tales about the epidemic situation spread through word of mouth, social media, and so many other ways. The spread of all kinds of false things, heighten the spread of local panic, reflected in an essential of panic purchasing of drugs in India. The wave to purchase masks occurred in all over the India. Then people were mad about sanitizers, the buying speed gradually spread like anything. Over a night, people were wearing masks everywhere on the streets in India. The lack of understanding of corona virus by the common people as well as by the people who are coming from the foreign countries. For example, a 70years old man returned from Italy to Punjab participated in various social gathering besides knowing about the fact of his health.

Loss of Jobs

Major impact of the lockdown was seen on the jobs of the people. As business shut down to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19. Despite this fear, business and communities in many regions have shown a more considerate response in the face of crisis-actions which could help countries preparing for COVID-19. COVID-19 is in decline in China.

There are now more new cases every day in Europe than there were in China at the epidemic's peak and Italy has surpassed it as the country with the most deaths from the virus. It took 67 days to reach the first 100,000 confirmed cases worldwide, 11 days for this to increase to 200,000 and just four to reach 300,000 confirmed cases – a figure now exceeded.

Economical Impact

During past few months, It is noticed that there is a visible impact of the Lockdown because of the COVID 19 on the financial markets and on the local industries such as in tourism, hospitality and in travel. Travel and Tourism account for 10% of the global GPD and 50 million jobs are at the risk worldwide.

Global tourism and hospitality companies closing down affect SMEs globally. It affects the least well paid and those self employed or working in informal conditions in the recital economy or in part time work with zero-hour contracts. Some governments have announced economic measure to safeguard jobs, fixed wages and help the self-employed, but there is lack of clarity in many countries about these measures will be implemented and how people will manage a loss of income in the short period of time.

Criminals pretending to be WHO

Criminals are disguising themselves as WHO to steal money or sensitive information. According to WHO "If you are contacted by a person or organization that appears to be from WHO, verify their authenticity before responding."

The World Health Organization will:

- never ask for your username or password to access safety information
- never email attachments you didn't ask for
- never ask you to visit a link outside of www.who.int
- never charge money to apply for a job, register for a conference, or reserve a hotel
- Never conduct lotteries or offer prizes, grants, certificates or funding through email.

Criminals and hackers are exploiting

Sadly, criminals and hackers are also exploiting this situation and there has been a significant rise in Corona virus-themed malicious websites, with more than 16,000 new corona virus-related domains registered since January 2020. Hackers are selling malware and hacking tools through COVID-19 discount codes on the dark net, many of which are aimed at accessing corporate data from home-workers' laptops, which may not be as secure as outside an office environment.

Impact on Health

Social distancing and lockdowns have also prompted altruistic behaviours, in part because of a sense that "we're all in this together". Many people report being bored or concerned about putting on weight; others have discovered a slower pace of life and by not going out and socializing have found more time for family, others and even their pets.

The downside of self-isolation or social lockdown are symptoms of traumatic stress, confusion and anger, all of which are exacerbated by fear of infection, having limited access to supplies of necessities, inadequate information or the experience of economic loss or stigma. This stress and anxiety can lead to increased alcohol consumption, as well as an increase in domestic and family violence. In Jingzhou, a town near Wuhan in Hubei province, reports of domestic violence during the lockdown in February 2020 were more than triple the number reported in February 2019.

Health measures must be the first priority for governments, business and society. It is important for businesses to show solidarity and work together to protect staff, local communities and customers, as well as keeping supply chains, manufacturing and logistics working. According to research, "my employer" is more trusted than the government or media. Daily updates on a company website with input from scientists and experts are recommended to counter politicized messages in the media and from governments. This is particularly true for large companies that have the capacity to do this.

Messages about what businesses are doing for their employees and in their communities is also important. Some companies are helping schoolchildren from vulnerable families who can no longer get a school meal; others are providing public health messages about effective hand washing. Even CEOs can show they are working from home and self-isolating, while still being effective in their leadership.

