

CRISIS OF COVID 19 AND IMPACT ON THE LIVELIHOOD.

By

Shashank Anand

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Faculty Guide

Dr. Laxman Swaroop Sharma



School of Development Studies

The IIHMR University, Jaipur

1, Prabhu Dayal Marg, Sanganer, Airport

Jaipur 302029, Rajasthan

Ph: -0141 3924700, Fax: -3924738

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ABSTRACT

The novel coronavirus COVID-19 was first reported on December 31, 2019 in Wuhan, China, a city with a population of over 11 million. The virus went on to spread to nearly every country in the world. According to the World Health Organization. This global pandemic has already had a dramatic impact on global economic activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 9.8 million confirmed cases and over 500,000 deaths globally across the world. It has also sparked fears of an impending economic crisis and recession in country. Social distancing, self-isolation, quarantine and travel restrict have led to a reduced workforce across the all economic sectors and caused many jobs are lost in India. Schools and colleges and many institutions have closed down, and the need for commodities and manufactured products has decreased. In contrast, the need for medical supplies has significantly increased. It is also a big impact on the food sector and facing the increased demand due to this panic buying and stocking the food products across the India. In this global pandemic we summarise the crisis of Covid-19 and effects the socio economic on the livelihood in India. The outbreak of COVID-19 in India and the resultant total lockdown in India has greatly affected the livelihoods of various communities across India. The total lockdown may help to arrest and reduce the spread of corona virus, however quick and effective intervention is required for people to minimize the disruptive effect on the livelihoods of vulnerable population particularly on food systems, storage and market chains, both locally and regionally.

Introduction

The Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19) earlier known only as the Wuhan virus, expanded its circle worldwide in South Korea, Japan, Italy, Iran firstly and finally spreading its routes towards to the India. Its name novel because it is a never seen before mutation of animal coronavirus. a certain source of the the virus outbreak is unknown. The greatest threat to Indian economy through the outbreak of covid-19 in the country is the threat of loss of the jobs and livelihoods in the country. COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020, since then become a global emergency threat, given its impact on the entire world population and the economy. India is already experiencing the direct effects on the economic activities due to Noval corona virus Covid19 and the situation is expected the worst under the scenario with this pandemic. These virus already affecting many states in the country. After a slow start among the region, covid-19 has increasingly spread throughout the countries with no vaccine or with more than 242,500 confirmed cases across the continent and 10,911 death with 145785 recoveries according to the official data of the health ministry of india. This critical scenario has propelled governments to taken to impose a number of measures in terms of prevention and containment against the spread of the pandemic. The Novel

Corona virus Covid-19 is very similar in symptoms to other viral respiratory infections. Its cases vary from mild forms to severe ones that can lead to serious medical conditions or even death. It is believed that symptoms may appear in 2 to 14 days, as the incubation period for the novel coronavirus has not yet been confirmed. As it is novel virus specific modes of transmission is not known, but now spreading from one person to another person. There has been speculation about the virus is spreading while the infected person is not showing any symptoms, but that has not been confirmed as a scientific fact. Currently symptoms of the virus reported are cough, fever and difficulty in breathing of all the cases that have been confirmed the virus. In India it is recorded the first case of the disease on January 30, 2020. India is response to the stop the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus after the first case of COVID-19 surfaced in India on January 30, 2020, and following the out-break the lock down in the entire country was announced on 24th March for a period of 21 days. The country also made a relatively early response by restrict the entry of flights from around the world, compared to the United States, China, Italy, United kingdom, Spain and other countries which are now a face of the problem. Such massive scale of response is expected to have mixed implications for the country, though very essential to stop the highly infectious virus spread. Borders were sealed, transportation got stopped, factories, shops, restaurants and all type of the economic activities were shutdown, barring only the essential services. This proved to be a nightmare for hundreds of thousands of farmers, migrant workers, daily wages workers, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), small marginal farmers, cattle grazing farmers, poultry sector and fishers communities and who lost their livelihoods overnight and became homeless. The first visible impact of COVID-19 in the rural sector is on the agricultural supply-chain. While the government has issued permits to trucks allowing them to carry groceries, fruits, and cereals, a large number of transporters are yet to receive their permits. This has increased the time taken for the farm produce to reach the market. The second impact of rural economy in COVID-19 is the delay in sowing and harvesting of crops due to the unavailability of products such as seeds, tractors, ancillary support, medicines for crop protection. Even the e-commerce brands in agriculture have been impacted as the transportation of these products have stopped and there is no inventory. The third impact of rural economy in COVID-19 is the expected job cuts in the agricultural sector. As per the government, there are nearly nine crore farmers along with a similar number (if not more) landless agricultural labour. While the farmer will be receiving relief from the government directly, the latter is placed in a difficult position at this time. The big impact is the complete shutdown of exports. India has been a major exporter of crops, India's overall Agri-exports in 2018-19 were to the tune of Rs 685 billion. Currently, all the ports have been locked and huge inventory has piled up with the traders and farmers. The impact is on the MSME & SME's. These include small industry units, businesses/traders, and shops that manage a decent size inventory and employ numerous direct and indirect employees. Post lockdown, their businesses are shut down and facing a revenue hit. They may have to let go of their employees for a variety of reasons including financial viability, migration, health and other. People stand to lose jobs without a clear idea of when the situation is going to stabilize. These immediate challenges faced by these workers were related to food, shelter, loss of wages, fear of getting

