

COVID-19 SECOND WAVE: CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Covid-19 Second Wave: Challenges for Education and Disaster Management

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Spreading rate of mutated corona virus (delta variant) during second wave was very fast. Most of the people infected with the COVID-19 virus experienced mild to moderate to severe respiratory illness. Although patients in the second wave were younger but the duration of hospitalization and case fatality rate were lower than those in the first wave. During first wave of Covid-19 it was observed that persons above 55 years of age and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer were more susceptible to develop serious illness but in second it was observed that person between 30 to 55 years along with old age and younger people suffering from hypertension, diabetes and respiratory diseases were more susceptible to this covid-19 virus. The most frequent signs and symptoms in both waves were fever, dyspnea, pneumonia, and cough, and the most relevant comorbidities were cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and chronic neurological diseases. Every country has lost its human resources due to covid-19 virus which not only disturb the social life but economic conditions are also very badly affected. Now we use the resources so rapidly that may create economic imbalance in future. The psychological effect is an essential component of disaster management of infectious pandemics.

Keywords: Covid-19, Education system, Disaster management.

Introduction

COVID-19 is a highly contagious lower respiratory tract infection which can be transmitted through droplets or by touching surfaces contaminated during coughing or sneezing from both symptomatic and asymptomatic person. Patients who are highly contagious are called super spreaders (Kumari and Shukla, 2020). They can quickly infect multiple individuals within a range of 2 m. The symptoms of COVID-19 disease include fever, cough, myalgia, and fatigue, and appear after an incubation period of 2-14 days (Verma and Prakash, 2020a). The period between exposure to virus and beginning of its symptoms of the disease in our body is known as incubation period (Prakash and Srivastava, 2020). However, the majority of infected subjects are carriers without clinical symptoms. Over time additional symptoms that are frequently associated with COVID-19 infection have been identified, such as loss of smell and

taste (anosmia and dyspepsia) (Roy *et al.*, 2020; Roy and Chaube, 2021).

The COVID – 19 pandemic affected many people in its both first and second wave. Now a days, human civilization is passing through the most critical juncture of this millennium. Its existence is being challenged by the emergence of COVID -19. In the middle of March 2021, the second wave started and on April 09 the highest numbers of cases have been identified in India. Its second wave was more hazardous in which many people lost their lives. COVID -19 presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems, economic and social disruption and also environment in diverse ways. During this time several countries globally enforced the temporary closure or lockdown of all non-essential shops and services besides supermarket and pharmacies. In most of the countries the workers with a high risk of infection

are asked to work from home as most of the places were under lockdown. The COVID-19 has resulted in school and college shut all across the globe and as schools, colleges and university are closed children are out of the classroom. This paper highlights few impact of COVID-19 on Education system in and mental health of people.

The COVID -19 pandemic and resulting restrictions, imposed to fight the spread of disease, have provided some short term positive but long term negative impacts on environment. The positive impact includes reduced air, water and noise pollution, better growth of vegetation, etc. The negative impacts are increased organic and non-recyclable waste and also to difficult the dispose of these wastes. The drastically increasing amount of domestic and medical waste is one of the key negative outcomes of COVID – 19. Disposal of covid and electronic waste is a big challenge (Verma and Prakash, 2020b). Increased biomedical waste generation is a major threat to public health and environment. Used masks, gloves, PPE kits, face shields and tissues when discarded untreated, pose a serious negative effect on environment. Increased online shopping for home delivery, ultimately increase the amount of household waste from shipped package materials. Huge amount of disinfectants applied on roads, commercial and residential areas affects the quality of environment. Community medicine has played big role during pandemics (Balwan *et al.*, 2021). We don't know when we will get rid from COVID 19, so this is the right time to make collective efforts and strategies for sustainability in all the fields.

Covid- 19 and Education: Covid-19 impact was everywhere, which resulted in the closure of educational institutions globally. Outbreak of COVID-19 has taught human that the change is inevitable. The lockdowns in response to COVID-19 have interrupted conventional learning. Government has recommended moving to online learning as a stop-gap arrangement to evade any disruptions in academic calendars. While the educational community have made concerted efforts to maintain learning continuity during this period, students have had to rely more on their own resources to continue learning remotely through the Internet, television or radio. In particular, learners in the most marginalized groups, who don't have access to digital learning resources or lack the resilience and engagement to learn on their own, are at risk of falling behind. While the benefits of online learning are manifold, there are still many roadblocks in the way ahead towards making education an entirely digital (online) phenomenon. It is the fact that rural population is not completely equipped with utilities like fast internet,

uninterrupted power supply and electronic devices (Srivastava *et al.*, 2020; Kumar, 2021). There have been improvements regarding basic infrastructural facilities but many rural areas in India are still grappling with these challenges to make education completely digital or online. It is imperative to consider the availability of the right devices to every student for accessing digital content. Not a lot of people in rural India have access to personal laptops or computers, and phone screens are not conducive to long learning hours (Srivastava and Reddy, 2020). Also, data packs and their costs can be a big deterrent for learners, especially for live classes. Many students either don't have personal laptops/smartphones or they are available for a limited time. Hence, the learning remains restricted with the limited availability of technological devices.

Covid-19 and Disaster Management:

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic is a major stressor that is impacting mental health worldwide. The human experiences encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic may be potentially damaging psychologically, physically, socially, and spiritually. They cause a crisis of conscience. The majority of people were ordered to stay at home for long periods and work from there except those having essential jobs such as in food delivery, pharmacies, healthcare work, and jobs in basic social infrastructure. This caused reduced physical activity, which has negative effects on mental health in the community because physical activities directly reduce general negative emotions. This further affects the usual ethical human autonomy of choice. However, ethical considerations are different in disasters, as under such circumstances one should save as many patients as possible even if it affects some personal rights. This is an ethical situation faced by acute care physicians during triage.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a major impact on the global economy. The stock market fell by 35% by April 2020 (Mohamud *et al.*, 2021). It has caused the most severe economic recession of the last hundred years, with tremendous damage to jobs and savings, especially for young workers. It is anticipated that gross domestic product (GDP) will be reduced by 9.1% in a single wave COVID-19 pandemic and 11.5% in a double wave pandemic.

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