

# Social Implications of Covid-19 Pandemic: A Brief Analysis

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## Abstract

*The occurrence of Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has become a serious worldwide health hazard. This newly invented virus or respiratory illness has affected 216 countries so far. This pandemic has caused economic, political, psychological, and cultural impacts across countries, especially among middle-class, lower-class, poor migrants who have been suffered a lot due to this pandemic worldwide. All affected countries are now battling against this tragedy and inventing proper medicine to overcome this very solemn health calamity from the world. Thus, this paper aimed to explore the social implications which occurred due to Covid-19 widespread globally. This article is an initial attempt to study and examine numerous social impacts of Covid-19 and generally interpret the ways how people are adjusting their social life during a lockdown scenario everywhere. Without previous literature contribution, this study intends to input knowledge to the existing fields. It found that people associated with the concept of social distance, lockdown, self-isolation or quarantine, sanitation, etc. In this situation, most of the communities in the world are now distorted, and it has been found that social interaction and social network were disrupted, source of income and job were dislocated, cultural practices and religious institutions are dysfunctional, and people lose their lives daily and affected seriously across global. The study will provide basic facts on social implications of Coronavirus prevalence to use as key ideas for future studies.*

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Elders and vulnerable, Lockdown, Migrant workers, Post-crisis trauma, Social stress, Socio-cultural dysfunction

## Introduction

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been identified as a contagious disease initiated by the newly invented coronavirus. This Covid-19 has been well-defined as an infectious disease affected by the novel coronavirus, which presently named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; correctly named 2019-nCoV). The first incidence of this virus was found in the Wuhan city of the Hubei Province in China, and it was informed primarily to the WHO on 31.12.2020. The WHO was declared the Covid-19 endemic as a worldwide health emergency on 30.01.2020 (Cennimo, 2020).

Millions of individuals infected because of Covid-19 disease may experience warm to temperate respiration disorder and mend deprived of any compulsory treatment. The vulnerable people, especially older adults who have medical difficulties like cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, and cancer, are seriously affected due to this infection (World Health Organization: WHO, 2020). The vaccines and proper treatments or medication for Covid-19 are still not invented. However, various clinical attempts and trials are going-on in many countries. The World Health Organization openly discovers that the greatest tactic to avert and slow-down the pandemic is to be well-versed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease, its spread, and how it causes.

Safeguard ourselves from contagion by washing our hands or using an alcohol-based rub regularly and not touching our face. The COVID-19 virus initially expands by the droplets (drips) of spit and or release as of nose when an affected individual sneezes or coughs (WHO, 2020).

Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic became a global health calamity, and it is a big challenge faced by nearly 216 countries in the world. The emergency of this pandemic in Asia was at the end of 2019, but the virus was rapidly feast and extent all regions except Antarctica. However, the cases dramatically increasing daily in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas (United Nations Development Program: UNDP, 2020a). Further, UNDP stated that many countries are battling to control the spread of Coronavirus by taking care of patients, tracing contracts, testing, restraining travel and movements, quarantining the people in isolating places, and canceling the larger gathering, restricting mass celebration of events and festival, etc.

The restaurants, cinemas, schools, colleges, universities were closed down to avoid the larger gathering. Because this pandemic is stirring as a wave and its impacts also severe and wider, especially in the West and third-world countries, therefore, all governments prepared many guidelines on health and hygiene, assign separate commission or committee to look into this health hazard, and imposed a national wide curfew (lockdown) to control this pandemic, based on the instruction given by the World Health Organization. However, this study intends to understand how Covid-19 has caused numerous social, economic, cultural, and psychological impacts on global society.