infected and anxiety of the corona virus. These Novel corona virus (COVID-19) effect the livelihood of these sectors people.

Thus, in this review article, we have analysed in detail what has led to the initiation of such Measures taken by India, and its social, economic, demographic and health impacts that the country is experiencing this pandemic.

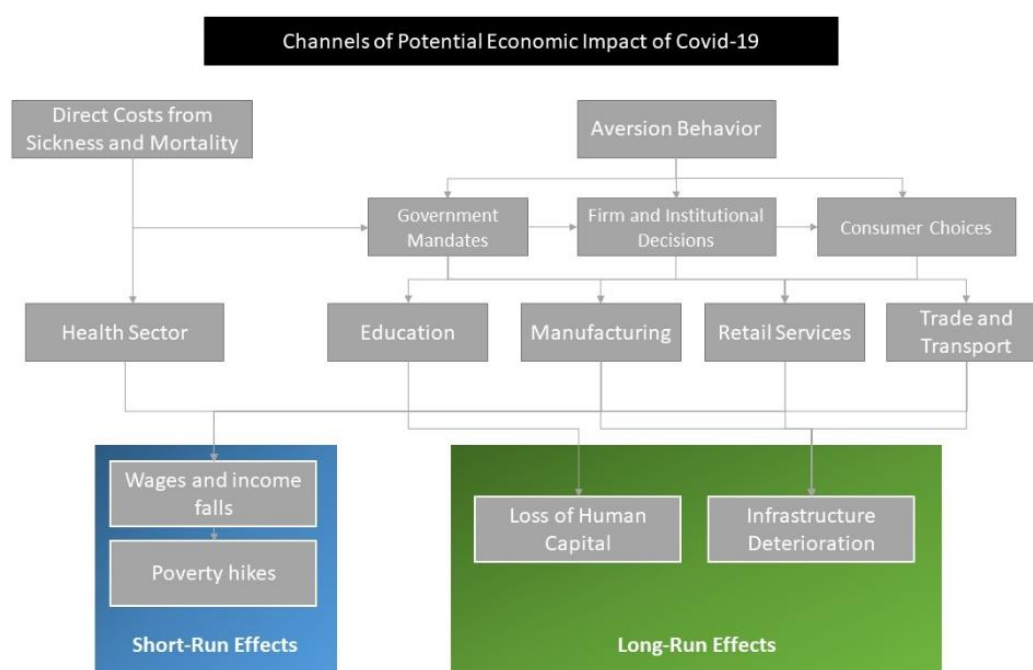


Table: Economic impact of Covid-19

Methodology

The study adopted a conceptual approach and observations of the Novel Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic to established findings on the impact of covid-19 pandemic on the informal sector and livelihood sustainability in the rural India. This is necessary due to the difficulties in quantifying the various impact of the pandemic as posed by high uncertainty, volatility trend and a rapidly evolving nature of the scenario. The study adopted a method based on scenarios, to evaluate the potential and future impact of the covid-19 pandemic on livelihood sustainability and many sectors in India. These studies are also making the use of rapid response survey to elicit additional information of the rural economy. Secondary materials obtained through web-based generic search engines were also used. The data generated were analysed using content analysis. The study focuses on understanding the potential impact of the pandemic on livelihood sustainability in India during and after the covid-19 pandemic in order to propose policy recommendations to respond to the crisis.

Covid-19 impact on the agriculture sector.

According to the Agriculture census 2015 – 2016 in India there are 86 % of small and marginal farmers in India. Small and marginal farmer have less than two hectares of land. During these pandemic times the livelihood of the farmer are affected by the lockdown period. Because march April is the peak season of the harvesting of the rabi crops but due to this Novel corona pandemic the lockdown the harvesting and thrashing of the crop is delayed due to non-availability of the labours and the Agri based machinery. And the lack of the of the transport facility the market shutdown, farmer are unable to sell their produce crop in market. They are facing great loss. even some farmer are produce vegetable, fruit and milk and many product in large quantities but the market shutdown they have suffer a big loss. The major crops grown in the village during the rabi season are wheat, mustard, bajra and maize, as small quantities of peas, chickpeas, tur and masur crop are harvested in this season. In India there are 73% of house hold people are involved in the agricultural sector and rest farmers are share cropping on leased land they are dependent on that land for cultivating and fulfil all the needs.

