

Covid-19 Impact and Online Learning: Access and Scope in Rural India

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“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.” – Albert Einstein.

While Einstein’s words may have been intended in good humour, they aptly reflect the fact that effective education is, indeed, constant and always evolving.

Children are the future of any nation. India with around 430 million is the home of largest youth population in the world. Therefore to realise the potential of young minds requires providing all necessary means to them. Thus, the fundamental of digital learning should be based on accessibility, standardized content and diversified ground. It should not come like a half-baked cake. India has one of the largest education systems in the world. Right to education is the primary right of every citizen of India. According to the Article

45 of Indian Constitution the basic elementary education must be provided to all the children up to age of fourteen years.

India's adult literacy rate is about 71%—64% in rural areas compared to 84% in urban areas (Economic Times 2015). Consequently, the demand for education is very high, often beyond the conventional system's ability to provide it. In fact, the face of education has experienced a sea change over the decades. Recently education system changes from traditional classroom model to self-driven learning through Digital or online learning. Digital literacy has a broad spectrum of knowledge and content. Online learning plays a vital role in the present world of digitization. During Covid-19 pandemic online learning acts as a gap filler for academic activities. Digital literacy will be a breakthrough to strengthen young minds towards academic excellence.

Online Learning in India

The education system in India still continues on traditional class room model in which it is compulsory for a student to attend their class regularly to complete the course. The online or e-learning is a globally accepted new academic window along with conventional class room model.

Online education is a support for all students and a new innovation in the education industry. Online education also includes courses and modules for competitive exam preparation, professional skill enhancement, and other non-academic subjects.

According to a report, India's e-learning market is the second largest after the US which is forecasted to grow by 15.64 % and exceed \$48 billion by 2020.

The online education in India is evolving at a swift pace owing to the following factors:

1. India is the second largest online market in the world with over 560 million internet users. The number of internet users is expected to reach 650 million by 2023. The internet penetration rate in the country stood at around 50% in 2020. This meant that around half of the Indians had access to internet that year. Accessibility to affordable devices and cheap data plans were a major boost behind the growth of India's internet users. A report added that around one-third of the users access the internet for over an hour during Sundays and holidays as compared to a normal week day. Also, the preferred device for accessing the internet was mobile in both urban and rural areas. India is also the world's third largest smartphone market with a number of users expected to reach 369 million by 2018.
2. The Internet provides great access for users to enroll in wide range of courses, degrees and certifications for rural and differently abled populations. Young populations are the most active users of Smartphone and the Internet, and look for online learning modules to meet their educational needs. Online education providers can reach to users with a cost saving learning platform without expensive physical infrastructure.
3. India has second largest undergraduate talent population in the world by the end of 2020 and government aims to increase the gross enrollment ratio to 30% by this year. The conventional model is unable to meet increased capacity due to non existence of educational infrastructure. The Online learning can reduce this gap.

4. The government of India has recently launched various programs to bring about educational reform through online learning. E-basta, Nandghar, Swayam, Swayamprabha, NAD are some examples of e-learning initiatives of government of India under 'Skill India' and 'Digital India' campaign. National optical fiber network launched to strengthen the digital infrastructure.
5. Swayam and SwayamPrabha are the digital classrooms that enable students from rural areas to connect either through the Internet or direct-to-home service and access educational content. SwayamPrabha would give students access to 32 educational channels run by the HRD ministry through DTH.

Access and Scope of online learning in Rural India

According to Census 2011, almost 70% of India's population still lives in rural areas, spread across 600,000-plus villages. About 85% of the government schools are in villages. A country's growth is governed by many factors, and education is one of them. While schools in the urban areas are complemented by state-of-the-art infrastructure, facilities, and teachers; schools in the rural areas struggle with necessary facilities like toilets and lack a proper teaching staff this leads to a loss of potential talent.

A study indicate that the pattern of internet use is majorly influenced by the socioeconomic ethos in the family rather than whether the school is private or government or aided. The influence of the private or government or aided school is mediated by the home background. It is also influenced by the medium of education, but the influence of medium of education is subordinated to the socioeconomic

conditions at home. This implies that digital inequity is a layered concept. Socioeconomic disadvantages are accentuated by the type of school the student goes to, and the medium of education. Together, these factors perpetuate digital inequities. Another finding that the digital gadgets (besides the computer with internet connectivity), such as tablets, PlayStations and smart phones, are increasingly being associated with status and prestige. In urban areas home spaces are being transformed into digital environments with Wi-Fi connectivity and access to the internet on mobile phones. A number of studies showed that the infrastructural deficiencies, unavailability of proper hardware and software acts as a barrier for ICT based education system in rural areas.

According to a study the use of phones increases the disparity in learning outcomes. The general perception is that majority of users in India have smart phones but about only 11% are smart phone users in India and many of them use their device for communication only. The experts on the other hand predicting the change in the coming years that smart phone is the first choice of students as educational support. The unavailability of data regarding the number of smart phones in users in rural India makes it difficult to predict the internet accessibility. In the rural India children have strong perception that digital devices are used for entertainment purposes mostly as gaming device. That perception makes difficult to assess the potential of digital education in rural India.

Covid-19 Impact

The Coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown has forced schools, colleges and universities across India to temporarily shut which, in turn, has impacted over 91% of the world's student population. This unprecedented move had created a big gap in the education system despite the central and state government doing their best to provide support for e-learning and online education. As schools close and more and more people stay at home online learning seems to be growing exponentially. Several schools in the country are now starting to provide online classes to help students continue their education from the comfort of their homes.

This "forced" online learning has its issues! While learning still goes on, it does not take into account the learning or for that matter the teaching styles/personality that takes place in the face to face classroom. There are some disadvantages and health issues that may affect students in eLearning programs.

1. Insufficient digital infrastructure- According to World Economic Forum, only 15 out of 100 households have access to the internet, and mobile broadband remains for a privileged few, with only 5.5 subscriptions for every 100 people. Further, currently broadband reaches just about 600 corridors, largely in and around the top 50-100 Indian cities, leaving rural areas with poor connectivity. A surge in data consumption during lockdown due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak has caused internet speeds to fall steeply. In a study reported that fixed broadband download speeds decreases to 35.98 Mbps in March from 39.65 Mbps in

February. Mobile download speeds dropped to 10.15 Mbps from 11.83 Mbps in the same period. Another report witnessed a relative on-peak slowdown due to HD video streaming, HD/group video Conferencing, Virtual schooling or real-time online mobile gaming.

2. Online learning requires strong self motivation and time management skills which is a challenge for rural areas due to lack of face to face counselling.
3. There is a large gap in computer literacy in rural India that's why online educational system inaccessible in rural areas.
4. Recently, the number of online learning platforms goes increasing with a rapid rate. Most of them are unauthorised, unaccredited and fails to review the study material.
5. Online presence can cause social isolation- Student as well as teachers experiencing social isolation because enough time they spent online. During online classes there is no human communication in their life.
6. Isolation Leads To Anxiety & Depression: Recent studies have indicated that individuals who spend an excessive amount of time can lead to social isolation, ultimately resulting in decreased academic achievement and even mental illnesses such as depression.
7. Procrastination Leads to Irregular Sleep: Educators have known that procrastination has been a major problem affecting online courses students. Students tend to wait for the assignment due dates approach before completing coursework, often submitting within an hour of the deadline. Keeping in mind that many instructors set the

deadline time at late hours (often at midnight or later), this can result in some unhealthy habits.

8. Physical Health Risks from Overusing Computers: In addition to the mental health risks, spending an extended amount of time at a computer can have negative physical effects on your body. This behaviour can lead to a wide range of health risks, including:
 - i. Muscle and joint injuries
 - ii. Increased mortality rate associated with excessive sitting
 - iii. Eyestrain from computer use and associated symptoms

When designing eLearning programs, instructors tend to take an impersonal, hands-off approach in regards to their students' social, mental, and physical well-being. While some believe that the unplanned and rapid move to online learning – with no training, insufficient bandwidth, and little preparation – will result in a poor user experience that is un-conducive to sustained growth, others believe that a new hybrid model of education will emerge, with significant benefits. Therefore, it's highly important that we look at online learning as an addition, rather than as a replacement to traditional education.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

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New Era of E-Learning during this Corona Period

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Abstract

Presently a day's data and correspondence innovation assumes a significant part in instruction. PC innovation deeply affects the instruction division. Bestowing instruction has become simpler and substantially more intriguing than previously. During this Corona virus pandemic dominant part of instructive establishments leading classes through different online stages. We are utilizing different virtual stages for directing on the web class, for example, Google Meet, Google Class room, WebEx and Zoom and so forth we give a cross breed learning strategies including Synchronous Learning, Asynchronous Learning techniques. This investigation assists with understanding the viability of online instruction and impression of understudies towards online training.

Key words: Online learning, Synchronous Learning, Asynchronous learning, Virtual Platform.

Introduction

Data innovation is presently being broadly utilized in study halls to improve and enhance educating and learning. The advancement of data innovation is adding to numerous developments in homeroom exercises. The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced instructive framework around the world. It has constrained instructive foundations to close, which has affected over 90% of the world's understudy populace. As the eye to eye learning technique is not, at this point proper during this abnormal period of Covid-19 pandemic, the circumstance prompted constrained inundation of students into e-getting the hang of during this time of Covid-19 Lockdown. So as to keep instructing and learning rehearses in instructive foundations, our training framework has turned to online method of realizing, which is a blemished at this point fast answer for the emergencies. We are utilizing different virtual stages for leading on the web class, for example, Google Meet, Google Class room, Web Ex and Zoom and so on we give a cross breed learning strategies containing Synchronous Learning, Asynchronous Learning techniques.

Objectives of the Study

Coming up next are the different targets of the examination-

1. To recognize the view of the understudies towards e-picking up during COVID-19 Lockdown stage.
2. To survey the viability of e-learning/online meetings during Covid-19 lockdown stage.
3. What is the aim of understudies to utilize e-learning later on?

4. How are the perspectives on e-learning communicated by the male and female understudies contrast and one another?

Research Methodology

In this investigation essential and optional information sources have been utilized. The information is gathered through self-regulated, online circled, organized poll, which has brought 300 reactions. The respondents were the understudies who are utilizing e-learning sources to finish their customary courses or for aptitude improvement, during lockdown. The reasonable measurable instruments have been utilized to approve and examination of the information.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table-1

Choice of Learning Modes (In Percentage)

Choice of learning modes	Responses
Mixed mode	45
online only	35
Classroom only	20
Total	100

Source: Primary Data

From the table unmistakably 45% of the respondents lean toward Hybrid method of educating and 35% of respondents favor completely online mode. Just 20% of respondents favor the conventional technique for training that is vis-à-vis class.

Table-2
Comprehension of E-Learning (In Percentage)

Gender	Description of E-Learning						Total
	Have No idea	Learning at own pace	Online learning	Watching pre-recorded videos	Having live talk over web	All Options	
Male	7	7	27	26	13	20	100
Female	13	20	30	20	7	10	100
Average	10	3.5	28.5	23	10	15	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows the gender wise orientation shrewd characterization of respondents with respect to the comprehension of e5-learning. To get the understanding respondents make of e-learning, they were given the normal highlights that were recognized in the different definitions, structures and sorts of e-taking in for them to browse. The reaction shows that greater part of the respondents for example 28.5% comprehend e-learning as web based learning. The reaction further shows that 10% of the respondents accept e-learning implies having live talks over the web. This can be compared to the prior comprehension of e-picking up being web based learning just, yet this yield of respondents likewise put stock in the chance of simultaneous realizing which empowers the educator and understudies to have ongoing cooperation with one another over the web, including live talk.

Table-3
Features of E-Learning (In Percentage)

<i>Features of e-learning</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Can't say</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Total</i>
Individuals can concentrate from anyplace on the world	33	50	4	6	7	100
Students can learn at their home	26	40	14	7	13	100
Interaction with students is possible	20	33	7	23	17	100
Tests and assignments can be completed electronically	31	20	13	25	11	100
Communication between teacher and students is possible	27	33	17	20	3	100

Source: Primary Data

With respect to the highlights of e-learning, the input is introduced in the Table-3. The reaction shows that 20% of respondents concur that e-learning stages are proper for overseeing tests and tasks electronically, while 13% were

unsure and 11% oppose this idea. It can likewise be seen that 26% of respondents emphatically concur that e-learning can empower individuals to learn at their own movement and accommodation, notwithstanding, 7% can't help contradicting this statement and, 14% were impartial.

Found any place on the planet, 6% can't help contradicting this element of e-learning and 4% were uncertain on this element. It can likewise be seen from the Table 3 that 27% of the respondents firmly consent to the chance of connection among educator and understudies, 17% were uncertain and 20% can't help contradicting this chance. Ultimately, the reaction concerning the chance of collaboration among understudies in e-learning shows that 20% of the respondents emphatically concur, 7% were uncertain and 23% oppose this idea.

Table-4
Simple use of E-Learning Platform (In Percentage)

<i>Usage of e-learning platform</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Can't say</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Total</i>
Easy to use	42	21	17	10	10	100
Easy to find information	32	39	15	10	4	100

Source: Primary Data

Concerning simple utilization of e-learning stage 42% of respondents are unequivocally concurred that it is easy to use and 10% couldn't help contradicting this announcement.

39% of respondents concurred that through e-learning it is anything but easy to track down data.

