



IMPACT OF COVID - 19 PANDEMIC ON INDUSTRIAL WOMEN WORKERS IN INFORMAL SECTOR IN KARNATAKA: AN OVERVIEW

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Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra12971>

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INTRODUCTION

Since its outbreak, the virus has been affecting people physically, financially and emotionally as well. While the physical and financial impacts find a voice by many, the emotional side somewhere remains less expressed but no doubt it is of great relevance and needs to be analyzed. Due to a sudden change in the entire world as a result of the pandemic, the social lives of people were disrupted and many families at risk by impacting their food supply, livelihoods and household income and their ability to access critical services for health and nutrition, early childhood care, education and social protection globally and in India. The pandemic is a complex crisis that affects all aspects of life, both immediate and long-term. The United Nations (UN) in India is concerned about the impact of the crisis on vulnerable populations, especially women and children. The interventions, both at the national and state level, provide a strong basis to strengthen access to food, health and nutrition services during these times. Likewise, changes have been brought about in the TPDS scheme which include provision of 5 kg of rice or wheat, per person, per month for 3 months, 1 kg of pulses per household, per month and at home delivery of food rations to vulnerable populations – all free of cost.

Under India's strict COVID-19 lockdown, household water needs have swelled, owing to high summer temperatures, all family members being at home, and the emphasis on frequent hand-washing. The result: Women are spending more time queuing up. Some are also turning to an underground water market, which operates under the cloak of darkness women step out in the wee hours of the morning to buy water, they often face sexual and verbal harassment. Further, already 27% of young women in India are married, of which 8% experience their first pregnancy before turning 18. It is likely that their numbers increase significantly after the pandemic, continuing the cycle of malnutrition. With no education about their sexual and reproductive rights, these girls may continue to be in poor health, thereby limiting their participation in the formal labour market – which provides them with a chance to be financially independent and eventually alleviate their families out of poverty. The poor are not just facing the loss of livelihoods, but also huge price rises. As mentioned in this column earlier, the panchayat system should be mobilized to activate local food supply chains and introduce mobile vegetable and fruit supplies. Local food banks can be set up with an emphasis on locally available products. Just providing basic food to stave off hunger is not enough for children and women. The post-Covid-19 world will bring with it the monumental task of rebuilding our social security schemes.

Although globally informal employment is a greater source of employment for men (63 per cent) than for women (58 per cent), in low and lower-middle income countries a higher proportion of women are in informal employment than men. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, around 92 per cent of employed women are in informal employment compared to 86 per cent of men. It is likely that the pandemic could result in a prolonged dip in women's incomes and labour force participation. The ILO estimates global unemployment to rise between 5.3 million ("low" scenario) and 24.7 million ("high" scenario) from a base level of 188 million in 2019 as a result of COVID-19's impact on global GDP growth. By comparison, global unemployment went up by 22 million during the 2008-9 global financial crises. Women informal workers, migrants, youth and the world's poorest, among other vulnerable groups, are more susceptible to lay-offs and job cuts. For example, UN Women survey results from Asia and the Pacific are showing that women are losing their livelihoods faster than men and have fewer alternatives to generate income. And, in the U.S., men's unemployment went up from 3.55 million in February to 11 million in



April in 2020 while women’s unemployment – which was lower than men’s before the crisis – went up from 2.7 million to 11.5 million over the same period.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Here, the earlier studies reviewed have been presented as follows.

Talha Burki (2020) analyzed that lockdown measures and school closures affect girls and women differently across the world and may have long-term negative consequences. The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic. Shohini Roy (2020) also point out that covid-19 pandemic has highly negative effect on households. Monika Chaudhary et al (2020) examined about negative impact of covid-19 on women economic status and he also highlighted that comparing to men, women’s are faced severe economic problems due to high dependency on family.

