

# Coronavirus and Covid-19

Paper Submission: 11/12/2021, Date of Acceptance: 23/12/2021, Date of Publication: 24/12/2021

## Abstract

As the world's fighting this small microscopic biological agent, the global economy is standstill; thanks to the 'Great Lockdown' and the warlike situation, which has connected the world through social media at an unprecedented level. The need of the hour is to: maintain hygiene, follow adequate preventive norms such as a buzzword of this time 'social distancing', support and respect the 'Covid Warriors', and to help the vulnerable sections so they aren't deprived of minimum adequate facilities. Coronaviruses are a large family of single stranded RNA viruses which are zoonotic in nature thus causing infection in both animals and humans. In 1965, scientists DJ Tyrell and ML Bynoe were the first ones to identify a human coronavirus. It is believed that the virus is transmitted to human through the fluid secreted from the respiratory system of the wild animals. Further, human to human transmission occurs from the minute droplets that are released by the mouth and nose during coughing and sneezing. The symptoms can be from not so severe ones like common cold, cough, and fever to the serious ones viz difficulty in breathing, pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and even kidney failure. Widespread job and income loss and economic insecurities among families are likely to increase rates of child labour, sexual exploitation and child marriage. This is an extraordinary crisis and it present unmatched risks to the rights, safety and development of women and children. Those risks can only be mitigated through outstanding international cooperation. The need is to work together to make progress on these three fronts-*information, solidarity* and action.

The objective of this paper is to study about the origin, transmission and symptoms of Coronavirus, impact of Covid-19 on humanity, preventive measures to mitigate its influence, and the path to be followed in the near future.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Zoonotic, Social Distancing, Covid Warriors

### Introduction

Coronaviruses are a large family of single stranded RNA viruses that cause diseases in both animals and humans. They are 'zoonotic' in nature which describes them as 'viruses transmitted from animals to humans'. These viruses can cause illness ranging from the common cold to the more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Disease (SARS). The virus got its name from the protein spikes enveloping the core genetic material giving it an appearance of a crown (Latin: corona).

MaestreMaestre (2020) in his article explained that neutral noun "virus" means poison in Latin, and the name Coronavirus is given to it because through the microscope the 'virus-poison' is shaped like a crown that makes it the king of poisons.

While there are a number of coronaviruses affecting animals, a few of them have been identified that can infect humans. In 1965, scientists DJ Tyrell and ML Bynoe were the first ones to identify a human coronavirus. They termed it as B814 and later in 1968, the term 'coronavirus' was accepted. Till date seven human coronaviruses are found but the three severe ones that affected and killed many (including Covid-19) are found in just the previous two decades hence causing a cause of concern. Before SARS-CoV-2 (or better known by its common name Covid 19), SARS-CoV (originated in China in 2003) and MERS (originated in Saudi Arabia in 2012) also posed a severe threat to humanity.

### Vertika Dhillan

Assistant Professor  
Department Sociology  
L.K.C. Govt. P.G.  
College,  
Gangoh, Saharanpur,  
U.P., India

**Table 1**  
**Comparison of SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV, and MERS-CoV patients.**

	Corona Viruses		
	S.A.R.S- COV 2	S.A.R.S- COV	M.E.R.S- COV
First reported date	December,2019	November,2002	April,2012
Outbreak site	Wuhan City, Hubei Region, China	Guangdong, China	Jeddah city, Saudi Arabia
Confirmed cases	1,876,707 till 13 April 2020	8096	2519
Mortality rate	117,653(21%)	744 (10%)	866(34.4%)
Incubation period (Days)	Jul-14	02-Jul	05-Jun
Origin host	Chinese horseshoe bats	Chinese horseshoe bats	Bats
Carrier host	pangolin	Civet cats	Camel
	fever, cough, myalgia or fatigue, pneumonia, and complicated dyspnea, whereas Less common include headache, diarrhea, hemoptysis, runny nose, and phlegm producing cough	High fever, headache, Chills, shortness of breath, dry Non-productive Cough in few Cases respiratory failure.	cough, fever, rhinorrhea, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal symptoms, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and myalgia, respiratory failure.
Receptor	ACE2	ACE 2	DPP4(CD26)
Spread	Droplet (Close) or potentially distant (aerosol) from symptomatic & asymptomatic patients, surface contamination, faecal transmission	Droplet (Close) symptomatic patients, surface contamination,	Close contact with infected animal or animal products, Limited human to human transmission via close contact
Geography	196 countries	29 countries	27 countries

#### Objective of the study

1. To know about the origin, transmission and symptoms of corona virus.
2. What is the Impact of covid 19 on humanity, socially and economically.
3. What are Preventive measures to mitigate its influence.
4. What path is to be followed in the near future.

