COVID-19: In persons’ view

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Abstract---Through the survey conducted by the researchers, it can be inferred that COVID-19 pandemic followed by complete lockdown in India had its immense impact on peoples’ economic and employment conditions. In India, a developing country, people strive hard to earn for their living where every basic need is expensive for most of the population, which ultimately resulted in people realising the fact that after lockdown is over they have to work double hard and have to start from the beginning to bring back stability in their life. From difficult times to COVID-19 pandemic, people took refuge in their religion which gave them calmness and also somewhere helped them to visualize their condition in better way without freaking out about their future.

Keywords---COVID-19, pandemic, novel corona virus, lockdown.

Introduction

In the year 2020, the world came to a sudden stop as an outbreak of the Pandemic hit the entire globe- CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC. In the Wuhan city, China an unknown outbreak of pneumonia cases was seen due to which people were getting extremely ill, following to death in most cases.WHO on 31st December, 2019 identified the viruses Novel Corona Virus and was temporary named as “2019-nCoV”. Very rapidly this virus found in Wuhan city, China
spread through the globe. It reached India when the very first case of Corona Virus was reported in Kerala, found in 20 years old female with one day history of dry cough and sore throat.

The novel Corona virus was named as COVID-19 by WHO on 11th February, 2020. First Corona virus outbreak was declared as Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30th January, 2020 and then on 11th March, 2020 it was declared as pandemic. The pandemic was so sudden that it shook all spheres of human existence. People were asked to stay inside their homes as complete lockdown was declared in almost all countries of the world. In India, when significant numbers of cases were started to being reported as positive of Corona virus then the country was put under complete lockdown. On the evening of 24th March 2020, the Government of India ordered for a nationwide lockdown for 21 days to put a control on the spread of the virus. The lockdown remained for 68 days from 25th March, 2020 to 31st May, 2020.

It has been 2 years since COVID-19 invaded our lives and had left an immense impact on everyone’s life. People were asked to work from home, schools/colleges/Universities were all running their respective educational classes through online communication platforms. Fighting hard with the pandemic and trying best to move on in life, corona virus seems still to stick around as it had such a devastating effect on peoples’ lives. The impact of COVID-19 has created lot stress, fear, unemployment, uncertainty, etc. The aim of the present study is to see the area that has been affected the most due to COVID-19 in accordance to the person’s view. The areas taken under consideration by the researchers are fear of contamination/anxiety, fear of death, uncertainty, unemployment, relationship, religion and post COVID-19 stress.

Objective

- To assess the fear of contamination/anxiety amid COVID-19
- To assess the fear of death amid COVID-19
- To assess the uncertainty experienced amid COVID-19
- To assess the unemployment stress amid COVID-19
- To assess the relationship issue amid COVID-19
- To assess the religious bent amid COVID-19
- To assess the post COVID stress amid COVID-19
- To evaluate the relationship between all the variables (fear of contamination/anxiety, fear of death, uncertainty, unemployment, relationship issue, religious bent, post COVID stress).

Method

Sample

Total of 654 samples were included for the present study. An online survey was conducted and a self-made survey questionnaire was sent via online platform. 1000 people were approached based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the present study. 654 people willingly filled the form.
Inclusion criteria

Age: 18-65 years old
Gender: Both male and female
Educated/Uneducated: Educated
Data collection: Data collected via Google form
Religion: All
Gave consent for participation: Yes

Exclusion criteria:
Age: Below the age of 18 years and above 65 years were excluded
Gender: Transgender were not included because of accessibility issues.
Consent: Not given consent

Tool

A questionnaire was prepared by the researchers consisting of 20 questions. The questions covered different areas of concern like fear of contamination/anxiety, fear of death, uncertainty, unemployment, relationship, religion, post COVID stress. The scoring scale was done by answering yes/no/uncertain, strongly agree to strongly disagree and from not at all to too much. The reliability of the questionnaire was found to be Cronbach Alpha 0.75 which was calculated with the help of Statistical Package of Social Sciences version 26 (SPSS-26).