Table-5
Level of Comfortness Using IT (In Percentage)

Level of comfort using IT	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Undecided	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied	Total
Attaching files	13	40	27	10	10	100
Communication	35	23	2	24	16	100
Downloading	20	27	7	33	13	100

Source: Primary Data

From the above table in regards to the degree of solace utilizing IT 40% of respondents happy with the record appending, half profoundly happy with the correspondence and 33% of respondents are disappointed with respect to the downloading office.

Table-6
Opinion of E-Learning (In Percentage)

<i>Opinion of e-learning</i>	<i>Highly Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Highly Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Total</i>
Like the idea of e-learning	33	40	10	3	14	100
E-learning is an innovative concept and must be encouraged	60	21	2	9	8	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows the conclusion with respect to the e-learning. 40% of respondents like the possibility of e-learning and 33% profoundly happy with thought of e-learning, 14% disappointed with the concept, 60% of respondents consider the e learning as an inventive idea.

Findings

1. Larger part of respondents favor mixture method of educating instead of conventional up close and personal learning strategies. The response shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 33.5% understand e-learning as online learning.
2. The reaction shows that maximum of respondents concur that e-learning stages are suitable for controlling tests and tasks electronically. 40% of respondents strongly agree that e-learning can enable people to learn at their own pace and convenience.
3. 40% of respondents concurred that it is easy to use and 47% of respondents concurred that through e-learning it is anything but difficult to track down data.

4. 40% of respondents concurred that it is easy to use and 47% of respondents concurred that through e-learning it is anything but difficult to track down data.

Conclusion

The principle finding of this proposal is that e-learning is seen to be helpful. This value incorporates individuals having the option to concentrate from anyplace on the planet without fundamentally moving. This capacity to concentrate from anyplace on the planet turns into a favorable position e-learning gives over up close and personal learning since this is unimaginable in conventional vis-à-vis learning. This examination further shows that understudies accept that whenever concentrating through e-realizing there is the opportunity to encounter significantly comparative or an elective methods for being instructed, as done in the physical study hall setting. It is additionally found in this exploration that e-learning stage and devices are seen to be anything but difficult to utilize. The examination further presumes that understudies have generally excellent capacity to utilize the different apparatuses and advancements that empower one to partake in e-learning easily. It is shown that acceptable mechanical foundation is required for understudies to be fruitful at e-learning, since they have to have some degree of solace with utilizing the PC and web advancements. It has additionally been found in this exploration that regardless of the way that all the respondents are concentrating in the conventional study hall setting, a large portion of them are eager to concentrate through any of the e-learning modes later on and not to proceed with their investigations through the completely homeroom learning as every one of them by and by do.

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Changes after CORONA Pandemic

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COVID-19: The Boon for Streaming Platforms

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Introduction

When the corona virus (Covid-19 or Novel Corona Virus) first broke out in China, nobody in the world took it seriously and hence, normalcy was there all around the world, but within three months, this virus engulfed whole of the world leading to wide spread deaths in America, Italy and other European countries. This brought whole of the world to stand still. Lockdowns were declared in different countries bringing all the commercial activities to stand still, keeping the people locked at homes. The people started WFH (work from home) and simultaneously spending all of their time at home. That lead to the changes in the consumption patterns of various categories either in products or in services. One of the

categories wherein the changes in consumption patterns were witnessed was “the Entertainment Industry”.

Covid-19 and Entertainment Industry

India in its own terms understood the gravity of the situation quite early and thus, the central government requested the Indians to witness “Janta Curfew” on 22nd Mar 2020 and later on, declared the first lockdown in India on 25th Mar 2020 bringing all the commercial as well as general activities to standstill. Since, the people were forced to stay in their homes, their ways to entertain themselves changed a lot and most of the people started watching TV and spending times online. Within no time, the consumption on TV increased many times. Since, neither the producers were in a position to shoot new serials nor any new programs were lined up, the different broadcasters resorted to re-telecast old programmes and to the surprise to everyone, these repeat telecasts also got higher TRPs since most of the people were not finding any mode to entertain themselves. But, soon the euphoria of repeat telecast also blew in the air and the viewers left wandering what to watch now to entertain themselves.

The entertain industry suffered huge losses as all the outdoor activities related to this industry were closed. The cinema industry suffered losses to crores of rupees as this was the medium which was closed the first in lockdown and even now, this medium is closed. TV industry as well as the broadcasters also suffered huge losses as the broadcasters were not having access to new programs and they were forced to telecast old programs with high recall value. As already reiterated, this strategy worked at the start as nobody was aware about the extent of lockdown and later down, when the

same was extended beyond expectations, the TV industry also started suffering losses as the advertisers shunned the TV industry because of less viewership and curtailed advertising expenditures. The other sectors of entertainments industry were also losing their ground because nobody was ready to invest in them. But there were few sectors of the entertainment that were growing in this pandemic situation also. The pandemic situation became a boon for these sectors and the sectors that grew in these difficult times were “The Gaming industry and the OTT industry”.

OTT Industry: An Indian perspective

Mobile TV refers to the TV content that can be accessed on smartphones, tablets, and television sets through wireless networks (Shim, Ahn, & Shim, 2006). Because mobile TV signals are transmitted through airwaves rather than cables, subscribers are required either to download a TV application to their mobile device or to install a specialized TV set-top box that is connected to the display unit. Because they combine mobility and diverse television viewing options with the unprecedented convenience of handheld devices, the mobile TV service is believed to be the next phenomenon in global entertainment media and the telecommunication industry (Jung, Pérez-Mira, & Wiley-Patton, 2009).

Since, India has a large millennial population with the characteristics of youth, tech-savviness, rising earnings potential and more disposable income, the companies with huge investment purses were ready to invest in India. The M&E industry of India had witnessed growth in the last few years in the field of online video industry. Along with the traditional Over-the-Top (OTT) players in the market, primarily

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

all the broadcasters in the country had invested in this segment launching their own OTT platforms. A similar trend was also observed in telecom industry wherein the operators were positioning OTT as a value-added service by packaging the same with existing services so as to make the same more appealing and engaging to the consumers. The leading telecom operators of India had also jumped into the fray of online video services with the launch of apps like JioTV, Airtel TV and Idea TV. As the major broadcasters, content developers, aggregators and even telecom operators were riding the way on digital consumption, India became a market which was ripe for digital media investments. Digital companies providing the digital platforms and digital services were gaining importance and prominence in the overall entertainment spectrum as they had the power to deliver a moving and engaging multi-channel customer experience. As already reiterated, media consumption around the globe was taking place in digital formats for the last few years. Moreover, the advent of different devices viz. affordable smartphones, tablets, feature phones, high resolution phones supporting the digital media and the content along with increase in the internet speed, had pushed the consumers towards consuming and accessing the content of his choice on these devices; be it entertainment, information or social activity and the main reasons for the same was the freedom of anywhere, anytime and anything.

OTT industry is the industry that is spreading its wings in every part of India on the behest of three factors. OTT (Over the top) industry is also called VoD Services (Video on Demand) services or it is also known as streaming industry

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

wherein the content for entertainment is available to the viewers on the move either on their smartphones or laptops or tablets or smart TVs (if at home). The drivers that fuelled the growth of this industry were affordable smartphones, rock bottom data prices, compatibility with different devices, better internet connectivity and latest driver that had fuelled the growth was Covid-19.

Covid-19 had acted as catalyst to boost the growth of the different streaming platforms. Since, most of people were staying inside because of lockdown, the only source of entertainment for them was either TV or different OTT platforms. Since, the access of new programs was also limited to TV industry; the only source of entertainment left with the people staying at home was the OTT platforms. These platforms acted as new lifeline for the entertainment devoid people. The OTT industry is not a very old industry in India. The first streaming platform that started streaming the live matches of the cricket world cup 2015 was Hotstar owned by the Star Network. Later on, many international and national players started their operations in India and that included the likes of Amazon Prime, Netflix, VOOT, Sonyliv, Alt Balaji, ZEE online platform and many more and in the last five years, the industry had witnessed unprecedented growth because of the growth drivers discussed earlier.

The platforms had a large library of content ranging from drama to horror to fiction to live events to sports to movies to music to fiction to non-fiction and many more. Initially, the content was provided in English and Hindi but later on platforms understood the power of regional languages and some of the platforms started developing content in regional

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

languages like Kannada, Bangla, Telugu, Tamil etc. These factors helped the various platforms to reach to each and every part of India but somehow, the industry was not growing with full throttle as the segment that was most glued to it was youth only. The platforms tried every bit to bring more segments under its viewership but those segments were eluding these platforms. But this pandemic has made those segments the customers of these OTT/streaming platforms. The OTT market had revolutionized the way content was created, distributed, and streamed. There was a constant demand from the viewers to watch varied and different content and as a matter of fact, OTT platforms were catering to this demand of varied content by spending unheard amounts on developing the content. The production values of such content had soared like anything and the platforms were spending huge amounts to bring the unexplainable experience to their viewers.

There was gradual rise in OTT consumption in duration across demographics and devices. The availability of large content library not viewed by the new viewers also acted as boon for the OTT platforms as the TV industry was devoid of new content. Since, most of the OTT platforms follow the monetisation model of subscription (SVOD), to make people habitual of watching the content on the different platforms (habit formation), the different platforms offered extending free periods of viewing. In the initial phase of lockdown, between 1st and 21st March, OTT platforms witnessed a growth of 34%. In last roughly four-and-a-half months beginning March, India's data consumption grew at a scorching pace with demand on OTT and VoD platforms rising by a whopping 947% compared

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

to what it was in February, with indications that the rally is far from over. Experts believe that OTT is going to become a go-to-mode for a lot of consumers now as outdoor entertainment isn't accessible and television channels except news have already run out of content. This lockdown had led to more people inadvertently realizing the convenience of OTT, which had already created a shift in the way content is consumed on a day-to-day basis. The lockdown enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic had altered the viewing patterns of the people. The change that came in consumer's social activities because of pandemic had shifted the mode of entertainment from regular television or theatres to video streaming services as the OTT platforms were providing benefits like on-demand services, and freedom to watch anywhere 'n' anytime.

As per TarunKatial, CEO ZEE5, there was a major shift in viewership trends across India within a short period because of the unprecedented situation. During this lockdown, ZEE5 had seen a rise of 45% in paid viewers and the subscriptions going over 80%. The viewing time had also increased by over 50% with Daily Active Users (DAUs) and app downloads rising by 15% and 41% respectively. The other platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+Hotstar and other major players had witnessed unprecedented growth in content consumption. The platform like MX player has the largest customer base as it is free platform monetising on advertising wherein other platforms are monetising on subscription. The platforms witnessed growth in paid subscriber base also, as there was no other medium of entertainment.

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

One more trend that was evident during this pandemic was the direct release of new movies on these platforms. Since, the cinema industry was staring at unprecedented losses because of the closure of multiplexes as well as single screen cinemas, many medium and small budget movies were released directly on these platforms, thus, bringing one more reason to switch to the streaming apps. Since, the producers didn't want to lose more money, the rights of many Hindi and regional movies were bought by these platforms bringing a new competitive rivalry among them. Disney+Hotstar, Netflix and Amazon Prime were on the buying spree of these movies to make their libraries full of content. As the pandemic situation is far from over, the OTT platforms have reached to the levels from where they can build their competitive advantages either in the field of developing regional content or in the field of subscriber base or in the field of active base or in the field of paid subscriber base. This pandemic has acted as a boon for this industry but the growth avenues in this industry are far more over and this industry is bound to grow leaps and bounds in the future.

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Pandemic and Its Impact on Indian Economy

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Abstract

The announcement of Covid-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization sent down panic waves amongst the world leaders who found themselves grappling with an unprecedented global health crisis. The outbreak which started in December, 2019, in Wuhan, China has travelled to over 215 countries and territories on the globe in a period of just nine months and has caused a series of cancellations and suspensions of major global events with the governments forced to clamp lock down on all usual activity – social, economic, sporting or cultural to ensure social/physical distancing to prevent its spread. Looking at the now well-known Johns Hopkins University's dashboard , online, it seems that COVID-19 is here to stay longer and affect us deeper than what we are ready to accept. The roadmap is therefore clear that we may have to do need-based course correction in our strategies to overcome the challenge of uncertain times that we are facing.

Keywords Covid-19, Pandemic, Corona Virus, Social Interaction, Technology.

Introduction

The virus, initially, causing death and destruction of economies in Europe and America has now found its epicenter in India and Brazil. With over 36 million globally confirmed cases of virus infection and over 10.6 lakh deaths worldwide till the writing of this paper, this is far from anybody's initial expectation. Currently while USA leads the world in terms of both, total number of dead and total number of infected over the course of the pandemic, the trajectory of spread of infection has been more terrible in India with average number of daily infections reported at over 65000 and people dying of the infection daily, extremely high at over 1050.

The Global media is just gung- ho about the spread of virus infection and deaths caused by the pandemic and the panic reactions of the Governments and have barely spoken about anything else during the last nine months or so. There is no country yet with a vaccine that can save the day. The crisis is therefore real and our battle to contain the spread of virus is likely to continue to save lives and jobs till world medical fraternity is able to find vaccine to prevent the spread of infection or medicine to cure it.