#### Covid-19: Origin and Transmission

Since its origin, the virus has triggered fear in almost the entire world, however its source of origin is still a conspiracy. Yet, the two theories of the origin of Covid-19 are gaining a worldwide approval. One theory suggests that the virus has evolved from bats and is thus transmitted from bats to human via pangolins, which are sold in the wet markets of 'Wuhan' in China. The other theory claims that the virus is a biological weapon which was accidentally or intentionally developed in a lab in China.

It is believed that the virus is transmitted to human through the fluid secreted from the respiratory system of the wild animals. Further, human to human transmission occurs from the minute droplets that are released by the mouth and nose during coughing and sneezing. The droplets of the infected person can be directly transmitted to another person, or can be transmitted indirectly even after hours; as these droplets can remain on some substances for a long time, for say, invisible to the naked eye.

#### Symptoms and Preventive Measures

One of the conditions that makes Covid-19 even more dangerous is that the person infected by the virus can behave as a healthy person, and it takes approximately two weeks to recognize the symptoms of such a virus. The symptoms can be from not so severe ones like common cold, cough, and fever to the serious one's vis difficulty in breathing, pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and even kidney failure.

Although the invention of vaccine can drastically reduce the threat of Covid-19, its development, production and distribution are still a long-term goal. Till its invention, the only way to fight this enemy-alien is to take some preventive measures. Leading the preventive measures is the word often used by the political leaders to warn the public during this pandemic which is often termed as 'social distancing'. Social distance refers to maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (or 3 feet) from another person.

To regularly wash hands for 20 seconds with soap water or alcohol-based sanitizers; covering your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or mask; avoiding to touch your

eyes, nose and mouth regularly by hands; staying home and self-isolating yourself from others if feeling unwell are some of the other precautionary measures..

### **Impact of Covid-19**

As it is now a recognized tautology that the lockdown is must to fight the pandemic, its impact is so huge that it has affected billions worldwide both economically and socially. Currently, we're facing a situation where thousands are rendered homeless with no access to basic needs.

As it is now a recognized tautology that the lockdown is must to fight the pandemic, its impact is so huge that it has affected billions worldwide both economically and socially. Currently, we're facing a situation where thousands are rendered homeless with no access to basic needs.

The WTO also acknowledged the same when it released its *outlook for global trade* in the early April. The WTO expects almost all regions to suffer double digit declines in exports and imports this year even under its "optimistic scenario". However, looking at the current situation it appears more certain that the disruption and resultant blow to trade will likely be far worse than the slump brought on by the global financial crisis of 2008. The tight restrictions on movement and social distancing norms across geographies have led to severe curbs on labour supply, transport and travel, and the shuttering of whole sectors from hotels to non-essential retail to tourism and significant parts of manufacturing.

The economic impact of Covid-19 is such that it has hugely affected the marginal section, comprising more than half of the Indian unorganized sector which came to a sudden halt. Nearly half of our economy was dependent on MSMEs which not only were a silver lining in uplifting the Indian economy, but their secret of success was that they were mostly placed in the rural section of our country, thus giving access to both livelihood and employment to the vulnerable sections of the society. Of the total persons working in the MSMEs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comprised more than 35%, and Other Backward Classes consisted of more than 40% thus displaying the significant contributions of MSMEs in enhancing the Indian society by pulling the backward communities out of poverty. But the lockdown has once again pushed few of them back into poverty and we've no idea how long the rest can sustain.

The cascading effect of the global coronavirus pandemic is also crippling the tourism and hospitality industry at an "astonishing pace". Media reports suggest Foreign Tourists Arrival (FTA) in India have come down by about 67 per cent, while for the domestic tourists, the figure is lower by 40 per cent. The travel and tourism sector alone accounted for 9.2 per cent of India's GDP in 2018 and generated 26.7 million jobs in that year. It is believed that Covid-19 could push into unemployment 3.8 crore people engaged in this sector. The Indian hospitality sector is staring at a loss of \$4.2 billion to \$4.7 billion in revenues due to coronavirus outbreak, and as we know that the hospitality sector is entirely dependent on travel, trade and tourism for its sustenance; the massive spate of cancellations in recent weeks has largely eroded the ability of hotels across India to operate without piling up worrisome losses. The situation is likely to remain grim over the next two-three months with companies adopting "work from home" and "no travel" policies.

