

Summer Training Report

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Report Title

**The novel coronavirus Covid-19 impact on
Indian livelihood**



Table of Contents

Abstract.....	3
Key words-.....	3
Introduction-	3
Objectives-	4
Methodology-.....	4
Result and findings-	4
1) Impact on livelihood-.....	4
2) Government action-	5
Recommendation-	6
Conclusion-	7
References-	8
Webliography-	8

Abstract-

With covid-19 now spreading in India, massive consequences to health and livelihood are feared, and the government has imposed national lockdown from 25th March 2020 to limit virus transmission. During this time, this was a trade-off between life and livelihood. Covid-19 mainly effected the livelihood of small farmers, laborer's, and migrant workers. With the prolonged country-wide lockdown, global economic downturn and associated disruption of demand and supply chains, the economy is likely to face a protracted period of slowdown. But during this crisis time The Government of India has announced 1.7 trillion relief packages to tackle the situation, from food security and extra funds for healthcare.

Key words-

covid-19, Pandemic, Financial crisis, Livelihood, Migrant workers, Trade-off, Indian economy, Social distancing, Food security.

Introduction-

The novel corona virus known as 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 virus outbreak is unknown. The novel coronavirus disease poses a new global threat. As the worlds battles this pandemic and as economic and livelihood are disrupted, the poor and vulnerable are likely to suffer most. The covid-19 crisis challenging food system and health system around the world, and its unprecedented impact on livelihoods raise serious concerns about food and nutrition security.

Some of the lower-class migrant workers are engaged in many 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and demeaning) and there are highly chances to infected by virus and When migrants flee from the city, they not only lose their livelihood, but they may carry the infections to their native places. To stop the transmission of coronavirus Indian government imposed national lockdown from 25th March 2020.

The novel coronavirus has spread widely in India relatively compared to other countries, and the number of cases and death increases very fast. As covid-19 cases increases very fast, there is a great concern about the disease's potential spread and impact. India must be ready for a possible surge. Testing should be expanded significantly. The government view the pattern of spread of covid-19 as like the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, meaning the spread is likely to be uniform.

During full lockdown people government cannot allows anyone to go outside so because of that migrant workers and workers and farmers lose their job. And facing trade-off between life and livelihood.

Objectives-

The major objectives of this study are:

1. To understand impact of Covid-19 on livelihood.
2. To understand the government support during corona crisis.

Methodology-

In this study I have taken secondary source of data like survey reports & study reports by various agencies for detail study. I have chosen the reports mostly published in March, April and May months to understand the impact of COVID-19 on livelihood, Indian economy and various sectors. Also, I have studied few research papers and News articles and some interviews.

Result and findings-

1) Impact on livelihood-

- Agriculture and allied sectors employ more than half of the workforce in the country. Most India's farmers (85%) are small and marginal farmers with less than two hectares of land. More than nine million active fishers directly depend on fisheries for their livelihood, 80% of which are small scale fishers; the sector employs over 14 million people.

The national lockdown from 25 March 2020 has severely affected lives and livelihoods across rural India. Due to the lockdown people cannot allow to go outside and do any work, and because of that they lose their livelihood.

- In the aftermath of the lockdown, harvest of the *rabbi* crops has been delayed due to non-availability of labor, machinery (harvesters, threshers, tractors), transport facilities and restrictions on movement.
- Farmers of perishable commodities like fruits, vegetables, and flowers have been incurring losses. This is the peak flowering season when the demand is also high.
- Many small farmers in who cultivate flowers as a cash crop in their farming system, have incurred loss in what would otherwise have been the period of peak earning from sale of flowers.
- Agriculture laborers are not able to go to work due to lack of transport.
- Labor work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) has stopped.

- Egg prices crashed to an all-time low of INR 1.95/egg and the poultry hub of India, were left with huge stock of unsold eggs.
- Fishers haven't been able to go out to sea since end of March and are subsequently worried about the 45-day annual fishing ban in line with the fish breeding season, coming into force along the east coast from mid-April.
- Tribal communities are amongst the most vulnerable in terms of food and nutrition security as seen in national statistics. In addition to farm-based activities, the collection and sale of non-timber forest produce like *kendu* leaves and *mahua* flowers by tribal communities in Odisha has been badly affected by the lockdown, with no collection agents coming and markets closed.

2) Government action-

- There is need to help the affected lives, the central and state government also provided the necessary support to farmers. The Indian finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced INR 1.7 trillion relief package., to protect the vulnerable section.
- Cash transfer of INR 6000 to bank account of farmers as income support under PM-KISAN scheme in three equal instalments.
- The government also raised the wages rates from 182 to 202 per day for worker engaged under the MGNREGA.
- Under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana 5 Kg. rice and wheat provided to ration card holders.
- Under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana 500 INR provided to Bhamashah account.
- Debit card holders can withdraw cash from any bank ATM for free of charge.
- Bank charges for digital trade transactions will be reduced for all trade finance customers.
- For SHG (self-help group) which provide benefits to households, government providing collateral-free loans to RS 200,000.
- Over 8.3 crore poor women, who get free gas connection since 2016, will get free LPG connections for next three months, while poor citizens, widows and disabled will get an ex-gratia cash of RS,1000.

Recommendation-

1) Food and nutrition security-

Government warehouses are overflowing with 71 million tons of rice and wheat. In order to avoid exclusion error, its better to offer universal coverage of distribution in the next few months during this covid-19 pandemic situation. Nutrition programs like integrated child development services, mid-day meals and Anganwadis should continue to work as essential service and provide ration and meals to recipient at home.

2) Cash transfer-

Due to national lockdown people cannot able to go on work so, Unemployed informal worker needs cash income support. So, we need to have a minimum of Rs. 3000 per month instead of 500 Rs. Per month (jan dhan financial inclusion program).

3) Transportation-

Migrant workers need nutritious food and some amount of money to return to their village or hometown.

- 4) To provide relaxation against a previous loan or debt.
- 5) Farmer must have continued access to market. This can be mix of private market and government procurement.
- 6) The government should promote trade by avoiding export bans and import restriction.
- 7) As lockdown measure have increased, demand has risen from home delivery of groceries and E- commerce. This trend should be encouraged and promote.
- 8) Farmers and agricultural workers should be included in the government assistance package and any social protection programs addressing the crisis.
- 9) Small poultry and dairy farmer need more targeted help, as their pandemic- related input supply and market access problem are urgent.
- 10) Farm population must be protected from the corona virus to the extent possible by testing and practicing social distancing.

Conclusion-

Coronavirus crisis is global concern. Covid-19 is unaccepted challenge to India which affected large scale of population. Livelihood and economy were also been affected due to lockdown. Its a trade-off situation for people between life and livelihood. Policy makers needs to be prepared to scale up the response as the events unfold to minimize the impact of the shock on both the formal and informal sectors and support the poor families in this difficult situation. We also need to be adopted according to this situation. Government need to create new opportunities for young generation. Government need to assure a minimum income and food security for unemployed people for next few months.

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