Pandemic and Its Impact on Indian Economy

Globally in a poll conducted by the 'Edelman Trust Barometer', a renowned American PR and consultancy firm, 67% of the respondents, agreed that "The governments' highest priority, world over should be saving as many lives as possible. That means life should come before livelihood. For India, the poll showed a ratio of 64% to 36%, where 64% of the

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

people agreed that saving as many lives as possible should be a priority and 36% said that saving jobs and restarting the economy is the priority. In India too, the life versus livelihood debate played out, with the government first announcing that life would be prioritized over livelihood, which later changed to an equal importance being given to life and livelihood.

“Corona virus” had created an unprecedented business crisis. Its impact on the business environment is not only worldwide but manifold also. All industries have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, with varying degrees of severity. Manufacturing industries are the most impacted as they had to terminate their production at a short notice. Temporary closure of production units has led to salary cuts and lay-offs. The foremost problem faced by the sector is supply chain disruptions and cash flow issues. Tourism and hospitality is the other sector severely affected by the pandemic prompted restrictions. The industry leaders and their chief executives had a long list of woes — slowing sales, weak consumer demand, credit crisis, digital disruption and rising global trade barriers. Similarly Agriculture, textile and construction sectors which are labour intensive have suffered due to the paucity of labour and poor demand for their products.

According to a survey conducted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) up to 53% of businesses in India, have a certain, specified, amount of impact of shutdowns caused due to COVID-19. According to the "Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy" (CMIE), a leading business information company, the unemployment rate had increased nearly 19% within a month of the lock down,

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

reaching 26% unemployment across India. An estimated 14 crore Indians have lost employment during the lockdown. More than 45% households across the nation have reported an income drop as compared to the previous year. As per the report of Acuite Ratings, another reputed business rating company, the Indian economy is expected to lose over 32,000 crore every day during the first 21 days of the lockdown.

According to Raghuram Rajan formerly governor of Reserve Bank of India , the corona virus pandemic may just be the "greatest emergency faced by India since Independence". Similarly, the former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Arvind Subramanian when asked about the pandemic's impact on Indian economy, has said that India should prepare for a negative growth rate in fiscal year 2021.

The World Bank in his latest report on "South Asia Economic Focus" has projected a decline in India's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020-21 at 9.6 % which is three times lower to its earlier projection of (-) 3.2 % growth in GDP. This according to the report is the result of lockdown of the economic activity for a prolonged period and a decline in household income. In June, 2020 International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also projected a sharp contraction of 4.5 % in the Indian economy for 2020-2021. CRISIL the premier Indian credit rating agency too has downgraded the growth in the GDP for 2020-2021 at the rate of 9%.

The current pandemic prompted economic downturn has greatly affected people from the lower socio-economic class. The distressing media visuals of migrant labourers going

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

to their native places from the cities on foot during the lockdown have been critically debated. Remittance of money to the home country, which many migrant Indian workers doing odd jobs in Gulf countries, popularly do, is another way of poverty reduction, economic development and increase in GDP. The disruption caused by COVID19 has had a significant impact on these remittance flows. Importantly, remittances are projected to fall by about 23% in India in 2020 to Rupees 4, 80,000 crores in a striking contrast to receipts of Rs. 6, 20,000 crores seen in 2019. The World Economic Forum states that in the current pandemic situation, migrants stuck abroad trying to cope with the exigencies will compromise to the adverse circumstances, by taking up low wage jobs, live in poor working conditions, restrict spending and thus, risk exposure to infections like the corona virus.

The scenario among the internal migrant workers in India is equally grim. These workers constituting the informal sector, total to a staggering 139 million and are about 93% of the workforce. About 50% of migrant workers when interviewed stated that they had rations for less than a day. Further, the study by Stranded Workers Action Network showed that 89% of the stranded workers had not been paid wages by their employers during the first 21 days of lockdown and that 74% had less than half their daily wages to live on.

There are no two opinions that poverty in the country will worsen. In accordance with the criteria of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) level of households, followed by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) for estimating poverty levels in the country it can be inferred that as impact of Covid-19 India will add about 354 million

more poor people which will further worsen the inequality. The World Bank in July 2020 has noted that half of India's population is vulnerable with "consumption levels precariously close" to the poverty line. India's most vulnerable are moving from poverty to hunger. The new social cost of the pandemic to pull the millions of people out of the poverty could be very high.

Impact on business, production and other aspects of social life

As usual, doom and gloom overshadows everything else. All the major businesses from manufacturing to marketing, travel to tourism, education to religion, social gatherings to recreational and sports events/ activities have experienced disruption in the wake of the deadly virus. Of course, the negative impact can be wide-ranging and depends on the nature of the business itself, but the most obvious one would be on their revenues, closing down productions/operations, loss of jobs and a drop in consumer confidence. The executive surveys predict that real economic crisis will be the aftermath of the pandemic.

The education sectors all over the world are badly affected by the ongoing covid- 19 crisis. India is no exception, rather it is one among the worst impacted because of it being the third world country and housing second largest population in the world. All educational activities have come to an abrupt end. Around 32 crore learners are not attending school because of countrywide closure of all its educational activities- school, colleges universities and other higher educational institutions, mandated by governments in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. The disruptions in education routine have affected people across communities. However their

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

impact is more severe on disadvantaged children and their families which include interrupted learning, compromised nutrition, childcare problems and consequent economic cost to families who cannot work.

Students are concerned about the lack of social interaction in online classes. Besides, there has to be a strong internet connection to attend online classes throughout the day. There is a great digital divide between urban and rural students. This will lead to increased rates of dropouts among these poor children. Then there is the issue of the format or course pattern in India, which is not in line with the online teaching methodology. This will create many passive learners who will also lose interest in attending online classes.

Low-income private and government school may not be able to adopt online teaching methods. As a result, there will be complete shut down due to no access to e-learning solutions. In addition to the opportunities for learning, students will also miss their meals and may result in economic, social stress and ultimate drop out.

The outbreak of the pandemic and the panic reaction, seemingly, without much of deliberations at levels vested with the responsibility to safely sail through its impact; have landed the people in a situation where every person is looking at others with suspicion of being a potential carrier of virus. The psyche of an ordinary person across age groups has been impacted in a big way and has changed his life both while in the confinements of his house or during his outdoor activities. People are now afraid to shake hands which otherwise used to be considered a most effective method of greeting.

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

The impact is so severe and wide-spread that examples of behavioral changes due to covid- 19, come crowding in the human mind. Consumers are behaving erratically, revising their entire values of material versus immaterial needs. Everyone has started wearing masks, using sanitizers, regularly washing hands, practicing social and physical distancing, less outings, less partying and minimum participation in social gatherings. The men folk have started sharing household and childcare responsibilities, have learnt to live without the assistance of maids and in the process, have contributed to be self-dependent in performing household chores. Hitherto, society has never taught us to behave like this but henceforth everybody has not only to learn and practice this but ensure that others also follow.

Children are feeling confused and lost in the current social milieu, with online learning, communication and interaction. It is quite paradoxical to see that the schools which were once drumming for banning the use of mobile phones by the students in the class rooms are now run with the aid of these electronic devices. Parents are themselves struggling to cope with the situation and finding it difficult to explain and communicate with the children about the current crisis. The most energetic generation is forced to sit idle at home at a formative stage of their life when they need maximum outputs from their peer groups for advancement in life.

Course correction to restart economic activity

Against this backdrop of disruption of most of the manufacturing and commercial activity, behavioral changes of human beings and the fear psychosis created in the wake of pandemic, Industry and Business leaders face the urgency and

complexity of reopening their businesses as the first priority in the race to wider transformation. They have been active on social media on how the pandemic crisis is making the world hit the reset button. They detailed some of the changes the pandemic could bring, such as a stronger digital outreach to avoid personal contacts and most importantly, acceleration in the adoption of the 'work from home' (WFH) model. WFH was bound to be the future of work -culture. Covid-19 has only accelerated the pace of evolution.

Future Roadmap

Today, for most of the people around the world, the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak is a symbol of how fragile and unpredictable our lives can be in an unusual state of affairs. While the inevitable global slowdown that has followed is unquestionably a time to contemplate and look back, we should also stay receptive to the notion that progress comes from dire situations and from thinking about a problem with ever changing perspectives. Put in simple words, crisis necessitates creative solutions. Therefore if there is a single take away from the recent crisis, it is the importance of having clear and well understood disaster recovery and business continuity (DRBC) strategy in place. One would think that DRBC only comes in place when earthquakes or floods or nuclear plant disasters occur but the truth is that a pandemic like COVID-19 can be as disruptive and destructive as any other natural disaster.

It is evident that many executives are focusing on business continuity planning (BCP) and scenario planning to manage potential threats from a 2nd or 3rd wave of corona virus and developing new strategies to prepare for a post-pandemic world and to invest in the preparedness to deal with similar events in the future. Preparation, often the best line of defense, will be the key in a post pandemic COVID -19 world. It is high time that businesses start taking steps to integrate initiatives such as better work-from-home capabilities and measures to reduce the negative impacts of major pandemics in future.

The roadmap is therefore clear that we may have to do need-based course correction in our strategies to overcome the challenge of uncertain times that we are facing. Obviously, these are challenging times for all of us and the one cardinal point that we must know is that our best response relies on global empathy, cooperation and community building that sits at the heart of our movement. It is important to understand that this is first and foremost a human crisis and hence having an empathetic, transparent and supportive approach towards employees is not only critical at this stage but will prove immensely rewarding in the times to come.

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Changes after CORONA Pandemic

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Covid-19 Pandemic and Online-Teaching

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Introduction

As we all know, we are going through the crisis of Covid-19 pandemic. This crisis has put challenges before us, how we teach our students, how we interact with our students, how we use technology for our teaching-learning process. And these challenges have opened the doors and provided us opportunities to make our education system upto the mark. Now, we must make our educational system so powerful that education could reach to the under privileged class and to the poor students. For which the online class learning is the only option in this situation. This online teaching or course is very different from traditional teaching or courses.

In Traditional teaching or courses, no technology is used, content is delivered in writing or orally. Whereas in Online teaching or courses, most or all the content is delivered using technology online; typically has no physical face to face meetings.

The concept of e- content used in online teaching appears to be new, yet it is not. This concept has been started by IGNOU in 1985, which is an open university and provides higher education through distance learning mode. In distance learning mode, the learning material is not in the form of text books, reference books, rather it is in the form of Self Learning Material (SLM). This self-learning material is called Programmed Instructional Material.

The concept of Programmed Instructional Material was introduced by B.F. Skinner, who gave the theory of learning named as 'Operant Conditioning Theory'. According to this theory (R.S.Theory), a person did operant response, but he didn't know its result i.e. stimulus (reinforcement). For example: when the bell rings, a person opens the door (response), although he doesn't know its results (stimulus). If the result (stimulus) is favourable, it acts as the reinforcement to the person. This is called Operant response and this learning is called R-SType learning. So, in learning, reinforcement plays an important role. Now, Five basic principles of programmed instruction given by B.F. Skinner are as follows:

1. Principle of small step.
2. Principle of active learning
3. Principle of self-pacing
4. Principle of immediate confirmation
5. Principle of programme testing.

Online material or e-content is also a kind of Self Learning Material. So, for preparing online material for students or e-content (SLM), these five basic principles are to be kept in mind by the teachers, because the students have to

learn this material themselves without teacher and at their own pace. Hence, the e-content presented at a time before the students should be small, involving students actively in learning and the responses of the students should be confirmed immediately. Too much e-content in each subject is already available online in YouTube, Google PDF, e-Pathshala, Swayam, Swayam-prabha, National Digital Library. There is need to prepare e-content only, when there is no proper e-content already available on different websites.

Only providing e-content to the students is not teaching. It is only instruction, because in teaching, interaction between teacher and students is mandatory. So, to make interaction with the students, we have to adopt the Flipped or Blended mode classroom.

A Flipped classroom inverts the traditional classroom by delivering instruction online outside of class and moving homework and application activities into the classroom. In other words, learning on a particular concept happens outside the class and work putting the concept into action happens inside the class. A flipped classroom provides an interactive and dynamic learning environment to the students, where the teacher guides students as they apply concepts and use problem solving, creative thinking, critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills with peers.

In Blended or Flipped mode, there are two situations- synchronous and asynchronous. Although, it depends upon the topic or teacher, whether he uses first asynchronous mode or synchronous mode. But in my view, we should first provide the SLM or e-content to the students, which may be the asynchronous mode ie it is not necessary that student is

simultaneously present online. After that, the teacher should say to the students to read the e-content, mark their problems and write them. Then the teacher should arrange an online-class (synchronous mode), in which teacher and students should be present simultaneously. In this online class, the teacher should present the content, provided already to the students and also remove their problems.

Now, the question arises what is the best way to present e-content (asynchronous) before the students. The e-content can be presented in the form of pdf, You-Tube videos, audios through Whatsapp, as most of our students are from remote and rural areas, they have no laptops, but most of them have smart mobile phone. And for online class (synchronous), we can use so many tools as Zoom class, google meet, Cisco webex. Also, other tools like Edmodo, Kahoot (gamification) etc are there, by which we can make our Flipped class, present e-content and also assessment can be done.

So, now after this Covid-19 pandemic, we have to accept the online mode of teaching and prepare ourselves for flipped or blended mode of teaching-learning as an opportunity to make our teaching-learning process more vibrant and collaborative.

