



## STUDY OF ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR FAMILY HEAD DUE TO COVID-19

**Mr. Viraj Sunil Thakur & Dr. Balasaheb S. Patil**

*MA- I, Department of Economics, Changu Kana Thakur Arts, Commerce and Science College, New Panvel, Navi Mumbai.*

*Head, Department of Economics, Changu Kana Thakur Arts, Commerce and Science College, New Panvel, Navi Mumbai.*

### **Abstract:**

*This research paper is about the economic study of the families in Panvel and New Panvel taluka of Raigad district whose head of the families passed off during the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a detailed analysis done with the help of survey and the information is then used to make an estimate of the list of problems that the families faced because of their loss. The information is further used to suggest policies to help the people who suffered and had an impact because of the pandemic. The research also focuses on the facilities provided to the families after their head passed away and what help was given to them by the respective organizations at which their family head worked. The Insurances and Pensions along with other support is being analyzed and also had a look over the current economic conditions of the families.*

**Key words:** Covid-19, Head of family, Economic Condition

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### **Introduction: -**

The Covid-19 outbreak started its spread from Wuhan China in the fourth quarter of 2019(who 2020). In the beginning of 2020, the spread of virus was at the peak in Europe and thereby India was getting the gist of the virus. On 25th of march 2020 the government of India imposed a total Lockdown around the nation to stop the spread of the virus. From the very beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak there was a huge loss of life. As some people at the initial stage of the pandemic died without any proper treatment and medical care it was essential for the government to stop the spread of virus by imposing strict lockdowns and curfew. One of the most affected people with this pandemic are the people who lost their heads of the families which could have led to a catastrophic psychological as well as economic loss to their families. The loss of economic head without any warning must have led the family members into a damp economic state with the lockdown imposed at those times. The real picture of this was seen by the hospitals and the staff that operated at that time and maintained records of all the patients in the hospital. The study of such crises can help us in making



the future policies for such an event.

### **Literature review and Gap Analysis: -**

While there was a huge spike in the number of cases at the time from May 2020 to sept 2020 the corona virus continued to trouble India as the total number of cases were rapidly increasing from which Maharashtra has a highest number of cases with around 47000 confirmed cases and 1570 deaths as of May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 (DNA web desk published :24<sup>th</sup> may 2020). The pandemic's 1<sup>st</sup> wave was a crucial time as there were no vaccines and proper medication approved for the treatment of the infected people.

According to Prachi Kene (Mental Health Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic in India,2020) The potential for psychological effects in India is amplified by a fragmented social structure which can have problems in the healthcare system. The rumors in India through Internet spread a psychological fear in the minds of people regarding the spread and treatment of covid-19. The psychological effect after the pandemic can help knowing the condition of the suffered people and the people who lost their economic heads.

The negative effects on households studied by Dennis Egger<sup>1,2</sup>, Edward Miguel<sup>1</sup> etc. (Falling living standards during the COVID-19 crisis: Quantitative evidence from nine developing countries) in their study suggest that there is a huge amount of depletion in the living standards of the people in developing countries.

The psychological study and the economic study in the above literature was the main reason for the study of the economic condition and their change in lifestyle in the aftermath of the pandemic. The study can help in framing policies for any future pandemic situation.

### **Objectives: -**

- 1) To analyze the Economic condition of the families whose head passed off by Covid.
- 2) Identify the effect of the financial loss on the families and their changing lifestyle

### **Research Methodology: -**

#### **A) The Primary method of data collection:**

##### **1) Survey method**

The required information is obtained using quantitative method of data collection and scrutinizing the collected data for the age group of 25-55 years male population who died with covid-19 was compiled from the samples. A list of 1000 people are obtained from the Mahanagarपालिका and 10% of the samples are sorted according to the age. By using the lottery method between the age group of 25-55, 60 samples are selected from Panvel and Old Panvel region.40 samples are selected from Kamothe and Kalamboli region.

**Table no 1. The Age group of the sorted number of people**

Sr.no	Age group	Number of people
1	25-35	25
2	35-45	30



3	45-55	45
4	<b>Total</b>	100

As from the working age group of 16-65 years (Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser, 2019) there are significant number of deaths during the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave during the pandemic in Maharashtra.

**Region of research:** For research in the area 60 samples are collected from the New Panvel and Old Panvel region. 40 samples are selected from Kamothe and Kalamboli region.