At the interview of the farmer, the respondents said that the harvesting of the wheat crop had been completed in month of April. Around 55% of farmers had harvested the crop using their family member but the rest have used to hire the labour for harvest. A total number of 77% of farmers said that the harvested of wheat was for their house consumption, and while 20% of farmers said that they have some stock of wheat after setting aside sufficient wheat for house consumption. Some of these farmers sold their stock wheat to local traders or at the nearest market. All of them are received only Rs 1,600 to Rs 1,700 per quintal for the wheat, which is much less than the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat (Rs 1,925 per quintal) announced for this rabi season by the government.

Table : Status of Agricultural Activities Carried Out by Agricultural Workers

<u>Types of Agricultural Activities</u>	<u>Land</u>		<u>Status of Wheat Harvested</u>		<u>Harvested by</u>		<u>Utilization of Harvested Wheat</u>	
	<u>Own</u>	<u>Both own and tenant</u>	<u>Finis hed</u>	<u>Not- finished</u>	<u>Family Labour</u>	<u>Hired Labour er</u>	<u>Own Consum ption</u>	<u>Both selling and own consumption</u>
<u>Status</u>	<u>15</u> (77.8 %)	<u>4</u> (22.2 %)	<u>19</u> (100 %)	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u> (55.6%)	<u>9</u> (44.4%)	<u>15</u> (77.8%)	<u>4</u> (22.2%)

Table : Status of Agricultural Activities Carried Out by Agricultural Workers

Crop Loss due to this pandemic:

During the Novel corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic in India the farmers had to face a lot of trouble in agricultural sector, they have to pay an additional and extra costs for harvesting their crops. There problems were high because of risk of losing the crop. A crop is not safely stored, it can be damage because of pesticide and other insects and the crops are crops failure. The storage capacity of the small farmers farm-level are limited and not good enough for storage of the crops. This is the main problem faced the poor and middle farmers and for producers of perishable crops (vegetable and fruit). While the perishable crops such as potato and tomato need the cold-storage, even some grain are at risk of being damaged. This problem has been compounded because of several spells of rain and hailstorm across large parts of India through the months of March to May. Between these months about 30 per cent of the area of the country had large excess of rainfall and thunderstorm and stone.

