

Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Socio-Economic Aspects in Different Sectors – A Sociological Analysis

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Abstract: As of 18th May 2022, across the world, there have been 520,372,492 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6,270,232 deaths (WHO, 2022) to tell about the impacts of the pandemic and how the global response has intensely changed people's lives in the world. Some of the changes major changes, as well as the associated changes in impacts on the environment, can alter the dynamics of the direct interactions between humans and the nature of coronavirus infections. There may be a variety of consequences for both people and nature. The pandemic has created multi-dimensional havoc beyond the health catastrophe to create embarrassments on societies and economies at different levels. Though the influence of Corona is varying from nation to nation, it increases poverty and disparities worldwide including in India. Measuring the influences of the COVID-19 crisis on societies, economies and helpless groups is important to update and make the responses of societies to convalesce from the disaster and guarantee that no one is left in the process. Without imperative socio-economic responses, across the county grief will intensify, endangering lives and livelihoods for years to come. Instant growth answers in this disaster must be assumed with an eye to the upcoming days. The necessity to throw the lights on discussions and deliberations from a Sociological perspective is important at this juncture since the businesses are affected at a small, medium, and larger level, leading to the corresponding 400 million full-time jobs lost in terms of working hours in the entire world. Among the worst-hit are the 1.6 billion workers in the informal sector, youth, women, and differently-abled people. Particularly the women have been more affected by the COVID 19 since they are a great quantity of the laborers in sectors severely affected by Covid-19, including housing and food amenities, and in front-line occupations, such as the health and social care sectors. With the closures of schools, colleges, and other institutes of higher learning they had to take on more care tasks in the households. In this scenario, the authors highlight the impacts created by the COVID 19 on different sectors from the structural-functionalism perspectives of Sociology which emphasize that human society is inter-related and depends upon each other including the Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Voluntary Sectors, Trusts, Research and Academic Institutions, Self-Help Groups including people. The theory of structural-functionalism states that each institution and its members have to contribute their best everywhere including fighting against this pandemic. There are some arguments midst functionalist forerunners which include Herbert Spencer, Talcott Parsons, and Emile Durkheim. Durkheim. Spencer proposes the network or organization works as an organ in the body with explicit capacities. Each structure has its direction, its individuality, and its job in assuring that the human body can work suitably and perfectly. In this scenario, each sector has a significant role to bring out the best in society because the world has eradicated the threatened smallpox and polio pandemics earlier in 2010 and 2014 because of the contributions made by the physicians and other health researchers.

Keywords: Pandemic Functionalism Network Informal sector Frontline occupation Differently baled Human society Social care Voluntary sector Sociological perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Society has made-up of individuals and their contributions are important across the sectors to move forward. To eradicate the poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, homelessness, child malnutrition, etc., with this particular perspective is an important aspect of Structural Functionalists who consistently argue by micro and macro-level research from time to time to sketch out the sectors' role. When these crises are pressurizing us the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a furthering crisis at a massive level of economic shockwave across the world due to business disruptions and shutdowns from social-distancing measures. To evaluate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on individuals, a microeconomic model is developed to estimate the direct impact of distancing on household income, savings, consumption, and poverty. The model assumes two periods: a crisis period during which some individuals experience a drop in income and can use their savings to maintain consumption; and a recovery period when households save to replenish

their depleted savings to pre-crisis level. The Coronavirus has led to a dramatic loss of human life irrespective of the economy whether it is industrialized or non-industrialized and presents an unparalleled challenge to public health, food systems, and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year. Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforces are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less

nutritious food. The pandemic has been affecting the entire food system and has laid bare its fragility. Border closures, trade restrictions, and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe, and diverse diets. The pandemic has decimated jobs and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. As breadwinners lose jobs, fall ill, and die, the food security and nutrition of millions of women and men are under threat, with those in low-income countries, particularly the most marginalized populations, which include small-scale farmers, indigenous people, small and medium enterprises. Millions of agricultural workers, waged and self-employed while feeding the world, regularly face high levels of working poverty, malnutrition, and poor health, and suffer from a lack of safety and labor protection as well as other types of abuse. With low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them are spurred to continue working, often in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks. Further, when experiencing income losses, they may resort to negative coping strategies, such as distress sale of assets, predatory loans, or child labor. Migrant agricultural workers are particularly vulnerable, because they face risks in their transport, working, and living conditions and struggle to access support measures put in place by governments. Guaranteeing the safety and health of all farming and allied activities based workers from primary producers to those involved in food processing, transport, and retail, including street food vendors as well as better incomes and protection, will be critical to saving lives and protecting public health, people's livelihoods and food security.