## 2. Questionnaire

One of the important things that is considered while taking a survey is a questionnaire. The Questionnaire is prepared to systematically represent the collected data according to the need while performing the research. Preparing a questionnaire can be helpful because it helps us stick to the topic during the survey rather than making the interaction casual.

## 3. Type of Interview

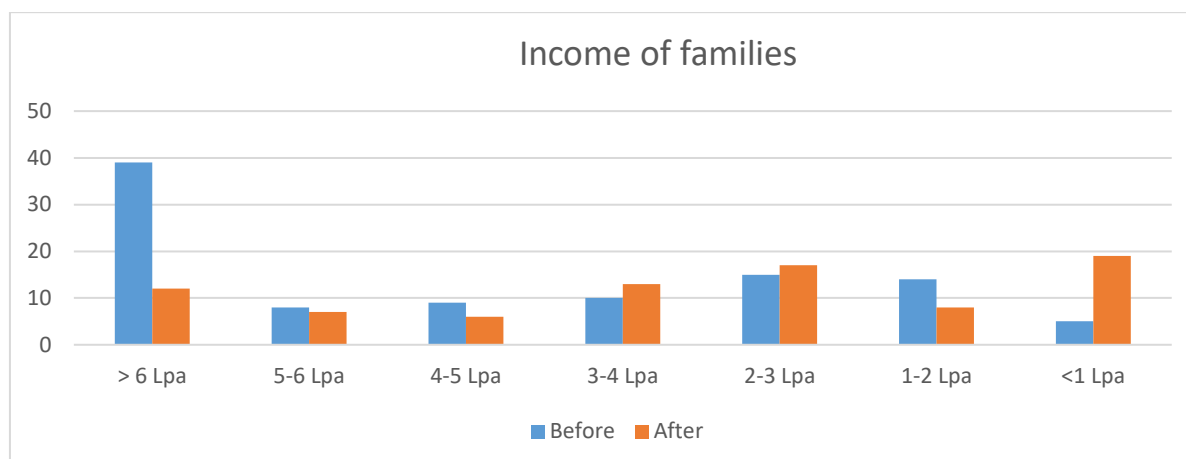
Telephonic interviews of 100 people from the families of the people who died of covid 19 is conducted in order to get the required data with a prepared questionnaire. Telephonic interview is selected to maintaining the current situation of avoiding physical contact from the people. This type of interview not only gives the number data but also help obtaining and understanding the psychological impact on the interviewee.

## Preliminary work / Survey:

A sample of 100 families who lost their family's Economic heads is being taken with an age group of 25-55 years and questions form a prepared questionnaire are asked to the member of the family. A majority of which are either the person's wife or their son/daughter. The questionnaire requires the annual income of their family before and after the death of their economic head.

**Table no 2. The annual income of the families before and after the head of their family passed.**

Annual income (in Lakh Per Anum)	Before	After
> 6 Lpa	39	12
5-6 Lpa	8	7
4-5 Lpa	9	6
3-4 Lpa	10	13
2-3 Lpa	15	17
1-2 Lpa	14	8
<1 Lpa	5	19



*Figure 1: Annual Income of families in Panvel and New Panvel area before and after their economic head was passed away*

Figure 1 Indicates a clear picture of the income of the families before the economic head passed away and after the economic head is passed away. The economic condition of families with an annual income greater than 6Lpa was way up before which was then cut out drastically by 60% scattering the above 6Lpa families into a lower income section of the graph.

**Table no 3. How are families meeting their current needs?**

Sr.no	Ways by which families are currently meeting their expenditure	Number of people
1	Jobs	42
2	Businesses	12
3	Insurance Money	15
4	Pension Money	15
5	Other way	16

Families with their own businesses attain a superior hand than the one's in service and public sector as their family members took over the businesses which had no change in their income.

