

ARTICLE COVID-19

HOW THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WERE BEING CHANGED DUE TO COVID-19?

This is the article about the virus which became a pandemic throughout the world now. Before going to know the changes occurred due to COVID-19, we have to know some fundamental things about it.

WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?

The virus which causes illness in both humans and animals. In humans, it will cause respiratory infections such as common cough and cold which can gradually lead to severe respiratory diseases like MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)

HOW IT WAS NAMED AS COVID-19?

There are different processes and purposes for naming viruses and diseases. Viruses are named based on their genetic structure. Virologists and some other scientific communities do this work, so viruses are named by the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON TAXONOMY OF VIRUSES (ICTV).

ICTV announced the name of the virus as “severe respiratory acute syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2)” on Feb 11, 2020. But the WHO had found that this may cause some unintended consequences in terms of creating unnecessary fear in people especially in Asia which was worst affected by the SARS outbreak in 2003. For that reason, WHO has begun referring this virus as “COVID-19” when communicating with the public.

HOW THE LOCKDOWN WAS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIA?

The first case of the 2019-2020 Coronavirus pandemic in India was reported on Jan 30, 2020 which was originated from China. And the cases of coronavirus are increasing day by day. Due to this, the PM Narendra Modi announced a 14-hour lockdown named as “Janata Curfew” on 22 March, 2020.



And all the people in our country made it successful. After that, PM Narendra Modi decided to extend the lockdown period by 21 days. He told people have to stay in

their homes for 21 days and warned if they didn't do so, the country would be set back 21 years and everything would be destroyed. Modi later told don't get panic about the essential commodities, the government will provide ration and needed items through Grama Volunteers. ATM's, banks, hospitals, medical shops will continue to function as usual, however all transport services- air, rail, road ways will remain suspended until April 14.

Whatever precautions we take, Cases are increasing day by day. Due to this, On April 14 PM Modi announced the extension of lockdown from April 14 to May 3.

This is how the lockdown was implemented and because of this lockdown, people are now facing different kinds of problems. Let us see those problems.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PEOPLE:

Due to this lockdown, Commercial and private establishments, Public corporations, Industrial establishments, All transport facilities, All educational institutions and coaching centres, All places of worship, Political, Sports, Entertainment, Cultural, Religious functions are closed until April 14 with some exceptions. Because of all this, the poor people are suffering a lot whereas the rich are living happily with their families during this lockdown. We all know that lockdown is not same for everyone.



If we take the poor people like daily wage workers, their day runs with their everyday wages. The whole family of a daily wage worker depends on one person's wage for food and other needs. With the lockdown suspending all forms of work for three weeks, this lead to the deprivation of food to the poor people. The poor people are living with their little savings and are also braving the threat of police violence to go out and work to get some money for their needs.

And another bad news is, some of the workers who are working in other places rather than their native places got stuck due to the interruption in transport facilities.



So this caused a huge destruction in their lives.

When we take farmers, loss of their crop will become very high because of this is harvesting time for many fruits like watermelon, mango, grapes etc.



Though the Government is again and again saying that essential services will be provided. However states are not allowing farmers to harvest, go to market yards and preventing buyers to buy”, said P Chengal Reddy, Chief adviser to Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations.

Farmers are bothering about their vegetables and fruits which have to be harvest within few days once they are ready, or else they will rot. And the price of the vegetables, also reduced because of there is no other way to reduce spoilage of the vegetables if they are not sold within time. “Farmers left stranded with fruit and vegetables lying in their



fields”, this is the present situation of the farmers in our country due to lockdown.

The lockdown is bringing changes in all sectors. Coming to the IT sector, there will be major job losses, many of the job holders learned to cope with “Work from home”.



This will somewhat help to reduce the loss of economy. Some of the companies are retrenching the staff as the cash flows have dried up. Some of the IT company's says, "There could be 10 percent loss in the number of jobs in the IT sectors and it may take at least three to six months for the fresh recruitments". Many of the employees are having trouble in getting salaries. Some companies are giving salary as usual whereas some are giving half salaries and some are not at all giving salaries to the employees.

We know that the deadly Coronavirus is affecting the health and wealth of Indians. Coming to the Business sector, India's richest businessman Mukesh Ambani is not so good due to the pandemic effect on the stock markets.



According to Bloomberg, Ambani was worth \$58.6 billion when the year was started, however his net worth reduced by 41% to \$34.4 billion on 19 March after Coronavirus fear crashed the global and stock markets. He lost nearly half of his wealth due to coronavirus fear.

Many of the start-ups are affected by the lockdown. Entrepreneurs who earlier spoke about their popular service sectors like Uber and Ola are now fighting for survival.



Similar grievance came for grocery companies like BigBasket, Grofers etc. Many of the companies cancelled their orders due to the orders issued by the government. They are offering their spaces to quarantine centres but they are suffering a huge business loss. From small shops to large companies, everyone is suffering with the same problem.

Coming to the main occupation now which we all know it is nothing but a doctor. Doctors were always treated like a god throughout the world, because people believes that the birth and death of humans is in doctor's hands. Every hospital now is under the government which have been taken to treat coronavirus affected patients. All the patients are kept in isolation wards and they are getting treatment by the doctors. Doctors have high risk factor because of treating covid-19 patients.



