



## Impact of Covid 19 on Employment, Education and Healthcare Sector : in context of India

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**Abstract:** Covid 19 pandemic has devastated the economy worldwide. It affected all the sectors of the economy. Lockdown which was the obvious impact of this pandemic has set the world back for some few years. In India too, it led an adverse impact on every sector. Employment rate has drastically reduced along with a huge wage cuts, education sector got worsened and healthcare sector also struggled with a drastic imbalance between demand and supply of medical kits and drugs. However, this article gives a detailed description of impact of covid 19 pandemic on employment, education and healthcare in context of India with the help of some data.

**Key Words:** Lockdown, Employment, Education, Healthcare.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Covid 19, most commonly known as 'coronavirus' is a contagious disease caused by the virus name 'SARS CoV-2'. It is that virus which obligated the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare itself as a 'pandemic' in a very short span of time. Covid 19 is a highly transmittable virul disease that includes most common or mild symptoms like : cough, tiredness, fever, loss of smell and taste to most severe symptoms like : difficulty or shortness of breath. First case of coronavirus was detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019 ( so the name given to this virus is Covid 19) and very soon on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, WHO declared this disease as a pandemic. Till now, this pandemic has surpassed more than 320 million cases with more than 5 million deaths. This virus comes in waves which implies a natural pattern of peaks and valleys alarming that even during a period of lull, it is still possible that the virus again outbreaks in the future. At present, the world is facing the third wave of this virul disease and the sad thing is that there is no any idea that the world has to go through with how many of such coronavirus waves in the upcoming days. According to the head Indian Council of Medical Research's Epidemiological Department Samiran Panda, Covid will become endemic by March 11 that means a disease that is constantly maintained at a baseline level in a geographic area without external inputs. This virus has undoubtedly, damaged the overall economy of the world. Now, let us discuss the destruction that it has caused in the sector of employment, education and healthcare in context of India.

### 2. DISCUSSION:

One of the major cause behind the destruction that Covid 19 has made all around the world is the imposition of lockdown. Since covid 19 is a highly communicable disease therefore to put a halt on the spread of this virus lockdown was imposed in all over the world. So now, let's discuss about the lockdown and then after it's impact on the mentioned sectors.

### 3. ANALYSIS:

#### 3.1 LOCKDOWN

Here is a simple psychological fact that if you lock yourself in a room then it does not give that much of stress as you know that you can free yourself whenever you want or you know that the situation is under your control. But on the other hand, if someone else locks you in a room then you will definitely feel stressed as well as suffocated because now you know that the situation is not in your control and you never know that when the door will get unlocked. This is what exactly happened in lockdown. Covid 19 locked the whole world at home without knowing about the halt of the spread of this virus.

Lockdown during Covid 19 had a devastating impact on the economy worldwide. In India alone about 2.9 trillion dollar economy remained closed during this period. Taking apart some essential services like food and beverage,



healthcare and medicines all other activities of the economy were shuttered which led to a huge number of joblessness and wage cuts also. According to a survey conducted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), there is a steep rise in unemployment rate in India ranging from 7.9% to 12% during the April-June quarter of 2021. All this scenario shows that in India for the next some quarters recession is inevitable. So, the government should be ready to effectively deal with the above situation in the near future.

Apart from this, as it is clear that this virus has affected the physical health of people but the major fact is that the period of lockdown has affected the mental health of the people also to a greater extent. For ex- depression, anxiety and other psychological issues. According to an online survey conducted under the aegis of the Indian Psychiatry Society on 1685 collected samples of people of India about (38.2%) i.e., two -fifths of the people had anxiety and 10.5% had depression. Now, when we talk about the physical illness it is worth to mention that many of the people lost their lives just because the country did not have well equipped hospital as well as medical facilities. So, it is again an alarm for the govt. to look after all these issues with some better policies and bigger investments. Now the effect of lockdown on the employment, education and healthcare sector one by one.

### **3.2 Employment**

When coronavirus hit the world and the whole world has gone to the 'lockdown', one of the biggest problem that raise out was joblessness. This virus has wrecked havoc to the employment sector in all over the world. A report of Asia Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020, says that, Covid 19 pandemic wiped out 81 million jobs in 2020 only. When coming to the condition of India, a report of CMIE states that approx. 15 million people lost their job in the month of May 2021 only. But this report of CMIE depicts the picture of only one country and that too of only a month. So, if the picture of one single country is like that then if we move to picture of the entire world then how fearsome the condition will be!

