

A SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF COVID -19 IN BACKWARD MEHAL PANCHYAT OF HP

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ABSTRACT

A novel coronavirus is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. It has so many common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death also. In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, most countries around the world have decided to temporarily close educational institutions. However, learning has not stopped but is now fully taking place online as schools and universities provide remote schooling. Same decision occupied by India in all states of including Himachal Pradesh. This paper attempts to gain a better understanding about Socio-economic and psychological impact of COVID -19 in Backward Mehal Panchyat of HP, to study the impact of COVID -19 in Education in rural areas. The paper is based on primary as well secondary sources. It looks at the different direct and indirect ways through which the virus, and the measures adopted to contain it, may impact children's achievement villagers etc. In this paper we found that there is a great effect like social and psychological impact on villagers of this pandemic. And estimates for a few selected villages of Himachal Pradesh consistently indicate that, on average, students will suffer a learning loss. It is also suggested that COVID-19 will not affect students equally.

Keywords: COVID -19, Coronaviruses, Consistently

INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is actually a virus which belongs to the SARS virus category. Even the actual name of coronavirus was SARS-CoV-2. The main problem we have here is that antibiotics work on bacteria not viruses, thus we can't treat this disease. It may have been from here that SARS-CoV-2 started to spread to humans. People may be sick with the virus for 1 to 14 days before developing symptoms. The most common symptoms of corona virus disease are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Viral diseases are one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the world. When we don't have a solution for a disease, the only solution is to not get it. Now, this virus can't live on surfaces for very long (duration of time is debatable). The only mode of transmission is through direct contact, that means by touching, coming close. The virus that causes COVID-

19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

SYMPTOMS INCLUDES

Shortness of breath, aches and pains, sore throat and Very few people will report diarrhea, nausea or a runny nose. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self-isolate and contact their medical provider or a COVID-19 information line for advice on testing and referral. People with fever, cough or difficulty breathing should call their doctor and seek medical attention. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others.

WAYS TO PROTECT FROM COVID-19

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority. Most people who become infected, Wash your hands frequently, Maintain social distancing, Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease <http://www.indiatoday.in>, Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

PRACTICE RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately. Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19. Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority. National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections. National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in near area. They are best placed to advise on what people in area should be doing to protect themselves (<https://www.thelancet.com>)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chaudhary et.al, 2020 found that the spiraling and pervasive COVID-19 pandemic has distorted the world's thriving economy in unpredictable and ambiguous terms. But it significantly indicated that the current downturn seems primarily different from recessions of the past which had jolted the country's economic order. Whereas the nations, conglomerates, corporations and multinationals continue to understand the magnitude of the pandemic, it is undoubtedly the need of the hour to prepare for a future that is sustainable, structurally more viable for living and working. While the unprecedented situation has caused a great damage to the economy, especially during periods of lockdown, the nation will have to work its way through it, by introduction of fiscal measures. As the national government envisions, protection of both lives and livelihood is required. The economic activity must begin gradually after screening of the labour force. Strict preventive measures should be implemented by the industry in order to safeguard the health of the workers. While policy and reforms should be doled out by the government adequately to salvage the economy, the industry, civil societies and communities have an equal role in maintaining the equilibrium. The norms of social distancing, avoiding or cancelling gatherings, and use of masks and sanitizers should be the way of life till we are able to eradicate the virus. During this time, the economy is juxtaposed with social behaviour of humankind, so the responsibility of bringing back economic action is not of government alone. The risk of a global recession due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 would be extremely high, as it has been observed globally that the shutdown of all economic activities-production, consumption and Chaudhary et. al. trade-to control the spread of COVID-19 is imminent. The nature of shutdown is unique in case of COVID-19 due to a supply shock, a demand shock and a market shock. The recovery in economy depends on the timings and magnitude of government support as well as the level of corporate debt and how the companies and markets cope with lower demand. Government assistance to those most in need (largely constituted of unorganized sector, migrants and marginalized communities) is a critical measure to save many lives. However, every crisis brings about a unique opportunity to rethink on the path undertaken for the development of a human being, community and society. The COVID-19 pandemic has a clear message for the Indian economy to adopt sustainable developmental models, which are based on self-reliance, inclusive frameworks and are environment friendly. Vikas Rawal et. Al (2020) Central government's handling of COVID-19 pandemic reflects an utter lack of preparedness despite the fact that government of India was aware COVID-19 crisis for several months after it resulted in lockdowns in China, and several weeks after it resulted in lockdowns in many other parts of the world. This unpreparedness has pushed the economy into a deep crisis from which it would not be easy to recover. It has resulted in enormous hardships to farmers and rural workers, has caused considerable economic losses, and has dealt a serious blow to India's rural economy. The COVID-19 lockdown was implemented without any preparation or planning, and has been implemented in a manner that completely lacks transparency. Kishore Kumar Das (2020) Outbreak of corona virus has pushed the entire world into state of ambiguity. The present depression is a total change the from recessions that we had faced in 2008. This has many consequences such as changed the mind set of people, challenge for the industry, shakeup the world economic order. Everyone is trying to measure this pandemic. It is certain that we are

