



THE IMPACT OF COVID19 ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

This research paper talks about how covid19 affected rural communities in India and how they recovered from it. As the rural healthcare in India was not prepared for containing the covid19 transmissions, especially in densely populated northern regions of India due to lack of doctors, hospital beds, and equipment. The impacts of this pandemic, and especially the lockdown strategy, are multi-dimensional. The authors argue for the need to take immediate steps to control the spread and its aftereffects and to use this opportunity to strengthen and improve its primary health care system in rural India.

KEY WORDS: Covid19, Rural Communities, Health Care

INTRODUCTION

The current global pandemic of COVID-19 necessitates a public health strategy with more emphasis on epidemiology, especially with regards to understanding the causes as well as identifying appropriate population-based behavioral and educational programs. It is important to realize that the pandemic of COVID-19 has initially happened in well-developed countries that have achieved the so-called health transition. However, the virus does not differentiate between rich-poor or rural-urban dichotomies. It is particularly a threat to a country like India, where 65–68% of the population live in rural areas that also have the highest overall burden of disease globally.

The Indian rural health care system is a three-tier system comprising Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHC), and Community Health Centres (CHC). There is currently a shortfall in health facilities: 18% at the Sub-Centre level, 22% at the PHC level and 30% at the CHC level (as of March 2018). Although the number of facilities has increased over the years, the workforce availability is substantially below the recommended levels as suggested by the World Health Organization. Rural India has 3.2 government hospital beds per 10,000 people. Many states have a significantly lower number of rural beds than the national average. The state of Uttar Pradesh has 2.5 beds per 10,000 people in rural areas, whilst Rajasthan and Jharkhand have 2.4 and 2.3, respectively. Maharashtra, which has seen the largest number of COVID-19 cases, has 2.0 beds per 10,000 population and Bihar has 0.6 beds per 10,000. Overall, there is a shortage of specialists working at the CHC level (81.9%). This includes a shortage of surgeons (84.6%), obstetricians & gynecologists (74.7%), physicians (85.7%) and pediatricians (82.6%)

Some of the dimensions we'll be covering are:

- Education
- Credit support
- Fishery
- Employment
- Handicraft
- Health infrastructure
- Industry
- Food Supply
- Animal Husbandry



OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to analyze the impact of covid19 on the rural communities of india

- How the Indian rural sector witnessed the different changes like education, agriculture, employment etc.
- How the positive impact of covid19 affected the rural communities
- How to reduce the negative impact of covid19 on the rural communities for a better living

METHODOLOGY

Data and information presented in the study are collected from various reports and articles published by national and international agencies on impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Information is also collected from various authentic websites. Some journals are also referred relating to impact of COVID-19 on educational system are referred.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

All systems have strengths and weaknesses. Maximizing strengths and minimizing weaknesses in order not to miss the opportunity to move forward should be the goal. The main purpose of the study is to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the rural communities of India. It covers the impact of COVID-19 on rural and urban sector. These sectors are mentioned above.

IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION SECTOR OF RURAL SECTOR

Before the covid19 lockdown no one expected the change from no gadgets in schools to being completely dependent on gadgets for your education, but the online education was easier for the children in the urban areas but difficult for children in the rural areas. Same goes for the teachers as they were having difficulties communicating with children, designing effective lessons.

According to the key indicators of Household Social Consumption on Education in India report, based on the 2017-18 NSSO, fewer than 15% of rural Indian households have internet access (as opposed to 42% urban Indian households)

Sr No	State	Rural		Urban	
		Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)	Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.5	10.4	11.6	29.5
2	Assam	3.7	12.1	30.8	46.9
3	Bihar	2.7	12.5	20.0	38.6
4	Chhattisgarh	3.2	10.6	22.0	34.6
5	Delhi	NA	NA	34.7	55.8
6	Gujarat	4.4	21.1	20.1	49.1
7	Haryana	5.9	37.1	29.5	55.5
8	Himachal Pradesh	10.5	48.6	28.3	70.6
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3.5	28.7	16.0	57.7
10	Jharkhand	1.3	11.9	15.6	40.2
11	Karnataka	2.0	8.3	22.9	33.5
12	Kerala	20.1	46.9	27.5	56.4
13	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	9.7	17.2	35.4
14	Maharashtra	3.3	18.5	27.4	52.0
15	Odisha	1.8	5.8	17.2	31.2
16	Punjab	9.4	39.4	26.7	57.1
17	Rajasthan	6.4	18.5	26.6	49.9
18	Tamilnadu	11.6	14.4	24.7	24.8
19	Telangana	1.6	9.9	17.6	41.9
20	Uttarakhand	7.0	35.2	32.5	64.3
21	Uttar Pradesh	4.0	11.6	22.3	41.0
22	West Bengal	3.3	7.9	23.0	36.0



