

CREATIVITY “COVID-19, A PANDEMIC OR A PANIC???”

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Abstract:

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020 the entire world had everlasting effects in its global consequences. The fast spreading of the disease, the loss of life, the scarcity of food and shelter and the fear caused by the pandemic has shaken the governments and citizens around the world at an unparalleled speed and heights. As result of which governments even today are facing many problems in managing the public and solving the aftermath of the disastrous pandemic COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19, Scarcity, Pandemic, Creativity

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Introduction:

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020 the entire world had everlasting effects in its global consequences. The fast spreading of the disease, the loss of life, the scarcity of food and shelter and the fear caused by the pandemic has shaken the governments and citizens around the world at an unparalleled speed and heights. As result of which governments even today are facing many problems in managing the public and solving the aftermath of the disastrous pandemic COVID-19.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), was first identified in China in the city called Wuhan approximately on December 2019 and gradually start spreading to other states of the country and ultimately to the entire world. The World Health Organization (WHO) had stated 3,759,967 positive COVID-19 cases by May 2020, and the death cases of COVID-19 had been reported as 259,474 worldwide. It has been reported that more than 212 countries and territories have confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

India is a developing country with a population of about 1.34 billion, and is considered to be the country with second largest population in the world, and thus India was more prone to suffer with the outbreak of the pandemic, On 8th May 2020, in India, 56,342 positive cases have been reported, and being a densely populated country India faced a lot of hardships and difficulties in controlling the transmission of the disease amongst its population. This called for a collaborative work of the central and the state government; multiple measures were to be initiated to control the transmission out of which some were:

1. Social Distancing,
2. Lockdown
3. Compulsion in wearing a mask
4. Frequent washing of hands with soap for 20 seconds

5. Hand sanitisation.

The government used various statistical tools as well as qualitative and quantitative analysis to conduct an in depth study of the current situation and to come up with some appropriate protocols to deal with the pandemic correctly. And a decision was taken by the government to announce for a 21 days initial lockdown in the entire country which started on 25th March 2020 to reduce the transmission of the virus and also to break the chain of transmission.

The changing paradigm in the education sector:

Since its outbreak the virus had many impacts on various sectors of the society at large and one of the largely effected sectors which underwent some drastic changes was ‘the Education system’. As social distancing was a need of the hour, therefore the traditional system of education shifted into ‘online teaching’

Before the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 corona virus, the Educational institutions such as schools, colleges, and even universities in India were running only on the traditional methods of learning, that is, they solely believed to the method of face-to-face lectures through verbal communications in a classroom. Although there are some examples of some private educational institutes which was being introduced before the pandemic and were also using the modern format of online teachings such as BYJU’s, but the formal platforms of education was strictly accustomed to the traditional system of sharing knowledge. But with the sudden and uncertain outbreak of the Pandemic caused due to the Corona Virus, roughly estimated around 32 crore learners were suddenly stopped to physical presense in schools/colleges and all educational activities discontinued in India. It was a challenge for the education system to face the situation of Pandemic and Panic and ultimately the entire system was converted into platform which was accessible by all without hampering the guidelines of the pandemic, education and learning shifted into ‘Online mode’ overnight. It was a system which basically allowed learning through web media, it facilitated learning and teaching with the help of internet and through devices like Smart phones, laptops and computers.

The pandemic brought many changes in the life of each individual of the society, many people lost their jobs, many got migrated from one place to another (specially to one’s native/remote places), again there were some who lost their near and dear ones. And in such a situation education of the childrens of the family were the most that suffered, as it was one of the neglected portion from the daily life of many families, for example A father who has recently lost his job and is now struggling to even bear the necessities of his family such as ; food, cloths and shelter, could think of nothing else but to feed his children with two times meals, for such a family affording online education (which is a costly affair) was beyond a question, and as a result of which the children’s education suffered miserably.

This is a very unpleasant truth that most of the families in India faced such a crisis,

The aftermath of the pandemic had a much deeper effect in Indian society with regards to education because, India is such a country where education was already in a neglected position from a larger area of the society, and specially for the girls, the government of India had already initiated many schemes for encouraging education among the masses such as; Beti Bachao beti padhao yojna and also supported many NGO’s to increase the necessity of education, But with the outbreak of the pandemic the education system again was suppressed.

Reform in the educational sector due to Covid-19:

Despite of all the negative impact that the virus had on the educational system there was also a silver lining in the cloud, the new changes that took place in the educational institutes also was gifted with some technological advancement such as use of digital technologies and cloud net and this helped both the learners and the teachers to be each other’s support through the pandemic and helped to keep the light of education enlightened. Indian education thus

moved from traditional system to blended learning System. It made a way to Verbal plus Non Verbal form of Communication.

