



Impact of Covid-19 on Indian Economy

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INTRODUCTION

The **coronavirus disease (COVID-19)** pandemic, which originated in the city of **Wuhan, China**, has quickly spread to various countries. The impact of COVID-19 on each country's economy is a complex function of numerous factors including extent of disruption caused by lockdown pattern of industrialisation.

As of **May 8th, 2020**, in India, **56,342** positive cases have been reported. Due to second largest country in the world, India will have difficulty in controlling the transmission of (SARS) **severe acute respiratory syndrome** corona virus 2, among its population.

The ministry of health and family welfare of India has raised awareness about the recent outbreak & has taken necessary actions to control the spread of covid - 19.

IMPACT OF COVID - 19 ON INDIAN ECONOMY

The impact of covid-19 on India has been largely disruptive in terms of economic activity as well as loss of human lives. The Indian government implemented a 55 days lockdown throughout the country that started on **March 25th, 2020**, to reduce the transmission of the virus.

Most participants faced financial difficulties during the COVID- 19 lockdown. Several participants reported difficulty getting to work because of lack of public transportation. Almost all the sectors have been adversely affected as domestic demand & exports sharply plummeted with some notable exceptions where high growth was observed.

- (a) Food & Agriculture
- (b) Telecom
- (c) Tourism & Aviation
- (d) Pharmaceuticals
- (e) Oil and Gas

Multiple strategies would be highly necessary to handle the current outbreak these include **statistical tools, computational modeling, quantitative analyses** to control the spread as well as the rapid development of a new treatment. Due to covid -19, some participants lost their jobs.

The Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India said that this drop is mainly due to the corona virus pandemic effect on the Indian economy. The **World Bank** & eating agencies had initially revised India's growth for financial Year 2021 with the lowest figures India has seen in three decades since India's economic liberalisation in the **1990's**.

Unemployment rose from **6.7%** on **15 March** to **26%** on **19 April** & then back down to pre lockdown levels by mid-June. During the lockdown, as estimated 140 million people lost employment which salaries were cut for many others.

The Indian economy was expected to lose over **RS. 32,000 crore** every day during the **first 21 days** of complete Lockdown. Supply chains have been put under stress with the lockdown restrictions in place; initially there was lack of clarity in streamlining

What an essential is and what is not. A large number of farmers around the country who grow perishables also faced uncertainty. Those in the informal sectors & daily wage groups have been at the most risk.

CHALLENGES FACED BY PARTICIPANTS

Due to covid-19 pandemic, as reflected in the following quotes from Study participants:-

"I was not keeping well & none of the hospitals that were taking any admission. They said that due to Covid-19, beds are not available and if you are ready to sleep on ground then we will take your admission."

"We faced difficulties at home because I am into driving. Before Lockdown I went home for some work, Because of lockdown, I had to stay at home for 2.5 months. I, my wife & Children are jobless since then. There was no possibility of doing any work or going anywhere. We had a lot of trouble at that time."

CURRENT SCENARIO IN INDIA

SARS- COV- 2, which causes coronavirus disease (covid-19), was first identified in **December 2019 in Wuhan, China**, has quickly. Spread to various countries. On **January 30th, 2020**, the WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of international concern. The first SARS-Cov- 2 positive case in India was reported in the state of **Kerala** on January 30th, 2020.

According to press release by the Indian council of Medical Research (ICMR) on 8th May, 2020, a total 14, 37, 788 suspected samples had been sent to the national institute of Virology (NIV), Pune & a related testing laboratory. Among them **56,342** cases tested positive for SARS-COV-2. As of May 8th, 2020, **Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat** states were reported to be hotspots for COVID-19 with 17,974, 5,980, and 7012 confirmed cases respectively. To date 16,540 patients have recovered & 1886 deaths have been reported in India.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES, & LOCKDOWN IN INDIA ON COVID -19

To impose social distancing, the "JANTA CURFEW (14-h Lockdown) was ordered on March 22 nd, 2020. A further lockdown was initiated for 21 days, starting on March 25th, 2020 & the same was extended until May 3 rd, 2020, but due to increase in number of positive cases, lockdown period has been extended for the third time until May 17th, 2020. Additionally the **Health ministry** has identified **130 districts** as hotspot zones or **red zones**, 284 as **orange zones** (with SARS-COV – 2 infection) and 319 as **green zones** (no SARS – cov—2 infection) as of May 4th, 2020.

Nineteen districts in Uttar Pradesh are identified as hotspot districts & this was followed by 14 & 12 districts in **Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu** respectively. The complete lockdown was implemented in these containment zones to stop community transmission As per **ICMR** report, 14, 37,788 samples were tested till date, which is 1.04 per thousand people.

RESILIENCE AND MITIGATING FACTORS

Participants were well informed and emphasized the importance of wearing masks, practicing social distancing or **hand washing** .Most participants embraced the practice of enhanced personal cleanliness and other measures to proactively reduce risks of covid-19 infection and transmission. Few participants utilized teleconsultations with doctors to avoid making in person clinic visits.

CONCLUSION

Due to rapids Spread of Covid-19 pandemic & associated health system disruptions experienced in under- resourced & **low- income** settings, there needs to be renewed focus on building resilient health systems that can deliver routine care using **innovative telehealth** approaches during the pandemic & respond to the shocks induced by infectious disease pandemics or other **health crises** effectively, People living in rural areas & and undeserved communities in urban areas faced greater challenges in access to healthcare & experienced worsening of diabetes or hypertension symptoms.