

Cause And Consequences Of Covid-19: A Critique Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The Covid-19, a deadly disease has affected the worldwide economy, people lifestyle and environmental condition. After a few months of covid-19, no vaccine was available to build up the barricade between this virus and the life. Many countries have tried to improve the methodology to control the disease and develop a vaccine for corona-virus but not yet successful. Rapid testing, quarantine and social distancing have slowed down the social and economic movement. The Covid-19 was first reported in Wuhan, China, and subsequently spread worldwide. As on January 25, 2023 globally there have been 664873023 cases of Covid-19 and deaths were 179242743; and 2624733 affected persons were administered vaccinations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic as per the report of the World Health Organisation.

In India, corona vaccination cases stood at 30341199 and deaths 397985 accounting to 1.72 per cent at the time publishing in Hindu daily paper on June 29, 2021. India, as one of the largest populated country, takes some respectable initiative after the pandemic of novel corona-virus. The present paper focuses on the adverse effect of covid-19 on the socio-economy.

Key Words: Covid-19, Corona-virus, Contagious, Isolation, Malnutrition, quarantine, Social-distancing

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I. CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19: A CRITIQUE PERSPECTIVE

No medicine or treatment is available to protect people from the pandemic of covid-19; all the affected countries have imposed national lockdown, and conducted rapid tests and quarantines. As is implied in the name COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona', 'VI' for 'virus' and 'D' for 'disease', and '19' represent the year of occurrence. Following a report of a cluster of cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, People's Republic of China, World Health Organisation first learned of this new virus on 31 December 2019 which is being called as Corona-virus; the source of which linked to infection from a wholesale market of seafood (Huang et al., 2020). [1] Globally as of January 25, 2023 there have been 664873023 cases of Covid-19 including 6724248 deaths reported World Health Organisation. [2]

This new coronavirus is officially named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 being abbreviated as SARS-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses on the phylogenetic analysis. Within a couple of months, the outbreak of coronavirus infection has turned out to be a global health emergency. Live animals like bat, frog, pangolin, snake, bird, marmot and rabbit frequently sold at Human Seafood Market in Wuhan, China are kept alive in cages while on sale. Sixty per cent of transferable diseases originate from animals and seventy percent of these are supposed to originate in wild animals. Unrestricted wildlife trade might enhance the risk of emerging new viruses. Environment change has been positively related to human influences. Many scientists, too, have urged different countries to permanently ban the wildlife markets and trades. The actions on this would safeguard national security, bio-safety and public health globally.

The virus has been categorised as highly contagious, rapidly spreads and continuously evolves in the human population (World Health Organisation, 2020) [3]. The most common symptoms of Covid-19 are fever, dry cough and fatigue. Eruption of this Covid-19 has been affirmed as sixth public health emergency of international alarm on January 30, 2020; the earlier were HINI in 2009, Polio in 2014, Ebola (Outburst in West Africa) in 2014, Zika in 2016 and Ebola (Democratic Republic of Congo) in 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic certainly stroked fiscal crisis in the rich economies of the world. All the countries of world are fighting to slow-

down spread of the disease through the means of testing and treating patients, quarantining, restricting large gatherings, keep complete or partial lock down, etc. The outbreaks has triggered big number of fatalities, morbidities and cost billions worldwide.

Covid-19 likely cause a much human suffering than that of other contagious diseases in the world in addition to global environment changes like soil degradation, ozone layer depletion, pollution and urbanisation. An indisputable threat is being caused to the planet and human health on account of changing environment. Global warming has its roots in industrial development, but huge release of CO₂ during the industrial revolution and beyond is finally showing the effect on greenhouse.