Availability of electricity was one of the main challenges faced by the rural families. In the studies of 2017-18, the Ministry of Rural Development found that only 47% of Indian households receive more than 12 hours of electricity and more than 36% of schools in India operate without electricity. This suggests that while students from families with better means of living can easily bridge the transition to remote learning, students from underprivileged backgrounds are likely to accede to inefficiency and a lack of adaptation, either because of the inaccessibility of the technology or the low education of their parents to guide them through tech-savvy applications. Non-availability of technical infrastructure and irregular interrupted internet connectivity all across India is the biggest challenge in front of the students and teacher

IMPACT ON TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

- Students were often lacked the basic facilities ad external distractions; family interruption were the major issues noticed
- Educational institution support barriers such as the budget for purchasing advanced technologies, a lack of training, a lack of technical support and a lack of clarity and direction were also noticed.
- Teachers also faced technical difficulties. The difficulties were grouped under a lack of technical support; it included a lack of technical infrastructure, limited awareness of online teaching platforms and security concerns.
- Teachers' personal problems including a lack of technical knowledge, course integration with technology are damper their engagement in online teaching.

IMPACT OF COVID19 ON THE CREDIT SUPPORT

The economy of india is a very bank dominated economy, particularly when the economy is at its very low with the stock market and the financial intermediaries that most firms would turn to are the banks.

However, the banking sector in India is badly broken. Banks, especially the public sector banks, have been struggling to deal with mounting losses from non-performing assets on their balance sheets. The problems in the banking sector have been adversely affecting credit growth and by the time the pandemic hit India, these problems had begun to hurt the debt markets as well which also play an important role in the context of financial intermediation. This could rapidly become a serious choke point as the Indian economy struggles to come to terms with this unprecedented shock.

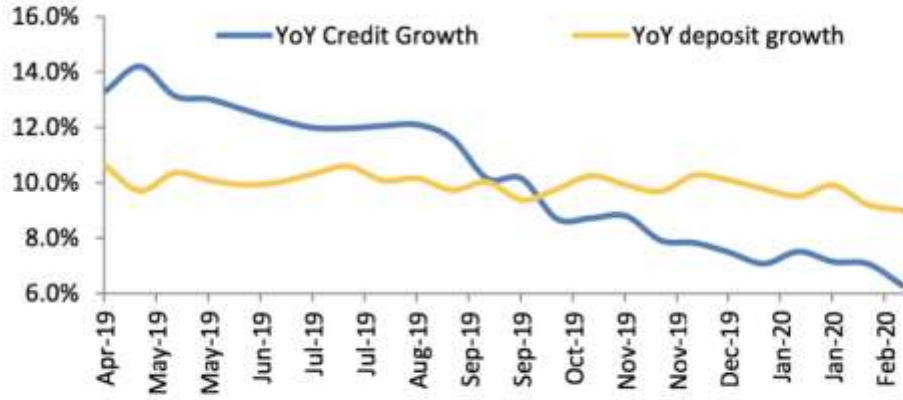
Over the last few years, India has been dealing with the Twin Balance Sheet (TBS) stresses in the banking and corporate sectors. This was a consequence of high levels of non-performing assets (NPAs) in an inadequately capitalised banking system, combined with over-leveraged and financially weak firms in the private corporate sector

The government and the banking regulator (RBI) took a series of steps to address the crisis. These included putting the weakest ten banks under a Prompt Corrective Action framework which prevented them from expanding their books, initiating investigations by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) etc. against senior officials of the banks, and directing banks to trigger the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC, 2016) against defaulting firms and accept large haircuts even when capital to provide for the losses was not sufficient.

One direct consequence of the heightened risk aversion in the banking system has been the lack of growth in commercial credit supply. Banks, especially the public sector banks (PSBs) which account for close to 90% of the NPAs, severely cut back lending to the private corporate sector. By FY2017, net bank credit was growing at a decade's low of 2.69% per year. By FY2018, PSBs were lending mostly to NBFCs, and private sector banks were mainly lending to retail customers. Credit to industry had declined dramatically whereas credit off-take in personal loans segment accounted for the largest share.

