
IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INDIAN ECONOMY, EDUCATION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The Pandemic Covid-19 has shattered the lives of the people not only in India but all over the world. India is facing troubling times in different spheres like education, health infrastructure. There seems to be no end to this suffering that India and each the world are facing in the form of human and economic loss. Informs of Economy. India was in a bad condition even before the start of the pandemic, the pandemic has only aggravated the situation on the economic front.

Life of everyne whether in urban or in the rural areas have been equally affected by the pandemic. There have been a constant increase in the unemployment rate Governments at all the level have failed to control the pandemic and the health care system have collapsed not only in India but all over the world. Education system moved from offline class room studies to online lectures and students in the rural areas faced lots of difficulties due to poor connection and slow speed, not so feet-savvy teachers also faced problems to adopt new way of life. All these extremities created a new way of life, known as wash from home. This paper will discuss about the key issues faced in this Covid-19 pandemic in India.

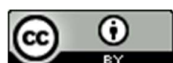
INTRODUCTION:

Covid-19 pandemic has awkwardly affected India in a huge way. The main sectors that have been negatively affected are health, education and economic activities. The informal sector have suffered the most. Mortality rate is way above than those given in the media due to hunger and poor health infrastructure specially during the second wave.

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Pandemic has although equally affected the people of rural and urban India. But during the second wave from March 2021 the disease was transmitted from urban to rural. India leading to higher casualties than the first wave.

Social distancing in the country side is a distant dream. People over there just can't live without each other.

The pandemic crisis has badly exposed the already bad in shape health system in India. The Pandemic exposed that Government didn't prepare itself during the first wave in 2020. Even the Prime Minister of India said that "India have won over Covid-19" in a statement in January 2021. They all under estimated Covid-19. If we talk about Government facilities during the peak of Covid-19 in 2021 they were uneven, highly fractured and underfunded which lead to high mortality rates.

Education system in India absolutely changed from class room teaching to the whole new concept of online lectures. All this surfaced a new bunch of problems due specially in the rural areas to unreliability of internet and improper connection. People who were not feet savvy faced most of the difficulties.

India has the second largest education system which comprises a net cost of 1.5 million schools after China. But NSSO in 2014 reported that about 32 million children were not in the school and this was before the Covid-19. Most of the students were from economically weaker section of the society.

Although, the Govt. of India is promoting digital revolution under the New Education Policy, but various experts are ensure about its success in such a diverse and multilingual country because learning through interest can't be an alternative to physical classrooms.

If the government wants people and students to move online the policy of digitalization must be equitable and the quality of education must be compromised at any cost.

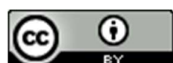
Indian Economy and Covid-19 Crisis

Indian Economy was already in a crisis even before the pandemic had hit (it was reduced to 4.9). Various economists are of the view that reason behind this downfall was demoneytisation undertaken by the Govt. of India in November 2016.

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This single incidence caused negative impact on all the sector of Indian Economy. The incidence reduced the demand in different sectors such as automobile, tourism etc. The lock-down further played a negative role specially the MSME sector was badly hit leading to the loss of job and economic downturn. Although various private sectors were advised work from home but this new norm is suitable to upper and middle class, for those who belong to lower class or they are from rural areas this system was unsuitable to them due to lack of knowledge of computer, mobile and internet.

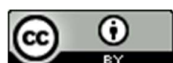
The companies such as BHEL, Tata Motors, Aditya Birla Group, Bharat Forger, Ultratech Cement and Grasim industries suspended their work or they reduced their operations significantly in India due to lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. New start-ups faced most of the problems due to reduced funding's. Companies producing Fast Moving consumer goods were also badly impacted. The Indian stock market were also not left unaffected.

Impact of Pandemic on the GDP

The Covid-19 created not only the health crisis but also an economic crisis. Even the world's most-strongest economies GDP growth saw a negative growth due to the closure of almost all the economic activities. Organisation for Economic Cooperation And Development (OCED), predicted that the world's growth rate could move to as low as 2009 level due to the pandemic crisis.

In India the situation was even words. The GDP was showing a negative growth rate of 23.9% which is considered to be as the lowest in the last 40 years. Unemployment was highest due to job loss. According to (CMIE) Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Over 1.5 million people lost employment both in formal and informal sectors, in August 2021, whereas, the national unemployment was 8.32 in the same month. In the March, just before the second wave had 7.27%. This all goes to show that India is witnessing a tough job environment. The situation worsened after the pandemic. Though, the economic activity is returning to normal, the job market is struggling. Across India, at least 8 states including Haryana, and Rajasthan are still reporting double digit growth rates.

All this is not due to the pandemic but due to decisions like demonatizational and the application of GST the very next years. CMIE reported an employment rate of 8.8% in January,



March, quarter 2020, whereas, the GDP growth rate was at 3.1% according to (NSO) National Statistical Office. This is an evidence that Indian Economy was already struggling even before the first wave of Covid-19 had hit. The Indian Economy is the fastest growing economy but this downwards GDP growth will push the country to somewhere back to 45 year position.

