

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has been declared by the W.H.O as the most fatal disease of the century. The disaster which began in Wuhan china in late 2019 is now a worldwide health emergency. It has rapidly spread around the world creating huge health, economic, environmental, and social challenges to the whole human population. Due to the COVID-19 affect most countries of the world especially our nation has declared a total lockdown to fight against the risk of the COVID-19. It has rapidly affected our day to day life businesses, obstructed the World trade movements. The various industries and fields such as information and electronics, tourism, solar power, health and pharmacy, automobile, shipping, textile, construction, education, agro all sectors are badly disrupted by this pandemic. COVID-19 pandemic has been a time of uncertainty and difficulty for many people's families and organizations but it has presented unique opportunities, we have discovered a new way of living under the most difficult circumstances. It has enhanced our Unity and brotherhood. It made us feel that we are all together.

Keywords: COVID-19, WHO, Pandemic, Lockdown.

Introduction

COVID-19 has been declared as the sixth public emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, and has been categorized as a pandemic by the W.H.O. As is Implied in the name COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'Corona' 'VI' for 'virus' and 'D' for disease and 19 represents the year of its occurrence. The first COVID-19 pandemic was reported in December 2019 in Wuhan Hubei province china. Since then the disease rapidly spread around the world and it has affected every continent. The Global epidemic has the cost of a large number of fatal morbidity, death and billions of rupees. Due to COVID-19, the most number of people have been infected in all over the world in comparison to the other diseases. This epidemic has greatly disturbed human life not only it has slow down the economy of China, USA, India but also the world as a whole. COVID-19 has rapidly affected our day today's life (health, social and economy), businesses, disrupted the world trade and movements. Therefore during these crucial circumstances, we will have to work side by side with the government, health Services and social organizations for prevention and containment of the pandemic.

COVID- 19 in the Context of India

The COVID-19 pandemic has frantic the entire world. More than 200 countries have reported confirmed COVID-19 cases including Italy, Iran, South Korea, India, USA, France, Australia, Spain, Japan, Belgium, Russia, Thailand, Germany etc. The first case of the corona virus in India was reported on 30 January 2020 in Kerala Thrissur's district, when a student had returned home from Wuhan University in China. The very high transmissibility virus is responsible for its worldwide spread. The only way to control and defeat this vast pandemic was to make people follow social distancing and also avoid social connections and gathering. On 22 March India observed 14-hour voluntary public curfew at the instance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Further, on 24 March the Prime Minister ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days. The 21 days long lockdown may seem an important step to take to ensure the safety of citizens of the nation. Many appropriate measures are being taken to reduce the risk of the spread. People now have to stay in their homes, in complete isolation. Complete instructions were given for the Welfare and safety of the people of the country.

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Effects of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly spread around the World creating huge health, economic, environmental and social challenges to the whole human population. The various industries and fields such as information technology, electronics, tourism, solar power, health and pharmacy, automobile, shipping, textile, construction, education, agro and many other sectors are badly disrupted by this pandemic. The effects of COVID-19 in various fields are extensive and have far-reaching consequences. The Effects can be divided into following major categories:

Healthcare

- Huge burden on existing Medical System.
- Overload on doctors and other healthcare professionals.
- Strong need for sustainable investment in the health system.
- Strong need for sufficient well trained and motivated health workers.
- Strong need for health equipment especially concerning personal protective equipment and occupational safety.
- The requirement of high protection.
- Challenges in diagnosis, Quarantine and treatment of infected persons.
- People suffering from other disease being rejected.

Economic

- Major goods companies have to reduce the manufacturing of essential goods.
- Big losses in national and international businesses.
- Up to 53% of businesses in the country were projected to be significantly affected.
- The supply chain has been put under stress with the lockdown instructions.
- Reduced consumer activity.
- Poor cash flow in the market.
- The Indian economy was expected to lose over rupees 32,000 crores every day during the first 21 days of the complete lockdown.

Social

- People are facing problems in adjusting to the current lifestyle.
- Fear of the disease among the people across nations.
- People living below the poverty line are struggling for basic needs like food and shelter.
- Social distancing with our peers and family members.
- Closer of places for entertainment such as movies and play theatre, sports clubs, gymnasium, swimming pool and so on.
- Breakdown of the celebration of cultural religious and festive events.
- These days home are the new office and colleagues are history.
- The migrant workers are facing the most crucial circumstances during this period.
- The migrant workers crisscrossing the country's highways to return to their villages without money food and shelter.
- Several migrant workers meeting with accidents and deaths.