Although the impact of this pandemic is, however, relatively less in case of organized sectors but this sector has also faced a huge reduction in their salary as companies started spending less on their employees due to lockdown. According to a separate analysis done by the Morning Context, more than half of the thirty companies which comprises the benchmark sensx spent less on the employees in quarter of June 2020. Point of concern is that to retrieve the condition of this sector is a quite difficult task to achieve for the govt. Now if we talk about the people who are engaged in unorganized sector the effect is heart wrenching. This sector faced an enormous wage cuts and job losses during the pandemic. According to a report of Indian labour Organization (ILO), during the period of lockdown, informal sector labours wage were cut down by 22.6%. There is also an estimate that approx. 80% informal sector workers lost their job during the lockdown. India holds a very large proportion of it's workforce population (approx. 94% according to Wikipedia ) in the informal sector. According to the Government of India Statistics, the contribution of unorganized sector to the GDP of India is almost 50%. However, it clearly depicts that with the fall down of this sector the Indian economy also fell down to a greater extent.

This pandemic of covid 19 had a great impact on the employment rate of women also. According to a report of ILO, the employment rate of women declined by 5% in 2020. One of the main reason behind this is the additional workload of women during the period of lockdown. This reduction in employment rate is a serious matter of concern because this could lead to a re-traditionalization of gender role also.

### **3.3 EDUCATION**

Lockdown also obligated the govt. to shut down all the educational institutions to reduce the spread of coronavirus. This lead to the shifting of the traditional teaching method to the new digital technology. Almost all of the schools and colleges started taking online classes so that the education of the children do not hamper and also their time do not get wasted. But the matter of concern is that what about those children wo are not able to access this facility because a large proportion of the students do not have such gadgets for the online classes or we can say they do not afford to buy things like mobile, tablets or laptops to access the online classes, many of the parents also are not literate enough to bring the required stuffs for their children. Also we can't forget that India also includes that proportion of the population in which children come to school for at least getting a one time meal for their survival through different govt. schemes like mid-day meal and due to the closure down of the school all these affected to a great extent. This changed mode of education also created some problem for teachers who were used to old teaching aids like chalk, duster, blackboard or others but undoubtedly they are putting their great effort to stand with this new techniques of teaching. Lockdown also led to the closure of many coaching institutions and low budgeted schools due to the lack of payment of fees by the students. Many of the teachers also lost their jobs because of the retrenchment in schools and had to search for the alternatives. Another impact of this lockdown is the often cancellation of exams and delay in the results due to



which students had to suffer a lot . However, overall we can say that technology no doubt paved a way to get out of all the issues but the sad reality is that most of the children are still deprived from its benefit.

### **3.4 HEALTHCARE**

Now, let's talk about the healthcare sector. Healthcare includes hospitals, medical devices and equipment, health insurance, medical tourism, clinical trials and health insurance also. This sector is facing a drastic imbalance between the demand and supply of the required medical facilities. Globally the chain of medical supply is weak and is facing the shortage of drugs, testing kits and other medical equipments. Hospitals also are not so well equipped due to which many people lost their lives. Lack of facilities like shortage of bed, ventilators, oxygen etc. increased the counting. The fact is that the healthcare sector was not prepared to tackle a public health emergency at this level. But no doubt the govt. is working efficiently to reduce the spread of this virus. It is providing free vaccines in all of the states and UT's so that maximum people could get vaccinated. According to the report of Ministry of Health and Family welfare, India has crossed 151 crores covid 19 vaccination till 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022. However, it is also a noticeable fact that this healthcare sector which is at present facing some issues will likely to benefit the most.

### **4. CONCLUSION :**

This is the overall impact of Covid 19 on the employment, health and education sector with reference to the Indian economy. Although during lockdown all the sectors get affected to a greater extent but this was a desirable step to halt the spread of the coronavirus. However, it is an alarm for the govt. to get ready in future to prevent the country from the brutal effect of the outbreak of this virus or any such type of disease. From our side also we could follow the guidelines of the govt. properly to prevent ourselves from this pandemic. So stay home and stay safe!!!

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