



Women in Pandemic COVID – 19

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ABSTRACT

The corona virus (COVID-19) event has affected 212 countries and claimed more than 400,000 fatalities since the World Health Organization declared it a global urgent health catastrophe. There is still no effective treatment to stop the spread of this virus. The epidemic is exposing weaknesses in social, political, economic, and financial structures, which is gradually escalating the pandemic's effects. The impacts of COVID-19 are strengthened for women in India and around the world over each circle, from wellbeing to the economy, security to social certainty.

Keywords: COVID - 19, Impact, Women

Review:

Women are playing a huge role in the fight against COVID-19, acting as home caregivers, community mobilizers, and frontline healthcare workers (ASHA). Women must be at the forefront of emergency response operations, social and economic recovery efforts, and attempts to improve our health systems after the pandemic if we are to truly bring health, wellbeing, and dignity for all. Additionally, it is important to maintain the strides gained in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights as we work toward gender equality. In addition, women are currently dealing with a number of health, wealth, personal, and social issues as a result of this pandemic. The effects of any disaster, whether man-made or natural, including COVID-19, differ for men and women in middle-class houses where "working from home" is an option. Women are expected to take on endless household duties because domestic employees have been laid off and everyone is always at home. Physical separation, however, means little to the unemployed working matriculation woman, who must sell produce, fill water bottles at congested public faucets, or use public restrooms in order to survive.

Spiritual comfort:

Lockdowns and self-quarantine procedures have increased women's burden globally as more individuals are spending extended periods of time at home and as caregiving responsibilities have grown. According to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Indian women perform daily unpaid care work for close to six hours. Indian males, on the other hand, spend, on average, less than an hour doing the same. That doesn't mean that women can't help out with caring tasks. In fact, when it comes to caring for children and other close dependents, many women value and prefer these activities. However, a woman who requests openly time off from household duties or assistance is at best met with contempt and may experience mental or physical abuse at worst. Yet, the reality is that a woman who asks outright for time off from household duties or assistance is at best met with disdain and at worst is subjected to emotional or physical assault. Their mental health may suffer in the long run from a lack of emotional and domestic support. The abrupt, strange position of having more free time than normal and staying in all day, every day, may in and of itself result in certain psychological problems. Add to this the worry about the lethal infection as well as the apprehension about your job and financial stability. As we descend the social ladder, it becomes more difficult to meet even the most basic necessities because we lack a daily paycheck and regular access to supplies.

Caring accountabilities:

Larger responsibilities are now being assumed by the women who work as domestic help. Women are primarily responsible for caring for the rest of the family, so they are responsible for any physical or emotional problems that arise. Long-term issues would arise for both the patient and the female household members in the event of wage loss, job loss, boredom, or lack of access to ongoing medical care for illnesses or psycho-social ailments. Women cannot maintain physical distance between themselves and other family members in the home by themselves due to the constraints this places on them. When a doctor, nurse, frontline health worker, policewoman, or rubbish picker gets home from work, she is expected to prepare meals, clean the house, and take care of the kids without any thought for her own rest or refreshment. She also faces hostility for placing the family in danger.

Families from different districts have briefly been split apart by the abrupt shutdown. While a wife who has lived alone is met with scepticism and, in the worst circumstances, desertion, the return of the husband brings solace and satisfaction. Men who are dissatisfied with the deteriorating financial condition could also disband the family and relocate, leaving more single women to care for their children on their own.

Financial concerns:

Many women are working from home as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. The virus outbreak has highlighted the financial insecurity of women. In everyday life, there is already a sizable income disparity between men and women. According to a 2016 Columbia University study, women who earn less than males do are twice as likely to experience depression and six times more likely to experience anxiety, even when they are equal in terms of age, education, industry, marital status, and other factors. Due to the negative impressions of women in leadership, they are more prone to experience melancholy, social conflict, and isolation. This is crucial once again since those in leadership roles have greater socioeconomic standing and better income control. Yet in case of women, these factors are more likely to make them more stressed.

Employment and Income Generation:

When there is a labour shortage in rural areas due to a decline in the number of migrant labourers, women's contribution on farms may increase. For instance, many migrants have returned to their homes in India during the current harvest season (March–April). In the medium term, this might lead to greater agricultural incomes for women. As a result, in rural India, there may be a greater need for women's time both inside and outside the home. The proportional net benefits of spending time at home and outside will determine the overall impact on how women allocate their time. Due to the higher prevalence of nuclear families in metropolitan regions, women may be required to care for sick family members at home in order to support the household. The proportional net benefits of spending time at home and outside will determine the overall impact on how women allocate their time. Due to the higher prevalence of nuclear families in metropolitan regions, women may be required to care for sick family members at home, as well as in the event that they lose their current occupations or income in the near future. However, if working from home becomes the norm, women who frequently favour this type of work may have more job opportunities available to them in the long term. Additionally, women's engagement in the labour market in many nations sometimes takes the form of temporary work.

Domestic Situation:

Domestic abuse accusations have increased recently, according to the National Commission for Women, which received 123 such emails between 23rd March and 10th April. This concerning tendency has also been brought to the attention of state governments and women commissioners, such as those in Punjab and Kerala. Lockdown situations have the potential to not only make existing victims' maltreatment worse but also to make new victims. Even in normal times, there is an issue with underreporting of crimes against women. Fear of the criminal's revenge is a significant factor in this, in addition to social stigma. Evidence and reported incidents indicate that the isolation and confinement strategy increases levels of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence, necessitating greater protection against it.

Women's Rights:

In addition, given that the pandemic may compel many women to make tough decisions and transition to unpaid labour, consideration must be given to the pandemic's potential longer-term impacts on the harmony between work and domestic life as well as on women's economic independence.

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