

Impact of Using Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) during COVID 19: Special Reference to SAARC Member Countries

Nafees Imtiaz Islam (corresponding author)¹
Fauzia Sultana²

ABSTRACT

Non-tariff measures are closely connected to the current pandemic, COVID 19. NTMs are instrumental in protecting human, animal and plant lives and facilitate preventing pandemic outbreaks. We have seen NTMS were applied during the pandemic to achieve trade and non-trade objectives. Apart from these, this is interesting to see on how NTM effects in economic recovery from the distressing economic and social effects during the pandemic.

During the pandemic, COVID 19, the application of NTMs were addressed, with most applied NTMs being focused towards legitimate policy objectives. Of them, many of the NTMs dent positive effect for trade, reflect a well trend in the application of NTMs.

This research paper attempted to examine the NTMs imposed by SAARC member countries during the outbreak of COVID-19 and tried to show the impact.

As per record, countries had imposed 384 trade policy measures as a response measure to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been observed that the countries depends on NTMs than tariff measures by recording 283 and 101 measures. Recognizing unprecedented crisis of the coronavirus disease during 2019 pandemic, NTMs became important than ever. Many measures helped trade facilitation of goods, and ensures supplies as well. Some NTMs also negatively affect trade. The paper tried to see the reason of those imposition which affected the value chain of this south Asian region.

The paper proposes policy recommendations which can be taken into consideration during difficult situation like COVID 19 and the lessons of using NTMs during COVID 19 which will help SARRC member countries in using NTMs in transparent and effective ways, in post-pandemic as well.

Key Words: Non-tariff measures, COVID 19, SAARC member countries, trade facilitation, post pandemic,

¹ Deputy Director (IQAC and Research), Daffodil International University; e-mail: nafeesdu06@gmail.com

² Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bank, e-mail: fauzia.du@gmail.com