कोरोना वैश्विक महामारी के बहुआयामी प्रभाव

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कोरोना वायरस वैश्विक महामारी (2019–2021) की शुरुआत एक वायरस के संक्रमण के कारण हुई। चीन के वुहान शहर से 2019 में मध्य दिसम्बर में इस वायरस ने संक्रमण फैलाया। कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण का फैलाव अन्तरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर होने के साथ ही यह पूरे विश्व में चिन्ता का विषय बन गया। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के द्वारा इसे वैश्विक महामारी के रूप में घोषित किया गया।

कोरोना वायरस का प्रभाव न केवल शारीरिक स्तर तक सीमित रहा वरन् इस वायरस से निपटने हेतु जो प्रयास किए गए, उन प्रयासों के क्रम में जो प्रभाव पड़े वे बहुआयामी रहे। कोरोना वायरस वैश्विक महामारी ने सभी वर्गों के लोगों को प्रभावित किया।

भारत के संदर्भ में कोरोना वायरस के प्रभावों का आकलन करने के लिए बहुत से मापदण्ड उपस्थित हैं, यदि हम सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक आधार पर इस महामारी के प्रभावों का आकलन करें तो बहुत से पक्ष हमारे सामने विचारणीय हो जाते हैं। कोरोना वायरस के बढ़ते संक्रमण को रोकने हेतु 24 मार्च 2020 से 1 जून 2020 तक पाँच

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

चरणों में भारत में लॉकडाउन कर्फ्यू घोषित किया गया जिसके कारण बहुत से सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक प्रभाव पड़े।

लॉकडाउन घोषणा से श्रमिकों का पलायन गाँवों की ओर बढ़ा क्योंकि लाखों मजदूरों के रोजगार छिन गये और उनमें भविष्य को लेकर आशंका उत्पन्न हुई परिणामतः मजदूर वर्ग गाँवों की ओर लौटने लगा। 24 मार्च से 2 जून के मध्य हादसों में सैंकड़ों मजदूरों की मृत्यु हुई।

गाँवों की ओर मजदूरों के पलायन के दौरान (24 मार्च से 2 जून 2020 तक) प्रमुख हादसे

राज्य एवं स्थान	दिनांक	मरने वाले मजदूरों की संख्या
उत्तर प्रदेश, औरैया	16 मई, 2020	24
महाराष्ट्र, औरंगाबाद	8 मई 2020	16
मध्यप्रदेश, गुना	14 मई, 2020	8

24 मार्च से 2 जून 2020 तक की समयावधि में कुल 198 मजदूरों की मृत्यु हुई।

मजदूरों की एक ओर जनहानि हुई वहीं दूसरी ओर मजदूरों के समक्ष कोरोना महामारी के कारण रोजगार का संकट उत्पन्न हुआ। करोड़ों की संख्या में मजदूरों का रोजगार छिन गया। लॉकडाउन के समय में तो मजदूर वर्ग पूर्णतः बेरोजगार हुआ ही किन्तु लॉकडाउन के पश्चात भी कोरोना संक्रमित पाए जाने वाले मजदूरों के साथ-साथ उनके परिवार के व्यक्तियों को भी क्वारेंटाइन किया गया, जिससे पूरा परिवार ही जीविकोपार्जन के प्रयासों से 14

या 28 दिन के लिए वंचित कर दिया गया। ऐसी स्थिति में परिवारों के समक्ष भयावह आर्थिक चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न हुई क्योंकि वे रोजगार पाने के प्रयास से भी वंचित कर दिये गए।

सरकार द्वारा वंचित परिवारों को खाद्य सामग्री उपलब्ध करवाना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है क्योंकि एक परिवार के निर्वहन हेतु बहुत सी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा किया जाना आवश्यक हो जाता है। कोरोना महामारी ने मजदूर वर्ग के समक्ष रोजगार का संकट उत्पन्न किया। मजदूरों के रोजगार छिनने से उनके समक्ष बच्चों की शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य संबंधी आवश्यकताओं और अन्य सामाजिक दायित्वों के निर्वहन की समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई। कोरोना महामारी के कारण लॉकडाउन में सरकारें आर्थिक विवशता के कारण मजदूरों की खाद्य संबंधी आवश्यकताओं को ही पूरा कर पाई है।

कोरोना काल में 2.10 करोड़ बंधी नौकरियां लॉकडाउन के कारण चली गईं। 40 करोड़ असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों की स्थिति तो और भी भयावह है। हालांकि नरेगा अस्थायी समाधान के रूप में मजदूरों एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में निवासरत बेरोजगारों के लिए राहत भरा रहा है किन्तु स्थायी समाधान के रूप में यह एक दीर्घकालीन विकल्प के रूप में नहीं हो सकता।

कोरोना ने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भी चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न की है, भारत में स्कूल में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों की संख्या करीब 33 करोड़ है, जिनमें से 10.3 प्रतिशत बच्चों के पास ऑनलाइन पढ़ने की व्यवस्था है। ऑनलाइन शिक्षा के लिए स्मार्ट मोबाइल फोन की आवश्यकता के साथ नेट की सुविधा होना भी आधारभूत है किन्तु मजदूर वर्ग के लिए इसकी कल्पना करना भी मुश्किल है। न केवल स्कूल के बच्चे वरन् उच्च शिक्षा में अध्ययनरत् बच्चों की अधिकतर संख्या भी ग्रामीण

परिवेश से ही हैं जहां साधनों के अभाव के कारण स्कूल एवं उच्च शिक्षा में अध्ययनरत बच्चों के भविष्य के लिए संकट उत्पन्न हुआ है। 33 करोड़ स्कूल के बच्चों में से मात्र 10.3 प्रतिशत बच्चों को ही अध्ययन का मौका प्राप्त हो पाना देश में आर्थिक विषमता के गहरे अन्तर को प्रकट करता है।

कोरोना काल ने न केवल आर्थिक विषमता को प्रकट किया है वरन् लैंगिक असमानता के स्वरूप को भी उजागर किया है। कोरोना संक्रमण के समय हुए लॉकडाउन से उत्पन्न हुई परिस्थितियों ने लैंगिक असमानता के भेदभाव को न केवल राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रकट किया वरन् वैश्विक स्तर पर भी प्रकट किया। इस काल में महिलाओं के प्रति होने वाले अपराधों में वृद्धि हुई। विकसित और विकासशील देशों में महिलाओं पर हिंसा के मामले तेजी से बढ़े। संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने दुनियाभर की सरकारों से आग्रह किया वे महिलाओं की सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता दे। कोरोना संकट के समय लॉकडाउन में दुनियाभर में महिलाओं के रोजगार छिने। लॉकडाउन में घरेलू हिंसा व प्रताड़ना की राज्यवर स्थिति के अध्ययन से ज्ञात होता है कि 23 मार्च, 2020 से 1 अप्रैल, 2020 तक घरेलू हिंसा की सर्वाधिक शिकायतें 90 उत्तरप्रदेश से, 37 दिल्ली से, 18 बिहार से एवं 11 मध्यप्रदेश से एवं 18 शिकायतें महाराष्ट्र से आईं। लॉकडाउन का प्रभाव महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं पर भी पड़ा। महिलाएँ प्रजनन संबंधी सुविधाओं से वंचित रही और उन्हें अवांछित गर्भधारण एवं गर्भपात का जोखिम भी उठाना पड़ा। लॉकडाउन में महिलाओं के रोजगार भी छिन गए। लॉकडाउन के पश्चात भी महिला श्रमिकों को भी पुरुषों की तुलना में कम रोजगार के अवसर प्राप्त हुए। शैक्षणिक क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं के रोजगार का बड़ा आधार रहा है। लम्बे समय से

स्कूल-कॉलेज बंद रहने से शैक्षणिक क्षेत्र से जुड़ी हुई महिलाओं के रोजगार एवं वेतन पर प्रभाव पड़ा है। निजी विद्यालयों में कार्यरत शिक्षिकाओं के वेतन में कटौतियां की जा रही हैं, कोरोना काल में स्कूल फीस में कटौतियों का सीधा प्रभाव शिक्षा के क्षेत्र से जुड़ी हुई महिलाओं के वेतन पर भी पड़ा।

कोरोना महामारी के संक्रमण को रोकने हेतु लॉकडाउन लगाया गया उसमें बच्चों के प्रति भी हिंसा के मामले बढ़े। लॉकडाउन में 20 से 31 मार्च के बीच चाइल्ड हेल्प लाइन 1098 पर कुल 3.07 लाख कॉल्स आए। इनमें से 30 प्रतिशत (92 हजार कॉल्स) बच्चों के उत्पीड़न और हिंसा से जुए थी। लॉकडाउन में शोषण की स्थिति और भी भयावह इसलिए भी हो जाती है कि ऐसी स्थिति में महिलाएँ और बच्चे शोषणकारी के साथ रहने हेतु मजबूर थे। लॉकडाउन के समय एवं लॉकडाउन के बाद की परिस्थितियों में बच्चों के शारीरिक एवं मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ा। लाखों की संख्या में बच्चों टीकाकरण की सुविधाओं से वंचित रहे, जिससे बच्चों में रोग उत्पन्न हुए, राजस्थान का अलवर जिला इसका ज्वलंत उदाहरण है जहाँ डिप्थिरिया नामक बीमारी ने अपने पैर पसारने शुरू कर दिये। करीबन आठ माह से स्कूल बंद होने, ऑनलाइन क्लासेज से स्क्रीन टाइम बढ़ने, दोस्तों से न मिल पाने एवं बच्चों की अन्य गतिविधियों बंद हो जाने के कारण उनके व्यवहार में परिवर्तन आया, बच्चों में भी मानसिक अवसाद बढ़ा। उनके स्वभाव में जिद्दीपन, सुस्ती, झगड़ालूपन एवं अनुशासनहीनता बढ़ी। स्कूल, खेलकूद व पढ़ाई का संतुलन बिगड़ने से बच्चों के मानसिक संतुलन में भी परिवर्तन आए।

कोविड-19 वैश्विक महामारी ने परिवार के संबंधों एवं सामाजिक संबंधों को भी प्रभावित किया है। प्राचीन काल से भारतीय समाज की संस्कृति मेलजोल वाली रही है एवं परिवारों में संयुक्त होकर रहने का प्रचलन रहा है, किन्तु समय के साथ-साथ परिवार संयुक्त की जगह एकल हो गए, भौतिकवादी एवं आत्मकेन्द्रित संस्कृति का असर भारतीय परिवारों की संरचना पर भी पड़ा, परिवार के सदस्यों के मध्य परिवार में रहते हुए भी एकसाथ समय बिताने के स्थान पर आत्मकेन्द्रित एवं व्यक्तिगत जीवन जीने की प्रवृत्तियाँ उत्पन्न हुईं। कोविड-19 महामारी का असर भारतीय परिवार पर सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक दोनों ही रूपों में देखने को मिले। कोरोना काल में कुछ परिवारों में सदस्यों के साथ रहने से उनके रिश्तों में प्रगाढ़ता आई, किन्तु कुछ परिवारों के सदस्यों को एक साथ रहने से व्यक्तिगत स्पेस नहीं मिल पाने की वजह से उनमें मानसिक अवसाद एवं चिड़चिड़ेपन की प्रवृत्ति देखने को मिली जिसका एक रूप घरेलू हिंसा के रूप में भी प्रकट हुआ।

कोरोना काल ने सामाजिक रिश्तों एवं पारिवारिक रिश्तों में नकारात्मक प्रभाव भी डाला। संक्रमण के भय से सामाजिक दूरियां बढ़ी। एक दूसरे से मिलना, एक दूसरे के घर जाना, सामाजिक कार्यक्रमों में भाग लेने की प्रवृत्तियों में कमी हुई। कई जगह तो परिवार में कोरोना संक्रमण की वजह से मृत्यु हो जाने पर अंतिम संस्कार के लिए परिवार के सदस्यों द्वारा ही मना कर दिया गया। कोरोना काल में परिवार एवं सामाजिक संबंध सिमट कर रह गए। कोरोना संक्रमित व्यक्तियों को सामाजिक बहिष्कार का सामना भी करना पड़ा। क्वारंटाइन की अवधि पूरी हो जाने पर भी कोरोना से

संक्रमित रहे व्यक्तियों को भय एवं आशंका की दृष्टि से देखा जाने लगा।

अरस्तु के अनुसार, "मनुष्य एक सामाजिक प्राणी है, समाज के बिना रहने वाला व्यक्ति या तो पशु है अथवा देवता।" कोरोना काल में सामाजिक संबंधों एवं आपसी रिश्तों में दूरियाँ बढ़ी जिससे मनुष्य की स्वाभाविक आवश्यकताओं और भावात्मक आवश्यकताओं पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़े जिसका एक रूप मानसिक अवसाद के रूप में भी प्रकट हुआ। लगातार घर में रहते हुए, भविष्य के प्रति अनिश्चिताओं, गरीबी, बेरोजगारी, संभावित कोरोना संक्रमण से मृत्यु की आशंका इत्यादि ने लोगों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर गहरा असर डाला। कोरोना वायरस ने निराशा, शरीर में ऊर्जा की कमी, स्वयं को नुकसान होने की भावनाओं में वृद्धि की है।

कोरोना काल ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के महत्व को प्रकट किया। रोजगार की तलाश और भौतिकवाद की ओर आकर्षण ने गाँवों से ग्रामीण जनता का पलायन शहरों की ओर कर दिया था, कोरोना के समय शहरों से गाँवों की ओर पलायन हुआ। प्रवासी मजदूरों और लोगों को गाँव अधिक सुरक्षित लगने लगे।

