

# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC- COVID 19

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## ABSTRACT

Since the time immemorial, the disease and the Man have lived cheek by Jowl. Where there is a man, there has always been diseases. These diseases have been in different forms, lingering on the mankind either in the form of ordinary diseases or as lethal pandemics or epidemics such as SARS, MERS, EBOLA, H1N1, HIV etc. Covid-19 or Coronavirus is one of them, which is a formidable challenge before the world today. In these days, it is ready to engulf the whole world in a jiffy, if precautionary measures as suggested by the WHO are not taken. As of May 08, 2020, the corona virus outbreak has infected more than 39 lakh people and taken 2.71 Lakh lives across the world. Out of these, 76,000 people in USA, 30,000 people in UK, 29,000 people in Italy, 26,000 people in Spain and 25,000 people in France have lost their lives due to this pandemic with no fault on their part. Today about 212 countries in the world are in the grip of coronavirus disease. This disease has put scientists to the test: it is a test of political leadership, of national health systems, of social care services, of solidarity, of the social contract- a test of our very own fabric. Although the world has tried its best to harness over this pandemic and is trying its best to prepare the vaccine for its treatment but still no vaccine in fighting against coronavirus. We are in very early stages and have not made ourselves capable to find out any way to fight against this disease.

## Keywords

Pandemic, Epidemic, Coronavirus, Covid – 19, Disease.

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## Introduction

The towering buildings, high speed bullet trains, stepping on the moon etc. are some evidences of boasting the people of world that they have progressed by leaps and bound and to many extent it is away from any shadow of doubt because in this era of technology they have left no stone unturned for the development but it is also not exaggerated to mention here that the Novel Coronavirus has shaken the whole world and compelled to think over its so called progress as there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19 at the moment and still it is invincible. It seems that Novel Coronavirus has exposed the preparedness of the world to fight any deadly disease. It has taken so many lives and paralysed the world's economy to the extent that people are struggling even for their sustenance. They feel stranded wherever they are and are raising their voice vociferously for their survival. Although the concerned governments are doing their best to stop the outbreak of this virus by facilitating the people with all facilities which are necessary for their existence. But these facilities seem to be meagre before the coronavirus attack. The name "coronavirus" is derived from Latin *corona*, meaning "crown" or "wreath", itself a

borrowing from Greek *κορώνη korōnē*, "garland, wreath".<sup>(1)</sup> The name was coined by June Almeida and David Tyrrell who first observed and studied human coronaviruses.<sup>(2)</sup> The word was first used in print in 1968 by an informal group of virologists in the journal *Nature* to designate the new family of viruses.<sup>(3)</sup> The name refers to the characteristic appearance of virions (the infective form of the virus) by electron microscopy, which have a fringe of large, bulbous surface projections creating an image reminiscent of the solar corona or halo, from which the name derives. Coronavirus, which emerged in China in December 31, 2019 was declared a global 'pandemic' on March 11, 2020 by the WHO, spread around the world, halting industries, markets, bringing flights to a standstill, prompting the latest oil price war, locking down entire nations, closing schools and forcing the postponement of events and concerts across the world. The WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern, its "highest level of alarm", on January 30, 2020 when there were fewer than 100 cases of COVID-19 outside China. Before March 11, COVID-19 was being called as an epidemic by the WHO. Now the situation is that it has encapsulated above 200

countries in its deadly paws. The situation is going to become rather miserable day by day and there is no way to come out of this menace except living with it adopting the cleanliness and other

measures in daily life. It is going to be a formidable challenge before the countries to tackle this problem.

The country wise situation is as under:

Countries	Infected	Deaths
United States	12,63,052	76,032
Spain	2,21,447	26,070
Italy	2,17,185	30,201
United Kingdom	2,12,626	31,315
Russia	1,87,859	1,723
France	1,74,918	25,990
Germany	1,69,430	7,392
Brazil	1,38,121	9,390
Turkey	1,33,721	3,641
Iran	1,04,691	6,541
India	56,342	1,886

Table no 1<sup>(4)</sup>

From the above table it is explicit that America being a super power is the worst hit country in the world. Hence this shows how deadly the virus is and how no country is able to control the outbreak till now, be it a developed country like US, UK or under development country like INDIA etc. Accordingly Italy has become the third country in the world to record over 30,000 deaths from the coronavirus.

