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A Study of Impact of COVID 19 on life of Indian People With Special Reference to Life of People in Raigad District (Maharashtra)

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic had led to a complete shut-down of the world and almost all the countries were in a "lockdown" mode. To curb the exponential rise of COVID-19 cases 'Lockdown' strategy was adopted. The lasting impact of this pandemic and associated restrictions are bound to be significant in lifestyle-related behaviour. This study is conducted to assess changes in individual's lifestyle-related behaviour during COVID 19. Multiple issues related to social, educational, economical, political, agricultural, psychological levels have been noticed which had created the devastating impact on the lives of the people.

Key Words- COVID 19, Economic Impact, Migration, Life Style, Mental Health, Anxiety, Depression.

Introduction

On 11th March, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. In India, National level lockdown was declared on 25th March, 2020 and extended up to 3rd May, 2020. Lockdown is an emergency protocol that prevents public from moving from one area to the other. In this scenario, all institutes including service institutes except essential services were closed. India is a land of diversity as a result of this impact of Covid 19 is diverse and countless on Indian society.

Economic Impact of Covid 19

Covid 19 economic impact in India had been largely disruptive. According to the Ministry of Statistics, India's growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2020 went down to 3.1%. India's growth for the financial year 2021 is with the lowest figures in three decades. During lockdown an estimated 14 crore people lost employment, salaries of the workers were cut off and Many of the households faced income drop.

Impact on Mental Health of People

Lockdown had some degree of psychological impact on the public. The lockdown has proved that "man is a social being" because continuous lockdown for about four months have impacted people psychologically and the burden has been faced by women and children in the form of domestic violence. Quarantine/isolation has been associated with significant mental health problems ranging from anxiety, fear, depressive symptoms, sense of loneliness, sleep disturbances, anger, etc.

Impact on Children and Students

Lockdown had different effects on different age groups. It was difficult to engage the children at home throughout the day. This was a source of stress to the parents. The students were out of school for about nine to ten months which affected on their learning capacity. Due to ineffective online system of learning the students were unable to study effectively from the house. Even parents were also unable to assist their wards and supervise their learning. School and college students faced challenges like limited access, low connectivity, lack of smart phone, lack of technical knowhow, unfavourable study environment, delayed graduations, job lost etc.

Impact on Consumer Behaviour

Covid 19 had not only affected on individuals and communities but also on Businessmen. Because of travel restrictions during Covid 19 there was heavy impact on consumer sentiment and behavior. Consumers changed their purchase behavior and started to overstock the products which they wouldn't otherwise stock up due to fear of shortages and prefer online shopping.

Migration of Workers

Sudden enforcement of lockdown had created many hurdles to the workers. Workers depending on daily wages had no savings to spend during emergencies. They started to move to their villages due to unavailability of jobs, loss of income, uncertainty about the future and food shortages. It was very painful to walk thousands of miles barefoot with the family. The gig workers like delivery boys, cabs drivers, newspaper boys etc. had also gone through the same issues.

Impact on Environment



During Covid 19, there was decrease in industrial activities, tourism and road traffic. Human interactions with nature were restricted hence it was blessing for the nature, wildlife and environment. Environmental conditions were improved i.e. river water quality and air quality, due to decrease in pollution. The causes were lack of industrial effluents entering the rivers, reduction of irrigation water demand, reduction of religious and cultural activities like bathing, cremations; puja etc. on the banks of the rivers.

Impact on Raigad Tourism and Economy

In Raigad District tourism is a major source of employment and revenue. It is generator of income, tax collections, employment and foreign exchange. Raigad district is in Kokan region where there are many places of attractions for the tourist, which includes historical places, sea beaches, pilgrimage centers and places with natural beauty. Tourism business in Raigad district is became highly competitive. Hence accurate tourism demand forecasting is become important here. It is necessary to frame appropriate strategic and operational decisions.