Impact of Covid-19 on mental health:

As the title of the Research Paper says, 'Pandemic or Panic' so it is also a valid and a crucial point to discuss the mental health of a person that was being hampered due to the panicking situation created by the Pandemic. Incorporating oneself with the rapid changes and guidelines of corona virus was one of the biggest challenges that everyone was facing during the pandemic.

Covid was a phase in our life where humans were restricted from socialising and were prohibited from their daily way of carefree living, such a situation was difficult to accept where our country and the entire world was facing a life threatening transmission of a virus and there was almost no hopes of getting out of this alive, it was an infection that was not only effecting one's physical health condition but the feeling of isolation and wearing mask led to anxiety, sleepless nights, hypertension and other mental illness. It was a situation where each and every person was going through some kind of depression reason being:

1. Living alone or away from family
2. Threat of contamination
3. Fear of losing jobs
4. Fear of losing the near and dear ones
5. Fear of a night mare that was being out of control

When anxiety was working among adults the children and students were also not away from this, it was a panicking situation for students as well due to varied reasons, some of which can be listed below:

1. Fear of education
2. Fear of possessing improper facilities for online learning
3. Not much accustomed with technologies
4. Feeling of being isolated etc.

And thus it was impulsively necessary to pacify people and also treat them in a positive way to keep the ray of hope alive, and thus, many NGO's and government as well started to use the social media platform to keep peoples hope alive and keep them motivated to fight against the situation together. There were many initiatives taken by the government to motivate the citizens such as, a mark of appreciation was appealed from the common public in general for the frontline Covid workers by patting the plates or any other instruments from one's own home territory, which was successfully fulfilled and helped each other to console oneself and get a feeling of togetherness.

Apart from this, other measures that were being suggested was;

1. Yoga and meditation sessions were arranged online for public in general as well for students from their educational institutes.
2. Guidelines and user manuals were being circulated by the government to spread awareness of the do's and don'ts during the virus transmission.

Effect of Covid-19 in Business and Industry:

The sudden outbreak of the Virus also had a brutal effect on the businesses and industries, specially the small scale and medium enterprises. It was a difficult challenge for them to overcome as it was a very unfortunate and uncertain situation for them to tackle. The Small and medium scale enterprises or businesses were more likely to be severely

affected, as these business are mostly engaged into doing all the managerial and business operations by themselves, such planning, organising, distribution of goods and services, wholesaling as well as retailing, and with the outbreak of the pandemic and the several guidelines along with it such as Lockdown, Social Distancing, opening of only emergency goods stores etc. tends to affect their business in a very negative way. Many businesses were shut down many lost their only source of earnings. Talking about an economy like India, here the small and medium enterprises plays a very significant and vital role in the growth and survival of the economy and with the pandemic the conditions of such business were shaken and together the Economy was shaken.

Talking about the industrial sector, production was stopped in many factories and manufacturing sectors. And many were at the verge of winding up. Covid was a situation where a time came when people were only concerned with satisfying their basic needs or necessities such as, Food, clothing and shelter, other products such as comforts and luxurious goods and services were out of question and thus created no demand or negligible demand in the market, as a result of which the industrial sector suffered huge losses,

Secondly, the restrictions imposed by the government in order to deal with the pandemic or rather to stop the transmission of the virus also created many difficulties for the businesses to run, such as, restrictions in transportations of goods and services other than necessities, lockdowns, relaxations of trade in only selected sectors of the economy etc.

Thirdly, due to the pandemic the global trade was also stopped which again resulted into making huge losses for the Industries and for the government as a whole. Whereas it was a situation when government required more funds to run the overall functions of the country and also provide sufficient support to the Research and Development team for conducting various experiments on searching the proper vaccine for the infection.

Conclusions:

The SARS-CoV-2 commonly known as Covid 19 pandemic is not only a mere topic but an devastating experience that we all have gone through, and thus it will be unanimously agreed that the experience can never be described in words but this paper made an effort to enlighten or to recall the dreadful experience that we all have gone through, Covid-19 has taught us many things and the “New Normal” is definitely something which has enlighten out minds, thoughts and perception towards the new dawn i.e. ‘life after the pandemic’, Covid -19 has taught us that Man is a social animal and captivity is a curse to live in, it has also taught us that Uncertainty and endings may encounter us at any moment so we should make our self-ready for it, it has also taught us that Life is a beautiful gift of nature and we should all celebrate it wholeheartedly and live it to the fullest fulfilling our responsibilities towards God, our Families, Society, Mother Nature and lastly and most importantly towards Our Own Self.

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