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## Nexus between COVID-19 pandemic and right to life: A sociological study

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### Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic outbreak has engulfed the world with serious repercussions of violation of human rights, serious public health concerns and economic drain. Many nations have taken the measures to curb the spread of covid-19 outbreak but more efforts are needed in collaboration with other nations to properly deal with covid-19 pandemic. The human rights violation and social are the areas of serious concern which need to be addressed in a proper manner for a conducive atmosphere to fight against the covid-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, pandemic, human rights, social disruption, outbreak

### Introduction

COVID-19 outbreak in China's Wuhan province has been declared as pandemic. The pandemic throughout the world including India have surfaced with serious challenges for the protection of human health and to safeguard the human rights of the people globally. The societal setup has also crumbled under the pandemic influence. The measures of restricting border access, ban or internal movement and restraint on behaviour of individual in public domains (i.e. social distancing), confinement within four walls have posed a serious threat on the person's social behaviour. Therefore, it is imperative to protect the human rights, address health concerns of public and find alternative ways to fight the pandemic which is also our moral obligation.

Covid-19 has been labelled as respiratory disease by World Health Organisation. The common symptoms associated with the covid-19 patient are fever, cough, fatigue or shortness of breath. Moreover, the covid-19 outbreak is associated with health issues like stress, anxiety, depression, insomnia, anger and fear globally.

### Scenario of discrimination and mark of stigma

Covid-19 pandemic has lead to stigma and discrimination towards some castes, communities, regional groups or those who got affected with the viral infection of SARS Covid-19. The patients often feel the challenge of stigma and discrimination, particularly the people belonging to Asian continent, because it is often termed as the Chinese virus. Front line workers and other medical staff have also been stigmatised and discriminated through various ways. The label of stigma and discrimination always has a negative impact on the wide range of socio-psychological behaviour. The communities and regions containing Covid-19 affected people are often being locked down and separated from the unaffected population in areas called Red zones. Red zones often face the discrimination of being separated from a give set of unaffected people. Hence human rights protection will certainly help in addressing the health concerns by adequate measures like availability of sufficient information and the discriminatory practices must be stopped.

### The case of gender inequality and other violence

Covid-19 pandemic impacted every field of life. The effects of Covid-19 on women are recorded more than men. The role of women can never be neglected in any crisis and so in this pandemic woman have a bigger role to play both in their homes as well as in the health care institutions. Their role in covid-19 crisis while caring for covid-19 patients is pivotal and detrimental.

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Moreover, the access and availability of health care facilities to women like sexual and reproductive health services are likely to be affected by the overall restrictions on movement and the economic challenges faced by them. Such situations faced by people and decisions made by the administrative authorities, in order to implement the SOPs somehow manage to creep in the violation of human rights. It is important to mention here that the precaution of "staying at home" has increased the risks of domestic violence. As domestic violence can be against both men and women but the abject misery is the case of domestic violence against women which is a sheer violation of human rights.

### **The case of old and vulnerable people**

Although this pandemic has hit almost all age groups equally but people of higher age groups and with different ailments are at a greater risk of getting infected with the deadly virus. This virus is likely to affect people more with disabilities, the homeless, migrants, refugees etc. because of the lack of awareness, unavailability of primary healthcare services and economic stability. This section of population is often stigmatized and discriminated on various basis. In order to address the human rights issue of such section of population, providing awareness, making health support accessible and providing financial help is imperative for the protection of their human rights.

### **The imposition of restrictions and quarantine principles**

World Health organisation (WHO) emphasized the need of implementation of restrictions in accordance with the guidelines of international health regulations (2005). The government needs to ensure the protection of dignity, human rights and fundamental rights of people. The imposed restrictions must be in rationale with-to protect public health and should be abided by rule of law and must not be discriminatory.

### **The case of medical equipments and supplies**

Covid-19 pandemic has hit the world with serious economic recession. Many countries amidst the covid-19 pandemic are facing the challenge of supplies, goods and various medical equipments needed in wake of the pandemic. The states are in dilemma on how to distribute a smaller number of medical resources and equipments to the needy population. The short supply of medical equipments and other important health related resources pose a greater challenge to the countries with large population affected with Covid-19 like India. In order to ensure smooth dealing with covid-19 pandemic and to save the health care system from crumbling the protection of medical professionals and other frontline staff is of utmost importance.

### **Conclusion**

The states need to take measures to stop domestic violence against women especially when women comprise 69% of public health work force. The need of the hour is to provide socio-psychological, emotional and financial support to the people who are fighting against the disease. The nations need to ensure access and availability to other support services to the most vulnerable section of population. Ensure proper supply of medical equipments and the distribution of the same to all in need in a comprehensive manner. A universal consensus should be developed in order to focus on the mental health of the patients. Moreover,

accurate information and adequate supplies of food, clothes and other supportive devices need to be provided.

### **Conflict of interest**

The author has no conflict of interest.

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