

Covid-19 Pandemic's Effect on Socio Economic Variables

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I. ABSTRACT

The present paper aims to objectively analyse the effect on the country's socio-economic dimensions of the COVID -19 pandemic. The socio-economic parameters were classified into 5 separate captions, namely, agriculture, livestock & diaries, jobs, cultural activities and reserves of foreign exchange, with expert advice from the experts. The lockdown disrupted the flow of persons, including farmers, farm labour and traffic in automobiles, including farm machinery. Migrant staff and employees in the private jobs sector who have returned to their villages are being treated because of fear of contamination as a vector of illness. Domestic abuse, alcohol use and card gaming have steadily risen. The country's foreign exchange reserves have increased as a result of a decrease in oil imports, especially from other countries.

II. INTRODUCTION

Corona viruses are a large class of viruses that may cause illnesses of a broad variety of intensity in both animals and humans. Any corona viruses, such as common cold, are reported to cause moderate diseases, as well as severe diseases such as Extreme ARS and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The first severe SARS epidemic disease in China (2003) and MERS in Saudi Arabia was the corona virus (2012). The newly found corona virus induces COVID-19 illness, a corona virus. The cause agent has not yet been identified, although it is an infectious illness with a 2-8 percent mortality risk. Due to its extremely contagious existence, the disease epidemic began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and spread worldwide, including India. Shaking the head, coughing, and sneezing (aerosol transmission) respiratory gout lets will transfer this from person to person. It is safer to isolate, preserve social separation and use prevention steps such as sanitizer or hand washing with soap, mask wearing, etc. to avoid this pandemic illness.

III. COVID-19 in Indian Perspective:

On 30 January 2020, the first laboratory case confirmed in India was reported in Kerala, when a woman returned from the city of Wuhan with two students and more than 90,000 confirmed cases crossed and crossed on 18 May.

With a 3.3 percent nominal mortality, the death figure is about 3000. Although the pace of regeneration has risen to 38.29 percent, the best since the country's epidemic started. On 30 January 2020, the first laboratory case confirmed in India was reported in Kerala, when a woman returned from the city of Wuhan with two students and more than 90,000 confirmed cases crossed and crossed on 18 May.

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IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(McKibbin & Fernando, 2020) The COVID-19 epidemic has devastated and spread across China's economy. The existence and economic consequences of the disease remain largely uncertain and make it challenging for policymakers to formulate a suitable macroeconomic policy solution. In the following year, this paper discusses seven various possibilities on how COVID-19 might be designed to boost the interpretation of economic effects by utilising a modelling method developed in Lee and McKibbin (2006) by McKibbin and Sidorenko (2006). (2003). The impact of multiple scenarios on macroeconomic performance and financial markets are discussed in the global DSGE/CGE hybrid general equilibrium model. The observations in this essay illustrate that even a controlled epidemic may have a significant effect on the global economy in the short term. These scenarios illustrate the magnitude of costs that can be prevented in all economies, but particularly in less mature and heavily populated economies, by higher public protection expenditure. .

(Zu et al., 2020) An outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China of extreme acute coronavirus 2 syndrome was observed in December 2019 and spread to and from China. The World Health Organisation formally called the novel coronavirus disease for 2019 on 12 February 2020. (COVID-19). Many patients diagnosed with COVID-19 suffer from pneumonia and normal CT imaging patterns, leading to the significance of early diagnosis and disease assessment in radiological studies. To date, in Hubei, China, CT findings have been identified as important clinical proof of the diagnosis of COVID-19. This analysis focuses on the aetiology, epidemiology and clinical indications of COVID 19 and illustrates the function of chest CT in the prevention and treatment of diseases.

V. OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the study are:

1. To recognise and research the effect on the economy of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The essence of the effect on the economy can be statistically calculated.

VI. Phases of Lockdown scenario and Unlock scenario

Table 1:
Lockdown scenario

Lockdown	Duration (Year 2020)	Announcement date	Theme
Lockdown 1.0	25 March- 14 April	24-Mar	“Jaan hai to jahaan hai”
Lockdown 2.0	15 April - 03 May	11-Apr	“Jaan bhi jahaan bhi”
Lockdown 3.0	4 May-17 May	11-May	“Jan se lekar jag tak”

Table 2:**Unlock scenario**

Unlock 1.0	01 June - 30 June	MHA issued fresh guidelines for the month of June permitted shopping malls, religious places, hotels and restaurants to reopen from 8 June
Unlock 2.0	1 July -31 July	Lockdown measures were only imposed in containment zones. In all other areas, most activities were permitted. Night curfews were in effect from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. in all areas.
Unlock 3.0	1Aug -31 Aug	removed night curfews and permitted gymnasiums and yoga centres to reopen from 5 August. Educational institutions will remain closed till 31 August.

There are numerous platforms to evaluate the impact of the disease in the world, but few main sectors have been taken into account in the succeeding section.