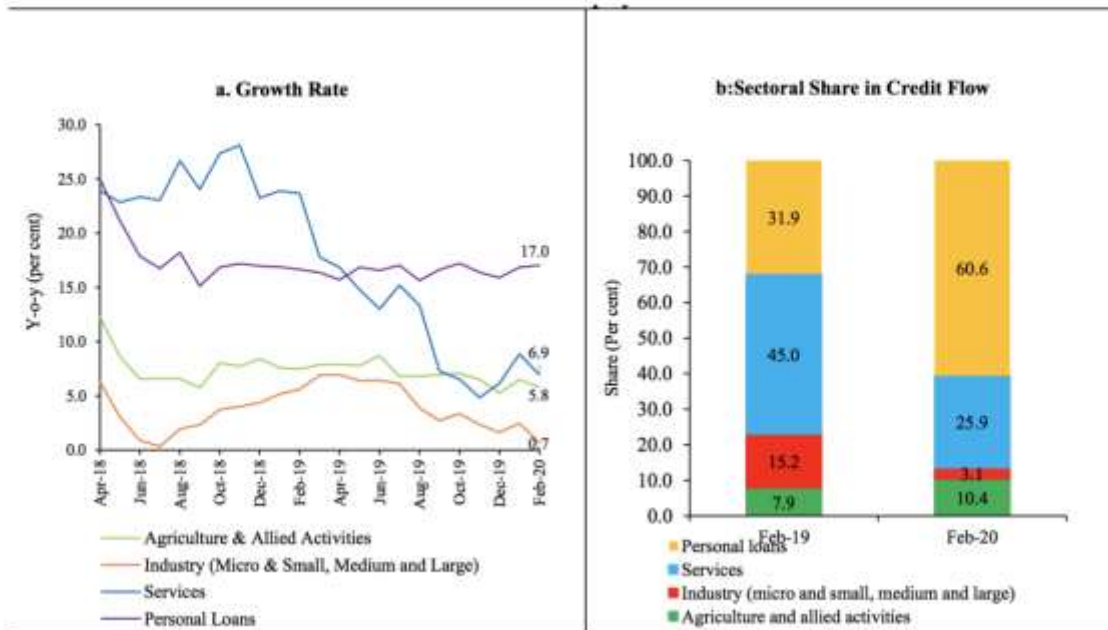


Figure 5: YoY Credit and deposit growth of the banking sector



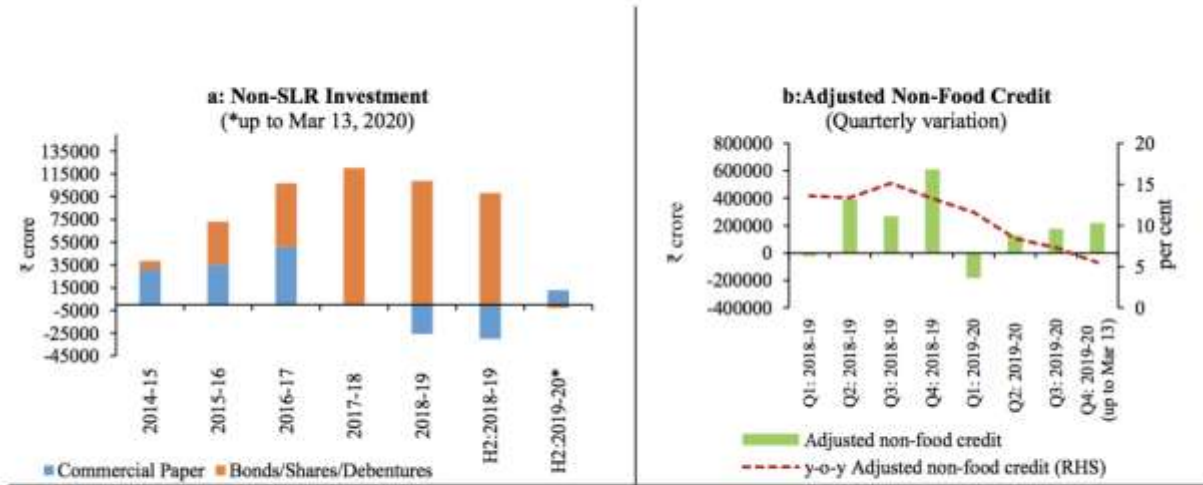
Source: ICRA report. This shows total non-food credit growth.

Figure 6: Sectoral deployment of credit

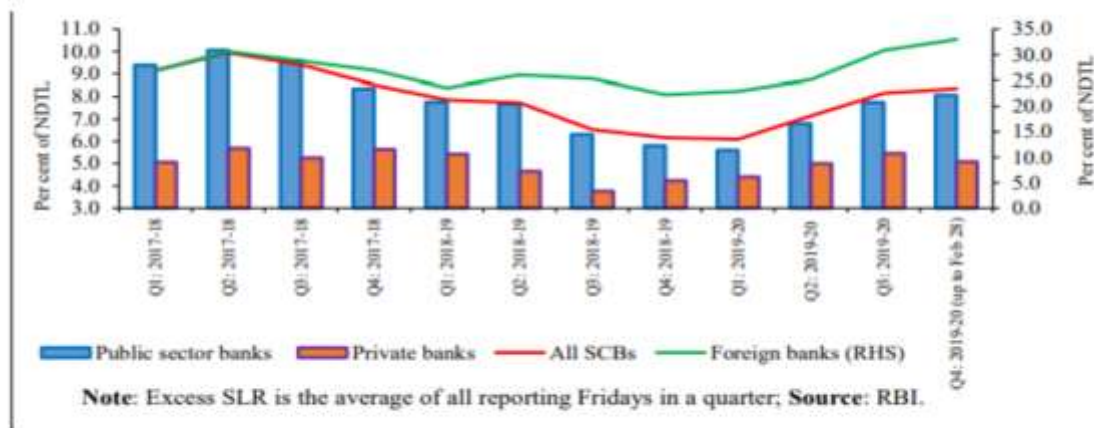


Source: RBI (2020)

While part of the fall in commercial credit growth may have been due to lack of demand given the balance sheet crisis in the private corporate sector, anecdotal evidence suggests that reluctance in banks to extend credit has also been a big factor. The consequences of heightened risk aversion in the banking system have begun hurting the debt markets. In a situation where bank credit growth has been at a multi-decade low, debt market especially the short term debt market plays a vital role in financing firms Banks are instead holding more GSecs than the SLR requirements and the excess SLR of all banks – PSBs, private, and foreign has gone up sharply which means the credit risk aversion is across the board.