E-Commerce and the Pandemic Crisis

The E-Commerce industry have increased exponentially. Due to the rise in the demand of the health goods ranging from essential medical care to ventilators. The B2B service have been developed as a new platform for this purpose. The online shopping was the biggest hit during the pandemic. Those who had never shopped online were forced to do so due to pandemic and multiple lockdowns. Online food delivery companies like Zomato and Swiggy saw their business growing multiple time. People preferred the companies which maintained good hygiene and there companies did so. Various OTT over the TOP platforms grew exponentially. The subscribers of Netflix increased by 15.8 million in the first 5 months of 2020 in India and in the different parts of the world. As of June 2021 Netflix had over 209 million subscribers worldwide. On the other hand pandemic proved to be terrible for the sectors like tourism and luxury goods.

Pandemic Crisis & the Migrant workers

A sudden decision of nationwide lockdown on 24th March 2020 forced the workers to migrate in the face of an uncertain future. It is estimated that about 50 million workers migrate to Maharashtra & Delhi from the state of W.B., Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. this sudden decision of lockdown forced thousands of workers to walk back hundreds of kilometres along with their families due to unavailability of transport various data shows that it was the second largest migration after the partition of India in 1947.

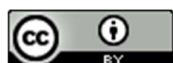
Impact of Covid-19 on Health System

Medical facilities were already in a bad shape before the Covid-19 had hit in 2020. Even after the second wave the situation remains worrisome in rural areas, where almost 66 percent of the population resides. The doctor to patient ratio is abysmally low, which is merely 0.7 per 1000 people. This is compared to 2.5 per 1000 people. Moreover, there is a huge patient load, which becomes unmanageable. There is a need to adopt technology wherever possible. Promoting virtual care protocols, tele-health services, can help in reducing patient- bad to a large extent.

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The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 highlights the "Health for All" to provide assured. Health care to all the affordable cost. The GOI also launched Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, to make health affordable to all.

Post Covid Syndrome in India and the world

As we all know by now, that coronavirus is a highly infectious and transmissible disease. Not only are its symptoms unpredictable and dangerous, but the long term impact is very concerning. While some of the Covid-19 patients remain asymptomatic or experience mild to moderate ailments and become. More prone to long covid complications. According, to the experts, there is an alarming surge in heart problems leading to blood clot formation, chest pain, heart attack, cardiac arrest and heart failure in recovered Covid-19 patients (between 17 to 35 years of age) is a matter of great concern, highlighting the need for immediate action. In some patients Corona Virus can lead to clot formation behind heart attack and strokes. Those who have had Covid-19 in the past experience lingering heart ailments, during their recovery. Experts recommended people to keep their heart's normal functions, post-covid patients after two months should go for regular heart screening, exercise and yoga for at least half an hour and stick to healthy diet, stay physically active and take meditations as suggested by the doctor. Five most common symptoms in post covid patients are fatigue (5.8%), headache (44%), attention disorder (27%), hair loss (25%) and dysphagia (24%).

Mental Health Crisis Due to Covid-19

The Covid-19 crises forced millions of the people in India and the world towards forced isolation and unemployment. Due to these factors there is increase in anxiety, depression, and suicide and thus mental health is jeopardized. The impact of Covid-19 has not just been the physical one. It is surrounded by pain, death and isolation. Therefore having a huge impact on the mental health. Many cities post covid-19 second wave witnessed a spurt in suicides. Government and various NGOs started various help lives to help the people facing depression and anxiety.

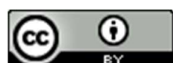
Rise in Domestic Violence

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly altered people's lives and most significantly family dynamics. Lockdown phase was particularly hard for the women since they had to juggle household chores and manage their lives. Covid-19 trapped women in houses and were deprived

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of the breathing space. The change in the family dynamics also lead to women being forced to stay with their abusers. During the lockdown the physical and mental abuse increased as women found no respite. Violence against the women increased manifolds during the pandemic. According to the National Commission on women in India, a sharp rise in distress and economic crisis are the main reason for domestic violence during the covid-19 lockdown.

Mental Disorder in Youth & Adults

People in India faced on unavoidable problem of increased anxiety levels due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Youth of the nation faced an uncertain future due to decrease in the availability of jobs. People doing the business also faced uncertainty due to lockdowns. A research conducted by Public Health Foundation revealed that mental disorders are highly dominant in older adults. Children's at home also faced mental and emotional problems which should be addressed by their parents. Central Government spends about 0.05 percent on health budget. This pandemic situation requires to increase the feeling to address the health related issues. It also requires to increase awareness and inform of what to do and what not to do during the health crisis and all this requires huge funds.

