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## COVID-19 PANDEMIC- IMPACTS ON DAILY LIFE

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This article has been made to understand the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the daily life of people. The pandemic has affected thousands of people, who were either sick or die due to the spread of this disease. The virus created significant knock-on effects on the daily life of people as well as about the global economy. The main aim of this article is to analyse and discuss the effects of this deadly pandemic on several aspects including impacts on economic and social life, impacts on education system, agriculture and allied sectors including the sericulture sector.

### INTRODUCTION

The outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) has been a deadly pandemic that affected the whole world. The virus was first identified on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 in Wuhan, China and the World Health Organization declared it a global pandemic in March, 2020 (WHO, 2020a). COVID-19 is a contagious disease caused by a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), different from SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV (Wang, 2020). The deadly virus mainly affects the human respiratory system causing difficulty in breathing due to the reduction in oxygen level which ultimately leads to pneumonia. The affected person has symptoms of common cold, cough, sneezing, loss of smell and taste, fatigue, pale skin etc. This viral infection affected almost millions of people in some way or the other. As it is a contagious disease, the people who were affected were isolated from the rest of society. COVID-19 has rapidly affected the day-to-day life, businesses, disrupted the world trade and movements. The

pandemic has shaken all the continents of the world leaving the world in a dark and grim situation.

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on economic and social life

The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating. The outbreak of COVID-19 brought social and economic life to a standstill due to the lockdown imposed all around the world. The pandemic has had a multi-sectorial impact as the economic activities slowed down. Restrictions on travel hampered the movement of perishable goods causing huge losses to the businesses. The various industries and sectors were affected by the cause of this disease including the pharmaceutical industries, solar power sector, tourism and information and electronics industry (Abid and Javaid, 2020). The employment opportunity in cities and towns came down to nil and leads to a miserable lifestyle. The virus created a significant knock-on effect on the daily life of citizens, as well as about the global economy.

The pandemic brought a complex array of challenges which had mental repercussions for everyone, including children and adolescents. Restrictive measures such as isolation/quarantine, social distancing and the closure of educational institutes, workplaces and entertainment venues affected the mental health of people which leads to anger, frustration, loneliness and depressive symptoms among them (Kunal *et al.*, 2021). The pandemic had a serious impact on migrated population due to the restrictions on travelling from one country to another country as during

travelling, numbers of cases were identified positive when tested. The imposition of lockdown had a severe social impact on society. The impact of pandemic had been distressing and changed how humans perform their daily routine. The lockdown had affected much on women compared to men through the increased burden of unpaid work (Priyanshi, 2020). In addition, many women had faced domestic violence including emotional, physical and sexual abuse (Mahlangu *et al.*, 2022). There were less awareness of the seriousness of the disease and severity of viral impact. An unaware situation created negligence in the minds of the people, as they did not listen to the government plea immediately. Further, false facts and rumours continued about the vaccines that caused vaccine hesitancy in the people.

### **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Education System**

The complete lockdown of educational institutions severely impacted the education system worldwide. The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the education system in the world (UNESCO, 2020). Both students and teachers were facing problems during online education. Lack of facilities like gadgets, poor or no connectivity of the internet, technological illiteracy, external destruction and family interruption were the major issues noticed during online education. Many below poverty line children who were regularly nourished with the help of midday meals were unable to fulfil their hunger due to closed educational institutions.

### **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Agricultural Production, Allied Sectors and Food Security**

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in human development which is directly related to food security. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) stated that COVID-19 has affected agriculture in two significant aspects *i.e.*, the supply and demand for food and both of these aspects are directly related to food security (FAO, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic created a serious negative situation globally, impacting the agriculture and allied sectors and the Indian

agriculture sector is not an exception. The allied sectors such as dairy, poultry and fisheries sector witnessed a drastic fall in demand due to the widespread fear circulating in the wake of COVID-19 that animal products were carriers of the virus and may be a source of infection leading to declining production as well as farm gate prices (Balamurugan, 2021). The pandemic affected the availability of food through the loss of income and reduced individual-level food access. Trade restrictions and confinement measures prevented farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupted domestic and international food supply chains (WHO, 2020b).

### **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Sericulture Sector**

The COVID-19 pandemic had a drastic impact on the sericulture sector like other sectors across the globe and Indian sericulture sector is not immune to this pandemic. After the coronavirus hit India's potential silk producing states, the farmers suffered a lot due to the indefinite lockdown and restrictions imposed by the government. The COVID-19 outbreak had wreaked havoc on all aspects of the silk value chain due to disturbances in the demand-supply relationship (Rubia and Aradhana, 2022). The major problems during the lockdown faced by the silkworm rearers were non-availability of inputs, crash in cocoon prices, cocoon transportation problem and less cocoon purchasers in the market (Priyanka *et al.*, 2021). Due to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the total raw silk production in the country during the pandemic was 5.8% lesser than the production achieved the year before (Central Silk Board, 2021). The COVID-19 outbreak had wreaked havoc on all aspects of the silk value chain due to disturbances in the demand-supply relationship.

### **CONCLUSION**

COVID-19 had caused an enormous havoc and had a serious impact on every individual around the world directly or indirectly. Many countries declared unprecedented lockdowns, which led to an environment of fear, stress, social anxiety, panic due to uncertainty, economic recession and

extreme mental stress. Several business units shut down while others had faced huge losses due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. To manage this kind of situation, it is the responsibility of every person to coordinate with government authorities, follow proper guidelines, be vaccinated and take proper safety measures prescribed by the health authorities. The pandemic has had an important impact on agriculture, allied sectors and the food supply chain, thus affecting food demand and consequently food security. Considering the importance of agricultural sector, the government should give top priority to protect the farmers and agricultural labourers from the viral infection. The government should take measures to safeguard its people by devising proper programs to combat such deadly situations.

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