The tourism sector is dramatically affected by the widespread of Covid 19. For tourism travel is a prerequisite. As the travel was hindered, arrival of tourist to India from the other parts of the world had reduced in the month of March. It had profound impact on the tourism industry and stopped the tourists flow and witnessed a sharp decline in tourism. Tourism was a highly affected sector and it may remain affected in the long. Even today the tourism practitioners in Raigad district do not have a full understanding of the scenarios and effects of this crisis, which will have an unprecedented impact on the tourism industry. Tourism in Raigad district suffered extensively. Due Covid 19 may tours were cancelled by Indian and foreign tourists. A large drop in the number of tourists and cancellation of rooms led to a heavy loss of revenue to the tourism practitioners. Other businesses were also collapsed as they are associated with travel business.

Local sources of income in Raigad district were dried up. As a result, the economy of Raigad taken major hit in the lockdown period. This economy is based on tourism, fisheries, cashews and mangoes hence summer period/holiday season (March, April and May) is crucial to make money. This is the boom and peak period for tourism. Many Indian and foreign tourist prefer to visit Raigad district in these months. Hence local economy gets a big boost in these months. Tourist from different areas relishes beaches and scenic destinations which are many in Raigad district.

This season is also conducive for fishing as the sea is calm in this period. The fishers try to make more profits in this season as they have to anchor their boats for the monsoon which is followed by this season. But due to lockdown the total season turned out a total washout. In the year 2019, the crop in Raigad district got affected due to excess rainfall and it delayed fruit setting. The Covid 19 pandemic had destroyed the domestic market and even foreign market for the fruits especially cashews and mangoes. There were no takers of cashews and mangoes since they do not fall under essential commodity. They started rotting as they were not sent to processing units. The vehicles which are used to ferry tourists and transport were idling in the garage as there was no business. However the owners had to pay EMI to the banks.

Review of Literature

The scholar, Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan (Feb.2020) has said in the research article that dense communities are at particular risk and the most vulnerable region certainly is Africa, due to dense traffic between China and Africa. Dr. Kishore Kumar Das (June, 2020) mentioned in research paper that the pandemic situation has adverse deep impact on Indian business. Some studies like the study by Shubhi Agarwal (Aug.2020) focused on the outbreak of Covid 19 on Indian economy. This study also furnishes the policy framework of the government in this regard. Monika Chaudhary (Aug.2020) The outbreak of COVID-19 brought social and economic life to a standstill. Sandeep Kumar M.(July, 2020) has mentioned in the research paper that the situations of COVID-19 will certainly have an adverse effect over and above health care on factors of the internet of things market. Dr. Nikita Arora, (July, 2020) suggested that many measures have to be taken to help people in terms of healthcare and security, huge amounts of funds should be collected fanatically.

Research Methodology

Research Jurisdiction

Raigad district is in the Kokan region of Maharashtra State of India. The district is famous as tourism center throughout world. Raigad economy is based on tourism, fishery and fruit and rice cultivation. Pune and Mumbai cities are on the boundaries of Raigad district hence many people have



migrated to these cities and even to Arabian countries for education and jobs. This district suffered a lot due to lockdown.

Statement of the Problem

It is said that houses in Raigad district are run on income earned by the migrants to cities and foreign countries. Lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic affected significantly on Raigad economy. It is essential to know the impact of Covid 19 on the life of people in Raigad district.

Research Design

Descriptive research design is used to describe the present situation or the characteristics of a group, community. It is used to study the impact of Covid 19 on the life of people in Raigad district.

Objectives

1. To investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on life of people in Raigad District.
2. To know the psychological impact of lockdown on the general public in Raigad District.
3. To suggest the remedies to tackle the adverse situations created due to pandemic.

Limitations

1. This study is limited with the study of selected people in Raigad district.
2. The research is undertaken to know the impact of only Covid 19 on life of Raigad people.
3. The conclusions are drawn on the basis of data collected and analyzed.