Human Dimensions of the Crises

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a historic loss of human life universal and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems, and the world of work. The economic and social disturbance caused by the epidemic is overwhelming: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year. Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforces are at

risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food. In the COVID-19 crisis food security, public health, and employment and labor issues, in particular workers' health and safety, converge. Adhering to workplace safety and health practices and ensuring access to decent work and the protection of labor rights in all industries will be crucial in addressing the human dimension of the crisis. Immediate and purposeful action to save lives and livelihoods should include extending social protection toward universal health coverage and income support for those most affected. These include workers in the informal economy and in poorly protected and low-paid jobs, including youth, older workers, and migrants. Particular attention must be paid to the situation of women, who are over-represented in low-paid jobs and care roles. Different forms of support are key, including cash transfers, child allowances, healthy school meals, shelter, and food relief initiatives, support for employment retention and recovery, and financial relief for businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The authors focus their attention on the studies which have been conducted in various places to understand aspects, dimensions and prospects on pandemic created at different sectors specifically on socio-economic facets. To initiate social isolation has been highlighted by Buheji. et.al (2020) point out how it is hard for the poor to adhere to the restrictive measures of social isolation or the lockdown. Immediate strategies that minimize the pandemic impact on the livelihood and the socio-economic activities of the poor are suggested. The research opens future research about more specialized programs for the poor during any future lockdowns. With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world needs more measures that address the complexity of the poverty phenomenon, and goes beyond the comparison between one community to another, and certainly beyond the simple absence of money.

Roy, D. *et al.*, 2020 attempted to assess the knowledge, attitude, anxiety experience, and

perceived mental healthcare needs among the adult Indian population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) originating from China, has rapidly crossed borders, infecting people worldwide. This phenomenon has led to a massive public reaction; the media has been reporting continuously across borders to keep all informed about the pandemic situation. All these things are creating a lot of concern for people leading to heightened levels of anxiety. Pandemics can lead to heightened levels of stress; Anxiety is a common response to any stressful situation. Torales, J. *et al.*, 2020 opined that the current outbreak of COVID-19 coronavirus infection among humans in Wuhan (China) and it is spreading around the globe is heavily impacting global health and mental health. Despite all resources employed to counteract the spreading of the virus, additional global strategies are needed to handle the related mental health issues.

Lee, J. 2020, The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic - and the social distancing measures that many countries have implemented - have caused disruptions to daily routines. As of April 8, 2020, schools have been suspended nationwide in 188 countries, according to UNESCO. Over 90% of enrolled learners (1.5 billion young people) worldwide are now out of education. The UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay warned that "the global scale and speed of the current educational disruption is unparalleled. For children and adolescents with mental health needs, such closures mean a lack of access to the resources they usually have through schools.

In the young Minds, which included 2111 participants up to age 25 years with a mental illness history in the UK, 83.00% said the pandemic had made their conditions worse. 26.00% said they could not access mental health support; peer support groups and face-to-face services have been canceled, and support by phone or online can be challenging for some young people. Gennaro, F. *et al.*, 2020, at the end of 2019, a novel virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus causing the severe acute respiratory syndrome, expanded globally from Wuhan, China. In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the SARS-Cov-2 virus a global pandemic. We performed a narrative review to describe existing literature about Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, management, and future perspective, and Scopus databases were searched for relevant articles.

Although only when the pandemic ends it will be possible to assess the full health, social, and economic impact of this global disaster. This review represents a picture of the current state of the art. In particular, we focus on public health impact, pathophysiology, and clinical manifestations, diagnosis, case management, emergency response, and preparedness. Zhang, Y. *et al.*, (2020) aimed to investigate the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and quality of life among local Chinese residents.

Kazmi, S.S.H. *et al.*, 2020 with the help of their research has aimed to investigate that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused havoc worldwide. India is also going through a challenging situation, as the number of infected/ positive cases is increasing day by day. With strict preventive measures and restrictions by the Indian Government in the form of a nationwide lockdown, the citizens are going through a range of psychological and emotional reactions, fear and uncertainty are one of them. This study was conducted to explore the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on the mental health of individuals. Mamun, M.A. *et al.*, 2020 have revealed that the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has become a global concern. Healthcare systems in many countries have been pushed to the breaking point to deal with the pandemic.

At present, there is no accurate estimation of how long the COVID-19 situation will persist, the number of individuals worldwide who will be infected, or how long people's lives will be disrupted. Like previous epidemics and pandemics, the unpredictable consequences and uncertainty surrounding public safety, as well as misinformation about COVID-19 (particularly on social media), can often impact individuals' mental health, including depression, anxiety, and traumatic stress. Chatterjee, S.S. *et al.*, 2020 sketched out the relapse rates of all pre-existing mental health problems are commonly seen to be increased during COVID 19 and also states that Quarantine is a stressful situation that increases psychiatric morbidity through many different pathways and studied the policy changes which can promote telepsychiatry services are going to play a significant role in during the pandemic.