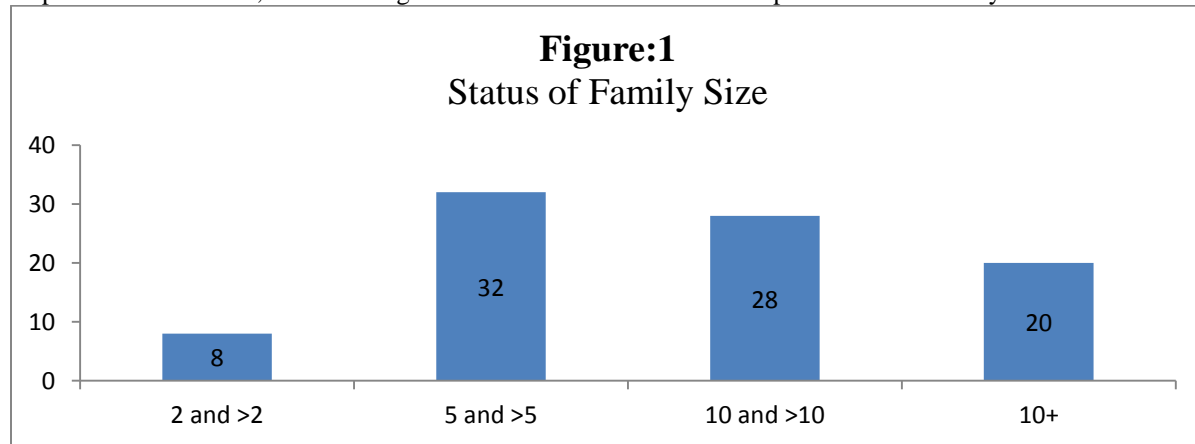
OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

For the purpose of the present study have been set the following main objectives;

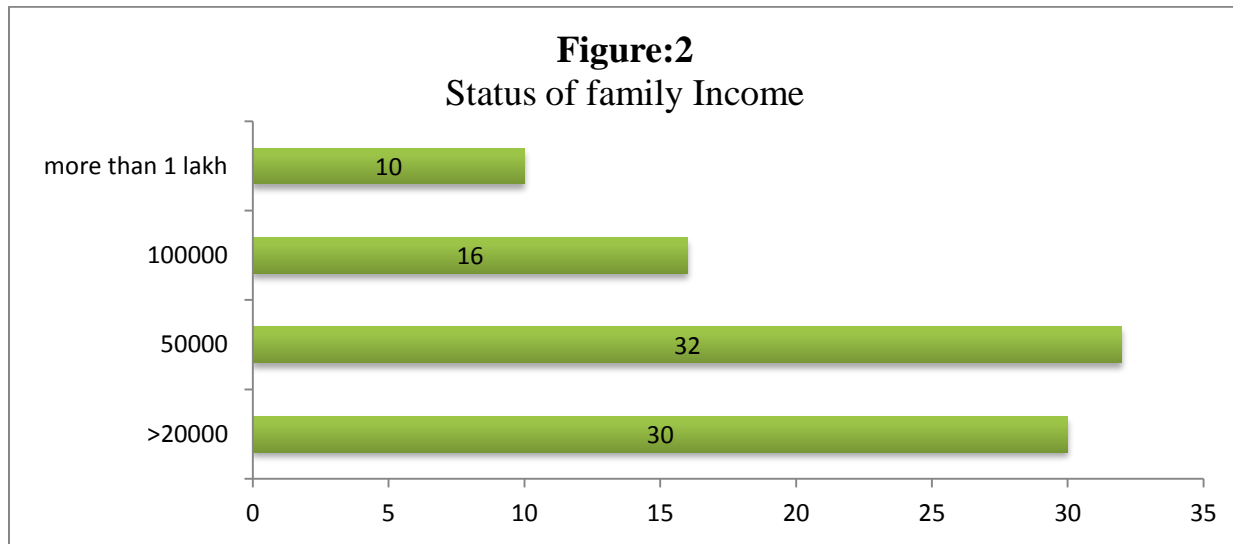
1. To analyze the economical burden of covid-19 on women in the study area
2. To examine Socio-economic conditions of women in the study area