### Recent discourse on the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic

Recent Analysis	Contributors	Major concerns of previous attempts
Impacts on Women and girls	United Nations Women; 2020	COVID-19 disease impacts on women and girls together on the front line and at home-based, although concurrently revealing structural disparities across each domain, since health to the economy, security to community guard and protection.
Social impacts analysis	UN-DESA; 2020	Communal calamity and crisis formed by the Corona virus wide spread lead to increased discrimination, social exclusion, inequality, world wide joblessness for a long term. World wide societal defense arrangements, when in dwelling, play a much long-lasting part in defending workforces and in decreasing the occurrence of death, since they act as spontaneous stabilizers.
Emerging social impact of Covid-19	Khanwalker; 2020	Because of the nonstop beating of Covid-19 in the previous few months, the community at out sized has been overwhelmed in unparalleled anxiety and fear. The virus may disappear (confidently) later or sooner, nonetheless the effect of the suspicion that has been formed shall emerge enormous over communal connections. Sandeep expounds how community has altered its viewpoint, in the previous 2-3 months, and how community is going to grip community proceedings like get-togethers, marriage functions etc. He examined the purpose is that everybody frightened and as a result do not belief others. Author proposes sociology specialists to discover certain fundamental theory to clarify such social performance and behavior in the periods of a widespread.
Social impact of COVID-19 in Indian context	Pallika Singh; 2020	Social inequalities like lack of security, child abuse, health, gender-based violence and money were fore most difficulties because of Covid-19 widespread. Numerous unintended lockdown postponements in the country caused additional problematic phenomenon for people. Limitation for women lead inclination to abandonment their individual necessities while arranging lifespan and other domestic shores. Problems like mental health, menstrual hygiene and her nourishment do not featured in significant manner. The impacts of this disease is noticeable through various sectors internationally, none the less it resulted on marginalized units, women (young, pregnant and older) and children have been enormous in this juncture, particularly in India.

Social and economic impacts	Nicola, et al; 2020	COVID-19 epidemic has flashed uncertainties of an imminent financial recession and crisis. Travel restrictions, self-isolation, social distancing and have directed to a concentrated labor force across every financial subdivisions. Thus, it caused on varies types of employments to be misdirected or misplaced. Schools were closed-down and necessity manufactured products and commodities has reduced.
Impact on human life	Konanki, & Dasaratharamaiah; 2020	Discussed the outbreak of Covid-19 worldwide in general and the occurrence of the major outbreak in India in particular. This empirical study described the history of various pandemics including Covid-19. The impacts of Covid-19 outbreak has also been descriptively emphasized in the paper using primary data collection tool. However, it revealed that various prevalence like cholera, dengue, influenza were occurred throughout the history of India, and the country unexpectedly agonized due to this Covid-19 pandemic with serious and dangerous human loses and various impacts. This recent study particularly focused on the impacts of corona virus disease in the context of India.
Socio-economic impacts	UNDP; 2020	COVID-19 epidemic is far more than a fitness calamity: it is distressing economies and societies at their basic. Though the impact and effect of the epidemic will differ from nation to nation, it will most probable upsurge disparities and deficiency at an international measure, creating attainment of SDGs even more crucial. Immediate growth replies in this calamity must be carry out with an eye to the upcoming phenomenon. The United Nations has militarized the packed capability of the UN structure over its 131 nation teams which allocating 162 territories and countries, to sustenance nation wide establishments in developing public fitness response and preparedness strategies to the COVID-19 calamity.

The above discourses were given initial insight into the impacts of a prevailing health crisis. However, this study attempts to address the key social implications of the Covid-19 pandemic by covering all social phenomenon.

### Methodology

The world is stressed under this severe pandemic, and people are fighting against this prevalence across countries. Nevertheless, many scholars and scientists are relaying to discover a suitable prescription for this particular virus. Conversely, many scholars have primarily been involved in various studies to determine the causes in the present situation, consequences, and implications of the prevalence in different perspectives. The availability of literature is comparatively low, and few studies have been undertaken by the scholars. Due to this fact, this study has been carried out based on secondary information available in various sources electronically. Mostly, the data updated by the World Health Organization, United National Development Program (UNDP), The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

(UN-DESA), and International Laborer Organization (ILO) were used for this study. Besides, the recently published website article and journal articles were also employed in this study. As a qualitative survey, the social implications of Covid-19 were discussed in an interpretative manner. However, the findings of the study were limited with the support of available secondary sources.

### Result and Discussion

The outbreak of Covid-19 affected all types of human population and created a vulnerable situation among social groups including those who are living under the poverty line, aged population, disabled, youth, and people with severe health disorders, communal collections in the most defenseless situation and tribal communities. UN-DESA reported that the fiscal and health impacts from this virus were abided tremendously by deprived personalities. i.e., the people with homelessness, as they are not capable of settling safely in a place, are more vulnerable to the risk of Covid-19. People without access to safe drinking water, displaced or migrant individuals and

refugees are also stand to struggle badly together since this epidemic and aftereffects, whether because of the restricted effort, lower occupational chances, enlarged xenophobia, etc. (UN-DESA, 2020). If fail to address these issues by creating social policy, this rampant situation may lead to increase poverty, social exclusion, inequality, discrimination, and unemployment crisis globally for a long period.