Source: RBI (2020)



Source: RBI (2020)

Just as the debt market was beginning to regain its appetite for corporate debt securities in the aftermath of the NBFC crisis of 2018-19, it was hit by the Yes Bank episode. As part of the restructuring of Yes Bank, its additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds were written down completely. These AT1 bonds are an important component of capital for banks. Roughly Rs 89,000 crore worth of bonds were outstanding in the banking system as a whole, at the time of this write down. These were widely held by mutual funds, pension funds and even retail investors.

The private corporate sector had already been facing significant balance sheet stress over the last few years. Their financial performance in 2019-20 was exceptionally poor. The first three quarters of the year saw inflation-adjusted sales decline in year-on-year comparisons. All the quarters also saw a similar decline in inflation-adjusted gross value added by companies. Private sector investment has been declining. Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) growth turned negative in Q2 and Q3, 2019-20. Two key indicators of investment demand, production and imports of capital goods remained in contraction in January and February 2020 (RBI, 2020). Capacity utilisation in the manufacturing sector declined below the long-term average in Q3, 2019-20.



IMPACT OF COVID19 ON FISHERIES SECTOR OF INDIA

State of the Fisheries Sector Pre Covid19 Period

In 2018-19 India's fish production was 13.34 million metric tonnes which was about 6percent greater than the previous year (Seafood Source, 2020). As per seafood export is concern, it is the fourth biggest exporter in the world (Seafood Source). In 2018 India exported 13,77,244 tonnes seafood which etched \$ 7.08 billion (The Economic Times, 2018). In 2017-18 Andhra Pradesh was the leading fish producing state in the country, followed by West Bengal and Gujarat by producing 34.5, 17.42 and 8.35 lakh tonnes fish respectively (GoI, 2019). In inland production, Andhra Pradesh stood first followed by West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Gujarat was the first state in marine production in the country (GoI, 2019). Some major landed marine fish were hilsa, Indian oil sardine, sea catfish, lizard fish, seer fish, barracudas, silver bellies, anchovies, clupeids, mackerels, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, crust crab, penaeid and non-penaeid prawn. In inland fish production, Indian major carps were the most cultured species followed by exotic carps, catfishes, minor carps and murels.

State of Fisheries Sector Post Covid19 Period

India being an agriculture backbone country with 85percent small and marginal farmers, in which maximum are landless farm labours, welfare measures must be taken by both state and central government to protect them from COVID shock.

Due to an effective shutdown industrial fish-food service demand has evaporated due to closure of restaurants and lack of transportation facilities resulted in a lull for not only domestic buyers and but also the processing industry. As this pandemic has hit more than 170 countries till now and many of them have cancelled orders thus resulting in uncertainty of the export market. Traders have anticipated a drop in price by 20-40 per cent.

As fish is a perishable item, there is high demand for packaged and frozen products due to panic buyers but the processing and canning industry will not be able to cater to this demand due to non-availability of man power. The high-end fresh products which are transported by air are also directly affected due to cancellation of flights, thus directly affecting the trade. Overall, a sharp decline in demand resulted in price drop of many species, particularly those which were served as delicacy in restaurants.

According to The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), it is estimated that in Kerala alone there will be an income loss of approximately Rs. 130 crores to fishermen (The Hindu business news). According to CIFT experts, due to closure of landing centres many fishermen are stranded in sea on-board trawlers. It is estimated that there are about 22,000 crafts that ply on Kerala coast with a fish production of about 6.4 lakh tonnes, which was at a standstill.

Though, it is noted that financial aid from the government is requested by several representatives from fishery industry in many countries, but Indian government has already announced many relief packages for the fishery industry along with giving relaxation to the industry in the lock down period. The finance department of government of India announced following relief for Department of Fisheries: -

1. Extension of all Sanitary Permits (SIPs) for import of SPF Shrimp Broodstock and other Agriculture inputs expiring between 01.03.2020 to 15.04.2020 by 3 months.
2. Delay up to 1 month in arrival of consignments to be condoned.
3. No additional booking charges for rebooking of quarantine cubicles for cancelled consignments in Aquatic Quarantine Facility (AQF) Chennai.
4. The verification of documents and grant of NOC for Quarantine would be relaxed from 7 days to 3 days

IMPACT OF COVID19 ON EMPLOYMENT

The ILO was quick to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, but equally an economic and labour market crisis. The lockdown measures adopted in most countries to prevent the spread of the pandemic restricted economic activities. Evidently, developing countries have faced disruptions in trade and supply chains, triggering negative growth.