A person who is in contact of someone infected with Covid- virus remain separated from others because he has been exposed to the virus and may be infected, and can take place in a designated facility or at home for fourteen days is termed as Quarantine. 'Quarantine alone or in combination with other public health measures to control Covid-19' is the inference drawn by Chapman et.al. [4] A person who has tested positive for the virus being separated from other people to receive clinical care is termed as Isolation. For such person, the facility of isolation in a medical facility is not possible, and also not in a high risk group of developing severe disease, isolation takes place at home and remains at least 10 days plus an additional 3 days without symptoms. "Loss of sense of smell as marker of Covid-19 infection" is the opinion of Hopkins C [5]. The present paper focuses on the adverse effects of covid-19 on the socio-economy and tactic of prevention and control of Covid-19 virulent disease.

II. COVID -19 AND THE SOCIETY

As per the Covid-19 monthly operational update reports on World Health Organisation globally 2.8 million new cases and over 13 000 deaths were reported in the week of 9 to 15 January 2023. In the last 28 days i.e. from December 19, 2022 to January 15, 2023, nearly 13 million cases and almost 53000 new deaths were reported globally which accounted for a decrease of 7 per cent and an increase of 20 per cent respectively compared to the previous 28 days. As of January 15, 2023, over 662 million confirmed cases and over 6.70 million deaths have been reported globally. Worldwide spread of virus has been on account of improvement and accessibility of international travel and tourism for various mass gathering festivals of socio-religious- cultural, scientific, sport, and political, etc., could be a reason.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its analysis observed that the corona pandemic has affected the global supply chains and international trade. Globally, more than 100 countries had closed-down their border-lines and stopped international marketing. [6] The global trade has lost during this pandemic; oil and copper 18 per cent cheaper in mid-January 2021, Zinc price 20 per cent lower in global trade. [7] Many nations worldwide have faced the pandemic situation which affected their economy. This scenario effected pandemic among workers; many of lost their jobs world-wide and gradually global economy has lay-down. Global trade of industrial and garment supply has been discontinued due to a major economic challenge of incurring high expenditure, out-of-pocket in the developing countries.

III. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 has affected global economy and social-contact reducing production world-wise and increasing unemployment, but also found significantly reduction air-pollution and green-house-gas (GHG) emission. The emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxides and related ozone (O₃) are low as per the United Nations report. [8] The environmental condition has resulted positively and the unrecyclable waste has risen high voluminosly. The world eco-systems are very much affected during coronavirus period as people stay at home and leaving the land, mining, fishing and protected area. The natural resources like petroleum, diesel, coal and mining were stopped in huge amount. The international market has been affected during corona-virus and the traffic condition like airlines has put up at rest. The worldwide environment has not breathed properly during the corona-virus pandemic. The symptoms corona-virus has developed fever and cough with chest tightness, chest pain and shortness of breath after a week days. It is learnt that the pandemic consequences on execution of worldwide destruction has a positive impact on the world environment. Nonetheless, ozone layer has been found to have rejuvenated to a little extent.

IV. INDIA

On January 30, 2020, India reported her first case of novel corona-virus outbreak at Thrissur district in Kerala State as a student had returned home from Wuhan University in China. Three students who came from Wuhan in China were registered as corona virus cases on February 3, 2020. Twenty-two new cases came to light on March 4, 2020 and 14 infected Italian tourists included. First covid-19 death was in Karnataka on March 12, 2020 followed by second death woman case on the next day from Delhi. In two days, two more confirmed cases have come and both of them had contact to corona in abroad at the time of return. On the other side, the active

cases have increased gradually. By February 17 and 20, 2020 Covid-virus has increased to three and five confirmed death cases registered all over India.

The challenge is severe if the infection spread rapidly in higher-density of population and pathetic health-infrastructure. Day by day, total number of corona virus cases has been increased at multi-fold. The Centre and State Governments have decided to shutdown 75 districts completely across the country and suspended the services of the inter-state bus services and sub-urban rail up to March 31, 2020 and further extended to May 3, 2020 where the cases of corona-virus prevailed. Infections have increased rapidly since March 2020 with a significant growth in medical testing. Millions of people across the country had to stay indoors.