Various factors indicating vulnerability of the people due to pandemic

At the peak of crisis people suffering from depression was 70% increase in patients. Many people were worried about what will happen to them if they get infected coronavirus. Many people were worried about the availability of oxygen, medicines and beds in the hospital during the second wave in 2021. This all caused a psychological distress, which led to tiredness, low energy, excessive feeling of fear & shift in eating habit, loss of appetite, insomnia and suicidal thoughts in critical situations. The workers working on the frontline also faced beerout anxiety, fear, depression due to the continuous risk of contacting coronavirus. The psychological risk also increased because no one was prepared for this pandemic crisis. Although, after the first wave. The govt. should have been prepared for the second wave but they were not and this caused a huge loss of life. The government claims that about 3.5 lakh people died due to the virus during the second wave but various studies and media houses report that the figures could be 8 to 10 times higher or more than the actual figures due to underreporting as many people direct at their homes due to unavailability of hospital beds and oxygen.

Covid-19 and Indian Education System

Due to the covid-19 lockdowns during the first and second waves of school, colleges and universities were closed which not only gave short and long run impact on the learning of about 285 million students all over the country but it will also produce for reaching economic and social consequence. The closure of schools, college and universities directly affected the teaching, learning and assessment process. In this scenario only a handful of private universities and institutions had adopted online teaching and learning process. The government and low income private schools couldn't adopt the e-learning process properly. In these schools the students missed the opportunity of learning and healthy meal during this time.

The higher education system also didn't remain untouched during this pandemic. A large number of students who were enrolled or willing to enrol themselves in the universities abroad were affected by the pandemic crisis. Students were promoted as there were no exams this also affected their performance which further jeopardised the admissible process.

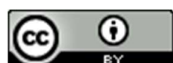
Availability of electricity is must for online teaching and learning process and sufficient electricity isn't available especially in the rural areas. Accordingly to 2017-18 survey of Ministry of Rural Development, it was found that only 47% of Indian household receive electricity for more than 12 hours and 36% of schools operate without electricity in India. This data suggest that students from underprivileged background are likely to succumb to access the online education system.

According to a study at DHL International GmbH in 2018, approximately 56 millions of children weren't receiving any form of education within the country. These children get converted into the child labour.

Important issues to be addressed before adopting the digital mode

During the pandemic crisis the whole of the education system shifted temporarily to the online education from physical education. Hence various online teaching and learning platforms were developed. The following are the major points that require attention before moving to the online education.

1. Digital connectivity for the students.



2. Digital connectivity available at their location and capacity to handle the integration.
3. Resources available to the students (writing instrument etc.) for all the students to complete their task.
4. Ability of the student to understand and absorb the online education.
5. Major arguments to participate in the online learning mode.
6. Availability of adequate digital infrastructure to carry on the online education.
7. Knowledge of the teacher and teaching online.

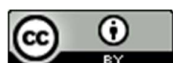
Although internet services have immensely enhanced in this country but there are still huge section of the population who can't access internet.

As compared to the boys girls faced the major problem due to the covid-19. They were unable to gain access to the online education to the increased domestic responsibilities during the lockdown. Also they were unable to gain access due to the unavailability of multiple mobile phones at home and if there is a presence of a male child, his education was prioritized and mobile was given to him. This silent inhibition of children belonging to the families in-fatalities caused child marriage and child labour. If this crisis isn't solved than it may create intergenerational set back, especially regarding the violence against the women from the weaker section, due to the loss of income and education.

Pandemic & Child Labour

India was already facing the child labour problem even before the pandemic had starch. According to ILO, at least, over 10 million children are engaged in some sort of work, at the cost of their education.

May companies use the child labour wherever it is possible to compensate the shortage of the labour. In addition to this lack of knowledge of the parent to such students is also a major stumbling block to such students. Besides this one to one teaching and learning by the home tutor and coaching institutions couldn't take place due to lockdowns and fear of coronavirus. Also a number of feathers who weren't so teet savvy faced difficulties in using new technologies and new apps.



Increasing gender bias and digital divide

Many under privileged students were dropped out of the schools due to their poor economic condition before the pandemic heal struck (IYSSO 2014-15 report).

The cruel pandemic and lockdowns affected nearly 1.4 million migrant workers and others (90% of Indian's total population) who basically work in an unorganised sectors. These unorganised workers moved to their native place along with their families and children's which affected their education process. The digital divide also prevented the people to gain access to the online education especially the underprivileged section. All this particularly effected the people living in the rural areas, girls refugees, disabled people. Availability of adequate learning material with the teachers teaching online.

CONCLUSION

This paper discuss the effect of Covid-19 pandemic crisis on Indian Economy, health and education system. All these crisis are related to each other and have led to a huge slowdown in the economy. It is difficult tell when the pandemic will end. During the second wave of April & May 2021 Indian Economy witnessed huge loss of life and all this made an impact on the economy. The agriculture grew by 3.4%, whereas overall economy contracted by 7.7% in FY21. The second wave which was mismanaged by central and state government, put the Indian economy in an uncharted territory with the fear of new variant "Omicron" are looming large and the government of different states have once again started right lockdown in December 2021. Investor and consumer sentiment is further going to get effected and all this will once again negatively impact Indian economy. It will be once again the test of Indian's policy, politics and polity.