DISCUSSION

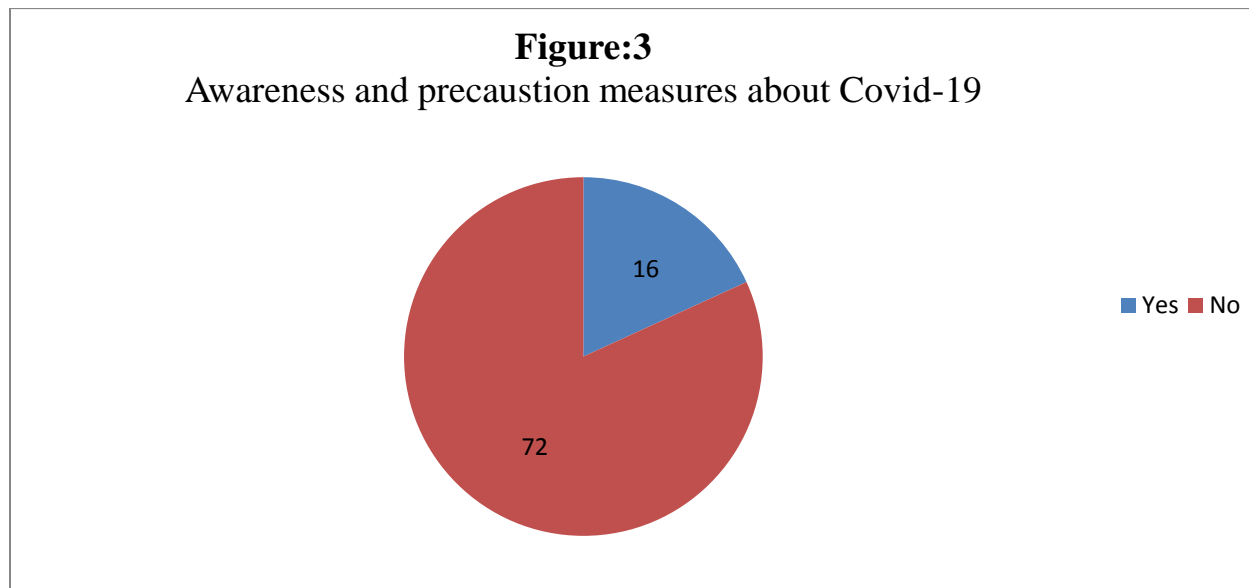
The concentrations of economic impact of covid-19 on women were analyzed in the following figure. Before to analyze about the economic impact, there is a need to know briefly about socio-economic status of the respondents. Therefore, the below figure shows that a brief status of respondents in the study area.



The above Figure-1 shows that only 90.9% of respondents are staying in joint family like only more than 3 members in their house and 11.36 people are belongs to 18-24 year of age. Therefore, in the study area majority of the respondents having awareness about corona and precaution measures and 94% of respondents belong to Hindu in savnour & shigov taluk. Even though the study highlighted that more than 68% of respondents are below poverty line and there are staying in kucch house.



The above figure-2 shows 90.9% of respondents are educated in both the taluk and only 34.09% of respondents have less than 20,000 Rs income, 11.36% are less than 50,000 and remaining are having more than 50,000 Rs per annually. And only 17.04% of respondents are holding more than 5 acres agricultural land. Further, the majority of the respondents are opinioned that the number of dependency in the family is very high and it will cause to face poverty, food, nutrition, and unemployment, socio-economic and psychological problems in the study area.



The figure-3 shows 81.8% of respondents don't have proper awareness about covid-19 symptoms and precautions measure in the study area. 88.63% of respondents are using regularly mask, sanitizer and they are strictly following time to time government rules, regulations and social distance. Even though 11.36% of respondents are not using mask, sanitizer and they are fail to follow social distance. The more important in the study area, 21.59% of respondents don't have proper self health care and they are not visiting hospitals and not taking proper treatment due to lack of awareness and financial problems respectively.