The Government of India decided to protect people from this viral-disease and impose 'Janta Curfew' on March 22, 2020 from 7 A.M to 9 P.M and declared the first phase of Lockdown from 23rd to 14th April 2020. The main focus of Government is not only to recover the infected person but also to control the spread of virus. The lockdown phase has been increased gradually but the number of infected also increased side-by-side. In the fourth stage, every day almost 5000 cases were registered and per day deaths occurred at about 120.

On June 19, 2020, India designated the Government testing laboratories of 1271 Government along with 1390 private laboratories across the country to support combating the corona-virus. More medical testing people and sample collection facilities are being set up facilitating detection of outbreak of corona virus in the country.

Various variables of Covid-19 effecting are across the sectors in terms of social distancing, self-isolation and travel-restrictions reducing the workforce across all the economic sectors resulted in loss of jobs. Lockdown has imposed on all the campuses of educational institutions including schools and religious trusts. The food-sector has been facing an increased demand due to the panic - buying and stock-piling of food-gains. Covid-19 termed as corona virus is pandemic surged and is of unprecedented concern of the public health nationally. Hence for this reason, raise the need for increase of medical supplies and medical services significantly at the door steps of people suffering from corona virus.

V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Growth of real Gross Domestic Product was estimated at 6.20 per cent in 2019-20 as per Reserve Bank of India. However, the International Monetary Fund has lowered India's growth forecast by 1.30 per cent points to 4.8 per cent for 2019-20. The economy that had already affected due to slow growth in the previous fiscal year have affected severely owing to lockdown due to the pandemic. During the nation-wide lockdown, the market of Small and Medium Enterprises has lowered-down and expected a loss over ₹ 35000 crore every day during the lockdown. [9] The healthcare sector including the private sector alone is the fourth-largest employer in the country which has provided nearly 80 per cent and 60 per cent of out-patients and in-patients care respectively is currently facing 90 per cent loss due to decrease in the out-patient attendance, elective surgeries and international patients. [10]

The current pandemic has greatly affected the people, particularly the lower-strata of socio-economic status. The migrant labourers who have gone to their native places from the cities residing on foot during the lockdown have been critically debated. Money was remitted by many migrant workers to the home countries. About ₹ 1042500 crore was remitted to the low-and-middle income countries in South Asia from the (Gulf) countries in the year 2019. [11] Disruption of Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the flow of remittance. Essentially, remittances fell down about 23 per cent in India in 2020 to ₹ 480000 crore striking contrast to a growth of 5.5 per cent and receipts of ₹ 620000 crore seen in 2019. [12] In the current pandemic situation, the World Economic Forum has stated that the migrants stuck abroad trying to cope with the exigencies compromising adversely on account of taking up low wage jobs, living in poor work conditions, restrictive spending; thus the risk of exposure to the infections like the corona- virus. [13]

The scenario among the Indian internal migrant workers, both in intra and inter-state, is equally grim. The informal sector migrant workers constituted a total of astounding figure of 139 million; of which the workforce formed about 93 per cent. About 50 per cent of migrant workers stated that they had ration for less than a day when interviewed. [14] The study on the Stranded Workers Action Network showed an 89 per cent of the stranded workers had not been paid wages by their employers during the first 21 days of lockdown and 74 per cent had less than half their daily wages to live on. [15]

The economic impact of this pandemic corona virus is more severe for India due to (a) the increase in poverty implies pushing more people below the poverty line, (b) the worse of socio-economic inequalities affecting health and nutrition index and (c) the compromise in health-related precautions such as the mask use, social distancing, medical advice seeking in case of cough and fever, etc. Thus, the covid-19 has impact on social-distancing as well as self-isolation, travel restrictions, reduced workforce across all the economic sectors, job loss, schools closure, disruption of normal life of children, decreased demand for commodities and manufactured products, increased need for medical supplies, increased demand in food sector, panic-buying and

stockpiling of food products, domino effect on health, healthcare and nutrition, and disproportionately affect the health and economic impacts of poor people, homeless people, refugees and migrants.