Hypotheses

(Ho-01): Null hypothesis 01: It is noticed that the life of people in Raigad district is changed due to Covid 19.

Alternate hypothesis 01(Ha-01): It is noticed that the life of people in Raigad district is not changed due to Covid 19.

(Ho-02): Null hypothesis 02: The spending pattern of people in Raigad district is influenced by Covid 19.

(Ha-02): Alternate hypothesis 02: The spending pattern of people in Raigad district is not influenced by Covid 19.

Sample Size and Method of sampling

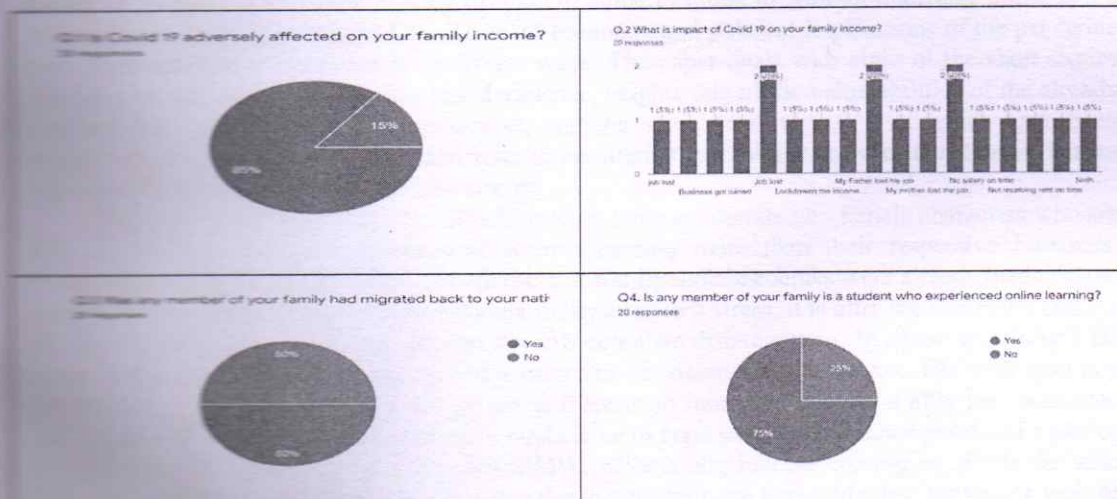
Probability sampling and non-probability sampling are the two methods of sampling out of which convenience sampling method from non-probability category was adopted to select the sample of 20 persons from the Raigad district.

Data Collection

An online survey was conducted to collect the information. A structural questionnaire link using 'Google form' was sent to the selected respondents through WhatsApp and E-mail. Secondary data was collected from research papers, books and newspapers.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Percentage as tool to analyze data plays a vital role in interpreting large data in a very simple manner.



Findings



It has been identified that income of 85% of the sampled respondents was adversely affected by Covid 19 due to job lost, tourism stoppage, irregular salary and salary cuts. The family members of the 50% of the sampled respondents migrated back during lockdown. The students in the families of sampled respondents faced many problems in online learning like network issue, degradation in quality of teaching, lack of personal touch etc. 90% of the sampled respondents said that the lockdown had adverse impact on mentality of the students. It has been found out that lockdown had negatively affected on the tourism in Raigad district.

Conclusions

Mental disorder was the great result of Covid 19. Lockdown had totally changed life style of the people as it was very difficult for them to be at home for last nine to ten months. General consumer confidence was very low. They prefer to spent on essentials only and spending was very less on fashion because of low purchasing power which was the result of job loss and salary cuts.

Suggestions

To face the disasters like covid 19 one should do more investment in life-saving mental health programmes. There should be joint efforts by the government and educational institutes to solve the problems of students by providing high quality crisis-oriented psychological services. They should undertake efforts to introduce students to e-learning platforms along with classroom teaching. Government should be ready in advance by making required provisions to face the crisis like Covid 19. People should start to live a new life by adjusting with the impact of Covid 19.

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