Procedure

For the present study an online survey was conducted by the researchers. A questionnaire containing 20 questions was prepared by the researcher with the answering options ranging from yes/no/uncertain and from strongly agrees to strongly disagree. The questionnaire was sent to maximum people possible by keeping in mind the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the sample selection. After collecting the data, reliability of the questionnaire was calculated with the help of SPSS-26 and further mean score and correlation was calculated for the obtained data.

Result & Discussion

Graphs showing Socio-demographic details of the samples

Graph no. 1: Gender
Graph 1, shows the Gender percentage of male and female responded to the questionnaire indicating that 57.8% of Male and 41.7% of Females readily gave consent to be the part of the study by answering the questions of the questionnaire given to them in the form of Google form sent to them via email, social media platform like Whatsapp, etc.

Graph no. 2: Socio-Economic Status

Graph no. 2, shows the socio-economic status percentage indicating that 88.3% of Middle class people were hardly affected by the Corona Virus Pandemic Lockdown.

Graph no. 3: Martial Status

Graph no.3, represents the percentage of people who gave consent to the part of the study and answered the questions of the questionnaire amongst them were 51.3% unmarried and 48.7% married people.

Table 1- shows the reliability of the questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reliability Statistics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cronbach’s Alpha</td>
<td>No. of Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.756</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reliability of the questionnaire was calculated through Statistical Package for Social Sciences version-26 (SPSS-26) which was Cronbach’s Alpha .756.
Table 2 - shows the Mean and Standard Deviation scores (SD) of the questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C 1. Do you feel anxious after hearing about your relatives having Corona virus?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 2. How much fear is experienced by you when you come to know about your neighbour testing positive for Corona virus?</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>.797</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 3. Do you fear that Corona virus can be fatal for you if you get infected?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 4. Do you get worried that a person sneezing or coughing in front of you might be infected with Corona virus?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 5. Do you fear you will get infected from corona virus if you step outside your house?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 6. Do you have fear of visiting people/places since the lockdown uplifted?</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>.789</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 7. During this pandemic, has the thought of suicide ever struck your mind?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 8. Due to lockdown, facing financial crisis, have you ever felt of committing suicide?</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>.863</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 9. Has lockdown affected your mental health?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 10. Are you hopeful for positivity in future?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 11. How much do you take your present condition as pitiful and pathetic with completely no hope for future?</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>.917</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 12. Do you think the on and off lockdown will affect your employment condition?</td>
<td>3.99</td>
<td>.773</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UE 13. To what extent has the lockdown affected your professional life?</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>.865</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UE 14. To what extent has the lockdown affected your economy or financial status?</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>.821</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 15. Do you feel relationship issues have increased within the families due to lockdown?</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>1.017</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 16. Do you feel distant from your relatives?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE 17. How much did you indulge in religious and spiritual activity in this pandemic?</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>.997</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE 18. Did you realize the importance and value of religion in life during the Pandemic?</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>.803</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC 19. Are you still willing to do hard work to come back on your foot?</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC 20. How much do you think you have to start from the scratch (from beginning) to make back?</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>.918</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 shows the mean score of the items of the questionnaire belonging to different areas of concern. The obtained results indicate that religious aspect has a high mean score (m= 4.50, m= 4.10) indicating that during COVID-19 lockdown, people indulged in religious and spiritual activities and understood the value and importance of religion in one’s life. A high mean score (m= 4.30) on an item of post-COVID stress showed immense impact on the person as many people had to start from scratch or come back to where they were before COVID pandemic lockdown.

The result indicates high mean score (m=4.06, m= 3.46) on the item dealing with the aspect of fear of contamination. People during lockdown use to get anxious after listening about their neighbours testing positive for the Corona virus and had thought that they can also get infected with the same. People, after uplifting of the lockdown, still feared or were anxious to meet others due to the fear of getting infected by the virus that deep rooted in their consciousness and they looked at every other person as they might be a silent carrier of the Corona virus (asymptomatic).