gradually adapting the changes towards our life in a permanent manner. Most companies have increases resilience to work remotely and allowing their employees to work from home. While these many measures were already on the track, they have now going to be new normal very soon. Risks to supply chains are significant and will have long term impact. Hence it is important that we improve the capabilities in order to counter the consequences of unforeseen events. We need quickly restore the profit of business and resume the original state which was destroyed by the risk. One small virus has devastated the world which is beyond imaginable for mankind. The important learning we have learnt so far is the criticality of overall cost con. Shashi,2020 found in a study that midst of the current global pandemic, India's national lockdown and measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 have been effective thus far, albeit at a cost, particularly among of rural India and specially rural state Himachal Pradesh. In order to gain a better understanding of the immediate impacts the pandemic and lockdown, a phone survey was conducted among about 300 below-the-poverty-line villagers of self help groups in backward panchyat of Mehal of district Hamirpur HP to assess the situation of their households in different parameters. According to Shashi,2020 COVID-19 has impacted immensely to the education sector of India.

OBJECTIVES

Keeping in view presents paper has been objective framed

- To study the socio, economic and psychological impact of COVID -19 on rural areas.
- To study the Gender and general awareness about COVID-19
- To study the effect of COVID-19 education in villages of Himachal Pradesh

METHODOLOGY

The dilemma about COVID -19 is same in India as well as its respective state i.e. Himachal Pradesh. In both Himachal Pradesh and India COVID -19 pandemic is increasing day by day. By observing these worst situations about the same, we have decided to choose some selected villages of Mehal panchyat that is backward Panchyat of district Hamirpur of Himachal Pradesh. In HP, Block Bhoranj of district Hamirpur has the highest cases in the state. with this background the present study based on socio and psychological aspects of COVID-19 on rural areas of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh” So for this purpose primary data had collected with the help of a questionnaire specially designed to reach study objectives. Secondary data have been collected from the various documents, reports, media sources and internet sources etc. This paper is based on descriptive, exploratory analysis.

Description of the Study Area: About Mehal panchayat

Mehal Panchyat is a backward Panchyat in Bhoranj Tehsil in Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh State, India. It is located 11 KM towards East from District head quarters Hamirpur. 6 KM from Bhoranj. 93 KM from State capital Shimla. Mehal Pin code is 177401 and postal head office is Didwin . Gasota (3 KM) , Channed (3 KM) , Patta (3 KM) , Dharog (3 KM) , Pandher (4 KM) are the nearby Villages to Mehal.

Mehal is surrounded by Bamson Tehsil towards North , Hamirpur Tehsil towards west Bihri Tehsil towards South , Tira Sujanpur Tehsil towards North . Hamirpur , Sundarnagar , Mandi , Nangal are the near by Cities to Mehal. This Place is in the border of the Hamirpur District and Mandi District. Mandi District Dharmpur is North towards this place. Mostly people speak in local dialect i.e. Pahari and officially they used Hindi Language here but Hindi and English are both officially recognized as local languages as well. The average temperature in the summer is between 15 and 31 °C. During the winter, temperatures can drop as low as 2 °C in the winter and go as high as 38 °C in the summer. Monsoon season starts in July. By October, nights and mornings are very cold. Snowfall at elevations of nearly 3000 m is about 3 m and persists from early December to late March. There are no railway connections to this backward panchayat of district Hamirpur, but one line from Una to Hamirpur has been proposed. The nearest broad gauge railway station is the Una Railway station. Bhoranj tehsil is connected to all the towns of Himachal Pradesh and other states.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The understanding of demographic characteristics of the subjects under study helps to understand the phenomenon under study in a more comprehensive way. Following tables summarize demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of house type

Table No. 1 Distribution of respondents by their Category

House Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Kachcha	58	33.9	33.9
Pakka	113	66.1	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

The Table 1 shows that 33.9 percent respondents have Kachcha house and 66.1 percent lived in cemented (Pakka) houses.