Therefore, UN Secretary-General underlined the following statement while launching a Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan on 23rd March 2020 “We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable – millions upon millions of individuals those who are tiniest capable of safeguarding themselves. This is a substance of rudimentary human solidarity. It is also vital for battling the virus. This is the instant to step up for the vulnerable” (UN-DESA, 2020).

Now, the entire human society is facing global challenges health problems disparate from any in the 75 years history of the UN. This health issue is killing people, overturning people’s lives, scattering human suffering, and attacking societies at their basic functions. As of 26 October 2020, there have been reported 42,966,344 confirmed cases of Covid-19, including 1,152,604 deaths that occurred in 216 countries globally (WHO, 2020). The highest numbers of coronavirus cases are confirmed in 12 countries, according to the WHO report. Both confirmed cases and the death rate of those countries have been stated in the following table.

**Covid-19 Disease Leading Countries as of Oct 26, 2020**

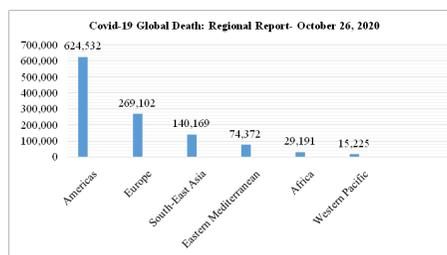
Countries	Confirmed Cases	Death
USA	8,485,747	223,328
India	7,909,959	119,014
Brazil	5,380,635	156,903
Russian Federation	1,531,224	26,269
France	1,107,952	34,473
Argentina	1,081,336	26,613
Spain	1,048,132	34,752
Colombia	1,007,711	30,000
Mexico	886,800	88,743
Peru	886,214	34,095
United Kingdom	873,804	44,896
South Africa	715,868	18,968

Source: WHO Covid-19 Disease Dashboard, as Oct, 2020.

The countries above are facing lots of challenges and struggling to overcome this pandemic. Based on the above information, the USA is still standing as the highest prevalent nation of Covid-19, and other countries are also severely affected due to this disaster. Almost all other countries have also been affected significantly due to this crisis at various levels. So, global society faces not the only infection but also losing human life every moment, which is a huge loss and threat to survival. The death ratio of this pandemic shows a different percentage in different regions globally. The following data display the human demise in the world due to Covid-19.

**Covid-19 Global Death: Regional Report Oct 26, 2020**

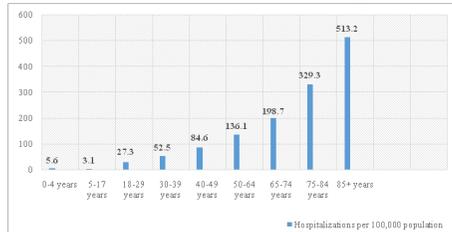
Regions	Covid-19 Death
Americas	624,532
Europe	269,102
South-East Asia	140,169
Eastern Mediterranean	74,372
Africa	29,191
Western Pacific	15,225
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,152,591</b>



Source: WHO Covid-19 Disease Dashboard (Oct 2020)

Within the above six regions, the death rate reported 1,152,591 as of 26th October 2020. However, huge numbers of death occurred among older people all over the countries due to age and low immunity power. According to the following chart, it can be understood that the impacts of Covid-19 have extremely been affected by elders in the United States, where the overall outbreak also remains a very higher ratio.

**Chart: Covid-19 Affect among Elders**



**Source:** Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Sept, 2020

The above chart shows that the Covid-19 pandemic has created higher risk and dangerous health conditions among the elderly population. Accordingly, the people of age 60s and 70s are at higher risk than that of the age group of 50s. Conversely, extreme risk, and severe illness have been found among the aged 80s and older in the context of the United States (CDC, Sept. 11, 2020).

Older individuals are particularly vulnerable and helpless to the threat of Covid-19 infection, especially those with chronic health disorders like diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. They are not only stressed with health risks but also possible to be a lower capability to support themselves in isolation. On the other hand, people with disabilities and incapacities face many challenges in the health care facilities, especially because of the infection of Covid-19 prevalence.