Poultry sector and fisheries sectors

The scenario of the poultry sector in India between the Covid-19 pandemic are affect these sectors in the month after march it also looks like worst because of the potential harm to the country's poultry, fisheries and meat sectors over unfounded rumours of Covid-19 spreading due to egg and meat consumption. millions of chicken and eggs have destroyed by the poultry sector due to a sharp drop in demand over rumours surrounding Covid-19 and less demand on

the market. There is some rumour in the chickens are carried out of the coronavirus the livestock sector contributes nearly 40 per cent to GVA of agriculture and allied activities. Many of the small poultry farmers across the country are concern after sales have crashed 80% over false claims that chickens are carried out of the coronavirus. States of Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are appear to be the worst affected because in the particular state the demand of the meat of consumption is much high , with farmers are too panic sales of the chicken, and some even going as far as local areas affected by livestock culling chickens. In many areas in the country the chicken price goes down its price is 30 rupees per kg. the poultry sector farmers have faced the problems they have taken debt or load from the bank at the high interest rates but they does pay back the loan amount because of the less demand and the price hike low in the poultry sectors.

In the fisheries sector it is more impact on the aquaculture. The outbreak of the novel corona virus COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant total lockdown in India have affected the livelihoods of fishing community across the India. The fishers to minimize the disruptive effect on the livelihoods of vulnerable population particularly on food systems, storage and market chains, both locally and regionally in India. Fisheries in India is an important sector of food and nutritional security. More than nine million active fishers directly depend on fisheries for their livelihood of which 80% are small scale fishers. It employs over 16 million people in the country apart from its contribution to food and nutritional security and contributes to 1.1 per cent of the Indian GDP. In 2018-19, seafood exports brought in \$6.7 billion.

Impact on the Fisheries

The small and semi-small fisheries sector scale fishers are the worst-hit in national level or global crisis. The characteristics of small-scale fishing place of fishing, methods, sale and storage mechanisms being diverse and unique to various communities, raises the following issues with respect to the lockdown:

- Small scale fishers sustain on a daily catch. The fish workers usually go fishing for short periods of time in region and catch the fish. Daily based catching fish depends on the daily fishing help torn the income accessibility to the coast. The complete national lockdown are caused social distancing, and complete lockdown on the market have stopped the access of the small scale fishermen to the coast for their daily catch of the fisheries. Most small fishers have to operate in low numbers of member from one to five for fishing in the coast. This situation of the daily fishing help the fishermen on the daily catch for home, community consumption and local sale for their livelihood and some earning source.

Measures taken so far

There are some measures taken by the government to providing the immediate relief through some compensation to the affected fishers community. The amount is distributed to each community or boat owner, labourer, fish vendor, etc. The government also want the data of the number of affected fish workers, fish farmers and fish vendors to provide the financial support and provide the food security.

Impact on various Informal sector in India

The informal sector is a major source of credit in rural India, the people of these sector are borrowing the money at high rates of interest is expected to increase to tide over the crisis. There are reports of the market agents, they are charging 25 percent interest for advance credit to the farmer to be paid after harvest of flowers and vegetables and poultry, fisheries and many more products which farmers are unable to repay due to disruption of the supply chain in lockdown.

In the tribal communities in India they are affected the most because they are the most vulnerable people in the terms of food and nutrition security. In the farm based activities in the tribal village, there collection are in many forest product and sale of non-timber forest produce like kendo leaves and mahua flowers by tribal communities in Jharkhand Chhattisgarh Odisha and many tribal states has been badly affected by the national lockdown, it is the main sources of the economy of the tribal communities, in these sector there are no collection by the suppliers of these product and demand are very lows and the markets are closed it effect on the tribal communities.