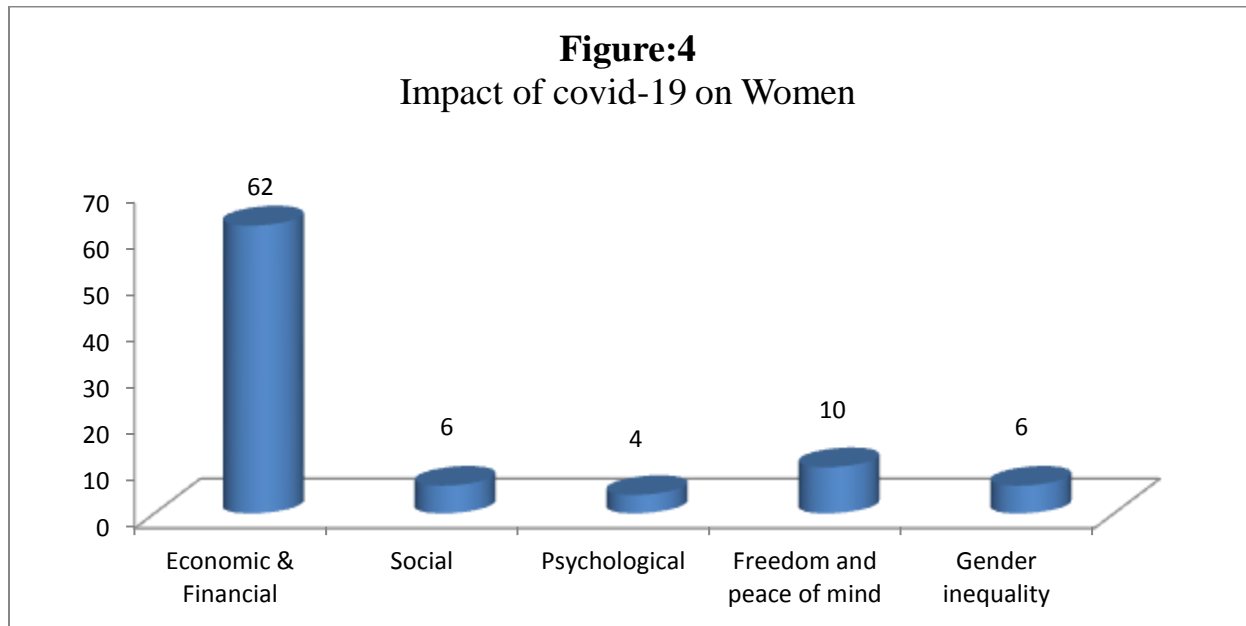
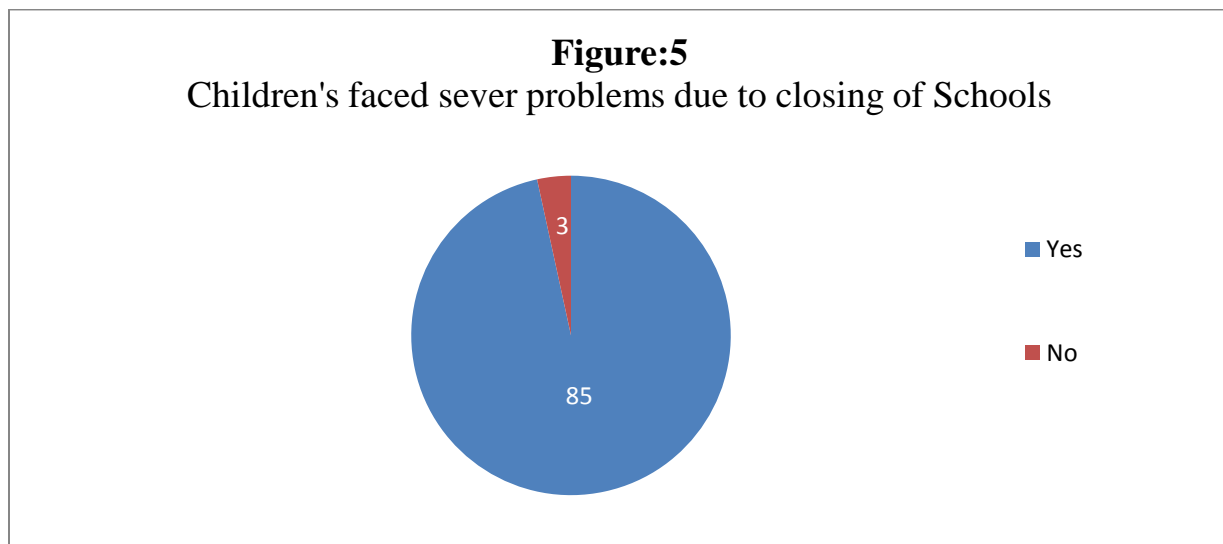