The economic slowdown could aggravate malnutrition. Daily loss of wage earnings or joblessness can make it difficult to buy even the basic necessities food items among the people belonging to the low socio-economic strata. Thus, the deleterious effect on the most vulnerable population namely the children and the pregnant women and by negating previous gains of maternal, child health and nutrition-related national programmes. An important upcoming issue is mental health leading to chronic stress, anxiety and depression, alcohol dependence, self-harm and domestic violence have rooted to the lockdown. Overall, there has been setback in the progress made by the National Programmes of the country.

Due to the lockdown, the Food Corporation of India recently allotted food-grains of 12.96 lakh metric tonnes and released under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana as an initiative to fight against the Covid-19. The provision of food-safety is a more troubling facet for those people hit hardest by the lockdown. Due to the enormous scale of problem, the Government Schemes remain ineffective and inadequate reasoning to an increasing possibility of mal-nutrition among the low socio-economic status.

VI. IMPACT ON HEALTH

On account of Covid-19, morbidity and mortality are largely attributable to co-morbid conditions of the non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension or cardiovascular disease. In addition, the early-onset of non-communicable diseases is likely to put even the younger individuals at risk for Covid-19 as observed commonly in India. It has a potential cause of disruptions to health and health services in different ways. Ghoshal et al., used a predictive model and projected duration of lockdown which is directly proportional to the worsening of glycaemia control in patients with diabetic and would increase the diabetic-related complications.[16] Such an increased load of diabetic-related complications certainly put in additional burden on the already overburdened public healthcare system.

The relationship between the human health and the disease is neither a new concept nor a new subject. Emergency of Covid-19 is highly infectious and can be transmitted through droplets and close contact. Human to human spreading of corona virus occurs due to close contact with an infected persons exposed to coughing, sneezing, respiratory droplets or aerosols. Aerosols can penetrate the respiratory system of human body via inhalation through nose or mouth.

VII. CHALLENGES

The major long-term challenges of Covid-19 are thus: India's social-fabric thrives on interdependence in terms emotional and economic, within the families, relatives and friends. The commonly close physical interactions of living in the crowded housing and other places certainly pushed up people and jolt them extremely and deterrent to 'social distancing' as is seen during the pandemic, observed crowding in religious places, travel of migrants in buses and even while purchasing liquor at the shops. Due to lockdown, all the transportation-ways of domestic flights, passenger railway-service (except goods trains), buses, trucks and vehicles transports except those transportation were suspended associated with essential commodities. Also entire educational, commercial, sports and spiritual institutions, industries are closed- down, the result of which affect the economy of national. The worldwide clinical threat to the common-man has been obviously resulted in unavailability knowledge about the novel virus. The 'vertical distancing' causes to inequality whereas the 'horizontal distancing' puts in a place in the wake of Covid-19 which have worsened the inequalities. In a nutshell, covid-19 has undoubtedly put forth a remarkably bad effect on the day-to-day life of the entire human society as well as the world economy.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS

The pandemic of Covid-19 as unprecedented in the history of human beings has necessitated an urgent attention on the under-served and marginalised population holistically, in particular all human beings in the society which prevent the long-lasting adverse health outcomes for discontinuing migration and changing health-policy. Urgent development of safe and stable Covid-19 vaccine had provided most promising effect on pandemic situation. As a result, population invariably need mitigation and quick changes in health-policy. Finally, the National Health Programmes for communicable and non-communicable diseases must be revitalised and strengthened to the living conditions of people forwarding their socio-economic status with healthy life. Towards this Covid-19 pandemic, continuum of research would play a key-role to discover drugs and vaccine starved for preventing and controlling the Covid-19 virus. Be optimistic that human beings will positively win over the epidemic in due course of time.

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