As early as on 18 March 2020, ILO's first monitor on COVID-19 had estimated a rise in unemployment and underemployment between 5.3 million ('low' scenario) and 24.7 million ('high' scenario) from a base level of 188 million in 2019. Soon, the figures have proved as highly underestimated. ILO 5th Monitor on COVID-19 impact released on 30 June 2020 suggests that the labour market recovery during the second half of 2020 will be uncertain and incomplete. The working-hour losses could range between 140 million full-time jobs and 340 million full-time jobs in the last quarter of the year, depending upon the spread of the pandemic.



Women are marginally more likely than men to be in non-regular employment. Thus, COVID-19 has increased vulnerability of women employment and has further added care work responsibilities in this time.

Women’s labour participation numbers were declining even before the pandemic with the increased engagement of women in education and with domestic duties not being classified as ‘work’. The rapid assessment estimates that together, 181 million people in households, mostly women, engaged in domestic duties or unpaid family businesses, are bearing the brunt of the increased care and work burden.

COVID-19 has also exposed the vulnerability of urban casual workers, many of whom are migrants. They were among the first to be jolted by the lockdown measures as economic activities were halted threatening survival of many small urban units and jobs of these workers. In most urban units, the jobs are linked with accommodation at workplace and the unemployment may have forced these workers to vacate their shelters as well. With little choice, they are forced to return to their village in desperation. With limited data available on inter-state migration and employment in informal sectors, it is difficult to figure the numbers of migrants who lost jobs and accommodation during the pandemic and returned home. However, using different available data sets, they are at least five million or possibly much higher, as per ILO’s rapid assessment.

IMPACT OF COVID19 ON HANDICRAFT

Since the lockdown, production has stopped completely. Huge unsold inventory has piled up. There has been no sale either through exhibitions or through orders. They have no capital to reinvest. The artisans have neither food for daily consumption nor enough savings to meet medical expenses. DSS distributed provisions but could only reach four hundred out of the eight hundred artisans. It continues to appeal to various organisations, individuals, and platforms to raise money for relief distribution. Most artisans are now looking for agricultural work or to migrate again.

Abhihaara, a social enterprise, works with hundreds of artisans in three clusters of Telengana and Andhra Pradesh on handloom weaving and wooden toy making. It helps the artisans with contemporary designs, provides raw material, pays fair wages, buys the products, and markets the same with 25% margin to meet its own overheads. The monthly income of artisans before the pandemic and lockdown was between Rs 6000-Rs 20000.

BusinessToday.In				
	Pre-pandemic income of artisans	Situation	Coping	Need
DSS (Society) 800 artisans	₹4,000 to 7,000	No production Accumulated stock No cash no savings Difficulty to meet daily needs	Daily supply of provisions	Working capital Online marketing skills Health insurance and social security
Abhihaara (Social Enterprise) 100 artisans	₹6,000 to 2,0000	Less work Accumulated stock Severe cash crunch	Distributed provisions Reduced overheads Making masks Designed campaigns to clear stock	GST relief for one year Reduced rate of interest for existing business loan Support for sale through corporate and bulk orders



Chitrika (Producer Company) 300 weaver ₹		Increased living expenses Non receipt of announced cash or grain benefits Reduced work days	Distributed relief	Cash support of ₹3000 to weavers Working capital loans at no/ low interest Easing movement of raw material free stalls when exhibitions begin
Malkha (Trust) 120 artisans	₹3,000 to 8,000	Minimized production Reduced sales	Provided basic income from its own reserve	Buy craft goods

Since the COVID-19 lockdown, most of the artisans have been out of work. Only 15 out of 40 looms are operational. Stocks have accumulated and they are facing a severe cash crunch.

Abhihaara has reduced its overhead costs, provided provisions to staff and artisans and is giving work just enough so that they are able to meet their urgent basic needs. They are unable to purchase raw material and are taking only small orders that can be managed. They designed several campaigns to clear the existing stock and are also making masks.

For artisans, the living expenses have risen due to rising prices of essential commodities and also an increase in precautionary medical expenditure due to fear of the coronavirus. On an average, the artisans earned about Rs 10,000 per month before the lockdown.

Exhibitions have been cancelled since February 2020. Wholesale buyers' businesses have shut down due to which payments have not been made. Buying yarn has not been possible and dyeing units have closed. Weavers have lost wages and in the absence of raw materials and working capital, there is no certainty about when they can begin again. Chitrika predicts an overall revenue loss of at least thirty percent for the enterprise.

IMPACT OF COVID19 ON THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Public healthcare is the sole available alternative in India because private healthcare is prohibitively expensive and out of reach for the majority of the population. We need medical facilities like ventilators and intensive care units (ICU) for COVID-19 patients who are in serious condition. All COVID-19 positive cases are currently being sent to government hospitals. In order to combat the novel virus, it is crucial to evaluate where India and its states/union territories stand in terms of its health infrastructure. From the COVID-19, Table 2 presents healthcare indices for India and the world's most severely afflicted nations. Hospital beds (0.7), doctors (0.7256), and nurses (1.3757) per 1000 people are all lower in India than they are in the countries that have been most severely impacted by the novel virus. In the USA, there have been 100,000 fatalities and more than 1 million individuals have been infected by the virus. The majority of European nations are severely impacted, and given the state of the Indian healthcare system today, there are serious questions regarding its capacity to address the critical situation.