प्रशासनिक स्तर पर कोरोना वैश्विक महामारी ने भविष्य के प्रति बहुत सी सावधानियां रखने हेतु प्रेरित भी किया है। स्वास्थ्य आपदा प्रबंधन हेतु देशों को अपने रक्षा एवं अन्य बजट में कटौती कर स्वास्थ्य बजट को बढ़ाना होगा। भविष्य में स्वास्थ्य संबंधी कर्मियों की नियमित भर्ती करना ऐसी आपदा प्रबंधन हेतु आवश्यक है। वर्तमान में भारत में द्वारा स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं पर अपनी जीडीपी का मात्र 1.1 प्रतिशत से 1.4 प्रतिशत तक ही खर्च किया जाता है। भविष्य में इस कोरोना वायरस का समाधान अभी दूर तक नजर नहीं आ रहा है

ऐसी स्थिति में कोरोना वैक्सीन के आने तक सावधानी ही बचाव का विकल्प शेष रह जाता है। सॉशियल डिस्टेंसिंग, मास्क का प्रयोग, हाथों को बार-बार धोना इत्यादि उपायों को सावधानी के रूप में अपनाया जा सकता है। प्रशासनिक स्तर पर श्रमिकों के लिए एवं जरूरतमंदों के लिए कोरोना से सावधानी बरतने हेतु जागरूकता कार्यक्रम चलाये जा सकते हैं एवं मास्क, सैनेटाइजर इत्यादि उपलब्ध कराए जा सकते हैं। महिलाओं के सम्मान एवं बच्चों के लिए गुड टच बैड टच जैसी जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का प्रचार प्रसार किया जा सकता है। जनता, भामाशाहों एवं प्रशासन, राजनीतिक एवं सामाजिक सहयोग के माध्यम से कोरोना जैसे संकट से लड़ना होगा क्योंकि इस महामारी ने भी धर्म, जाति, नस्ल एवं नागरिकता के भेद के बिना सभी को प्रभावित किया है इसी प्रकार इसका सामना भी सभी को एकजुट होकर करना होगा।

स्वास्थ्य संबंधी आपदाओं से निपटने हेतु पुलिस प्रशासन को प्रशिक्षण देना होगा क्योंकि स्वास्थ्य संबंधी आपदा का प्रबंधन अभी तक भारत में पुलिस प्रशिक्षण का भाग नहीं रहा है। कोरोना वायरस महामारी ने भविष्य में एक ही रोजगार पर निर्भर न रहकर आय के अन्य स्रोतों को भी विकल्प के रूप में अपनाने का संदेश दिया है।

भविष्य में हमें शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में तकनीकी पर आधारित शिक्षा प्रणाली को अपनाना होगा, वर्क फ्रॉम होम इत्यादि तरीकों को ओर भी बेहतर बनाने संबंधी प्रयोगों को करना होगा। स्वास्थ्य संबंधी क्षेत्र में भी आधारभूत सुविधाओं का विकास करना होगा।

कोरोना महामारी के पश्चात वैश्वीकरण, राष्ट्रों के मध्य संबंधों, सामाजिक संबंधों एवं पारिवारिक संरचनाओं, श्रमिकों की दशा, महिलाओं एवं बच्चों की स्थिति, शिक्षा की दशा इत्यादि में क्या

परिवर्तन आएंगे, स्पष्ट करना जटिल है किन्तु भविष्य के लिए विश्व में व्यापक परिवर्तनों के लिए उत्तरदायी होगी।

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कोविड-19 के संदर्भ में किये गये संपूर्ण लॉकडाउन काल का प्रभाव : एक अध्ययन

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नैक परामर्शी
डॉ० बी०आर०अम्बेडकर यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ
सोशल साइंसेस, डॉ० अम्बेडकर नगर,
महू, इन्दौर, मध्य प्रदेश, भारत

डॉ० सुरेश टी. सिलावट
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प्रस्तावना

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के अनुसार कोविड-19 को 11 मार्च, 2020 को सर्वव्यापी महामारी घोषित किया गया तथा 11 फरवरी, 2020 को नोवल कोरोना वायरस-2019 (2019-nCoV) नाम दिया गया। तब से आज तक यह महामारी विश्व के लगभग 216 देशों को प्रभावित कर चुकी है। (फंडसे एवं साथी, 2020, डब्ल्यूएचओ, 2020)। जीव वैज्ञानिकों की भाषा में इस वायरस का संबंध कुल कोरोनावीरीडी तथा वर्ग नीडोवीरेल्स से है और यह एक आर.एन.ए. वायरस है (चेंग एवं साथी, 2007) ।

इस वायरस ने मानव जीवन की बहुमुखी गतिविधियों को चारदीवारी तक कैद कर दिया। आर्थिक, सामाजिक, शैक्षिक विकास पर

विराम—सा लगा दिया। कोरोना के आतंक से बाल, वृद्ध, नर—नारी सभी भयभीत, आशंकित और सचेत है, तथा इससे मुक्ति के लिए आकुल भी। मानव युक्त प्रकृति में जब भी कोई घटना घटती है तो उससे सीधे—सीधे मानव का प्रभावित होना स्वाभाविक है। मानव इस जगत का सर्वश्रेष्ठ और बुद्धि संपन्न प्राणी है, इसलिए वह उसके कारणों के अनुसंधान में जुट जाता है। यही कोरोना वायरस के साथ भी हो रहा है। सभी वैज्ञानिक इसकी उत्पत्ति, नियंत्रण तथा बचने के उपायों की खोज में लगे हैं। वैज्ञानिकों का एक समूह इसकी उत्पत्ति चीन के व्यूहान शहर से मानता है (करुनाथिलिका, 2020; फंडसे एवं साथी, 2020)

चिकित्सा वैज्ञानिक इसके वैक्सीन और दवाइयों की खोज में जुटे हैं, तो आहार विशेषज्ञ मनुष्य को अपनी ताकत बढ़ाने के उपायों का उपदेश दे रहे हैं, प्रशासन की चिंता है कि वह किस तरह लोगों को कोरोना के विरुद्ध सचेत और जागृत करके इसे नियंत्रित रख सके, लोक जीवन को सुरक्षा दे सके। समाजशास्त्री इसके सामाजिक प्रभावों की चिंता में हैं तो मनोवैज्ञानिक बदलाव के अध्ययन में लगे हैं। शिक्षाशास्त्री इसके विद्यार्थियों पर होने वाले प्रभाव के लिये परेशान हैं। चिंतन मनन के इस दौर में हमने भी विभिन्न पहलुओं का अध्ययन करते हुए विश्लेषण करने का प्रयास किया है अर्थात् कोरोना से बचाव के लिये किये गये संपूर्ण लॉकडाउन से उत्पन्न विभिन्न स्थितियों का व्यक्तिगत, सामाजिक और राष्ट्रीय जीवन पर क्या प्रभाव रहा। हमें कौन से अभिनव अवसर प्राप्त हुए हैं और कौन सी चुनौतियाँ ?

अध्ययन एवं विवेचना (Observation and Discussion)

संपूर्ण लॉकडाउन के कारण भारत में इसके जो विभिन्न धनात्मक तथा ऋणात्मक प्रभाव हुये हैं उनकी विवेचना निम्नानुसार की जा सकती है

धनात्मक प्रभाव (Positive Effects)

1. मानव अपने स्वास्थ्य, प्रतिरोधक क्षमता, आत्मशक्ति और आत्मविश्वास के स्तर को उठाने के प्रति अधिक सजग हुआ है।
2. भारतीयों में परिस्थितियों से सामंजस्य स्थापित करते हुए सीमित साधनों में रहने की आदत विकसित हुई है।
3. हमने परिवार के महत्व को, ताकत को समझा और स्वीकार किया है अर्थात् भारतीय संस्कृति को बल मिला है।
4. चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में नवीन आयामों का उद्घाटन हुआ है, नए शोध को दिशा मिली है साथ ही आपात चिकित्सा सुविधाओं और चिकित्सालय का नया स्वरूप विकसित हुआ है। अर्थात् गुणात्मक एवं मात्रात्मक दोनों ही रूप से चिकित्सा सुविधाएं संपन्न हुई हैं। आपात चिकित्सकीय सुविधाओं के लिये नये सिरे से सोचना और विकास करना प्रारंभ किया है।
5. आपात स्थितियों ने विश्व के सभी देशों को एक मंच पर एकत्रित करते हुए पारस्परिक सहयोग और सद्भाव से कार्य करने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया है। भारत ने विश्व के कई देशों को इस समय दवाएँ, मास्क, पीपीई किट आदि की आपूर्ति की है।
6. पर्यावरण परिशोधित होते हुए शुद्ध एवं मनोहारी रूप में सामने आया है। जल, वायु, ध्वनि आदि सभी प्रकार के प्रदूषण का स्तर आश्चर्यजनक रूप से कम हुआ तथा जीव जंतुओं को स्वच्छंद विचरण करने का शुभ अवसर प्राप्त हुआ। मेन्यूल एवं साथी (2020) का भी मानना है कि हवा की गुणवत्ता में सुधार हुआ है, ध्वनि प्रदूषण में कमी आयी है तथा समुद्री किनारे स्वच्छ हुए हैं। ग्लोबल कार्बन प्रोजेक्ट (2020) के अनुसार हरितग्रह गैसों में विश्वयुद्ध II के उपरांत इतनी कमी देखी गई है। ई.एस.ए. (2020) के अनुसार नाइट्रोजन डाय ऑक्साइड तथा कणिका तत्वों की सांद्रता में अप्रत्याशित कमी आयी है। अपशिष्ट का निष्पादन तथा पुनः चक्रीकरण विकासशील देशों के

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

लिये हमेशा एक समस्या रहा है (लियू एवं साथी, 2020)। वर एवं साथी (2017) के अनुसार पुनः चक्रीकरण प्राकृतिक स्रोतों को बचाने का एक प्रभावी उपाय है। लॉकडाउन के कारण इस प्रक्रिया पर लगभग विराम लगा है। अतः पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा और सुधार के लिये किये जा रही पुनः चक्रीकरण प्रक्रिया प्रभावित हुई है, ठोस अपशिष्ट तथा चिकित्सीय अपशिष्ट में वृद्धि हुई है। इस दृष्टि से लेखक रुआनो (2020) के विचारों से सहमत है।

7. विलुप्ति के संकट से आक्रांत प्रजातियाँ कुछ समय के लिए सुरक्षित हुई हैं।
8. ऑनलाइन शिक्षा का महत्व और प्रसार बढ़ा है। ऑनलाइन क्रय-विक्रय प्रक्रिया में वृद्धि हुई है।
9. इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युग की नए कलेवर के साथ शुरुआत हुई है।
10. ई पेमेण्ट का उपयोग बढ़ा है। ई-बैंकिंग का महत्व बढ़ा है। इसके दूरगामी अच्छे प्रभाव देखने को मिल सकते हैं।
11. घरों में बैठकर भी उद्योग धंधे संचालित किए जा सकते हैं, यह विचार जागृत और पुष्ट हुआ है।
12. नशीले पदार्थों की उपलब्धता सहज नहीं होने के कारण नशावृत्ति में कमी आयी है, सड़क दुर्घटनाएँ कम हुई हैं, अपराध घटे हैं, अनैतिक व्यवहार में भी कमी आई है।
13. सर्वशक्तिमान ईश्वर के प्रति आस्था और विश्वास अधिक सुदृढ़ हुआ है।
14. धार्मिक स्थल बंद होने के कारण व्यक्ति अंतर्मुखी साधना की ओर आकृष्ट हुआ है—आत्म चिंतन, मनन और एकांत पूजन के प्रति रुझान हुआ है। प्रदर्शन की प्रवृत्ति घटी है।
15. भारतीय संस्कृति के महत्व और वैज्ञानिकता को संपूर्ण विश्व में प्रतिष्ठा मिली है। सादा जीवन उच्च विचार का भाव, जो हमारी परंपरा और संस्कृति का एक अंग था, पुनर्विकसित हुआ है।

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

16. हमारी रागात्मक संवेदनाएँ अधिक प्रबल हुई हैं। जीवन की क्षणभंगुरता और भौतिक साधनों की नश्वरता समझ में आने से दान, त्याग, उदारता और पारस्परिक सहयोग में वृद्धि हुई है। लोक कल्याण की भावना का संवर्धन हुआ है।
17. स्वास्थ्य के प्रति सतर्कता ने जंक फूड का उपयोग कम करके घर में बने भोजन के उपयोग की ओर रुझान बढ़ा दिया है।
18. भारतीय चिकित्सा शास्त्र और आयुर्वेद का महत्व युवा पीढ़ी भी स्वीकार करने लगी है।
19. योगासन, प्राणायाम आदि के प्रति लोगों में नियमित अभ्यास की प्रवृत्ति जागृत हुई है।
20. युवा पीढ़ी में नियमित दिनचर्या के प्रति सजगता व्यवहार में दिखाई देने लगी है। अपनी जैविक घड़ी के प्रति सतर्कता और सुधार की चाह विकसित हुई है।
21. फिजूलखर्ची पर रोक लगी है।
22. कलात्मक अभिरुचि और रचना धर्मिता को नए आयाम प्राप्त हुए हैं।
23. नए-नए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक ऐप विकसित हुए हैं और उनका प्रयोग भी बढ़ रहा है। शोध संगोष्ठियों, बैठकों, परिचर्चाओं का स्वरूप बदला है— घर बैठे वृहद् समूह से विचार-विमर्श एक अनुपम सुविधा बनी है— समय, धन और परिश्रम की बचत हुई है और विश्व-ग्राम की परिकल्पना साकार हुई है। विचार-विमर्श में भागीदारी भी बढ़ी है।
24. समाज में स्वदेशी के प्रति रुझान और रुचि नए रूप में विकसित हुई है जिससे हमारे राष्ट्रीय उद्योगों को, स्थानीय व्यापार को नया स्वरूप मिलने की पूरी आशा है।