Figure-4 shows that 70.45 % of respondents are highly suffering from financial problems due to impact of corona and lost job and remaining respondents are suffering problems like social problems (6.8%), psychological problems (4.5%), freedom and peace of mind (11.34%) and 6.81 % of respondents are highly opinioned that gender inequality due to the pandemic. Further, 63.6 % of respondents are lost their jobs, 27.2 % of respondents opinioned that due to socio-economic problem of covid-19 majority of the children's drop out their higher education, 47.72 % of respondents are not able to pay fees of their children's education. In the study area, 18.1% of respondents agreed that dependency of family members are more. Further, 81.8% of respondents are strongly opinioned that their family food consumption has changed due lack of financial source, 94.3% said that unpaid work load of women has increased and more important is during the pandemic the majority of the respondents fail to purchase food items, vegetables and there are facing food insecurity and nutrition problems in the study area.



96.6% of children are facing educational problems during the pandemic and 84.09% of respondents are using sanitizers to their children's. Due to closing of schools and colleges children's are stayed at home only.



Further, the respondents are facing psychological problems like a stress (88.6%), depression (11.3%) and 40.9% are not getting proper drinking water and 15.9% sanitation facility problems. Moreover, 22.7% of respondents are failed to provide online device like smart phone and internet facilities due to poverty, job lost and financial problems.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Based on the above discussion the major findings of the study following below;

- 1) The major finding of the study is 82% of respondents don't have precaution awareness during the crisis and 78% of respondents faced several problems like food, health, finance, job and so on.
- 2) 11.36 % of respondents are not using proper mask and sanitizers in the study area.
- 3) 63.6% of respondents are lost their jobs and they don't have hope to get back job again due to lack of job opportunity in the study area.
- 4) 27.2% of respondents are highly depending on their family and it cause to discrimination in the family.
- 5) 88.6 % of respondents are suffering from psychological problems like stress, depression, sad, cry, angry and etc.
- 6) Comparing to shigov taluk respondents, savnour taluk respondents were faced severe economic impact of pandemic.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings following suggestions are point out below

1. Government should be implicate proper precaution measures of covid-19 .
2. Government should implicate welfare policy towards reducing economical burden due to pandemic.
3. Government should also control necessary food & vegetables price.
4. Government should take proper actions to increase job opportunity.

CONCLUSION

The corona virus spread rapidly throughout the world. The pandemic created severe economic impact in different sectors of the economy negatively affected especially on women empowerment. This paper will help readers understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has created a widespread economic slowdown and has affected in the study area. Based on the primary data investigation finally we can conclude that covid-19 pandemic destroyed overall economic activities and development process, which means everyone faced a sever socio-economic and psychological problems and also it made poor peoples to become a poor condition with destroyed standard of living of the poor and weak section of the society.

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