Distribution of the respondents on the basis Religion

Table No. 2 Distribution of respondents by their Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hindu	169	98.8	98.8
Muslim	1	.6	99.4
Sikh	0	0	99.4
Other	1	.6	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

The Table 2 shows that 98.8 percent respondents are follower of Hinduism and about 0.6 percent is Muslim and 0.6 percent is Christine.

Number of Family Member wise Distribution of the respondents

Table No. 3 Distribution of respondents by Number of Family Members

No. of Family members	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	9	5.3	5.3
2	12	7.0	12.3
3	46	26.9	39.2
4	59	34.5	73.7
5	30	17.5	91.2
6	10	5.8	97.1
7	2	1.2	98.2
8	1	.6	98.8
9	2	1.2	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

On the basis of table 3 we can say that 34.5 percent respondents having 4 members in their family followed by 26.9 percent respondents having 3 members in the family. It was also found that 17.5 percent respondents having 5 members in their family.

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of family members having Government jobs.

Government jobs are very popular in Himachal Pradesh, and in Hamirpur district, the ratio of person working in government services is very high as compared to other districts. The table 4 depicts the respondents on the basis of number of members working in Government services.

Table No. 4 Distribution of respondents by Number of family members having Government jobs

Number of family members in Government jobs	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	66	38.6	38.6
1	69	40.4	78.9
2	31	18.1	97.1
3	5	2.9	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

From the table 4 it can be said that there is one government employee in the families of 40.4 percent of respondents and 18.1 percent respondents' families has two employees. It is also revealed that 38.6 percent respondents have no government employee in their families.

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of number of family members engaged in own business.

The table 5 depicts the respondents on the basis of number of family members engaged in own business.

Table No. 5 Distribution of respondents by Number of family members engaged in own business

Number of family members engaged in own business	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	142	83.0	83.0
1	22	12.9	95.9
2	7	4.1	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

From the table 5 it can be resulted out that most of respondent 83.0 percent belong to family with no business background. The families of 12.9 percent respondents have one member associated in own business. Our study area is completely a rural area therefore this could be the main reason behind this fact.

Distribution of the respondents’ family profile of respondents having students

Table No. 6 Distribution of respondents by number of students in the family

Number of students in the family	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	67	39.2	39.2
1	42	24.6	63.7
2	49	28.7	92.4
3	10	5.8	98.2
4	3	1.8	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

From the table 6 it can be said that there is no students in the family of 39.2 percent respondents. It is also found that about 24.6 percent respondents having one student members & 28.6 percent respondents have two student members in their families.

Distribution of the respondents’ awareness about COVID-19 infected person in locality

Table No. 7 Respondents’ awareness about COVID-19 infected person in locality

Infected person in locality	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	38	22.2	22.2
No	128	74.9	97.1
Can’t Say	5	2.9	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

From the table 7 22.2 percent respondents reported that there are active cases in their locality while 74.9 percent denied about any COVID-19 case. It was also found that 2.9 percent respondents have no idea about any active case in their locality.

Distribution of the respondents’ awareness about causes for spreading of COVID-19

Table No. 8 Respondents’ awareness about causes for spreading of COVID-19

Aware about causes for spreading of COVID-19	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	99	57.9	57.9
No	56	42.1	90.6
Total	171	100.0	

Table 8 shows that about 57.9 rural people are aware, while 42.1 percent are not aware about the causes for spreading of COVID-19.

Distribution of respondents’ response towards requirement of quarantine for outside comers

Table No. 9 Respondents’ response towards requirement of quarantine for outside comers

To keep outside comers in quarantine	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	168	98.2	98.2
No	3	1.8	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

On the basis of table 9 it is resulted out that 98.2 percent respondents’ advocated quarantine for persons coming from outside and only 1.8 percent not preferred it.

Impact of CIVID-19

In this section we have tried to measure Social Impact, Psychological Impact and Economical Impact of COVID-19. An effort was also made to study the impact of COVID-19 on education.

Social Impact of COVID-19

Table No. 10 Social Impact of COVID-19

Social Impact of COVID-19	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Highly affected	33	19.3	19.3
Moderately affected	114	66.7	86.0
Not affected	24	14.0	100.0

From the table 10 19.3 percent respondents believed that COVID-19 highly affect society, education, peoples' life and environment quality, 66.7 percent observed moderate impact, while only 14.0 percent rural respondents noticed no impact.

Psychological Impact of COVID-19

Table No. 11 Psychological Impact of COVID-19

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Highly affected	18	10.5	10.5
Moderately affected	127	74.3	84.8
Not affected	26	15.2	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

From the table 11, it can be said that 10.5 percent rural people highly & 74.3 percent moderately impact psychology of rural respondents, and psychology of 15.2 percent respondents not affected by COVID-19.

