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IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIAN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year. Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majorities lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food. The pandemic has been affecting the entire food system and has laid bare its fragility. Border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets. The pandemic has decimated jobs and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. As breadwinners lose jobs, fall ill and die, the food security and nutrition of millions of women and men are under threat, with those in low-income countries, particularly the most marginalized populations, which include small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples, being hardest hit. This paper describes the impact of COVID-19 on Indian society

Keywords: Dramatic, vulnerable, confinement, Decimated controlled etc.

1. Introduction

COVID-19 which is said to have emerged from Wuhan (China) has caused a serious impact on almost every society of the earth. Due to the problems caused by this particular health crisis all over the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it as a global pandemic. Not only that but because of its rampant spread countries were forced to stop international travelling as well as locked up themselves. Also, the lockdown has been recognized as the only method to control the spread of the pandemic and almost every country has adopted this method. Amidst the lockdown in Indian society, multiple issues related to social, educational, economical, political, agricultural, psychological levels and many more have been noticed which has created the devastating impact on the lives of the people.

2. Methodology of the Study

The present study has been descriptive; the data for this study were obtained from secondary data sources. The secondary data has been collected from various references which already existed in published form; part of the paper is based on literature review the method comprising of collecting all the available papers relating to the theme and selecting relevant papers/books for the review purpose. Selection of the paper is done on the basis of their relevance and contribution to the body of knowledge. The author has made an attempt to do primary reading of the selected papers which will constitute the core of this review study.

3. Impact on Economy

There is a big shift in the world economic market and the share market has witnessed crashes day by day. Factories, Restaurants, Pubs, Markets, Flights, Super Markets, Malls, Universities and Colleges etc. were shut down. Fear of coronavirus has limited the movement of the individuals. People were not even going to buy the daily essentials and these all were somewhere impacting the economy of the world as a whole. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also revealed that they cut their expectation for global growth to 2.4% from 2.9%, and warned that it could fall as low as 1.5%. According to Economic Times, India faces a huge decline if government revenues and growth of the income for at least two quarters as the Corona Virus hits economic activity of the country as a whole. A fall in investor and other persons which also impacts privatization plans, government and industry.

Though the nation-wide lockdown is essential for reducing the rate at which the number of cases is increasing, it will not only impact businesses, but also education. With all the schools and colleges in the country being closed for an indefinite period, it will be a big challenge for them to complete their syllabus on time without compromising the education quality. Due to the delay in board exams, and national level entrance tests, the academic year of the students will suffer. Switching to online classes seems to be a growing trend globally. But the Indian infrastructure, especially in the rural parts, does not seem to be ready for such a massive shift in such a short time. As the students are avoiding the offline classes due to the fear of COVID-19, there has been a spike in the number of students from all walks of life signing up for online classes. Online users for different courses have jumped 20% in March-Impact of Covid-19 has been multiple and not only limited to society at large. From the perspective of the economy both rural and urban

have been impacted adversely. Everyone has seen the issues being faced by migrant workers. The migrant workers depend on daily earnings, they barely have savings which they could spend during any emergency.

Many of them have already abandoned this world (beautiful?). Those who didn't have many resources left with them have started to move to their villages because of the unavailability of jobs and money in the cities. Apart from migrant workers, gig workers have been gone through a similar issue though it has not got much attention in the news.

Moving from the economy, the impact of Covid-19 on education has been cruel and its repercussions will be seen in the upcoming future. As per the report of World Bank titled "Beaten or broken: Informality and Covid", WB has warned that there will be the lifelong impact of school closures on the productivity of this generation of students.

4. Impact on Health crisis

The Coronavirus crisis seems to have brought the world on its knees and it looks like a combination of health and economic crises that affects every nation in the world. For India, with a population of 1.3 billion even if 10% of the population gets affected, the country will require 100 million beds. India's healthcare infrastructure is under pressure with an increasing rate of cases. Though India was quick with its actions against the virus, it lags behind in its health infrastructure. India's average expenditure on health is far below that of other developing countries. Many doctors are using technology to help their patients by providing free online consultation. India has been criticized for its poor record of testing people in the battle against coronavirus. However, India built its first COVID-19 test kit that costs \$15, which is a 26% of \$58 that India pays to import the testing kits, and would give the results in 2.5hrs as against prevalent 6-8hrs. To help in dealing with an expected rise in cases India is converting the Indian Railway coaches into isolation wards for those affected by the virus.

5. Impact of Covid-19 on Agriculture

COVID-19 has disrupted some of the farming and supply chain operations. The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that COVID-2019 impacts agriculture in two critical respects: availability and demand for food. These two things are closely linked to food health, and thus food protection is also at risk. Initial reports show that some harvesting activities are interrupted by the unavailability of migrant labourers, particularly in the northwest zone where wheat and pulses are harvested. Supply chains discontinued due to distribution challenges and other concerns. Prices for wheat, vegetables, and other commodities have fallen, but customers still spend more. The shutdown of hotels, restaurants, sweet shops and tea shops depresses the dairy sales already. Meanwhile, owing to misguidance, primarily because of social media, poultry farmers have been badly hit that chickens are the COVID-19 carriers.

6. Impact of Covid-19 on Education System

The reaction to the COVID-19, a school closing as an immediate measure to avoid infection transmission, was mandated, and the direct homeschooling program was strictly enforced. Although the new closures of schools vary from summer holidays in that schooling is supposed to begin online, closures are likely to deepen the achievement divide among children between low-income and higher-income families. Children from low-income households live in situations that render home education challenging because

electronic learning environments typically include computers and a safe internet connection (During this phase of lockdown, all the universities are closed, yet the education should be distributed in every aspect; hence worldwide, many teachers have adopted the technology. Faculty have initiated preparing lesson plans to deliver online teaching to their students. Most of the faculty members have trained themselves over online learning platforms. Though there is a probability that few lecturers might not be sound with technology and will not be able to adopt this model. This entire transition to an online mode of learning has aroused doubts for the faculty about efficiency to manage with the existing technology. New ideas have to be reached out for teaching practice.

7. Conclusion

The Pandemic of Coronavirus is severely impacting the life of the individuals on the whole. Everyone in the world is directly or indirectly facing the severe consequences of this disease. Many countries have declared unprecedented lockdowns and emergency? The Schools, Colleges, Universities, Pubs Market, Mall, Shopping Complex etc. are shutdown by the Governments. It has created an environment of fear, anxiety and stress among the developed and developing societies. WHO and all the member nations have issued advisories related to the impact of the Novel Corona Virus. But this disease due to its extreme isolation and lockdown measures creates several other issues including social anxiety, panic states due to uncertainty, economic recessions and extreme mental stress. To contain this virus, coordinated efforts are required and people need to make uncomfortable yet necessary changes in their daily routine in accordance to the advisories and suggestions by the Government and WHO. This will provide for more opportunities for the medical staff to intervene effectively with the limited resources at their disposal and buy significant time to place additional resources for controlled management of this novel Pandemic.

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