1) Agriculture:

The agriculture sector alone offers not only a 14% share of the country's economy, but also more than 40% of total jobs. With less than two hectares of land, the majority of India's farmers (about 80 per cent) are limited and marginal. In the Indian subcontinent, agriculture is a subject of a state where agricultural policies differ from state to state. The agricultural activities were negatively impacted by Lockdown-1 rather than by further extensions. Full lockdown reduced the movement of persons, including farmers, farm labour and vehicular traffic, including farm equipment, and adversely affected the farm economy as a result. While the Indian government did its hardest to mitigate the adverse impact on agriculture, it was unable to overrule its agricultural consequences.

2) Harvesting:

After the Holi festival in North India, this was the height of the rabi season (March & April), where crops such as mustard, wheat, chickpea, lentil and paddy in irrigated regions and plantation crops such as pepper, coffee and banana in South India were either at harvest stage or almost at maturity point. During harvesting activities, the lack of availability or shortage of farm labour dramatically raised the regular wage amount. Tiny holders of land cultivated their crops either by themselves or by shared consent with each other manually. Since they did not have adequate human resources, broad property holders experienced challenging times. Thus, either manually or by the harvester, they were required to pay high rates for harvesting operations. Due to the merging of high rainfall or hail with high wind velocity and leading to severe crop destruction, matured crops were reported in the region. The full restriction enforced by Lockdown 1.0 had a huge effect on the harvesting process of most rabi crops, however after relaxation they were able to carry out their agricultural activities. But the results of government decisions were not what we imagine they were for the farmers.

3) Farm labour:

For many operations, from seed sowing to harvesting and threshing, India's agricultural sector relies on migrant workers in the form of either professional or unskilled farm labour. The harvesting of commercial crops that were more dependent on migrant labour than food crops such as wheat and paddy was dramatically influenced by the reduction of labour migration from one state to another state. Labor shortages greatly raised regular

incomes at the peak period of harvesting vegetables and fruits. In comparison, however, regular incomes declined as migrant workers reverted from industrialised centres to their native places and tended to starvation and malnutrition.

4) **Agricultural Implements and Repairing centres:**

In order to complete the crop harvesting process, agricultural instruments such as sickle (daranti), hoe and thresher or combination harvester are necessary and simple inputs. During lockdown-1, shops engaged in the sale of farm machinery were fully locked and new farm equipment for harvesting could not be purchased by farmers. They used their own old implements, so as they were either broken or their sharpness deteriorated, they got weaker. The repair centres for farm implements were either entirely closed or open for a fixed period of time and seriously disrupted the harvesting process. It was one of the major sources of crop failure during the pandemic on farm lands. Apart from halting crop processing, farmers had little alternative because of the lack of farm workers or aged and wear and tear machinery could not be fixed on time.

5) **Storage and Mandis (market yards):**

While farmers were able to complete the harvesting operation with great adversities, but faced more difficulty to store their produce at their residences. For the most part, most farm output either goes directly to Mandis for sale or storage for potential usage. With certain precautionary steps, the storage centres and the mandis were either entirely locked or opened for a limited period. Minimum support price (MSP), enforced for few chosen agricultural commodities by the Indian government, has its own drawbacks since they will not buy seed above their cap (as per government law) and have a long phase as well. Farmers were then compelled to offer their produce at low rates to intermediaries because they may not have a storage facility or have to pay interest, taken in the form of a crop loan from either landlords or banks. Migrating skilled workers from workplaces to their native places created fear because they were necessary not just for harvesting operations but also for the post-harvest handling of goods for food grains, fibre, food and vegetables in storage and marketing centres such as Mandis. Due to disinformation on social media, the chicken is the carrier of disease, and even transportation limits, poultry farmers were badly affected.

6) **Transportation facility:**

The first noticeable effect of COVID-19 was on the supply chain for agriculture. The national full lockdown prohibited the travel of citizens within states, districts and even local areas as well as automobiles. This has not only negatively influenced agriculture, but also fruit and vegetables, particularly the horticultural field. Farmers engaged in vegetable production were compelled to sell their produce at low rates or dump it on roads because of lower market demand and were unable to get cultivation costs, or not harvested from the field itself. They were unable to store their supplies in the cold storage facilities far from their estate. The transportation of their products was profoundly impacted. Lack of transportation infrastructure continues to cause crop losses at either the field or its own local storage centre.

7) Agricultural inputs:

As the Kharif season is fast approaching, for simple market availability, agri-inputs such as best seed quality, fertiliser, agro-chemical etc. must be pre-positioned. The private sector must play a major role in fulfilling agri-input-demand with adequate policy support. The government would step ahead to provide expanded crop loans and flush adequate and smooth cash credit to small and marginal farmers in particular, as they were unable to sell their farm produce.

8) Livestock and dairy:

While there was less effect on the output of fodder and animal welfare, the supply chain of milk was disrupted due to less demand for the production region and limitations on inter- and intra-state transport movements. Through this pandemic, their families either processed milk into ghee like by-products or consumed it.