The WHO Regional Director for Europe, highlighted; “We know that above 95% of losses happened among those who are aged more than 60. Over and above 50% of losses were happened among individuals those who reached age 80 and above. We also recognize from reports that 8 out of 10 losses are happening on people with at tiniest one to the fundamental of co-morbidity among the persons living with hypertension, diabetic, and cardiovascular diseases, and also with a variety of further chronic rudimentary circumstances”. (WHO, 2020)

Besides, the Covid-19 debate also perceived the negative stereotype about older people who were viewed as a weak group, unimportant, and a burden for the community. Such age founded discrimination manifested in health service and treatment in many regions, including Europe. Currently, the effects of Coronavirus in everyday lifespan are widespread and have extreme reaching significances.

Moreover, the service sectors are not in a position to provide their services properly to the public. Thus, people face many struggles to consume their essential services that need to be filled with their basic requirements. Cancellation or postponement of larger sports tournaments also marked many impacts on both individuals and the industries. The prevalence of Covid-19 has affected all types of sports and local and international mega-events across the world. As a result of millions of coronavirus confirmed cases globally had surged; thus, the mega sporting events, including Tokyo Olympic 2020, also have been canceled or postponed.

Avoiding national and international traveling has hit very badly on the global economy and social movements. Many governments, including the U.S., India, and Sri Lanka, have executed a temporary travel ban on foreigners entering the country. Hence, the aviation and international travel sectors have been one of the worse hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Disruption of celebration – cultural and religious festival also led to more psychological and social inefficiency among people. The pandemic has impacted on religious practices of people in various ways, such as the cancellation of common worship and faith in the religious places, the closure of Sunday schools and Friday sermons, and also cancellation of pilgrimages, immediate festivals, and observances.

Many temples, mosques, and churches were temporarily closed. Almost all major religions in the world are restricted to larger gatherings, common worship, and physical contact to break the transmission of Covid-19. The festivals and major gatherings like Easter of Christians, Rama Navami of Hindus, Vaisakhi of Sikh, Vesaka of Buddhist, and the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan’s festival (Eid-ul Fitr) have been canceled in the year 2020. During Ramadan, mosque presences typically peak, along with individuals crowded against one another, but not in the present. Friday prayers (special sermon ‘Jummáh) have already been postponed throughout the Middle East due to the widespread coronavirus (The Guardian, 2020). This time, everyone stays home for fasting, prayer, and all supplications to almighty god. Most of the mosques, temples, synagogues, and churches have presented worship through live streams during the epidemic.

Due to this outbreak, the following impacts have been experienced by the people across the globe;

- Excessive stress and depression among the public.
- Social isolation (social or physical distance) distancing with friends, relatives, and peers in social settings, including working places.
- Closer to hotels, restaurants, and other entertaining places like bars, parks, movies, theatres, sports clubs, gymnasium, swimming pool, etc.
- Postponement of examination and courses, and online education challenge for poor students and or rural communities.
- Many communities are now distorted from basic functions and movements.
- Mega cities and huge commercial towers in the world are empty as most of the people are staying at their home either by anxiety, fear and or their choice or by the guidelines and preventive measures issues by their government and health institutions.
- People lose their income, lives, and jobs every day without knowing when normalcy will return; the ILO estimates that due to this Covid-19 crisis, 195 million people could be lost their jobs. (Haleem, A. et.al., 2020 & UNDP, 2020).
- Some service sectors in the countries are unable to offer their appropriate services for the people.
- Restriction on both national and international travel and cancellation of facilities and amenities.

Furthermore, people cannot do their usual job or occupation due to this endemic, and the present economy and unemployment situation become worse and fall-off everywhere in the world. The lower-income families become almost deprived; they are starving with very less or no money in their hands. A larger number of people losing their livelihood, and they required immediate need such as food, money, etc. in this critical situation, call for everyone to act socially more responsible and to work for assisting needy people who affected due to this Covid-19 outbreak (Sakal Times, 2020).

Also, the prevalence has impacted all stages of the educational systems from pre-school to tertiary education in the world, leading to extensive closure

of schools, colleges, and universities. According to a UNESCO report, schools and universities were closed due to the extreme spread of Covid-19; it almost happened in different levels among 165 countries. It hits over 1.5 billion students globally, stating for 87% of registered pupils. Meantime, UNICEF stated on 18 May 2020, roughly 1.725 billion learners are presently affected because of the closure of schools in response to the epidemic (UNESCO Report, 2020).

Malala Fund released the report related to girls' education during Covid-19, which is almost 90% of the nations all around the biosphere have shut the schools to mitigate the level of a pandemic of a virus. Further, the report reveals that the infection is directly affected the girls in society, those who are marginalized. The report predicted above ten million secondary school girls might be out of school after this pandemic has passed (Malala Report, 2020).

