

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WOMEN DURING CORONA PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

Women plays a key role in the socio-economic development of the society. A Woman is the personification of ageless beauty, selfless love, purity, grace and dignity. A woman has a vital role in human progress & they are not inferior to a man. Women's contribution in every happiness and sorrow has been commendable. At the time of pandemic when life was ending, people's health was deteriorating, many people became unemployed. Women showed immense courage and fulfil double responsibility. Women have been abundance as frontline workers and most risk takers. In this pandemic situation children are free due to school closures, there was double pressure on women. They have to take care her family like a mother, teacher and nurse. The present paper explains that how women are playing an amazing role to survive the pandemic and keep their families safe. This paper reveals the society picture towards women during covid 19 period. Domestic violence and exploitation were increased. The paper also throws light upon the psychological and psychiatric risks faced by women both as patients and as workers in the health sector. The paper has a special focus on women leadership countries because they have given better results in covid prevention than male leadership countries. There is a great need to understand the physical and mental status of women and make policies for them during this pandemic so that they can be financially and psychologically relaxed. The Paper concludes that female led countries adopt better measurement to combat from covid 19.

Keywords: *Pandemic, Mental Health, Women Leadership, Domestic Violence.*

Introduction

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish"

-Michelle Obama

Contribution of women is commendable all over the world. It is said that the god resides where women are worshipped. The contribution of women to a society's transition from pre literate to literate likewise is undeniable.

Today, women are flying the flag in every field. Women are doing an excellent job from managing the house to flying a plane. In every field whether it is politics or sports, the percentage of women is increasing. Women gives an outstanding contribution during corona outbreak, women stood at frontline workers as health care workers, caregivers, innovators, community organizers and as some of the most effective national leaders in combating the pandemic.

During covid 19 when everything was closed, there is no relaxation for women. Their duty for domestic work continuous as 24 hours. Women's duty increased more in covid 19 time period. They have to give extra time to their children due to closures of schools, more time consumed in the family care and sanitation. But this work is undervalued and invisible. Despite this, in this time period the incidence related to domestic violence and exploitation were increased which is shameful. The reasons behind this violence are financial insecurity, frustration of unemployment and endless confinement within the house.

Another fact came into the fore during lockdown that in some sectors the employment was greatly affected like hotels and restaurants. The dependence of women to get employment in these areas was high. This has a greater impact on the employment of women.

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Objectives

- To reveal the undervalued and invisible work of women in covid 19.
- To understand the social and economic systems that results in the gender-based differences in the area of health care workforce
- To explore whether women leadership can promote successful measures to prevent covid 19.

Methodology

The study is qualitative in nature. Research article, newspapers, reports, different websites are used to write this paper.

Review of Literature

Naila Kabeer & Shahrazavi & yana van ser meulen Rodgers (2021) , “ Feminist Economic Perspectives on the covid 19 Pandemic” This paper analysed that the care work more put on the women shoulder during covid time. This paper points out domestic violence, health care workers and unpaid work.

Canon jade et al (2020) .“Health Risks and outcomes that disproportionately affect women during the covid 19 pandemic” analysed that Gender differences in health risks and implications are likely to be expanded during the Covid-19 pandemic. Efforts done by the system to develop equity in health, social and economic areas during covid 19 can reduce the disparate risks posed by the stress of health care in pandemic.

Alon and Titan et al (2020) “This Time It’s Different: The Role Of Women’s Employment In A Pandemic Recession” examined that the employment was greatly affected in some sectors like hotels and restaurants. The dependence of women to get employment in these areas was high. This has a greater impact on the employment of women.

Impact of Financial Crisis on Women

Essential workers on the front lines, especially those in the healthcare and social care sectors, are predominantly women. Globally, over 70 percent of workers in healthcare and social services are women. Corona time period shows that unemployment rate among women was higher than that of men. The virus did not discriminate between rich and poor, men and women but the evidence shows that during the corona period there was a lot of income inequality between men and women. It has always a cause of concern that women are not receive equal payment and they do not pay to handle household chores. Women always hold the responsibility of that jobs which are poorly paid without any benefits such as domestic workers, casual labourers and other small-scale services. According to ILO estimates that nearly 200 million jobs will be lost in the initial corona three months.

Domestic work which is as old as human civilization and categorized as most important informal occupations is very much challenging and vulnerable for the stakeholders of it. With the passage of time when more numbers of females entered into the employment sector. Due to this, female workers felt the need for a helping hand to help with household tasks. On the other hand female domestic workers are providing financial security to the socio economically poor families. But due to lockdown female workers lost their jobs. Because there was a fear that the infection of this virus should not spread and to maintain their economic condition people did not give jobs to domestic workers.

Mental Health

Healthcare workers have gone through a lot of stress during the corona pandemic. They realized that they could transmit the disease to their family members and lose their lives due to always being in contact with covid patients. Similarly, in the Covid-19 pandemic, the high proportion of female healthcare workers makes an occupational risk. This situation leads to poor mental health outcomes.

Corona has a lot of negative effect on pregnant women. Pregnant women were to be faced anxiety, depression in the state of pandemic. They were afraid to meet the doctor for regular check-up and to contact with others. Women used to live in very negative thoughts due to high risk of pandemic.

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence has increased very rapidly after the corona outbreak. Due to more responsibility on the shoulders of women, tension and violence has increased. This time needs more love, trust and support towards women. But emotional support could not be found due to social and economic conditions. In all these circumstances women’s mental health was more affected. Several risk factors have been identified: low income, addictive social isolation, loss of bearings, narrowness of

premises, loss of loved ones, fear of dying, difficulties in accessing medical and social services, inability to flee, increased consumption of substances, etc. Due to all these risks, violence started in the house. In part of this, drinking by men was also found to be the reason of violence.

The lockdown period had increased household tensions, affected gender roles, decreased independence, decreased access to supportive services, decreased stress relieving activities, and increased economic burdens.

Women Leadership in Covid Time

The outbreak of covid 19 has affected men and women worldwide. It is complex to explain the effects of the pandemic because it has affected the lives of individuals their economic, social and political status. To reduce the effect of corona most of the countries adopted almost similar measures like lockdown, stay at home, physical distance and sanitization. An interesting fact came into front in corona times. During the corona period, the countries where there was a female leader were found to better control over corona than countries where there was a male leader. Many evidence proofs that women leader have performed better than men in dealing with the emergency. Because women leaders imposed a lot of restrictions in the early stages of the epidemic. Women heads of government in Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand and Slovakia are being recognized for the rapidly of the response covid 19. Women leaders is playing an important role in maintaining social equality and managing the country.

Conclusion

During the pandemic covid 19 women have faced double marginalization. This is a time to consider their contribution towards society. Government must include essential services to deal with violence against women in covid 19. The government should make such health policies so that women can be provided support and medical facilities at the right time. Now there is a need to make every calamity to an opportunity, to build better and stronger societies, to recognize the invisible work of women. We should create an atmosphere so that every woman can feel relaxed and respected. A suitable policy may be framed by bringing them to mainstream. If such negative circumstances will be arisen in future, then they will not fight with financial crisis, anxiety and domestic violence.

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