ऋणात्मक प्रभाव (Negative Effects)

1. भारत सहित दुनिया के अधिकांश देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था एवं सामाजिक तानाबाना बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ है। मलपास (2020) का भी यही निष्कर्ष है।
2. इस वायरस के संक्रमण से बड़ी संख्या में जनहानि हुई है—कई परिवारों ने अपना आधार स्तंभ ही खो दिया है। अनेक मेधावी, आपात सेवा अधिकारी, चिकित्सक एवं कर्मचारी संक्रमित होकर असमय काल कवलित हो गए हैं।
3. कई लोगों ने अपने मित्रों संबंधियों और आत्मीय जनों को खोया है, तो कई अपने घर परिवारों से दूर रहने के लिए विवश हुए हैं, मिलने के लिए तरस रहे हैं। कई अंतिम समय में की जाने वाली प्रक्रिया से भी वंचित रहे हैं।
4. सभी प्रकार के विकास कार्य की गति अवरुद्ध और मंद हुई है। औद्योगिक गतिविधियां बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुई हैं। विश्व बैंक (2020) के अनुसार औद्योगिक धंधे में संलग्न श्रमिक, व्यापारी, परिवहन से संबंधित वर्ग विशेषकर कम आय समूह के लोग अधिक प्रभावित हुए हैं।
5. सभी का अमूल्य समय उपयोग में नहीं आ सका है। विकासात्मक गतिविधियों में लगने वाला समय घर की चहारदीवारी में कैद हो गया जिससे भविष्य को एक बड़ा खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ सकता है।
6. कई लोगों ने रोजगार खोया है विशेष रूप से घरों में, कारखानों आदि में काम करने वाले सहायक और श्रमिकों ने, फेरीवालों आदि ने। इससे गरीब और अधिक गरीब हो रहे हैं, उन्हें आवश्यक आवश्यकताएँ भी उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रही हैं।
7. विद्यार्थियों को सबसे अधिक खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ा है क्योंकि शिक्षा व्यवस्था में कई व्यवधान निरंतर उपस्थित हो रहे हैं और आगे भी आशंका बनी हुई है। कहने के लिए तो ऑनलाइन कक्षाएँ प्रारंभ की

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

- गई है किंतु सभी को कंप्यूटर या स्मार्ट फोन कहाँ उपलब्ध है और ना ही सभी इसके अभ्यस्त हैं। महाविद्यालयों और शोध संस्थानों में भी सभी गतिविधियाँ स्थगित हो गई हैं। कई शोधार्थियों को शोध कार्य बीच में रुक जाने के कारण धन और समय की हानि भी उठानी पड़ रही है। शिक्षा का पूरा स्वरूप ही बदला है।
8. उपरोक्त वर्णित स्थितियों के कारण व्यक्ति अत्याधिक तनाव और संघर्ष के बवंडर में फंसा हुआ है— अनिश्चित भविष्य की आशंकाएँ उसे व्यथित कर रही हैं।
 9. एक ओर तो, चिकित्सा सुविधाएँ समृद्ध हुई हैं किंतु दूसरी ओर सामान्य रोगियों के लिए सुविधाएँ बाधित हो गई हैं, चिकित्सालय संक्रमण का केंद्र बन गए हैं और लोग वहाँ जाने में घबराहट का अनुभव करने लगे हैं। मास्क और ग्लोव का उपयोग बढ़ा है, उत्पादन बढ़ा है और इनके दूषित रूप का निष्पादन एक समस्या बना हुआ है। कामा (2020) के अनुसार लॉकडाउन समय में चिकित्सीय अपशिष्ट एक समस्या बना हुआ है। सामान्य समय में चिकित्सा सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध कराने वाले निकटस्थ चिकित्सक और छोटे-छोटे चिकित्सालय बंद हो गए हैं। ऐसी स्थितियों में बीमारों की समस्याएँ अधिक गंभीर और दुखद बन गई हैं। फंडसे एवं साथी (2020) का भी मानना है कि इस वैश्विक महामारी ने आर्थिक, चिकित्सीय तथा सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य से संबंधित आधारभूत सुविधाओं हेतु पूरी दुनिया में कई चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न की है।
 10. कोरोना काल में घरेलू हिंसा में वृद्धि हुई है। घर में कार्य का बोझ बढ़ा है, गृह सहायिकाओं के ना आने से गृहिणी बोझिल हुई है और साथ ही मानसिक प्रताड़ना का शिकार भी। खाली दिमाग शैतान का घर होता है और यदि तनावग्रस्त हो तो वहाँ अपनी अभिव्यक्ति दूसरों के लिए पीड़ादायक ही होती है।

11. जीडीपी में गिरावट आई है। भारत में तो इसका भयानक रूप देखने को मिला है।
12. सरकारों के राजस्व में भारी कमी आयी है जिससे विकास कार्य प्रभावित हुआ है।
13. मनोरंजन के परंपरागत साधनों की अनुपलब्धता आमजन के लिए उदासी का सबब बनी है, जिसने मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और लोक व्यवहार को भी प्रभावित किया है। इस क्षेत्र से जुड़े छोटे-बड़े कर्मचारी प्रभावित हुए हैं।
14. सरकारों के लिए सभी क्षेत्रों में चुनौतियां और दायित्व बढ़े हैं।

निष्कर्ष (Conclusion)

हम कह सकते हैं कि कोरोना संक्रमण काल ने मनुष्य को नए सिरे से कुछ बिंदुओं पर चिंतन करने के लिए विवश किया है – जैसे आचार-विचार का महत्व, संयम-नियम-योग-प्राणायाम और नियमित व्यायाम और आत्म शक्ति का महत्व, स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा की आवश्यकता, परिवार और पास पड़ोस की शक्ति, स्वदेशी उत्पाद का महत्व, संचय प्रवृत्ति की उपादेयता, पर्यावरण संरक्षण करते हुए प्राकृतिक साधनों का मितव्ययिता से उपयोग इत्यादि।

कोरोना काल ने हमें जो अवसर प्रदान किए हैं, उपलब्धियाँ दी हैं, उन्हें संवर्धित करना, सुरक्षित रखना हमारा कर्तव्य और दायित्व है। साथ ही जो चुनौतियाँ दी हैं, उन्हें अवसर में बदलना भविष्य की आवश्यकता है, तभी हम एक नए समाज और राष्ट्र का निर्माण कर सकेंगे जो पहले से अधिक शक्ति संपन्न, समृद्ध, आत्मनिर्भर और संवेदनशील होगा। पर्यावरण हितैषी होगा।

अभी तक हम कहते आए हैं कि भारतीय संस्कृति हमारी अस्मिता की पहचान है, राष्ट्र का गौरव है किंतु अब हमें यह मानना होगा कि हमारी सनातन और वैज्ञानिक संस्कृति हमारा बहुआयामी सुरक्षा कवच है

तथा वर्तमान और भविष्य को सुरक्षित रखने का, सशक्त बनाने का एकमात्र साधन है।

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Changes after CORONA Pandemic

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Impact of COVID-19 on Employment

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Abstract

Today the whole world is troubled by the covid -19 epidemic. The outbreak of this epidemic has created a deadlock in the social and economic life of the people. Till now million of people have lost their lives due to this dangerous virus. After the first case surfaced in China in December 2019, the virus engulfed the whole world. The first case of this deadly virus in India came to Kerala in January 2020. With the first case of this virus in India, the Indian Government made hard efforts to stop it, all public place, transport services, schools, colleges, public and private offices, factories were closed, restricted mobilization, and the government completely lockdown the country. This lockdown severely affected the social and economic life of the people. In the first phase of the lockdown about 23% people were hit by unemployment. Nearly 12 crore jobs were lost; while around 40.04 crore jobs were available in the country during that time. Actually this epidemic hit the social and economic standard of living of the people. In this study the focus has been on the sectors which have the

most effect of this virus such as tourism, capital market, retail, etc

Keywords: COVID-19, Economy, Epidemic, GDP Growth Rate, Economic and Sectoral Impact

Introduction

As we all know that today the whole world is troubled by Covid-19 epidemic. This virus severely affected the social and economic life of all people. With the rise of this virus, thousand of employees in almost every sector had to lost their jobs, recently in a report by IMF it was mentioned that India's middle class is shrinking badly. And the lockdown imposed by the government increased its spread further. The lockdown in the economy is not just limited to lower GDP while this epidemic pushed the country's economy backward for many years. The CMIE (Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt Ltd.) said in a report that the unemployment rate in March 2020 was 38.2% which increased further due to the virus in the country because it started affecting the village as well as the urban areas. Due to this lockdown, its impact on agriculture activities also started showing. Unemployment was 13.8% in rural area and 14.53% in urban areas. It was also said in the same report that between January to march, the number of employment decreased from 41.1 crore to 39.6 crore and the number of unemployment increased from approx 32 crore to 38 crore.

Due to this corona virus, this lockdown also had an impact on industries. Due to which domestic supply and demand were affected and its also affected on economy growth rate. During the lockdown of the first phase, the Indian economy was loosing more than 32 thousand crore rupees

every day and 45% compared to the previous year, the income of more than 45% families has been reduced. According to the Ministry of Statistics, India's growth rate declined to 3.1% in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2020.

Impact of Covid-19 on World Economy

The corona epidemic this year had a bad impact on the world economy. A recent United Nation report on trade says that the epidemic has plagued the economy with the loss of trillions of dollar. According to a new analysis of the United Nation Trade and Development Conference, in the next two years, exporting countries will face a decrease of two to three trillion dollar in investment from abroad. According to the World Bank, this year the economy will slow down in China and other East Asia Pacific countries due to the corona virus. This report also said that the China's growth rate was 6.1% last year, which will be reduce to 2.1% in this year and crores of people will fall under the poverty line.

Three major global institutions have warned that the economic consequences of the covid-19 epidemic will be worse than anticipated. The World Bank, UNCTAD, and IMF estimates that pace of the world economy may be slower. Around 5,000 thousand large multinational companies will not make their foreign direct investment because the profit of these companies have reduced to a great extent due to corona virus. IMF estimates that the covid-19 will push back the economy in 2020 as well as slow its recovery in 2021. Million of people will have to face poverty and unemployment as the economy slow down.

Impact of Covid-19 on Indian Economy

Corona virus is affecting the World as well as India. Prior to the epidemic, the target was to make the Indian economy \$ 5 trillion by 2024, despite of low growth rate and low demand but this epidemic severely broke the back of the economy. The lockdown imposed to stop covid-19 had the most negative impact on the unorganized sector of the country. The Indian economy shrank by about -23.9% in the first quarter of financial year 2020-2021. In the context of Indian market, the loss in various sectors can be understood from the following figures-

Sectors	Loss (In \$)
Automobile sectors million	approx 34
Chemical Sector million	approx 129
Leather Goods million	approx 13
Wood Products million	approx 15
Metals Goods million	approx 27

(Source- UNCTAD Report 2020)

In the context of the Indian economy, IMF had earlier said that the economy will grow at a rate of 1.9% in April. But in the data given on June 24, IMF said that the Indian economy will shrink by (minus) -4.5%. The report released by the World Bank also said that the rate of growth this year will be 2.1% which was 5.8% in 2019. The international organization,

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

Oxford Economics in its global report, said that by 2025, India's per capita GDP will be down by 12% compared to before Covid-19. And between 2020 to 2025, the economic growth rate is forecast to fall to 4.5% from the estimated 6.5% before the Covid-19 epidemic.

This epidemic has had a negative impact on various sectors of India, some of which are as follows-

Tourism Sector

There are about 28 countries in the whole world whose entire economies are dependent on tourism. The contribution of tourism in revenue and employment in India also varies from about 12 to 13%. India's tourism industry has also suffered a lot in the Corona Epidemic. Every year 450 lakh people go out of India and foreign tourists come to India. About 12.75% of people in India are associated with the hotel and tourism industry. In an April 1st report released by financial services and business advisory firm, it was said that 70% of the people in the hotel and tourism industry alone are at risk because of the corona epidemic.

Retail Sector

There are about 7 crore small enterprises in the Indian retail sector that employ 45 crore people. The retail market of the country trades around Rs. 14 thousand crore per day but due to this epidemic, the entire retail market is closed. The closure of the business had a direct impact on the employment of the people.

Automobile Sector

This epidemic broke the backbone of the automobile sector. The domestic automobile industries are also very scared due to this deadly virus because in this pandemic, the

demand for vehicles has also been severely affected. This will directly affect the employment of people engaged in this sector. Automobile industries suffered losses of nearly one lakh crore rupees in the lockdown. Due to which the country's GDP decreased by 0.5%.

Conclusion and Suggestions

According to the IMF, a contraction in the world economy is estimated at around 3%. According to Geeta Gopinath the chief economist, IMF has estimated a loss of 9 trillion \$ to the world economy due to corona pandemic. Covid-19 caused most damage to world economy which was the biggest loss since the Great depression of 1930. The large and medium economy of the world was badly hit by this pandemic. In which between 4% to 8% of the employment was recorded to decline.