Table 4: Health infrastructure of India and majorly affected countries from COVID-19

Country	Hospital Beds per 1000 (2011)	Physicians per 1000 (2014)	Nurses per 1000 (2014)
United States	2.9	2.5817	8.832
United Kingdom	2.9	2.7769	8.6354
Italy	3.5	3.9588	5.6446
Spain	3.1	3.7975	5.5113



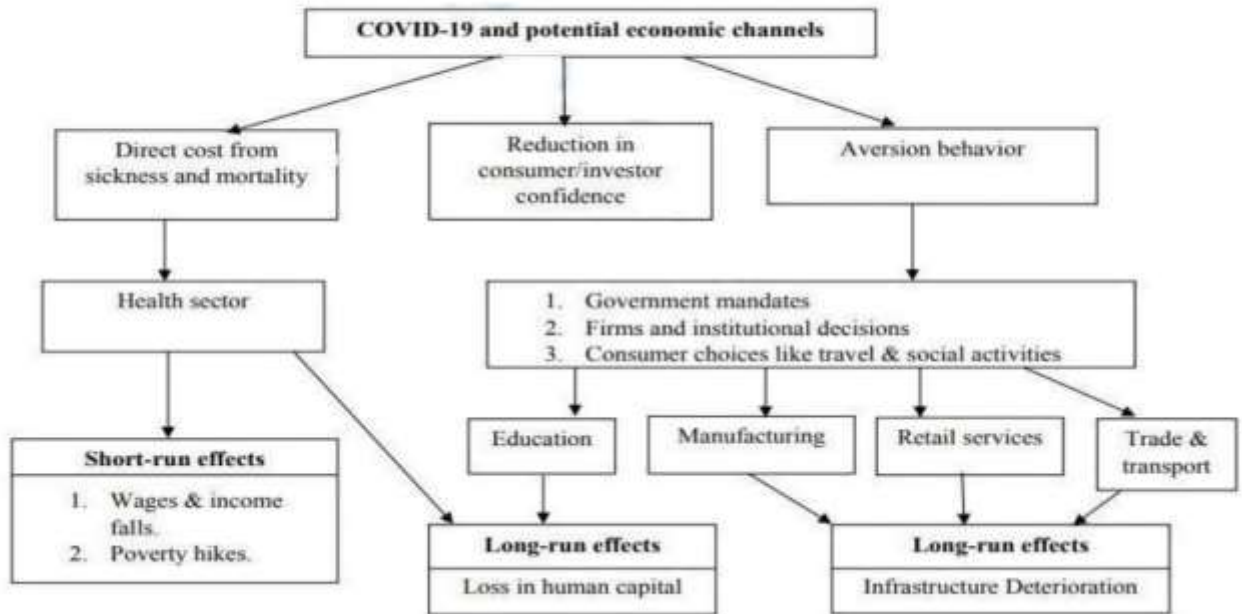
France	6.6	3.2117	10.6163
Brazil	2.3	1.8693#	7.5122#
Belgium	6.4	2.9729	11.0149
Germany	8.2	4.0827	13.4373
Iran, Islamic Rep.	1.7	1.4862	1.5453
Netherlands	4.7*	3.42	10.5284
China	3.8	1.6989	2.1491
India	0.7	0.7256	1.3757

Note: * indicates figures for 2009 and # or 2013 Source: World Bank

LINKAGES OF COVID-19 AND ECONOMY

The main economic arteries of the proposed connections between COVID-19 and the economy are seen in figure 2. The theoretical connection used here is taken from Evans & Over (2020); Boone. and Singh & Neog (2020) (2020). The health industry would be extremely important to the economy. The COVID-19-related illness and mortality will strain the healthcare system, which will have an impact on the economy in both the short and long terms. Short-term mortality and illness would have an effect on salaries and income, increasing poverty. Over time, healthcare will also affect the creation of human capital.

Figure 2. COVID-19 and economic channels



Macroeconomic uncertainty has the biggest impact on investment and consumer confidence. The health, education, and infrastructure sectors will be the principal beneficiaries of COVID-19's long-term effects.

A loss of money and human life will be brought on by illness and mortality. The same is true of how institutional decisions and government mandates affect education and infrastructure development, both of which have long-term effects.

