

INDIAN SOCIETY AND IMPACT OF COVID-19**Dr. Sulochna Meena***Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Government College, Rajasthan.***Abstract:**

The pandemic is always awful. It is known to all that pandemic affects every sector of the economy and the collapsed economic system. No one judges the extremes of a pandemic. One such type of pandemic was Covid -19. It scatters every sector of society. Every sector of the economy rather it is health, education, employment face the negative and positive effects of the pandemic. The government of India tried its best to face the pandemic situation. Every upper, middle and lower class faces the disaster of current COVID-19. This paper tries to highlight the both positive and negative impact of COVID-19 on society followed by the suggestions to face the pandemic.

Key words: *Society, Covid-19, Health, Education, Unemployment*

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Introduction:

A country is called a flourishing when it is economically sound. Economically sound refers to the education, health and employment opportunities of a country. The situation of the pandemic was observed by every country as well as the world. The pandemic revealed the mirror to the country how developed it is to face a situation like a pandemic. Every sector of India is badly affected by this. The whole economy collapsed and bore major losses regarding health, education and employment. The pandemic COVID-19 was identified in Wuhan China on December 31, 2019 then spread all over the world. In India the first case of coronavirus disease was reported on 30th Jan 2020 in Kerala State and death started due to COVID-19 from March 12, 2020. After that the Indian government took action and on 22nd March 2020 the first Janata curfew was announced by our Prime Minister. Later on, the first lockdown of the twenty one days was announced to control the situation. The situation was not under control because there was a panicked atmosphere. So, the curfew was extended and it took the shape of a lockdown till 3 May 2020. This decision affected the many sectors of the economy. People were not mentally prepared to face this untimely lock down. There was terror among the people. The only method to face this situation was social distancing and awareness. As per the UNESCO report in India about 14 crore of primary and 13 crore of secondary students are affected by lockdown. The only and the only way to face the pandemic was to maintain social distance. Thus at the student level lockdown disturb the schedule of every student. As per the instruction of the government, school colleges

and universities were closed and the whole education system and society disturbed by pandemics. The objective of this paper is to analyze the positive as well as the negative effects on Indian society.

Impact of COVID-19 on Health:

As it is known to all that the coronavirus has shifted health and wellness consumer behavior engagement with sustainability initiatives and in fact, has impacted every element of whole living. Mental health problems caused by COVID-19 overcome the physical health problems. We know that mental health is as important as physical health . Both mental and physical health is required for good health. Mental health is related to emotional and psychological thinking. How the stress is handled and related to others are important things during the lockdown. Mental stress and the atmosphere of panic was easily observed in every family. During the lockdown and Corona period every family was facing the stressful environment of social isolation, bereavement from losing someone close, unemployment, poverty, debt, illness and lack of sleep. The survey done in many countries reveals that COVID-19 has caused an increase in anxiety, depression, and psychological distress. COVID-19 has no positive impact regarding health.

Impact of COVID-19 on Education:

The government of India in order to control Covid 19 took the decision of lockdown. As a result it closed schools, colleges and universities across the country. The lockdown has compelled many educational institutes to cancel their classes and examinations. During the period of lockdown many crucial activities like competition exams and entrance list lists of various colleges and universities have to be postponed and the COVID-19 has emerged many challenges and opportunities for the educational institutions. The online mode of teaching provides a new ray of hope for teachers and students to continue their educational. The positive side of the impact is students and teachers became internet friendly and connected with each other by video conferencing using different types of apps, for example Zoom, Google meet, Facebook, YouTube etc. WhatsApp groups of students are framed to assign work . The government started many portals for the students like DIKSHA. In DIKSHA more than 250 teachers taught in multiple languages the content of the CBSE and NCERT. Such app E- Pathshala also started by NCERT for the students of class 1 to 12 in multiple languages. National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) provides books, interactive modules and videos and STEM- based games for the students. In the case of higher education, SWAYAM contains the subject matter of all levels of students including engineering, humanities and social sciences, law and management. Swayam Prabha is also a 32 DTH TV channel transmitting educational content. It provides vocational courses. e-PG Pathshala is also a platform for postgraduate students. The main point of this platform is that only students can access these facilities without having the internet for the whole day . But the negative impact of COVID-19 on education is that the parents are forced to bear the expense of purchasing android phone and internet facilities to meet the requirements of their children. Though many parents face the economic crisis regarding the job, it was difficult for them to deposit the fees of private institutions. The

negative side shows that physical activities were not performed by the children and the problem of overweight and many diseases took place.

Impact of COVID-19 on Employment:

At the time of lockdown most of the recruitment got postponed. The unemployment rate increased due to the shutdown of factories and private institutions. There was no recruitment in government sectors and the placement of companies in private sectors. The youth was doing work from home. It was a new concept to face the pandemic situation. In private institutions many people lost their jobs and returned back to their villages and were forced to do the agricultural work. Many people started to sell vegetables to meet their daily expenses. The unemployment rates shot up 8.4% in mid-March to 23% in early April 2020 . Some people lost their jobs in foreign countries too. Many Indians might have returned home after losing their jobs due to the pandemic. The technical hand youth got the online nature of job and non-technical people face the unemployment situation.

Impact of COVID-19 on Consumer Behavior:

The COVID-19 pandemic has made significant changes in consumer behavior. Now the consumer uses more digital methods for payment. Initially consumers were hesitating to pay online but now it is digitally sound. Online shopping mode replaces the old market structure. Now consumers want to purchase the item online rather than go outside for shopping.

Impact of COVID-19 on Society:

The domestic violence increase during Covid 19 and lockdown. The reason behind this may be money, health, security stress, movement restrictions, crowded homes and many other reasons. During the pandemic the contribution of women cannot be denied at all levels. At the health profession, especially as nurses, midwives and community health workers, cleaners, launderers and caterers offer their services. Women are paid much less than their male partner. The woman faced greater risk in Covid 19. Closing of schools and an overstressed healthcare system increase the unpaid work load. Especially on girls, those who are living in poverty or in rural locations. The importance of the joint family system was recognised during the lockdown period.

Suggestions and Conclusion:

We know that health is wealth. But mental health is more important than physical health. Especially at the time of pandemic COVID-19. So the positivity of thoughts towards life and self is a good mantra for good mental health. Union budget 2021 to 2022 allotted RS. 597 crore for mental health care. Out of this only Rs. 40 crore was allotted to the National Mental Health Programme. Yoga and meditation Center should be open. Online teaching can be possible by assessing technology and internet facilities. So, the digital capabilities and required infrastructure must reach to the remotest and the poorest community to continue their education during the pandemic.

To support women and girls facing domestic violence legal assistance and judicial remedies is urgently needed. Thus, the essential services must be open during the lockdown.

The joint family system was recognised in Covid 19. Because moral support and family support is paid more than the medicine to relieve the mental stress.

Online teaching provides new opportunities and challenges before society. In order to avoid the unemployment and crimes in society due to pandemic new policies should be framed and support them to meet the requirements.

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