### Symptoms of COVID-19

COVID-19 influences individuals of all ages in various manners. A large portion of the affected individuals will develop mild to moderate illness and recuperate without hospitalization. Individuals of any age can be tainted by the coronavirus. More seasoned individuals, and individuals with prior ailments, (for example, asthma, diabetes, and coronary illness) give off an impression of being progressively defenceless against getting seriously sick with the infection. The symptoms of COVID-19 can be categorised in three different types i.e. Most common symptoms, less common symptoms and serious symptoms. In Most common symptoms the patient will feel feverish with dry cough and tiredness and in less common symptoms the patient will feel headaches and pains in whole body, sore throat, diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, loss of taste or smell. And a rash on skin or discolouration of fingers or toes can be seen. In third category i.e. serious symptoms, the patient will have difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath along with chest pain or pressure. The patient will also feel the loss of

speech or movement. If any patient shows serious symptoms he should seek immediate medical attention. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should manage their symptoms at home. It has been observed that normally it takes 5–6 days from when somebody is contaminated with the infection for side effects to appear, anyway it can take as long as 14 days.

### Issues and Challenges

- **Political and Institutional:** - There may be lot of chances of using the crisis and their emergency powers i.e. to abridge citizen's fundamental rights by the authorities. One especially clear trend is intensified control over free articulation and the media, under the pretence of battling "misinformation" about the virus. The calamity is also hastening governments' use of new reconnaissance technology i.e. using smartphone location data to track down citizen who may have been exposed to the virus. Many countries like Israel, South Korea, Hong Kong and India etc. have already adopted such technology. There is a risk that the government may use the current need to curb open social affairs as a pretext to crackdown on the wave of anti-government protest that have irritated worldwide legislative issues in the course of recent years. It may be enforced in discriminatory ways. Government now also have a means to boycott

demonstrations without formally saying so.

- **Social:** - Covid-19 has influenced each part of life around the world, from individual relationships to institutional activities to global coordinated efforts. As societies attempt to protect themselves through extreme restrictions on people's movement and communications, the infection keeps on devastating families overturn governments, pound economies and tear through the social segment. The interconnectedness and vulnerabilities of the complex system that make the modern world run have never been clearer. Many countries have reported an increase in domestic violence and intimate partner violence, attributed to lockdowns amid the Covid-19 pandemic. <sup>(5)</sup> Financial insecurity, stress and uncertainty have led to increased aggression at home, with abusers able to control large amounts of their victims' daily life. <sup>(6)</sup> "It has also been followed by a concern for a potential spike in suicides, exacerbated by social isolation due to quarantine and social distancing guidelines, fear and unemployment and financial factors." <sup>(7)</sup>
- **Technological:** - IT companies are feeling the heat of pricing pressure, revenue loss due to the lockdown in most of the countries comprehensively, customer insolvency and more slow customer dynamic driven by lower optional spends. Presently a huge number of remote workers are out of their comfort zone and away from the IT support that usually keeps an eye on them while in office. These are the individuals who are more vulnerable to digital assaults which lead to loss of information, money and classified data.
- **Social Media and Sensationalist reporting:** - These are challenging outbreak response efforts. Misinformation and conspiracy theories spread on social media generates panic and mistrust among the general public, divert attention away from the outbreak response, and impeded the activities of health care workers. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said –

"WHO is taking the spread of false information with a 'Four-Pronged approach', including using its WHO information network for epidemics platform to track misinformation in multiple languages and collaborating with social and digital platforms such as Facebook, Weibo and Twitter to filter out false information".<sup>(8)</sup>

- **Shutting of borders:** - Countries around the world are increasingly adopting sweeping measures, including full lockdowns, shutting down airports, imposing travel restrictions and completely sealing their borders, to contain the new coronavirus. Though it is a measure to stop the outbreak, this will lead to slowdown of economies and job losses and other major impacts on the financial health of the countries.
- **Plight of Working class:** - Due to pandemic lockdown, working class is fighting for survival in the world. More than 4 out of 5 people in the global labour force of 3.3 billion have been hit by full or partial workplace closures, according to the international labour organisation which says 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy "Stand in immediate danger of having their livelihood destroyed". The toll for families in hunger and poverty that are either newfound or even more grinding than before. Hunkering down at home to ride out the crisis is not an option for many, because securing the next meal means hustling to find a way to sell, clean, drive or otherwise work, despite the risk. Canada has shed 3 million jobs bringing its rate upto 13.1 %. In France, Half the private sector workforce is on a government paid leave programme, whereby they receive upto 84% of their net salary. In Germany, 3 million workers are supported in a similar system, with the government paying upto 60 % of their net pay. In India, in a arbitrary decision, the government decided to freeze the dearness allowance increment for 48 lakh Central Government Employees and Dearness Relief for 65 lakh Central Government Pensioners from January 2020 till July 2021.
- **Infrastructure:** - Infrastructure sector is one of the worst hit sectors due to the