**Table no 4. How many people from the sample are native or migrant to the Panvel, New-Panvel and Kamothe region?**

1	Number of Families migrated to the area	42
2	Number of families Native to the region	58
3	Total number of families Interviewed	100

**Table no 5. Do the families have their own house in Panvel, New-Panvel and Kamothe?**

1	Number of families who own houses	63
2	Number of families who do not own houses	37
3	Total	100



**Table no 6. Number of people having Life Insurance policies and got claimed after the death of the person**

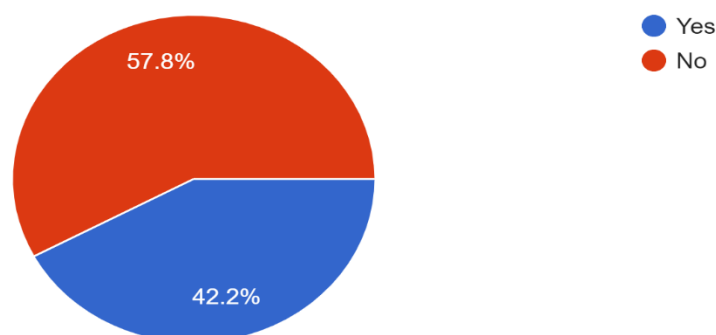
Number of people with policies	45
Number of people without policies	55
Number of people with policies claimed	22
Number of people with policies not claimed	23

**\*Reason for the decline of insurance policies:** According to the majority of family members who had insurance policies of their family head, the people with some existing condition who died of covid-19 were denied to get some policies and other reasons include old policies and death compensation in a pandemic situation not granted.

**Table no 7. Did the families in Panvel, New Panvel and Kamothe get the money from compensation Scheme by the state government?**

Sr.no	Government Scheme	Number of people
1	people who got the Maharashtra state government compensation money	71
2	people who do not got the compensation money	29
3	Total number of people	100

**Figure no 2. Do the Families get any kind of financial help from their relatives?**



**Table no 8. How is the current Economic condition of the families in Panvel, New Panvel and Kamothe region?**

Sr. no	Current Economic condition of the Families	Number of people
1	Extremely bad	11
2	Very bad	25
3	Neutral	46
4	Very good	12
5	Extremely good	6

The loss of economic head had totally devastated the some of the families while in the period of time there are families that are recovering their economic conditions.

#### **Benefits to the society: -**

The catastrophic consequences of the pandemic had led many families in a psychological as well as economic loss and had made their survival a major challenge for them. The help provided by government and the private institutions where the economic head used to work is not sufficient for the family to sustain in a region like Panvel-New Panvel. Many of the PF's and Pension schemes are released but it takes over a year to provide families with the help needed. The research tends towards policies makers to help analyze the economic condition of the suffered people and frame policies accordingly which will help the people become economically stable and move ahead without any psychological trauma. A majority of the families have schooling children in them and help needs to be provided to them for educational expenses. Government should implement educational policies and compensations of fees to the students of the families who suffered from the loss of their economic head which can help them take education and get economically stable in future.

#### **Future scope: -**

The research can be further used to determine the Intensity of impact of Covid-19 on education expenses of the families and also for the changes in educational plan of the children because of the loss of their economic head. The research can further extend from its current regional boundaries to study the effects of the current subject in various parts of the country and can help determining various steps the respective state government put forth in order to make the situation in control and help the people. The research can further educate the importance of insurance policies and how can they help in the time of a disaster.

#### **SWOC Analysis / Limitations: -**

The analyzed data from the 100 samples can determine the effect on their family income discreetly and can state the economic condition of the families are in a damp state since the provider of the family is no more. The research helps in determining the problems of the families with male head passed with Covid-19 rather than taking the female heads in consideration. As we have moved towards a mixed society where a women can be the economic head of the family, the scrutiny of data with a huge sample was required to determine whether some families were matriarchal.

#### **Conclusion: -**

The above study and the survey of the families states that the condition of the majority of the families in Panvel, New Panvel, Kamothe region is neutralizing by time and getting back to normal. Although the income of the families falls to about 50% of what it was before the family head was passed, they are currently able to manage the daily expenses and the basic needs. The study indicates even though many off the people are towards the neutral side there are many on the negative side, there are 36 out of 100 people who are barely able to meet their expenses and basic needs. The migrant households who do not own house in the region and have problems paying the rents and loans by the amount of money they currently possess. Government policies

at the initial stage of the pandemic did not help the families or the patient in any way which could have made a difference, but the compensation by the State Government of Maharashtra was given to 70 of the 100 people. The families with insurance policies of their head got covered with the hospital bills and even some families got death compensation which is currently stabilizing their economic condition. It is seen that the condition of the families at the current stage tends towards the negative side more than positive, so it can be said that the economic condition of the families is devastated after the loss of the economic head. Government policies must emphasize on welfare of the families who suffered the loss and are still recovering from the economic problems.

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