During the lockdowns amid of Covid-19 pandemic, domestic violence has been increased, especially in the places which are uneducated and occupied with patriarchal families. Stress, financial insecurity, and uncertainty have automatically lead to the rise of violence at home, which leads to the abuse of women in domestic. It was reported by many countries that domestic violence, as well as intimate partner violence, has been increased due to the continuous lockdown amidst the Covid-19 epidemic. Economic insecurity and depression unexpectedly have led to increasing psychological problems, including aggression in the domestic spheres, and abusers also able to control the daily life of many victims. Even though financial support is provided by the government and NGOs to the needy women, they face various forms of violence at home as they were restricted on mobility, and women often stay at their home. They are unable to find safety from their friends and extended families (Godbole, 2020).

The Covid-19 initiated an unparalleled challenge or healthcare schemes at an international level. Specifically, the danger for healthcare workforces can be one of the utmost vulnerabilities of healthcare structures globally. For instance, high healthcare budgets, shortage of defensive equipment comprising facemasks, and low medical capability and ICU beds.

Food delivery and vending have been laid under stress due to people's often fear of buying and storing their essential food. The distress or attitude of the people pushed to increase the anxieties about the shortages of food products, for instance, tinned vegetables, pasta, long-life milk, and rice. This higher mandate on essential food production also affects food delivery. Organizations and business groups are also struggle with ordering and delivering services of food during an emergency.

Singh(2020)statedthatSocialstressalsoinstigated by continuous lockdown, which has numerous aspects and explanations which subsequently from travel limitations and disruption of cultural parties and festivities, inadequate healthcare services and disruption in systematic immunizations in healthcare institutions leading to fear, stress, anxiety amongst the people, social isolation with friends, peers and family members, closing residences of leisure & entertainment, unintentional termination of all schools and colleges troubling both parents and students concerning education periods (semester & academic year) & impairment regular & excellence education (Singh, 2020; cited in. Riswan, 2020).

Another important social impact has been stressed by Singh regarding migrants. The problems related to migratory workforces is one of the crucial and highlighted concern during this epidemic. Millions of migrant workers were condensed jobless and lived deprived of shelter, food, and money. They faced lots of issues to return to their villages, and some of them meeting accidents and deaths in their ways (Singh, 2020; cited in. Riswan, 2020).

The virus has been lead to anxiety for an impending spike in suicides, which is drive by social isolation because of the quarantine and social distancing strategies, unemployment, financial factors, fear, and other burdens in the society (Riswan, 2020). Covid-19 crisis effects on the psychological condition of many people in common might be intensified by distress, physical distancing, & self-isolation. The risk of suicide may be increased due to the stigma toward every individual, those with relatives and families who have been affected by Covid-19. Those who have psychological disorders may experience falling signs and symptoms. It may be improved mental health illness, post-traumatic anxiety - these all

linked with a higher suicidal threat (Yao, et al., 2020; David, 2020 & Noel, 2020). Pandemic might badly affect other identified precipitants of suicide. For instance, alcohol consumption & domestic violence may upsurge throughout lockdown, loneliness, social isolation, & entrapment contribute to the risk of suicide, and likely to upsurge throughout the epidemic predominantly for the bereaved persons (David, 2020). Social support should be provided for those alone, aged & ill, and encourage them during this difficult situation.

## **Conclusion**

The Covid-19 outbreak was associated with huge social and economic challenges for all affected countries globally. The normal functions of the nations have struggled or shutdown in more than 215 countries - the coronavirus created a known and unknown crisis associated with people who are more vulnerable to affect it. Most of the problems are global, but their implications are extremely local. But, countries cannot pull this off on their own because the global crisis requires global solidarity and coordination to rebuild all nations from this disaster. Covid-19 is a community spreading disease that severely affected the social, economic, psychological condition of the global society. The social movements including travel, migration, attending a cultural or religious event, participating in sports and entertainment activities, attending school or universities have been restricted or regulated by all governments to break the chain and social contact for controlling the prevalence of this coronavirus. As a precautionary measure, the lock down, social distancing, and other health guidelines were also executed worldwide with the advice of WHO. But the global society is facing numerous challenges at various levels to fight against this virus and save their life from this pandemic. The global partnership should be ensured, and proper guidelines or policies should be adhered to globally to mitigate this implication due to Coronavirus.

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