Currently Indian economy is moving towards a deep crisis. Even before covid-19, The Indian economy was going through its worst phase in two decades. The unemployment rate was at its highest level in 45 years. And the agriculture growth rate was also at its lowest level in a decade. Major institutions like IMF, World Bank, Moodies have made a big cut in India's economic growth forecast. Indian economy that holds its place in the world's largest economy. The epidemic shook the economy badly. Economy recorded a decline 24% which was unprecedented. During this time, unemployment, large and medium companies were closed; large scale labor migration was seen. This labor migration was the biggest migration since independence. This badly destroyed the target of 5 trillion \$ economy. And various international institutions rated the rating of Indian economy at a low level.

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

To get of such a situation, the world economy must take drastic economic compensation measures. All industrialized companies and emerging markets should take steps to increase international trade at the earliest because trade is the most nurturing world economy. Government should increase expenditure in the context of Indian economy. For the upliftment of the economy, the government should start such big projects which can provide employment to the people. The Indian economy has been struggling with a lack of consumer demand for a past few years. So the government of India should make such efforts to get out of this situation that the increase in expectation can be reflected in the present as well as in the future. Only then, it is possible to develop the country smoothly by emerging from the present situation.

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Role of Media during COVID -19

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Media is the foundation of the modern world. It refers to the various means of communication and news extraction used by people all around the globe; therefore surround the planet in intricate threads. For some people it is most integral part of their lives, their means for living, earning and connectivity.

Corona virus or COVID-19 brought bad omen all over the world. The infestation has been declared as a PANDEMIC by WHO and is totally unprecedented in this modern world. This microscopic terrorist is relentless and indiscriminating. It has spread all over the planet and claimed millions of human lives. COVID-19 has marked its territory and its planet EARTH⁽¹⁾.

But how do we know any of this? Because of our virtual friend the MEDIA. Daily newspapers (India published

over 100,000 National and regional news papers daily, registered with the Registrar of Newspaper for India and it is second largest in the world.)⁽²⁾ , tabloids, magazines, online articles, tweets and of course the news channels keep us in the loop of KNOWLEDGE, inform us and spread awareness to the remotest corners of the world. In our country total of news and current affairs channels are 403 in number to provide the information of every minuscule ⁽³⁾. Even our leaders realize the plebeian and that's why governments all around the globe are quick to launch platforms like mobile applications and government websites. These platforms provide the audience with important information's, rules, latest guidelines etc. One such great example is our honourable PM's AROGYA SETU app⁽⁴⁾ which gives a ammunition of information, news and data analysis to all countrymen regarding COVID -19.

What's interesting to know is that India is one of the countries which happen to extract most benefit from all media channels. In addition to this, different Ministries opt for online interviews and written online statements to release latest guidelines regarding all sorts of aspects of the national lockdown imposed due to Corona virus infestation. Amazingly enough providing information is not the only job of media in our vulnerable world.

Around the globe, when all sorts of human activities are on pause people are under quarantine and an ominous veil of disease has surrounded mankind , different forms of media such as –Television ,mobiles ,news and most of all social media have emerged as a rare salvation. During the pause of all physical activities numerous aspects of a healthy life like education have taken a toll. To prevent this, internet platforms

such as meeting applications like ZOOM, Google Meet, CISCO, Google Classroom etc. ⁽⁵⁾ have come to all students rescue and our teachers have emerged as brave martyrs determined to help the students and get educated despite the many limitations the virus has imposed on the world. Various online activities, courses and competitions for the students are the priceless gems that are our teachers and the uncompromising aid provided by the different forms of media around us.

This only goes to show how the human spirit learns to survive in the worst of situations. This spirit is undoubtedly strengthened by the vast connectivity that the several media platforms are able to ensure.

So far we have discussed the man made one of a kind warrior called media that has proven to be a boon for wounded world. But what if this warrior will turn all tyrants on us. Sadly this invention just like all others has the power to doom its creator.

The media does not act as a homogenous institution. It has numerous operators from international to national and to even regional levels. They work with different objectives and motives. Thus presenting diverse opinions and contexts for each piece of information. According to a famous saying information or knowledge is the most valuable treasure. Number of conversations, both productive and disturbing media reports and audiences are active participants. Inevitably, such interactions at times create propaganda while representing personal opinions and beliefs. The one who are most affected are the easily impressionable ones.

Fake news is the deacon for a new kind of plague many have termed as INFODEMIC. It refers to the ability of media channels to marvel at twisting facts and phenomenal presentation of wrong information which largely impacts the credibility of its sources and taints the viewer's minds with false notions about the current viral epidemic.

Furthermore different channels like Whatsapp, Instagram, and Twitter ensure an intricate network of tightly knit loops of impressionable people who easily believe any false information or FAKE NEWS and start to work accordingly.

Nevertheless, it is our job to separate the good from the bad. Personally, we believe that we should make use of the brighter side of media and ignore the darker, destructive side. We should only pay attention to information received from a credible and reliable source. We, the people hold the power to entertain the media resources in a productive manner to divulge true facts only to connect with as many as people as possible. We can make this disaster into an epiphany. We can befriend the different channels of media and transform our ideology.

Media can work as our most trusted advisor and we reckon we are better because of it.

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Impact of Covid-19 on Various Sectors

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At present, the whole country is battling the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has spread across the country by a virus. This virus is called coronavirus. The first case of, COVID-19 was detected in Wuhan city of China.

This virus infects other people very fast, due to the high infection rate of this virus, the Government of India has implemented a lockdown across the country and stop all the activity during lockdown for Pandemic prevention, various institutes such as Schools, Colleges, Universities, Market, Factories and Malls have been completely closed. During this pandemic period almost all activities have been stopped.

After the Corona pandemic, there is a lot of change in every sector. Every sector should be affected by this pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused by the corona virus has affected various areas. The various sectors affected by this pandemic are as follows-

Impact on Society

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the entire society. Due to the complete lockdown, various social programs such as social gathering, social meet, political activities, birthday party, marriages, Death banquet, and other public functions were completely stopped. So in this way our social programs in the pandemic period greatly affected. In the pandemic period, there has been good bonding in family relations. After the COVID-19 period, there are limited programs to be seen in programs like marriages in the society. There is very little crowd in various social events. In this way there have been many changes in the society after this pandemic.

Impact on Education System

In this pandemic period government had to close all educational institutions like schools, Colleges, Universities, Coaching Centers etc. Teaching and learning has been totally affected due to the closure of all educational institutions in this pandemic. The pandemic that affected academic activities like Teaching, evaluation work, seminars, conferences, etc.

The concept of online education has developed rapidly after COVID-19. In this way, online teaching method is developing in the education system.

Impact on Industrial Sectors

In this pandemic all the industrial units were completely closed. Due to the complete shutdown of all industries, the production in them completely stopped, due to which the supply of the products supplied from these industries was very much affected. Industries have been affected due to COVID-19 and many industries have been closed. Due to the closure of many industries, the business of their owners has

been destroyed and many people have also become unemployed.

Impact on Production Sector

Due to the announcement of a complete shutdown by the administration, production activities in all industries stopped, due to which the supply of material in different areas was interrupted. The decrease in production due to the pandemic is not being completed even after the pandemic.

Impact on Economy

The pandemic has affected the Indian economy immensely, due to complete lockdown, production has stopped in all industries, and supply chain is broken.

Due to the closure of the market and restrictions on the exit of the people, the purchasing was almost stopped, which deteriorated the economic condition of the businessmen as well as the revenue of the government reached the minimum level. This pandemic has brought the economy to a minimum level.

Impact on Environment

This pandemic has affected the environment indirectly. Pollution has reduced in the environment due to the shutdown of all activities and improvement in the quality of water, air etc. Ground water level has come up a bit due to reduced water usage. Due to the reduction in environmental pollution, the visibility around us is increased.

We can say that there have been some positive changes in the environment which have led to improvement in the entire eco system.

Impact on Wild Life

During the COVID-19 pandemic, human activities at various natural habitats such as Natural Park, sanctuary, Reserve area, Forest etc. have completely stopped.

Wildlife made themselves feel safe as human activities ceased in these natural habitats. Wildlife activities increased during the lockdown period. After the pandemic, there is an increase in the number of wildlife, which is a positive change.

Impact on Employment

Due to the closure of industries in the COVID-19 period, the workers working in them became unemployed. In this pandemic period many people became unemployed that is, the unemployment rate has increased in the lockdown period. Unemployment has increased after COVID-19

Impact on Agriculture Sectors

The activities of agricultural areas have also been affected in the pandemic period and economic condition of the farmer has also come down. During the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers had to face many problems related to agricultural machinery, seeds, pesticides etc. During this pandemic, the farmer was not able to sell his grains as per the requirement, which has worsened the economic condition of the farmer. Economic situation of farmers has weakened after pandemic.

Impact on Health System

Our health system was not ready to fight this pandemic at all. This pandemic has exposed our health system. The health department has neither a protective kit for the doctor and not a suitable apparatus for the patients. The pandemic has led to a considerable increase in medical waste. Shortage of doctors and nursing staff was also felt at the

time of the pandemic. Therefore, efforts are being made to improve our health system after the pandemic, which is a positive change.

It has been proved that this pandemic has affected every sector. Every sector in India has been affected by COVID-19. The pandemic has affected and changes to many sectors such as education, industries, environment, wildlife, production sectors, economy, health system, agriculture etc.

The Indian economy was badly affected due to COVID-19. Production has dropped during and after the pandemic period and the unemployment rate is increased. We can say that there were some positive changes in the environment and wildlife sector at this time, on the other hand, have seen negative changes in the industries, economy, agriculture, etc.

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Corona Virus-the New Normal; is it?

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Introduction

As they say, Change is constant and the year 2020 proved it well. The world witnessed the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus and whole earth is under this pandemic since then. The outbreak drastically altered the aspect of human lives. The word 'Pandemic' when described means a global epidemic that spreads to more than one continent.

'Covid-19' – a virus or super virus it is still skeptical? The world can be seen replacing its old terminology with new ones for instance, social integration is altered with social distancing and today it is a practice followed almost in every aspect of life. The world scenario has drastically observed a total change in economic, political, social state in general and human life in particular. The covid-19 has asked some unanswered questions like; are we prepared for the next? Are we capable? Are we sufficient enough? All of a sudden corona came and it affected the whole earth and the world started observing complete lockdown. Suddenly, the "romantic Rome" became the scariest Rome; India well known for its 'atithi devo

bhav' behavior became isolated and distant India. U.S.A a superpower was seen powerless. All happened because of covid-19, the virus that has changed the meaning of human life and its existence. The chaos of corona is still unmanageable and unpredictable. The uncertain nature of this virus has raised the question about inefficiency of medical science as there is still no cure for it. Accidently human life stopped and became ineffective. Lockdown imposed has made human life living forcefully inside a cage. This kind of pattern severely impacted every sphere of human life for instance;

Corona Impact on Health Sector

Health is said to be one of the most valuable gift from god to man; it's like a hidden treasure but covid attacked it with its unpredictable nature and shot it down. Hospitals were made containment zones even some public buildings came under its service and directly interrupted the other health diseases ultimately, created hindrances in providing health facilities. Majorly health workers and doctors are badly affected and we lost many of them. Masks and sanitizers became our best friend and immunity boosters became our health supplements. All of a sudden, self-love and self-care became the mantra of 2020. World's governance structure has confronted the most serious multidimensional crises in its history. Public health system has emerged as the most critical determinant of nation's ability to fight. Corona arrived on us in such a way that did not allow much time for preparation. If we have to think about future we probably have to deal with uncertainty.

Corona Impact on Employment

Poor have got poorer, the rich have not got richer and middle class has seen jobs disappear, income instability, lack

of opportunities. The worst affected are labor class that has gone under under some tragedies. Imagine the condition of migrant worker, slum dwellers, with their factory shut, work place closed, no wages, no accommodation, no family members around, also no transport facility to go back; has together increased the crisis level for them in an unexpected manner. Road side vendor, small business owners struggled hard to pay back their monthly expenses and this has become the worst public memory. In other words, the systematic pattern or normal societal order collapsed and supply chains were disrupted. The financial planning received a major setback.

Corona Impact on Social Life

The ordinary life of humans has changed significantly. The working style as well as living pattern are now different for instance; work from home, happening of online official meetings that is held through video conferences has become new concept of working, video calls with friends and family is a new form of socializing strictly happening on web platforms is a new normal these days. Student life has also witnessed a drastic transformation. Earlier mobile phones were banned in schools and today a student can't do anything without it; from attending classes to taking exams everything is in online mode. Marriages at the time of corona have been hit hard, it not only took down economy but also thrown millions of men and women out of work. This certainly created chaos and stress among soon to be married couples which resulted in delayed marriages with limited number of guests.

Corona Impact on Economy

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

Pandemic has pushed the global economy into recession. According to IMF, global economy is expected to shrink by 3% and has confirmed that it will be even worse than 2009. The majorly hit is manufacturing sector due to fall in demand. It has been said that advanced economies are expected to grow by -6% in 2020 whereas emerging or developing markets are expected to contract by -1%. Moreover, lower crude oil prices, slowdown in gold imports can reduce trade deficit, even overseas remittances will reduce. Some businesses would find it hard to serve their debts leading to increase bankruptcies and defaults which could lead to financial crises. So we can say that a trend of slowing potential growth could be seen in near future. The value of stalled projects has increased that further deteriorates the asset quality of banking sector.