Parshuram, C.S. *et al.*, 2020, Fatigue in physician trainees may compromise patient safety and the well-being of the trainees and limit the educational opportunities provided by training programs.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the oncall workload and physical demands experienced by trainees are significant despite duty-hour regulation and support from nursing staff, other trainees, and staff physicians.

Sectorial Impact of COVID-19 Agriculture and Food Processing



Since agriculture is the backbone of the country and a part of the government announced essential category, the impact is likely to be low on both primary agricultural production and usage of agro-

inputs. Several state governments have already allowed free movement of fruits, vegetables, milk etc. Online food grocery platforms are heavily impacted due to unclear restrictions on movements and stoppage of logistics vehicles. RBI and Finance Minister announced measures will help the industry and the employees in the short term. Insulating the rural food production areas in the coming weeks will hold a great answer to the macro impact of COVID-19 on the Indian food sector as well as the larger economy. It was expected that all the major sectors of the economy will take a hit due to the pandemic. But the agriculture and allied activities sector is likely to be adversely hit by the pandemic. The poultry sector which is the fastest growing sub-sector of the Indian agriculture eco-system and where India has created a foothold at the global level (India is the third-largest producer of eggs and fifth largest producer of broilers) is already facing losses to the tune of 150-200 crore each day. Social media has been spreading rumors by correlating COVID-19 infection to the consumption of meat and poultry products.

The resilience of the agricultural sector has been tested by the COVID-19 outbreak. A global crash in demand from hotels and restaurants has seen prices of agricultural commodities drop by 20% [8]. Countries around the world have imposed a number of protective measures to contain the exponentially increasing spread. This includes social distancing, avoiding unnecessary travel, and a ban on congregations. Advice on self-isolation upon contact with suspected carriers of the virus is likely to impact the number of available inspectors and delivery staff critical to ensuring verification and transportation of products. This will have

pronounced implications for perishable goods such as meat and vegetables. Furthermore, markets have gone a step further by shutting down floor trading which has impacted the ability to exchange commodities.

Capital Markets



In the present scenario, there is a need to ensure a steady flow of funds to the industry through the primary markets and therefore certain rules are needed to be changed to make this easier. Some additional measures are also required to decrease instability in the market. The Government of India and RBI has introduced various economic and fiscal stimulus measures to tide over the COVID-19 crisis. To navigate through these unprecedented times the BFSI needs to focus on liquidity, credit risk, and well-being of its employees along with the quality of financial reporting and disclosures. Banks' profitability would be under pressure due to the following factors: Reduced offtake of loans under recessionary market conditions and cautious customer outlook. Increased delinquencies post the moratorium period. Fall in transaction banking income due to lower cross border trade.

Pharmaceuticals

China accounts for 70.00% of India's active pharmaceutical ingredients and the active pharmaceutical ingredients are essential for any country for pharmaceutical manufacturing countries. As COVID-19 cases in India increased to a remarkable level medicines are going to be increasing in demand since there are not enough APIs to manufacture and therefore the market will witness all-time high prices. The demand and supply of pharmaceutical products in India have increased rapidly, given the medical emergency. Though India is one of the top formulation drug exporters in the world, the domestic pharma industry relies heavily on the import of bulk drugs. As per reports, India imported around Rs 24,900 crore worth of bulk drugs in financial year 19, accounting for approximately 40.00% of the overall domestic consumption. With India's Active pharmaceutical ingredients, and imports from China averaging almost 70.00% of its consumption by value, importers are at the risk of supply disruptions and unexpected price fluctuations.

Tourism & Aviation



There is a great scope for India in cultural and historical tourism which attracts domestic and foreign nationals throughout the year. As a result, a large number of COVID-19 cases are foreign tourists. The matter of concern here is that since visas are being suspended and tourist attractions are shut down for an indefinite period, the whole tourism industry took a great hit. There is a great loss on the part of attractions, restaurants, agents and operators, and hotels. It is expected that the pandemic could end up crippling the tourism industry for the near foreseeable future. Ever since the Indian government suspended domestic and international flights, the Aviation Industry is suffering a daily loss of Rs. 75-90 crore and the Indian aviation industry will require additional funding of Rs 325- Rs350 billion over the financial year 2021-2023 according to rating agency ICRA limited. In short, the aviation industry is undergoing severe losses since the flight operations were canceled. The pandemic has affected the industry that it will need either a government package or has to levy additional charges on the passengers to be back on the track.

The aviation sector has also been impacted by the spread of coronavirus. The outbreak has forced domestic carriers to cancel and temporarily suspend flights operating from India. Coming off a high-performance base in 2019, the COVID-19 outbreak and the containment measures introduced by the Centre have resulted in a severe drop in foreign and domestic travel, across both the tourism and business traveler segments. A recent survey by JLL India estimates that at least 30.00% of hotel and hospitality industry revenue could be impacted if the situation doesn't improve by the end of June 2020. With more than 60.00% of organized hotels in India already shut and several others operational with single-digit occupancies, recovery will be gradual.