This is because, there is a huge chance to spread that virus to the doctors, as we all know that according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it transfers from one person to other through contact which means when we are close to the infected people.



And the doctors who treat those patients are always stays close to them. Though they know it could spread to them very easily, they are doing their duty to give life to the Covid-19 patients by taking precautionary measures such as using gloves, masks, hand sanitizers etc.,

In many cases, we can see the doctors are not even going to their homes for number of days. This lefts grief in their families. They are staying in hospitals for treating the patients. Even though they care for their families, they care more for their patients. And some of the doctors got infected by the patients and also died. By this we can say that doctors play a vital role in fighting with coronavirus.

The thing which everyone knows is, we don't have to go outside our home unless we have an important work. It is government order, issued only because to save ourselves form the pandemic. But nobody is following that. There may be different reasons for that,

like some are going outside to get work because of lack of money. But many of the people are going outside just because they don't care about the world, their country, not even themselves and their family members. So to control this, Government gave charge to the police department. Even during lockdown, people are coming outside and doing their works as usual. Taking all these factors into account, Police Commissioner Sumit Sharan appealed the police not to lose composure and say no to rough behaviour during lockdown duty.



After some days, the police started taking lathi charge on motorists which gave result in criticism by making videos etc. Whatever criticism have made on the police, they are not bothering about that and doing their duty to stop the spread of Corona.



Police seized many vehicles because of not following the government orders. Coimbatore Consumer Cause Secretary K. Kathirmathiyon told the police to ensure that the seized vehicles have all valid documents at the time of release. He also stated that the police had to check use of vehicle by persons without transferring the registration certificate to their name from the previous owner in the case of used vehicle. So, there may be a huge risk to those who are using vehicles without having any proper documents.

Finally, Coming to the students. They are facing many problems in their studies during this lockdown. Because all educational institutions, coaching centres are closed due to covid-19. Many of the Schools, Universities like RGUKT etc., are using as quarantine centres



which kept to treat the people came from other places to their native place. So, the educational institutions may not be open for students till the lockdown completed. All the exams of students are postponed due to the lockdown. The main disadvantage of lockdown is, maximum number of students getting addicted to social media apps. Only few students are focussing on their skills.

Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) in New Delhi.



He said that the primary aim is to keep our academic community healthy and this is an effort to betterment the total wellbeing of the students. This portal will also establish a two-way communication channel between the Ministry of HRD and the institutions so that the Ministry can provide the necessary support to the institutions. And this also helps in critical issues related to student promotion policies, placement related challenges etc.

All educational institutions decided to start an online class programme after they understood that this lockdown will extend some more days.



Though the online classes are going on, still there are a lot of challenges to the students because of examinations being postponed. The final year batches of every integrated courses will struggle a lot to get jobs. This is because all the new job recruitments will take atleast 3-6 months as we seen in the business sector issues. This made a huge impact on the students.

Many Indian companies, Celebrities etc., donated large amount of money to the PM Relief Fund.



POSITIVES HAVE TO NOTICE DURING LOCKDOWN

- With Coronavirus lockdown, India's cities see clear blue skies as Air Pollution drops. Delhi residents are used to looking up to see a hazy, gray sky. Now they are posting pictures of clear blue horizons on social media.
- Indians can see the Himalayas from more than 100 miles away, for the first time in 'decades', as the lockdown eases air pollution.

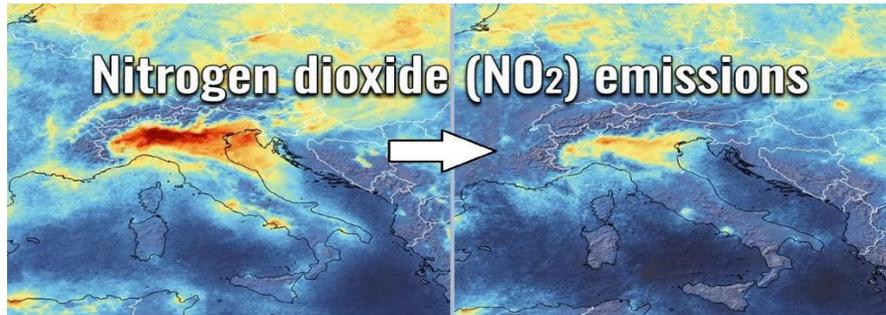


- The environmental benefits caused many people to rejoice. From clearer water in Venice



to blue skies in Beijing, the world is seeing a positive benefit on the environment.

- Over several major cities across Europe, including Paris, Madrid and Rome, the Nitrogen dioxide which is a by-product of burning fossil fuels that causes respiratory problems concentration reduced in a large quantity.



- In China, carbon dioxide emissions decreased by a quarter between a few weeks in February.
- Marcus Ferdinand, of independent Commodity Intelligence Services, predicts greenhouse gases emissions in Europe will drop 24.4 percent of the year because of lockdown.
- Above all, the major change happened in the families. Against the sad backdrop of the coronavirus, parents are discovering-or rediscovering-the pleasure of spending time with their children. This pandemic keeps the relationships alive.
- Susan Clayton, a professor of psychology and environmental studies at the college of Wooster in Ohio, told the publication people wanted to believe in the power of nature to recover. She said, “People hope that, no matter what we’ve done, nature is powerful enough to rise above it”