Impact of covid19 on agriculture

India is a nation of villages, with the majority of its citizens living in rural areas. The majority of the population relies on agriculture and services related to it for their living. Farm hardship in recent decades has prompted massive migration from rural to urban areas. According to the theories of structural economic growth, any economy in a state

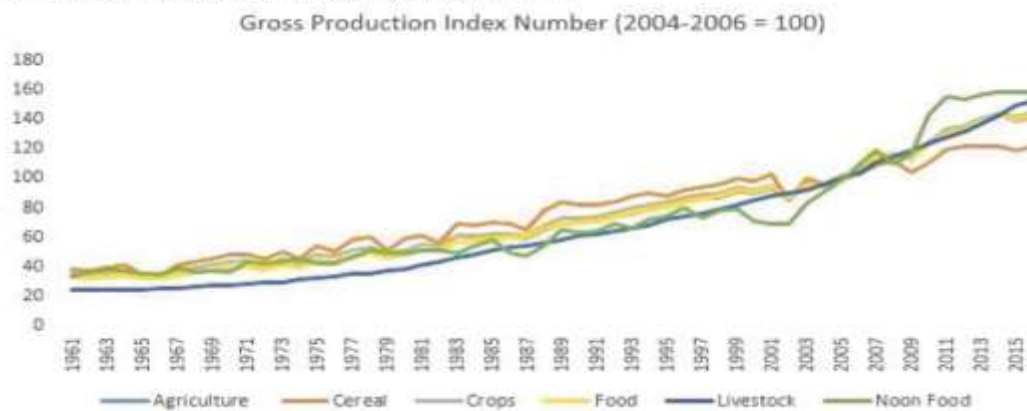


of transition advances from the traditional sector (agricultural) to the contemporary sector (manufacturing/services). In terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), India boasts the fifth-largest economy in the world, but the majority of its people are living in squalor.

According to economists, post-liberalization faster growth from the IT sector helped India grow quickly but is also to blame for the gap between the rural and urban areas. Despite the IT sector's rapid expansion over the past two decades, agriculture has continued to be a primary source of income for the vast majority of people. Agriculture and related activities' share of the total GVA has significantly decreased since Independence. Numerous research have supported the agrarian crisis in the Indian economy (Mishra 2007). The GFCF in agriculture is steadily dropping (FAO 2020).

The trends in India's key crop production are shown in Figure 3. After 2009, the production of the bulk of food crops has grown slowly or negatively, with the exception of livestock and non-food crops.

Figure 3. Gross Production Index of major crops in India

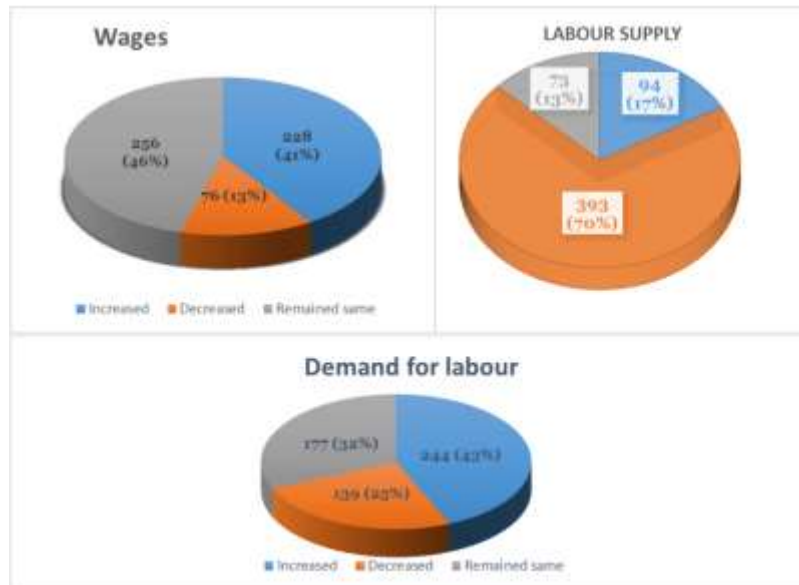


Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation

Significant impacts of Covid-19 on rural livelihood

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SUPPLY, DEMAND AND WAGES OF AGRI-LABOUR.

The pandemic and therefore the subsequent lockdown imposed to curb its spread had a significant impact on the supply, demand and wages of Agri-labour at all-India level. The country has also witnessed sizable number of migrant labourers attempting to return back to their native places. This had significantly impacted the availability of labour in some of the states. Agricultural labour supply had shown a decline in 70% of the districts covered within the survey. The labour supply had remained the identical only in 17% of the districts. Labour supply had also seen a rise in 13% of the districts which may be attributed to return of migrant labour to their native places. As regards the demand for labour, in the least India level, the demand for labour had increased in 43% of the districts whereas it had declined in 25% of the districts. In 32% of the districts, the demand for labour had remained the identical. As far as wages were concerned, it had been reported during the survey that wage rate had increased in 41% of the districts, decreased in 13% of the districts and remained the identical in 46% of the districts. The dynamics of supply and demand in rural areas showed a mixed trend thanks to outflux of labourers from agriculturally advanced states to influx of labour in relatively backwards states. the mixture magnitude of decline in labour supply was estimated to be about 20% percent at the all-India level whereas aggregate magnitude in increase in demand for labour was estimated to be about 6%. At all-India level, the wage rate was estimated to extend by 8.36%. This slight increase in wage rate might be attributed to the decline in supply of labour due to restricted mobility and increase in demand of labour at all India level.