Corona Impact on Crime

The covid-19 pandemic has led to the substantial changes in daily activities. The nature of crime that is violent crimes; both homicides and assaults have been on the rise. Domestic violence has been a major concern this year. It is also said that other categories of crime has recorded low rate. Undoubtedly, lockdown imposed has wide ranging consequences for society. Crimes like sexual offences, robberies have declined dramatically during the pandemic because fewer people leave their homes due to government lockdown orders. The global restrictions on everyday life routines, affecting behavior has increased depression and stress rate in humans. The pandemic severely affected the patterns of criminal activity.

Corona Impact on Sports Industry

The world was on a standstill that also affected sport industry. The sports events across the globe were canceled/suspended/postponed. Social distancing measures have delayed the sporting calendar. Sport is a major contributor to economic and social growth. To safeguard the health of athletes the events at international, national and regional levels have been cancelled (from marathons to tournaments and championships). Lockdown even impacted physical activity and wellbeing by resulting in closure of gyms, stadiums, fitness studios, playgrounds. Many individuals are therefore not able to do their regular physical activities outside their homes. This resulted in irregular sleep patterns and weight gain also affected the health of athletes in particular and their wellbeing in general. Major sporting organizations have shown efforts to reduce the spread of covid-19 virus by cooperating with government guidelines and postponed the events until the situation gets normal.

Corona Impact on Hospitality Industry

Due to corona world's economy was shut down overnight that badly affected hospitality industry. To control the further spread of covid-19; community lockdown, travel restrictions, social distancing have resulted in closure of many hospitality businesses temporarily. The significant decrease in travel demand has made hospitality industry almost non-functional. Restaurants, hotels were asked to operate in a limited manner that has affected their economic stability. After easing out social restrictions, many dine-in restaurants were asked to reduce the capacity and also asked to strictly follow social distancing norms and government specific guidelines.

Some studies reveal that most customers are not willing to travel to a destination and opt for hotel to stay anytime soon. Now hospitality industry is seen working with visible efforts like by sanitizing almost everything, taking down thermal reading at the entry, staff wearing masks and gloves, adopting new serving methods. All safety precautions and protocols are taken into consideration by hospitality industry to attract its customers back.

Conclusions and Recommendations

As the world begins to recover from corona, there will be significant issues which would need a proper management like sport events, hotel services, school classes, offices routine and so on. In this time of chaos some people have used platforms like social media for entertainment purposes and created content videos to utilize their time. In near future, we need scientific research, technical cooperation, awareness programs, promoting positive behavior, right social attitudes and proper guidelines for management. We further need to pay attention to inner selves and should embrace self-love. Indeed the nature of the virus is dangerous and threatening so we need to be fully aware about the consequences and circumstances to combat this disease. This pandemic is more a sort of awakening for the world. Humans should embrace the change to their social relationships. The pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human lives worldwide and presently we need to concentrate on public health and work system to reorganize the social disruption caused by pandemic. The food industry needs special attention as border closures, trade restrictions and alike have been preventing farmers from accessing the markets and created hindrance in selling their produce. The

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

other concern is rising levels of poverty worldwide which surely needs strategic program implementation. Post covid-19 world needs a proper public health system, food security, safe and healthy work environment, income support and alike to live a decent and clean life. We need to cooperate and should take every opportunity to build back better world.

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Corona Pandemic in Terms of Education and Marxist Feminism

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Abstract

Whole of the world is affected by the pandemic of Covid-19 in one way or another. The education system is also changed thoroughly after this calamity. Although, all the sections of education system are affected, but this pandemic has the worst effect on the education of women. It is very important to educate the women of society because an appropriate education will help them to eradicate so many social evils like child marriage, female foeticide and exploitation at work places. The Marxist Feminists also pointed out the importance of women's work. The present paper is an attempt to point out the fact that in the field of feminist economics, the social reproduction has great importance.

Keywords: Education, Changes, Marxist Feminism, Social Reproduction, Pandemic.

Introduction

The outbreak of Covid-19 has led to so many changes in all the spheres of life. This pandemic has affected badly

Changes after CORONA Pandemic

the education of women which may lead to the increase in illiteracy among them, more child marriages in the society. It will also lead to increase in gender-based violence. So, there is a great reason for the importance of education of women in India because the literacy rate of women is less than the literacy rate of men. According to the census of 2011 in some states like Rajasthan (52.7%) and Bihar (53.3%), the literacy rate of women is worse. Hence, it is very important to educate the women but, unfortunately this pandemic has affected them very badly, especially in rural areas where the modern technology (like android mobile phones etc.) is not in their reach.

In rural areas there are so many female students who have no internet access. The main reason for this unavailability of internet is their poverty as well as the patriarchal attitude of society. Due to poverty, they are not capable of buying precious android phones, computers or laptops etc. Hence the online teaching has created a digital divide in the society because the poor students of the rural areas are out of reach of the online teaching – learning process. Thus, online teaching during Covid-19 has increased the divide between the poor / rich and urban / rural.

As a result, the women may be the great sufferer due to this pandemic. The patriarchy and gender-based discrimination had been discussed by Marxist feminists also. To the degree that Marxist feminists believe that women's work shapes, women's thoughts and thus female nature, "they also believe that capitalism is a system of power relations as well as exchange relations, it is described as a commodity or market society in which everything, including one's labour

power, has a price and all transactions are fundamentally exploitative.”

In his introduction to ‘Marx and Engels’, Richard Schmitt cautioned that the statement, “Human being create themselves” is not to be read as “Men and Women, individually, makes themselves what they are”. Rather it is to be read as “Men and women through production collectively create a society that, in turn, shapes them. Hence, the emphasis is on the collective accounts for the Marxist view. For them, the ideas, thoughts and values of individuals accounts for change over time.

In the course of articulating this principle of how change takes place over time, the Marxists termed it historical materialism which leads to a vicious circle of poverty. Marx stated that, “the mode of production of material life conditions the general process of social and intellectual life. It is not the consciousness of men their social existence that determines their consciousness. (Karl Marx, A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, New York; International Publishers, 1972, pp 20-21)

In other words, Marx believed that a society’s mode of production – that is, its forces of production (the way in which the production process is organized) generates a super structure (a layer of legal, political and social ideas) that, in turn, bolsters that mode. For example, Americans think in certain characteristic ways about liberty, equality, and freedom because of the particular mode of their society.

Hence, the pandemic may affect the women of society in more than one ways. Because like Marxists in general, Marxist feminists also believe that social existence determines our

consciousness, “Women’s work is never done” is for Marxist feminists more than an aphorism; it is a description of the nature of women’s work. Always on call a woman forms a conception of herself that she would not have if her role in the family and at the workplace did not keep her socially and economically subordinate to men. Hence, Marxist Feminists believe that to understand why women are exploited in society in one way or another, there is a need to analyze the links between woman’s work status and women’s self-image.

The feministic aspect of this pandemic is also faced by women within the four walls of the home where the nature of women's work never changes. Women, even in this modern era, do the care work which is never paid or paid very less in comparison to men around the whole world. (International Labor Organization, 2018, Sayer, 2005). The outbreak of Covid-19 has increased the burden of the women because of the shutting of the schools but also because more and more persons of their family were getting sick and hence, they needed more care. So, the unpaid work as well as the burden of the women had increased to the maximum.

However, no data are at hand about the aftermaths of this pandemic on women in relation to domestic violence against them. In spite of it, in social media as well as in the print media there are so many examples which indicate about the enhanced threat of domestic violence, and about the insecurity of women even within the four walls of the home.

Recent data related to domestic violence against women reveal that home is the most unsafe place for them. Before this pandemic, the risk of women mortality as a result of domestic violence by their partners as well as by their family

members was at least twice as high as the threat of death by COVID-19. In 2017, a total of 87,000 women were intentionally murdered or killed. Around 50,000 (58%) of them were killed by their close companion and other family members - conveys that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their family every day.

Against this data which is horrifying, the statistics of facts during the outbreak of COVID-19, shows that, first seven days (from 11 January to 21 March 2020), the COVID-19 death toll was 12, 983. It means that globally 185 people died on average per day. Women's percentage of mortality was 20-35% of deaths, which means between 37 and 65 women on average every day. Again, it was below the average of 137 women who are daily murdered by their intimate partners and close family members.

Gender discrimination is also revealed in the fact that first of all the inequality of women is that in most of the unorganized sectors women are under paid – including the nurses and the home helpers etc. Moreover, they are face to face with the problem of unemployment also in the sectors of hospitality and restaurant. With the spread of COVID-19, all the educational institutions, schools, colleges and offices etc. were closed, because of which the burden on teachers and especially the female teachers has increased. She had to try hard for maintaining a balance between her house hold duties and the professional ones. Moreover, the nurses – inordinately women-were on the front line. Most of them had to work in spite of the hazard of contracting the virus.

Hence, in the field of feminist economics, a lot of attention is paid to the problems faced by women at both the

places – inside as well as outside the home. One must be aware of the fact that social reproduction incorporates the day-to-day work given to them i.e., household work, emotional caring of the family, and other activities to fulfill their needs and demands. Therefore COVID-19 is not only an economic jolt but it is also a major collapse to social norms. In the family where both the parents are working, the responsibility of the household work and caring of the children and other family members is allocated through social norms. As it is a social norm that all the above activities should be performed by a woman which leads her life full of stress and burden. Hence, the pandemic laid disproportionate burden on women.

Concludingly, there is a great importance of women's work, and without it, the complete system of family and society will collapse. Hence, due emphasis should be laid on the value of women's education. It is the dire need of the hour that the policies should be framed from national to local level with a feministic aspect which will further provide the significance to women's work and value of interrelationship. Only by recognizing the importance of women's work, the sustainability of the families in particular and the society in general will be enhanced in a better way.

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वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 के दौरान बच्चों में शैक्षिक गुणवत्ता लाना एक चुनौती

सीमा राजन

प्रधानाध्यापक

प्रा०वि०डहरपुरकलां प्रथम

दातागंज, बदायूं, उ० प्र०

कहा जाता है कि 'भारत गांवों में बसा है।' यह कहना बिल्कुल सत्य है क्योंकि हमारे देश की आबादी का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा गांवों में बसा हुआ है। गांवों में रहने वाले अधिकतर परिवारों के बच्चे परिषदीय विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत हैं। यह उन परिवारों के बच्चे होते हैं जो बहुत अधिक सुविधा संपन्न नहीं होते और न ही उनके अभिभावक बहुत अधिक शिक्षित होते हैं।

वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 का प्रभाव आम आदमी पर मार्च 2020 के लॉकडाउन के दौरान ही दिखने लगा। इस महामारी का बहुत बड़ा प्रभाव परिषदीय विद्यालयों में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों पर पड़ता दिखाई दे रहा है। क्योंकि मार्च 2020 में लॉकडाउन के कारण विद्यालय बंद होना और बाद में लॉकडाउन खुलने के बाद भी गत सत्र 2020-21 में बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए उनकी विद्यालय में उपस्थिति न होना। इसके कारण बच्चों की शिक्षा पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है। हालांकि बेसिक शिक्षा विभाग की ओर से इस ओर बहुत अधिक ध्यान दिया गया कि बच्चों की पढ़ाई प्रभावित न हो। विभाग ने ई- पाठशाला के माध्यम से शिक्षकों

को लगातार शैक्षिक सामग्री प्रेषित की और उसे प्रयोग करने हेतु ऑनलाइन मीटिंग व प्रशिक्षणों द्वारा प्रेरित किया।

किंतु हम गांव और परिषदीय विद्यालय में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों की धरातल देखें तो बहुत ही कम बच्चों के अभिभावकों के पास इंटरनेट मोबाइल है और जिनके पास है भी तो पैसे के अभाव में लगातार डाटा उपलब्ध नहीं करा पाते हैं क्योंकि इनका पहला उद्देश्य अपने परिवार को दो वक्त की रोटी उपलब्ध कराना होता है।

ऐसे बच्चों में शैक्षिक गुणवत्ता लाना एक बहुत बड़ा चुनौतीपूर्ण कार्य है। हालांकि बहुत से शिक्षकों ने बच्चों को गांव में एक जगह बुलाकर मोहल्ला कक्षा लगाई हैं। किंतु यह प्रयास भी ऊंट के मुंह में जीरा जैसा ही प्रतीत होता है। क्योंकि जो शैक्षिक गुणवत्ता बच्चों में विद्यालय में नियमित उपस्थिति से आती है वह कोविड-19 के कारण बच्चों के विद्यालय में न आने से नहीं आ सकती। विद्यालय में बच्चे कक्षा- शिक्षण से, आपस में एक दूसरे से बहुत अधिक सीखते हैं विद्यालय का संपूर्ण परिवेश ही बच्चों को सीखने के लिए प्रेरित करता है।

फिर भी वर्तमान परिस्थिति को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए शिक्षकों का यह कर्तव्य है कि जितना संभव हो अपनी ओर से बच्चों की शैक्षिक गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने में प्रयास जारी रखें क्योंकि बच्चे हमारे देश का भविष्य हैं।

कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण यह कार्य चुनौतीपूर्ण हो गया है, किंतु बच्चों के हित में अपने संकल्प को मजबूत रखने के लिए किसी शायर की निम्न पंक्तियों पर अमल करें-

‘माना कि रात बड़ी है अंधेरा घना है
पर यारों दीया जलाना भी कहां मना है।’