High mean score (m=4.02 & m= 3.93) is seen on the Unemployment area, which deals with effect of lockdown on professional life of the people. During lockdown shops, companies, business, schools, colleges/universities everything was completely shut which had put a stop on the smooth running of professional life. The effect of lockdown had a tremendous negative effect on the economy or the financial status of people from every walk of life.

The result shows high mean score (m= 3.99, m=3.50) on the uncertainty area of concern where people are not exactly sure about their employment condition; whether they will continue with their work even after the lockdown is over as the lockdown exhausted all their resources. The people were taking their condition as pitiful and had no hope for their future. The result also indicates high mean score (m= 3.57) on the area dealing with the fear of death. The financial crisis being faced by the people broke them which ultimately resulted in them having the feeling of committing suicide and putting end to their misery. The result also indicates that there has been an increase in the relationship issues, indicated by the high mean score (m= 3.47), which is due of the monotony, staying inside the house, not able to be socially active, etc.
Table 3 shows the correlation of each item of the questionnaire with one another.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q5</th>
<th>Q6</th>
<th>Q7</th>
<th>Q8</th>
<th>Q9</th>
<th>Q10</th>
<th>Q11</th>
<th>Q12</th>
<th>Q13</th>
<th>Q14</th>
<th>Q15</th>
<th>Q16</th>
<th>Q17</th>
<th>Q18</th>
<th>Q19</th>
<th>Q20</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>-0.31</td>
<td>1.00**</td>
<td>1.00**</td>
<td>1.00**</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.15**</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.15**</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.15**</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>654</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** indicates significance at the p < 0.05 level.
Table 3 shows the correlation between the items of the questionnaire belonging from different area i.e. fear of contamination/ anxiety, fear of death, uncertainty, unemployment, relationship, religion and post COVID stress. Through the obtained results it can be clearly seen that each and every area taken under consideration by the researchers has its significant impact on each other. The results clearly indicate that effect of COVID-19 on any one aspect ultimately affects the other aspects of person’s life. The results indicate that there is both positive correlation and negative correlation i.e. when one variable increases/decrease the other also increases/decreases and when one variable increases the other decreases, this happen where negative correlation establish. There are twelve scenarios for negative correlation, for instances, there is negative correlation between the item fear of contamination and the item fear of death (r = -0.154) which indicates that when the person finds out about his/her neighbour testing positive for the virus generally increases the fear of death in a person but here the person is most effected due to his financial crisis and is having suicidal tendencies.
thoughts. He/she is not having the thought of being at the risk of contracting virus via his or her positive tested neighbour.

There is negative correlation between the item of fear of contamination and the item of post COVID situation \((r = -.146)\) which indicates that when the fear of contamination increases there is a decrease in the hope that the person has to make his/her come back to the normal living from the start. The item of fear of contamination is again negatively correlated to the items of area of uncertainty indicating that when people think about visiting others after lockdown. They believe that it can improve their pitiful condition and also help them in improving their employment condition \((r = -.086, r = -.088)\).

Pandemic and lockdown had hit the people so hard that it is difficult to comprehend people’s straining capacity and one such area is family relationship. There is a negative correlation indicated via a result obtained between the item of relationship condition and an item of fear of death \((r = -.191)\). In general, increased financial crisis leads to having suicidal thoughts which leads to having relationship issues in the family but as it can be seen from the results that increase in the financial crisis leading to suicidal thoughts has an opposite effect. People realise how important relationship is and being there for one another in the hard time is the core of any relationship, and just by imaging the loss of loved one is dreadful.