Another social sector which is badly endangered during this epidemic is 'women and children'. The Covid-19 crisis has a potentially far-reaching, long-term negative impact on women and children around the world. The impact is likely to be devastating especially for children, even though they may appear to have less severe symptoms and lower mortality rates than other age groups. More than 1.5 billion students are out of school. Widespread job and income loss and economic insecurities among families are likely to increase rates of child labour, sexual exploitation and child marriage. Stresses on families, particularly those living under quarantines and lockdowns, are increasing the incidence of domestic violence. An estimate shows that nearly 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty as a result of the crisis this year. Quarantine measures imposed as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic are putting girls and women at heightened risk of violence in the home and cutting them off from essential protection services and social networks.

**The Way Forward**

The global disruption caused by the current crisis needs both global support on monetary and fiscal front, as well as support from government to regulate policies that can help in providing dignified and nourished life to the vulnerable sections.

As observed by the WTO, a rebound in global economic activity will require trade to flow freely across borders as vitally as any monetary or fiscal stimulus. In this context, the world will be best served if nations do not turn inwards and install new barriers to the movement of goods, services and people in the aftermath of the pandemic. A credit guarantee fund that will support non-delinquent borrowers for the next six months will be a good option. Such a fund can be financed through a domestic bond offering. Another nail in the coffin could be to suspend the bankruptcy code for the next six months, at least for MSMEs.

For the stranded migrants and the homeless, the govt. has taken a significant step, by operating a Shramik Express to send them back home. But this solution doesn't include their employment and livelihood. For these basic needs, there's a need to adapt to a Gandhian approach of a village-based economy and to implement it effectively, the govt. must adopt policies and regulation in contribution with local governance, thus providing the labours information about the 'work from home' approach which could come as a blessing in disguise as it'll help to connect the villages and cities building a 'cillage' approach, and could even help to reduce the social and economic differences that are from years generating in rural and urban livelihood.

This is an unprecedented crisis and it presents unprecedented risks to the rights and safety and development of women and children and women. Those risks can only be mitigated through unprecedented international solidarity. The need is to work together to make progress on these three fronts-information, solidarity and action. It is chance to not only defeat this pandemic, but to transform the way we nurture and invest in the young generation and women. But we have to act now, we have to act decisively, and at a very large scale. This is not a gradual issue, it is a clarion call for the world's children, the world's future.

**Conclusion**

As the world's fighting this small microscopic biological agent, the global economy is at a standstill thanks to the 'Great Lockdown' and the warlike situation has connected the world through social media at an unprecedented rate. However, to flatten the curve, the needs of the hour are to: maintain hygiene, follow adequate preventive norms such as a buzzword of this time 'social distancing', support and respect the 'Covid Warriors', and to help the vulnerable sections so they aren't deprived of minimum adequate facilities. The world will certainly undergo a change, but it is difficult to predict what will finally emerge. As of now the end to this scourge does not appear to be in sight, but one day it will. The government would already be working on a package to revive the economy, but the key really is the sentiment that will help private investors (both domestic and international) feel 'comfortable'.

Roadshows did not help in the past; they will not help today either. What will help is action on the ground. It can and should be done in the interest of the country and its people.

**References**

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/types-of-human-coronaviruses-and-symptoms-6368444/>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19\\_pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic)
3. [tps://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=-bZMNqgwbMk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=-bZMNqgwbMk)
4. <https://www.economictimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/a-helping-hand-for-the-migrant-workers-walking-home/appalling-to-see-migrant-workers-plight/slideshow/74860549.cms>
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=tSOwWfKrRPU>
7. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/trade-in-tatters-editorial-on-the-global-coronavirus-slump/>
8. [https://selat.org/data/documents/00\\_FINIS\\_CORONABIT\\_VIRUS\\_JoseMariaMaestreMaestre\\_SELat.pdf](https://selat.org/data/documents/00_FINIS_CORONABIT_VIRUS_JoseMariaMaestreMaestre_SELat.pdf)