Impact on education

The government of the countries temporarily closed all educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. At that many states shut down all schools, and some states are closed down their schools much earlier than others states. For instance, in Delhi Maharashtra, the education minister announced the closure of all schools and universities starting from March 5 until an indefinite date as a precautionary measure against the coronavirus outbreak and that classes will be substituted by distance learning. After that the government announced the closure of schools and college and educational institutions

across the country and banned all public gatherings, including sports events. The nationwide school closures in the India are impacting over 91% of the student population. so, UNESCO recommended the use of distance learning programs and open educational applications and platforms that schools and teachers can use to reach learners remotely and limit the disruption of education. But the absence of a robust online learning platform or distance learning educational programs in the India are making the continuity of education very difficult in the country. In the rural area the student does not have the resources of the online learning. The biggest problem is the lack of awareness and education among the parents in rural areas, who are mostly farmers, labourers or odd-job people. Such parents are not able to tutor their children at home. The brunt of the lack of home education and the closure of schools is borne by such children. It is possible that these children may be enjoying this time off as their holidays but they have no idea how badly their studies are going to be affected due to this pandemic. The report of National Sample Survey Office (NASSO) gave a grim picture that may hamper the transition of classroom mode to online mode of education in India. It says, the all India percentage of households having internet facilities stands at only 23.8% with rural availability at 14.9% and urban at 42%. The report also further reveals that the percentage of people who can use internet (all India) is 20.1% with rural areas accounting to 13% and urban 37.1%. And only 10.8% of people in India used internet in the last 30 days! This statistic depicts that if we are to use internet as a means to educate the students, majority of the students will be left out. Most households in villages have access to mobile phones. But instead of every member of the house, usually, only the head of the house has that phone. There is also a large population that does not use smartphones. They still have mobile phones with buttons instead of touch screens. Those who have touch screens are also not comfortable using numerous apps. For instance, WhatsApp is a popular app, but parents and students are not acquainted with Zoom, Google meets and other kinds of apps that can be used for holding online classes. Teachers also need additional training. Computers or laptops are also not available in the homes of all the teachers. The problem of internet speed, electricity and network coverage is also common in rural areas., these challenges stand in way of the digital classroom. Although all these digital measures seem to be very workable and effective in urban settings, they become progressively difficult as one goes deeper in the rural areas. The school's closure and rapid increase of ad-hoc distance learning programmes are now adding another layer of inequality for disadvantaged children and rural population who lack access to the internet and broadband connectivity and power supply. The evidence shows that students with lower income parents who lack the essentials services at home to study online facility are falling further behind their more affluent peers. If the impact of lost learning among these students is not properly mitigated, achievement gap and inequality level that have existed for decades will continue to escalate thereby posing a great danger to unemployment trend and poverty ratio, national security and sustainable development.

Conclusion

This study has examined the impact of covid-19 on the informal sector economy and livelihood sustainability in India using a conceptual analysis. The findings of the study reveal that the world is living through the deadliest and widespread pandemic in over 100 years. The covid-19 epidemic is regarded as a global emergency and has continue to spread across

continents with no definite treatment or vaccine, but requires an extraordinary set of policy responses. A greater part of the world economy is being shut down for public health reasons related to covid-19 and none of the existing economic programmes in India are adequate to tackle this menace. The study reveals that many businesses in all sectors of the economy have been affected by the social distancing and lockdown measures. Moreover, private sector employers have adopted measures to participate in this tragedy by laying-off their workers even when the economic damage is caused by social distance measures thereby inflicting more economic hardship and decreased social welfare. To ensure workers protection in such circumstances, additional measures need to be adopted by the labour unions and trade organisations with the view to ensuring that workers legitimacies are maintained. In this Novel Corona virus pandemic situation, India have to take the most reliable step of lockdown to contain the spread of the virus. According to WHO, the identifying, screening and testing of a large number of the population irrespective of their travel history, symptoms, place of residence and economic condition is highly needed. The success stories of other Asian countries suggest that massive tracing and testing can detect the infected, stop the spread and widespread community transmissions. The government have to increase in the supply of PPE kit which is much required to reduce risk for the health workers to controlling the health crisis, it is critical situation to take the inclusive protective measures to deal with the socio-economic crisis impact on the country. Many experts have preferred that homelessness during the time of quarantine, loss of livelihoods, lack of health care, job loss, financial insecurity and hunger can make the life of large number of populations more miserable. The state governments are taking major steps as per their capacity and the central government also declared relief packages for the pandemic.

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