Religion is a very private and extremely important part of human existence. And here, the obtained results confirm that people in this COVID pandemic and lockdown returned towards their respective religions and have realised the importance of religion in their life. Religion gave them a sense of relaxation and calmness to understand their present situation and not thinking that their present condition is pitiful and pathetic without any hope. As indicated by the result as there is a negative relationship between the item of uncertainty, fear of death with the item of religion \((r = -.078, r = -.164, r = -.236)\). Negative correlation was seen between the item of uncertainty and the item of religion \((r = -.093)\) which means that indulging in religious activity gave hope to the person that ultimately gave a sense of better future regarding the employment conditions.

During lockdown, people had to stay at home, against their will, giving them a lot of stress at the level of their economy. However, when the lockdown was over it gave them hope that they can put a stop to their miserable condition and can help build-up their economic condition back. This is being indicated through the obtained result where it shows the negative correlation between the item of unemployment and fear of contamination \((r = -.078)\).

As mentioned above earlier, that religion gives hope to the person, hope for the best as it is something very integral part of human existence and the results too indicates that indulging in religious activities and realising its importance in life has decreased the relationship issues in the present research samples; the negative correlation between the item of relationship issue area and the items of religion \((r = -.271, r = -.106)\) was found. In the rest of the result, it can be seen that there is a positive correlation between each items of the questionnaire with each other. For instance, the fear of contamination increases with the thought of
visiting people or uncertainty that has developed in the people due to lockdown and pandemic regarding their employment condition or financial crisis. It gets even worse when they think about being infected by the virus and not being able to do anything for bringing their condition back to normal.

In the table 3, the result shows that there is not much correlation established between any other item of the questionnaire and the items of fear of death. There are correlations but only few indicates that people, due to their situation, had the feeling of committing suicide but had never in actual felt the need of doing so. This is so because down the line people still believed that at the end their condition could change for better and they have to try a bit harder to come back to normal. They cannot just easily give up on what they have done till now, giving them hope for a better future and life to hold on to.

Many researches have already been conducted by different researchers across the world regarding the effect of COVID-19 on the life of people and even on the other aspects like health care system, Government policies on pandemic, etc. Here are few studies that will help to support the outcome of the present research. A research conducted by S. MahendraDev & RajeswariSengupta (2020), where they have talked about the economic situation of India which was not in a parlour state before Covid-19 pandemic. Due to pandemic and prolonged nation-wide lockdown that had gotten even more disrupted had shocked the economy of India hard. It was also suggested that Reserve Bank of India should come up with such policies that can reserve the shock of the economy or at least put a hold to the economic disturbance in India.

Another study was conducted by B. Goswami, R. Mandal, & H. K. Nath (2021) where the result of the study showed that the spread of virus (corona virus) and the fear of virus had a significant impact on the state economic performance. A study on ‘Marital distress during COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown: A brief narrative’, was conducted by TanayMaiti, Sheba Singh, Ravitejalnnamuri, Mrs AasthaDhingraHasija (2020), where they have talked about problems in marriage during such a hard time as marriages are palpable and it is a universally accepted institution. It also points out that strong marriage can work as a strong psychological support, which is especially needed in the hard times like Covid-19 pandemic, were falling apart because of extreme mental stress.

An online survey in India was conducted by S. Grover, S. Sahoo, A. Mehra, A. Avasthi, A. Tripathi, A. Subramanyan, ...& Y.J. Reddy (2020). The aim of their study was to assess the prevalence of depression, anxiety, perceived stress, well-being, and other psychological issues on the general public due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The result showed that about 40.5% of the participants experienced either anxiety or depression. Moderate level of three-fourth of the participants reported stress and 71.7% of participants reported poor well-being.

**Conclusion**

Through the survey conducted by the researchers, it can be inferred that COVID-19 pandemic followed by complete lockdown in India had its immense impact on peoples ‘economic and employment conditions. In India, a developing country,
people strive hard to earn for their living where every basic need is expensive for most of the population, which ultimately resulted in people realising the fact that after lockdown is over they have to work double hard and have to start from the beginning to bring back stability in their life. From difficult times to COVID-19 pandemic, people took refuge in their religion which gave them calmness and also somewhere helped them to visualize their condition in better way without freaking out about their future.

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