Psychological Impact

There is a loss of mental and social order during the peak of a high impact outbreak. Studies post-SARS pandemic or post-Ebola indicate that even after recovering physically from the disease, individuals suffered from social and psychological problems. A survey in a convalescent hospital in Hong Kong showed that approximately 50% of recovered SARS patients showed anxiety, and approximately 20% were fearful, including panic attacks, feelings of depression, or stigmatization.^[15] In addition, health professionals who worked in SARS units and hospitals during the SARS outbreak also reported depression, anxiety, fear, and frustration.^[16] Similar panic attacks were noted during the Ebola outbreak as well. Despite these glaring evidences, common mental health problems and disorders found among patients and health workers working in epidemic settings are often ignored by the scientific fraternity. It is essential that along with public health emergency response measures, protocols to identify, treat, and prevent mental health problems should be instituted for both patients and health-care professionals in the midst of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Measures for the Covid-19

Following WHO advice, there is a need for the business community to move from general support to specific actions and focus on countries' access to critical supplies, including a "Community Package of Critical Items" (a list of 46 items that all countries need). Of these items, 20 are either not available locally or available stocks are too limited. These missing items fall into four categories:

- Hygiene: Chlorine, HTH 70%, alcohol based hand rub, liquid soap;
- Diagnostics: lab screening tests, lab confirmation tests, enzymes, RNA extraction kits;
- PPE: gowns, scrubs, aprons, sterile gloves, protective goggles, face shields, masks (N95 or FFP2);
- Case management equipment: oxygen concentrators, oxygen delivery systems, mechanical ventilators.

The call for action is for more money, to work with manufacturers to create capacity and to organize purchasing so there is guaranteed access, especially for poorer countries with less resilient public health systems. The concept is to create a global security stockpile of supplies and equipment, an effort that needs:

- Emergency financing;
- Access to and increases in manufacturing capacity;
- Access to national and supplier stockpiles;
- Warehouses and distribution capacity.

As Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust, says: "We are all in this together, as this pandemic will affect our families, in every country. We will leave no-one behind."

The timing of the outbreak of the Covid-19 at Lunar New Year is unfortunate. It caused countless travel cancellations in Asia and beyond, the closing down of casinos in Macao, a prolonged new year's break for Chinese stock markets and cancellation of important trade fairs and sporting events in the Asian region. The global economic impact of Covid-19 is expected to be substantially more significant than that of SARS, primarily because China has gone from being a small player in the global economy in the early 2000s to an economic powerhouse today. In early 2000, China accounted for just over 4% of global gross domestic product (GDP), compared with 16% today.^[12] China has become an integral part of the global manufacturing supply chain, accounting for about one-fifth of global manufacturing output. As per the Dun and Bradstreet analysis, at least 51000 companies, including 163 Fortune 1000 companies around the world, have one or more direct suppliers in the Hunan region of China. Business activities across China have been stopped in order to contain its spread, causing an inevitable supply deficit in the near future.^[13] The economic body blow to China is severe and will increase further until the virus is restrained. As per the Moody's analysis report, it might affect an approximate 1% global GDP loss.^[14] India is dependent on Chinese imports across sectors from pharma, mobiles, TV panels, solar power parts, and other electronic goods and can make the already ailing economy worse. On the other hand of course, this could be an opportunity for India to promote the "Make in India" program flourish and expand its exports.

Conclusion

In present fast world, the proliferation of the infectious vehicle across borders is factually ungovernable, and hence, depending upon the animus of the agent, in a short duration, territorial outbreaks become epidemics and then pandemics. The impact of pandemics is out of imagination and not only restricted to the loss of human lives but can loss the economical stability and survival of affected countries. Consequently, authorities should design a plan to prevent, contain ,and, in the worst case scenario, reduce consequences of future widespread decease because in

the lighter vein, by the time the present epidemic of Covid-19 will calm, the only community smiling would be the facemask manufacturers

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