



COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

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1. Abstract:

In terms of population, India is one of the world's biggest democracies. Today, the whole world is facing the challenge of COVID-19 and the prevention of human rights violations is also a serious issue. Due to the pandemic, migration is increasing day by day, and human displacement also creates human rights violations in India. At the same time, police officials are busy with the enforcement of government orders but they forget to protect basic human rights as their main duty. A large number of people, particularly in India, rely on street vendors such as greengrocers, chat sellers, auto - rickshaws, taxi drivers, daily wage laborers, and so on. These people face severe threats from police officials in terms of lockdowns and weekend curfews and they are the real victims of human rights encroachment. The current study focuses on the problems of people who are affected, maltreated and violations of basic human rights due to pandemic.

Key Words: Human Rights, Pandemic, Lockdown, Market, Police.

2. Introduction:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared coronavirus to be a worldwide pandemic, indicating the frightening seriousness of the virus's spread in several nations. The Coronavirus was firstly detected in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. From then, this virus has posed a serious danger to the life's, economic well-being and social well-being among all world residents.

In respond to these, multiple governments around the world have taken quick and

various steps to save their citizen. It's indeed critical to react to the incredible situation currently that we are facing. Measures taken by the governments to stop the virus from spreading, such as nationwide lockdowns, has created a lot of disturbance in the lives of citizens. Human rights have already been severely harmed as a result of the pandemic.

According to reports, multiple countries implemented the COVID-19 lockdown with significant cases of human rights violations. According to the reports of the African news (2) reported that 18 Nigerians were killed. According to the reports of Human Rights Watch (3) it was reported that in Kenya 6 people lost their life's due to the police cruelty during its first ten days of COVID-19's evening curfew.

In many other countries, law enforcement personnel have converted the COVID-19 lockdown into a killing rampage (4). During the lockdowns, however, vulnerable people such as women and children are at a greater risk of maltreatment, domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape in several nations, whilst prisoners in some nations faced risks to their lives.

The lockdown has adversely has harmed underprivileged populations, due to loss of their basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing etc. The closure of state borders has affected the supply of critical foods, causing inflation and a feel of scarcity. As a result, it is the government's responsibility to safeguard civilians against such pandemics in such a circumstance.

However, it must not be at the expense of human rights violations. It is critical to react to the extraordinary situation that we are presently confronted with. It is in need of an effective framework which can enhance international goals to get the globe out of this epidemic scenario, and the Human Rights Structure is one such structure that might aid the world's recovery. As a result, it is critical to investigate how numerous human rights are being violated in the current scenario, as well as how the government can defend all of these rights.

3. EFFECT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HUMAN RIGHTS VOILATIONS

This section focus on how the pandemic has affected human rights in a variety of areas, including healthcare, education, employment, greengrocers, chat sellers, auto- rickshaws, taxi drivers, daily wage laborers and many others. The pandemic affects everyone, but its effects are not evenly distributed throughout society because people above the creamy layer have

never experienced any of the lockdown or weekend curfew difficulties that ordinary people have.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Due to pandemic many countries were set several different rules, such as maintain the social distance in mass gatherings, closing up of public areas, limits in public transportation as well as maintaining physical distance whenever outside the house. In certain situations, complete province, regions, cities were placed under quarantine (e.g., in Austria, Bulgaria, Italy and Lithuania). In other countries such as France, Greece, Italy, and Spain, made it illegal to leave the home without a permission. These measures affected several rights contained in national constitutions, international human rights law. These mainly impacted on right to liberty, freedom of movement, right to privacy, security and family life. They have also impacted on right to health, mainly on mental health.

HEALTHCARE

The methods used to fight the pandemic has often had a negative effect on the right to health and healthcare that they were required to defend. It involves providing accessibility to both preventive and medical care. Due to this pandemic the patients who were suffering from severe diseases such as cancer, cardiac issues, etc. could not get the proper treatment in the hospitals. This situation mainly affected to the old people as they are the one who needs the immediate medical attention. People living in villages also faced the difficulties in accessing up of proper healthcare. According to World Health Organization (WHO) report the healthcare workers had been most infected due to this pandemic.

EDUCATION

Due to the pandemic all the education institutions were closed. As a result, an unexpected change to online learning was made to ensure educational continuity. These mainly impacted on right to children's education and their well-being. Children belonging from poor background could not afford computer and internet access hence the children could not get online education.

STREET VENDERORS

Street venders such as greengrocers, chat sellers, auto-rickshaws, taxi drivers, daily wage laborers, and so on are mostly affected by the pandemic. They were unable to meet their basic

needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing, as a result of the pandemic. As there will be no transportation available during lockdowns, auto- rickshaws and taxi drivers will become unemployed. Lockdowns' adverse effects will affect only those people below the poverty line. These mainly impact on the right to a standard of living, including food, shelter, clothing, and the right to security in the event of unemployment.

OLDER PERSONS

According to the survey (1), The pandemic has had a particularly negative impact on the elderly, particularly those who live in institutions or have underlying medical issues. The death rate was substantially higher in this age group than in others. Older people faced more restrictions relating to physical distance, as well as they were not allowed for the public transportation. This impacted on the physical and the mental health of old age persons and Right to Non-Discrimination based on age.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Many people with disabilities suffered serious impacts. Pre-existing medical issues raised the dangers of a COVID-19 infection to their lives and health. Those in institutional healthcare institutions were found to be at higher risk, as they were subjected to visitation bans, isolation, and mental stress. The disturbance and reduction of crucial services for people with disabilities was a critical challenge. Education, schools, and other learning support for disabled children, healthcare, community-based and at-home support, and facilitated transportation were among them. Switching to digital and mobile learning and work schedules was also ineffective. It indicated the possibility of a widening digital divide between those with disabilities and the general population.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

The Indian government-imposed lockdown with only four hours' warning. It's a fascinating and unexpected democratic phenomenon. All of this was accomplished without alarming the general populace. All of the migrant laborers were stuck where they were working. Refugees and migrants have been adversely affected. This mainly included children and unaccompanied minors. As government has provided centers for the migrants to leave. Evidence demonstrates that overcrowding, poor hygienic conditions, and restricted access to health care increased the risk of illness among all migrant groups.

CHILDREN

Millions of children have been forced into child labor as a result of the pandemic. Due to pandemic the educational institutions were shut down due to result of this the children were put under child labor. According to the report of Hindustan times (5), In Maharashtra, child marriages increased by 78.3 percent despite a state of emergency as families remain poor. Child trafficking has been increased due the pandemic. Trafficking is one of India's most severe organized crimes involving children. Commercial sexual exploitation, bonded labor, marriage, adoption, and organ trafficking are all common causes for domestic and international trafficking. In addition to this, it is critical to protect children who have been orphaned by COVID-19.

4. POLICE CRUELTY

During a pandemic, police personnel are very curious about implementing government orders, but they forget to protect human rights violations. Lathi charges, filing FIRs, and seizing vehicles are the most common actions of police officials, which are very popular during lockdowns and weekend curfews. These actions by the police staff are also affected and constitute human rights violations. A large number of people are frustrated due to the cruel behavior of the police.

5. CONCLUSION

The world has faced the second face of nature, which is very crucial and against human existence in terms of the coronavirus. In this pandemic situation, a huge number of people have lost their lives and also had their dreams shattered too. The governments have taken too many steps to cope with and eliminate the virus. But human rights violations are also a serious issue, like the virus that affected so many people at the same time. So, the vaccination is the panacea for virus but not for human rights violation. So, respect human beings and value life, not for the elimination of virus but for the existence of humanity.

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