Education

- The closer of schools colleges and Universities affects the teaching.
- Many exams have been postponed or canceled.
- According to UNESCO over 157 crores enrolled students across the world have been affected by the severe disruption in their education because of COVID-19.
- Educational institutions adopt teaching online.

- Teachers across the country are scrambling to find a way to continue teaching their pupils in a situation where physical contact is no longer.
- The parents have to help children to setup e-Learning stations at home, monitor them round the clock and deal with stress and tantrums.
- Where both parents are working from home it's difficult for parents to juggle between their work, household work and children's online education.

Agriculture

- National lockdown severely affected live and livelihood across rural India.
- Harvest of the Rabi crop has been delayed due to the non-availability of labor.
- Agriculture farmers have also been affected due to the non availability of machinery (threshers, Tractors), transport facilities and restrictions on movements.
- Farmer of perishable commodities like vegetables and flowers has been incurring losses.
- Market closer affected the cash flow of farmers and farm labor.

Tourism

- Tourism is a major driver of jobs and growth but COVID-19 has dramatically changed this. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the tourism industry due to the resulting travel restrictions as well as a slump in demand among travelers.
- As a result of the pandemic, many countries and regions have imposed quarantines, entry bans, or other restrictions for citizens and travelers to the most affected areas.
- Together with a decreased willingness to travel, the restrictions have had a negative economic impact on the travel sector.
- Airlines, Casino industry, Cruise industry, Hotel industry, Car rental industry, Restaurant industry, are closed due to pandemic.
- COVID-19 is threatening many tourist destinations. They are experiencing a huge economic loss from drastic decreases in tourism numbers.
- The United Nations World Tourism Organization estimated that global international tourist arrivals might decrease by 20%–30% in 2020, leading to a potential loss of US\$30–50 billion.
- Many tourist attractions around the world, such as museums, amusement parks, and sports venues are closed.
- India is a vast market for travel and tourism. It offers a heterogeneous portfolio of niche tourism products – cruises, adventure, medical, wellness, sports, eco-tourism, film, rural and religious tourism. India has been identified as a destination for sacred tourism. Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) estimates the hotel, aviation and travel sector together may incur a loss of about 85 billion due to travel restrictions imposed on foreign tourists, or domestic and international tourists.
- Cancellation of events (personal or business) will adversely impact the revenues of airlines, railways, and buses.
- Besides, the demand for petrol, oil, and turbine fuel will substantially decline, thus affecting the petroleum and oil industries.
- The impact will be felt on both white and blue-collar jobs.

Environment

- Reports from all over the world are indicating that after the outbreak of COVID-19, environmental conditions including air quality and water quality in rivers are improving and wildlife is blooming.
- As many of the countries are observing self-quarantine and social distancing for more than two months now, it has given nature a "healing time" with reduced human interference in the natural environment.
- In many big cities, inhabitants are experiencing a clear sky for the first time in their lives.

- Due to the non-functioning of industries, industrial waste emission has decreased to a large extent. Vehicles are hardly found on the roads resulting in almost zero emission of greenhouse gases and toxic tiny suspended particles to the environment.
- Around the world, the level of harmful pollutants like NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide), CO (Carbon monoxide), SO₂ (Sulphur dioxide), and PM 2.5 (small particulate matter) have plummeted.
- The ozone layer has been found to have revived to some extent.
- Water has become so clear that the fish could be seen clearly and experienced greater water flow.
- The pollution level in tourist spots such as forests, sea beaches, hill areas, etc. is also reducing.
- Due to lesser demand for power in industries, the use of fossil fuels or conventional energy sources has been lowered considerably. The ecosystem is being greatly recovered.
- Animals have been spotted moving around freely where once they would not dare to go.
- In India, the result was similar too. There was a significant drop in air pollution levels. The air quality index (AQI) staying within 2 digits.
- Water bodies have also been reviving. River Yamuna and Ganga have seen significant improvements since the enforcement of a nationwide lockdown.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 epidemic has changed the world in many ways. This epidemic has left an impression on every person's life. If timely appropriate measures will not implement then this virus will naturally remain in the mind of people which is a threat to the peace and stability of society. As a result of this epidemic along with health, the economy of the country has also fallen into disrepair. Today we have to reduce physical and social crisis among the people and strategies to deal with the situation. The long-term planning and collective efforts of individuals, communities, and government national and international organizations are needed to fight the deadly virus.

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