9) Employment:

There are around nine crore farmers as per government statistics, and if not surpass the same sum of landless agricultural labour. The livelihoods of landless farmers and small and marginal farmers were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic. Many involved in other part-time occupations, such as building activities, travel, etc., have been unemployed and are now relying on government incentives and benefits. Migrant workers who have been engaged in the informal sector have lost their employment and are now on the streets, forced to live meagre lives.

10) Social and cultural activities:

When anyone has another history of state travel, there is concern of contamination by neighbours of community. These behavioural shifts may be attributed to important goods such as fruit and vegetable sales, grocery products, gasoline, gas, and medical emergencies. Migrant staff and employees in the private jobs sector who have returned to their villages are being treated because of fear of contamination as a vector of illness. Hiding the past of travel, misconduct and hostility of returning individuals contributes to distrust between neighbours in villages. Farmers either skipped or cancelled the marriage ceremony and other social activities for their families before the conclusion of this pandemic. While domestic abuse, alcohol consumption (especially since lockdown 2.0) and cardplaying have steadily increased, all these challenges must be handled in their own ways and means. For the Indian subcontinent, COVID-19 is an unparalleled challenge; it, however, has less effect on the agriculture sector than other sectors such as industries. While the government is doing its utmost at different levels to protect farmers' livelihoods, such as the advanced release of INR 2000 to farmers' bank accounts as financial help under the PM-KISAN scheme, the increased regular wage rate under MGNREGA, the largest wage guarantee scheme in the world, INR 500 per month financial assistance to more than 200 million women through the Jan Dhan scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kal Kal To alleviate the problems of farmers in the country, the government has introduced numerous mobile-based applications

11) **Hotels and restaurants**

With proprietors seeking to recover their operating expenses, demand has deteriorated considerably. Pre-lock-out hotel occupancy rates fell by 70 to 20 percent, with restaurants sacrificing between 30 and 35 percent of their companies.

12) **Entertainment and sports**

Gathering venues are called off, such as cinemas, centres, promotional and sports activities. The cancellation of the cricketing event alone could mean a loss of at least US\$ 500 million for the organisation. One of the major cricketing events in the IPL is already suspended.

13) **FMCG**

Following the lockout declaration due to hoarding and consumer terror, the demand for essential FMCG products has increased. There has been an increasing demand for fruit, milk and hygiene products and insufficient processing capability throughout the supply chain.

14) **E-commerce**

While domestic distribution demand is increasing, many e-commerce players are unable to meet their current orders and can not approve new orders. Nevertheless, corporations prefer to emphasise the delivery of essential goods.

15) **IT sector**

In remote operations, the market for communication systems, meeting channels and cyber protection applications has grown, among other fields. These technological mechanisms are used in fields like schooling, banking and human resources to maintain corporate continuity.

VII. **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

1. Full lockdown reduced the movement of persons, including farmers, farm labour and vehicular traffic, including farm equipment, and adversely affected the farm economy as a result.
2. Regular incomes declined as foreign labour returned from metropolitan areas to their native places and continued to endure starvation and malnutrition.
3. Apart from halting crop processing, farmers had little alternative because of the lack of farm workers or aged and wear and tear machinery could not be fixed on time.
4. Due to disinformation on social media, the chicken is the carrier of disease, and even transportation limits, poultry farmers were badly affected.
5. Lack of transportation infrastructure continues to cause crop losses at either the field or its own local storage centre.
6. Due to lower demand for processing areas and limits on inter-state and intra-state transportation flows, the milk supply chain was disrupted.

7. The livelihoods of landless farmers and small and marginal farmers were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic.
8. Many involved in other part-time occupations, such as building activities, travel, etc., have been unemployed and are now relying on government incentives and benefits.
9. Migrant workers who have been engaged in the informal sector have lost their employment and are now on the streets, forced to live meagre lives.
10. Migrant staff and employees in the private jobs sector who have returned to their villages are being treated because of fear of contamination as a vector of illness.
11. Hiding the past of travel, misconduct and hostility of returning individuals contributed to distrust in villages among neighbours.
12. Farmers either skipped or cancelled the marriage ceremony and other social activities for their families before the conclusion of this pandemic.
13. Domestic abuse, alcohol use and card gaming have steadily risen.
14. As a consequence of reduced purchases of oil specifically from other nations, the country's foreign exchange reserves have risen multiples.

Overall, COVID-19 is an unprecedented challenge for Indian subcontinent; from the above findings, it can be concluded that pandemic has exerted least impact on agricultural sector than other sectors like industries and tertiary sector. The largest affected sector is industry as it could not survive at all during lockdown 1.0, even hotel industry has suffered a very big deal due to the pandemic. Thus, effective and sincere implementations of agricultural policies by Government and their officials will decide the fate of agriculture and are need of the hour during this pandemic.

Disclaimer: The content of this article is a personal opinion and experience of the authors, not necessarily an endorsement or suggestion of the institute where they are associated with.

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