Economic Impact of COVID-19

Table No.12 Economic Impact of COVID-19

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Highly affected	24	14.0	14.0
Moderately affected	128	74.9	88.9
Not affected	19	11.1	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

In this study we have tried to find out respondents opinion on the impact of economic activities like agriculture and horticulture activities, economies of rural people, increase in demand of internet, impact of medium of transport and communication etc. From table 12, it is clear that 14.0 percent of the respondents agreed that COVID-19 highly affected and 74.9 percent agreed that it affect moderately our economy in term of selected parameter. Only 11.1 percent said that COVID-19 does not affect economy.

COVID-19 affects Education

Table No. 13 COVID-19 affects Education

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Highly affected	13	7.6	7.6
Moderately affected	142	83.0	90.6
Not affected	16	9.4	100.0
Total	171	100.0	

In this table 13 an efforts was made to study the impact of COVID-19 on education and it was found that about 90.0 respondents agreed that COVID-19 affect education, and only 9.4 percent not agreed with it. Further, most of the respondents do not consider present form of online education is effective.

From the study it is also found that present form of online education is not quite effective and need to be improved. Most of the respondents do not consider online education is a better option in place of classroom teaching. In order to improve present online form of education, it is important to follow time table strictly and to enhance required facilities.

MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY

Here discussion is made on the major findings of the this study and on its basis, suggestions are made in this field of enquiry with possible explanations.

- In this study, 33.9 percent respondents have Kachcha house and 66.1 percent lived in cemented (Pakka) houses; 98.8 percent respondents are follower of Hinduism; 34.5 percent respondents having 4 members in their family followed by 26.9 percent respondents having 3 members in the family, On the basis of data analyzed, we have found that 40.4 percent respondents' families have one employee, 18.1 percent has two employees and 38.6 percent respondents have no government employee in their families; 83.0 percent respondents have no business background; there is no student in the family of 39.2 percent respondents.
- It was also found that 89.5 percent respondents reported the duration of home quarantine is 14 days, and 6.4 percent reported 7 days. In case of duration of institutional quarantine, 64.9 percent respondents reported 14 days and 31.0 percent respondents mentioned 28 days. Hence it can be said that it is important to create awareness in this direction in the society. Further, It is elucidated that 64.9 percent respondents agreed that COVID-19 pandemic affects occupation while 13.5 percent not agreed and remaining 21.6 percent respondents did not say about the effect of COVID-19 on occupation.
- From the study, it is clear that 19.3 percent respondents believed that COVID-19 highly affect society, education, peoples' life and environment quality, 66.7 percent observed moderate impact, while only 14.0 percent rural respondents noticed no impact. Further, COVID-19 moderately affect psychology of 74.3 percent rural respondents,
- In this study we have found that COVID-19 highly affect (14.0 percent of the respondents) and moderately affect (74.9%) economical activities like agriculture and horticulture activities, economies of rural people, demand of internet, and medium of transport & communication etc. Only 11.1 percent said that COVID-19 does not affect economy. It was also found that about 90.0 respondents agreed that COVID-19 affect education.

SUGGESTIONS

- It is important to create high level of awareness among rural people about causes of COVID-19, and precautions & domestic measures for its prevention & control. The proper utilization of electronic media like television and one to one contact approach could be very effective in this direction.

- From this study we have found that COVID-19 affect our society, education, people daily life style, economy activities like agriculture & horticulture activities, and medium of transport & communication etc. So, it is very important for all the stakeholders.
- This study revealed that demand of internet has been increased due to lockdown imposed, which further provide an opportunity for telecom service providers.
- COVID-19 affect education a lot and most of the respondents not considered present online education effective and better option for classroom teaching; hence it is suggested to improve the online education in India.
- In order to improve present online education, it is recommended to follow time table strictly and strengthening other basic infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

In this paper an attempt has been made to access the Impact of COVID-19 on rural areas of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh. The main objectives of the researcher to study the socio-psychological effects on villagers, to study impact of COVID -19 on rural areas and on education, to find out awareness level of respondents about COVID-19 etc. Primary data was collected from different respondents from the backward panchyat Mehal of Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh with the help of specially designed questionnaire in hindi language, and it was found that it is important to create high level of awareness among rural people about COVID-19 by utilizing electronic media and adopting one to one contact approach. COVID-19 pandemic affect society, psychology of rural people, economy and education a lot and timely steps need to be taken for improvement.

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