virus. Most of the projects are facing delays in the construction phase and disruption of service due to unavailability of staff either because of lockdown or sickness. Another major reason for the delay is the supply chain disruption and government actions such as lockdown of the project area or restrictions on the use of essential facilities such as transport infrastructure.

- **Educational challenges:** - We are living in the midst of what is potentially one of the greatest threats in the course of our life to global education, a gigantic educational problem. As of March 28, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing more than 1.6 billion children and youth to be out of school in 161 nations. This is nearly 80% of the world's enrolled students. We were already experiencing a global learning crisis, as many students were in school, but were not learning the key abilities required for survival in life. The World Bank's "Learning Poverty" indicator – the percentage of children who cannot read and comprehend at age 10 – stood at 53% of children in low- and middle-income countries – before the outbreak started. This pandemic can possibly drop these results significantly more on the off chance that we don't act quickly.
- **Side effects of lockdown:** - Across the world many people have lost their lives due to the lockdowns in place because of coronavirus. According to a report published in Indian National daily <sup>(9)</sup> there have been 338 deaths during the lockdown from March 21, 2020 to May 09, 2020. Bifurcation of above deaths related to lockdown in India is as under:-
  - 80 people have died due to loneliness and fear of finding positive of coronavirus.
  - 51 migrant labours have lost their lives in different road accidents while returning to their hometowns.
  - 45 people have lost their lives due to withdrawal symptoms as wine shops have been closed since lockdown.

- 36 people have lost their lives due to hunger and economic instability.

### Suggestions and Recommendations

One can prevent the coronavirus outbreak by following the below suggestions: -

- Wash your hands frequently. Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Frequently touched surfaces (like desks and table) and objects (telephones, keyboards, handles, toilets) should be wiped with disinfectant regularly. Most common household disinfectants will work.
- Practice respiratory hygiene. Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.
- Maintain social distancing. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Maintain at least two meters (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- If you are over the age of 60, or if you have an underlying chronic condition, take additional precautions and avoid crowds.
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention immediately, and call in advance your local doctor or health professional, if possible. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- Depending on the stage of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country, follow the recommendation of self-isolation in your

home when possible to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus.

- Refraining oneself from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.

### CONCLUSION

Though we have progressed in many folds in the last century, we have to cross a long way to achieve, what is called an ideal society. Today novel coronavirus or Covid-19 has caused severe illness and severe case fatality. Modern techniques of identification of this virus by PCR and genetic coding techniques seems to be unable to provide an early and exact detachment of the virus. Although Molecular surveillance has improved the management and outcome of the patients yet there is a need for more improvement in our insight about Corona-virus. Because numerous questions are still unanswered, along with its origin, possible ways of transmission and exact treatment. More endeavours are as yet expected to quicken the improvement of a powerful treatment and vaccination. However specific medicines for treatment of such viral infections and specific vaccines for the prevention of acute and other fatal illness caused by the novel coronavirus are not available till date. In spite of doing tremendous efforts in research, extreme awareness, vigilance and surveillance are highly desired to prevent these life threatening virus illnesses. It is high time that there is an urgent need to develop effective diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. Several experimental diagnostic platforms are already in use in China and elsewhere. Several potential treatments have been proposed, however, no antiviral treatment has been approved for coronaviruses, and despite two outbreaks of coronaviruses in the past two decades, vaccine development is still in its infancy. WHO has declared that a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 should be available in 18 months, but achieving this will require funding and public interest to be maintained even if the threat level falls. UN economic commission for Africa's Executive secretary, Vera Songwe, expressed her disappointment at the global response with a reminder that "if one of us has the virus – all of us have it".

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