Commerce

Ever since the pandemic struck our country, the government has issued several advisories related to social distancing and avoiding leaving home for unnecessary purposes. It led to organizations

asking their employees to work from home. Moreover, the lockdown has made things worse because it led to an increase in demand as people were asked to refrain from leaving homes, especially in red and orange zones. But since there was a complete lockdown, the E-commerce websites were not able to deliver the goods. This resulted in a loss to both consumers and corporations. The clothing, dining out, and grocery retail industry will take about a year to recover, said top industry associations - Retailers Association of India (RAI), National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), and The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India. In a webinar, organized by Trust for Retailers & Retail Associates of India, the three associations jointly anticipated a 25-30% impact on business with a multiplier effect on subsidiary industries and lasting job losses. A survival plan is the need of the hour, they said. Selling piled-up inventory as soon as malls and stores reopen followed by increasing the number of units produced per machine at the factories would be key to recovery for apparel manufacturers in post COVID era. The apparel manufacturing industry has 12 million employees with seven million in the domestic sector while retail as an industry has 46 million employees out of which 6 million are in modern retail. Currently, retailers selling discretionary products from apparel to lifestyle are neither allowed to open stores nor sell online.

Education



With the announcement of a nationwide lockdown, schools and colleges were also closed in March. March is crucial as many of the board exams and college exams were scheduled in March and April. Moreover, in many institutions, the syllabus is also not complete. Although online remedial classes are being provided in the majority of the institutions, students are worried about the exams.

Real Estate and Construction



The year 2019 was difficult for the real estate sector as it suffered with funding crises amid NBFC and banking sectors. Moreover, the economic slowdown has further exacerbated the suffering resulting in poor housing demand.

On the other hand, there has been a mass exodus of migrant workers ever since the government announced the lockdown. Since there was no source of income left for the workers to sustain their daily needs, they were left to be dependent on the government for food and other necessities. But the fear of a pandemic has forced them to go back to their homes from large cities like Delhi and Mumbai. With railways, roadways and airways coming to a standstill, they were forced to walk down to their homes with some of them living as far as 1000 kilometers. This led to a huge crisis and also the uncertainty of their return.

Hence, the pandemic has hit almost every sector of the economy in India and the recovery process is difficult at such times. Not only India but the whole world is facing such an economic crisis and for coping with the pandemic loss the organizations which have the responsibility to balance the economy in such adverse conditions are taking steps to give a helping hand to the countries falling apart economically at the global or international level.

Automobile



Vehicle sales in India fell to almost half in March from a year earlier, as the nationwide lockdown imposed to check the spread of the coronavirus pandemic brought production as well as dispatches to a standstill. Manufacturers dispatched just over a million vehicles to dealerships last month, a 45.00% decline from a year earlier. According to data released by the industry body Society of India Automobile Manufacturers.

Events and Entertainment



Of the 60 million staff, 10 million have been directly impacted, and their livelihood is at risk as all major national

events are postponed or canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has led to cancellations of conferences, both public and private, national/international meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions (MICE) events, choking the lifeline of the industry. The industry is unable to pay the staff salaries, taxes, and banks. Besides the 10 million it employs directly, the events and entertainment industry indirectly provides jobs to another 50 million through allied sectors like food and beverages, hospitality, tourism, advertising, and marketing industry.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above discussions and deliberations, we could understand that countries dealing with existing humanitarian crises or emergencies are particularly exposed to the effects of the pandemic. Responding swiftly to the pandemic, while ensuring that humanitarian and recovery assistance reaches those most in need, is critical. Now is the time for global solidarity and support, especially with the most vulnerable in our societies, particularly in the emerging and developing world. Only together can we overcome the intertwined health and social and economic impacts of the pandemic and prevent its escalation into a protracted humanitarian and food security catastrophe, with the potential loss of already achieved development gains. We must recognize this opportunity to build back better, as noted in the Policy Brief issued by the United Nations Secretary-General. The world is seemed to be committed to pooling our expertise and experience to support countries in their crisis response measures and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to develop long-term

sustainable strategies to address the challenges facing the health and agri-food sectors. Priority should be given to addressing underlying food security and malnutrition challenges, tackling rural poverty, in particular, through more and better jobs in the rural economy, extending social protection to all, facilitating safe migration pathways, and promoting the formalization of the informal economy. We must rethink the future of our environment and tackle climate change and environmental degradation with ambition and urgency. Only then can we protect the health, livelihoods, food security, and nutrition of all people, and ensure that our 'new normal' is a better one.

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