Districts showing changes in the Supply, Demand and Wages of Agricultural Labour.

Source: NABARD, impact assessment of covid-19 on Indian agriculture and rural economy.\

FOOD SUPPLY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, food production shocks and food supply chain disruptions coupled with a drop in remittances and incomes have created stress and food insecurity in countries (World Bank, 2020). In India, late March and April is the harvest time of Rabi crops like grams of mustard, wheat, etc. and crops (banana, coffee, etc.). However, due to the closure, migrant workers are unable to travel to rural areas to harvest their rabi crops, resulting in a halt in harvesting and other supply activities, resulting in reduced yields. loss due to unexpected rainfall during this season. In addition, the shortage of labour leads to an increase in the daily wages of workers. As in a case study by Chehar Kalan from Haryana, in the past when more labour was involved, they used to take two quintals/acre of fresh plants for rabi wheat harvesting and bundling operations. However, due to the loss of livelihood and labour shortage during the closure, the remaining workers charged two to three quintals/acre for the same activities. The sudden containment announcement disrupted the supply chain for several weeks. Farmers could not bring their produce to the market nor could merchants buy products from villages. As a result, manufacturers are forced to sell goods in dire straits. As agricultural production growth slows, it increases the time it takes for crops to reach demand, further delaying supply operations and disrupting the entire chain, leading to loss of livelihoods for rural people in the near future. sectors such as transport and agriculture. Due to lack of means of transportation and access to markets, due to these limitations, the prices of perishable products and farmers suffer great losses. So, farmers let crops rot in the field itself. Several videos and photos have gone viral on social media platforms of some vegetable growers in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, who are leaving their produce in the fields. At some cultural sites such as the Odisha Jagannath temple in Puri, which prepares food for nearly 50,000 people every day, but due to the lockdown, their work is interrupted and the vegetable sellers face difficulties. hardship and poverty. The closure of hotels and restaurants for a limited time, the bulk demand for vegetables and fruits also decreased, as well as a reduction in prices, i.e., 25-30%. Fruits such as jackfruit and mango are mainly harvested during this time. Flowers are the most perishable commodity; they are damaged and rotting in the farmer's field. So due to this pandemic, there is no means of supply. Due to the closure of hotels, events, and religious sites, the floriculture industry as well as vegetable suppliers have suffered a significant loss of livelihood. So, due to all these cumulative problems, there has been very sad news about farmer suicides in different parts of the country.

IMPACT OF COVID19 ON ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR

Animal husbandry refers to livestock raising and selective breeding. It is the management and care of animals where the genetic qualities and behaviour of the animals are further developed to profit from them.



The livestock sector in India is one of the largest in the world. About 20.5 million people depend on livestock for their livelihood. Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farming families, compared with an average of 14% for all rural households. Livestock provide livelihoods for two thirds of the rural community. It also provides employment for approximately 8.8% of the Indian population. India has huge stocks of livestock. The livestock sector contributes 4.11% to the GDP and 25.6% of the total GDP from agriculture.

The 2020 Economic Survey found that livestock has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 7.9% over the past five years. According to the Economic Survey-2021, the contribution of livestock to the total gross value added of agriculture and related sectors (at constant prices) increased from 24.32% (2014-15) to 28.63% (2018-19). Livestock income has become an important source of secondary income for rural households and has played an important role in achieving the goal of doubling farmers' incomes.

The livestock sector is another source of income in rural India and has suffered significant losses due to COVID-19. Due to the restrictions, stores selling pet food were only open 4-5 hours a day and, due to the smaller supply, they sold their products at much higher prices. For example, in Haryana, there was a price increase for cottonseed cake, which increased by Rs. 100 quintals. Meanwhile, when there has been an increase in the price of feed. The price of milk also fell due to the decrease in demand for milk. The finance minister admitted in his statement that "the milk was thrown into the street", supported by Amul's report that the price of milk has fallen by Rs. 5–9 per litre (Economic Times, 2020).

The poultry industry has been hit hard in the country, with poultry shops closing due to limited consumption due to misconceptions about transmitting the virus from animals to humans and restrictions on interstate movement whose prices have dropped dramatically due to the decreased demand for eggs and poultry meat. The Ministry of Livestock, Dairy and Fisheries reported that the industry is suffering a daily loss of Rs 1,500-2,000 crore during the lockdown. Egg and meat prices have plummeted, leading to price deflation. As a result of these restrictions imposed on various activities such as marriage functions, the sale of meat has decreased, depriving people of sustenance. This block has also slowed down fishing. According to statistics from the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, the Indian fishing industry had suffered losses of around ₹ 224 crore per day as fishermen reach the shores to fish, but there was no transport option to buy them or transport them to the centres. processing. For example, around 700,000 tons of fish were thrown away. As the time they had to sell fish in Mumbai was short, they were forced to sell the catch at a very low price. Example: if the price of the fish is Rs. 78 / kg, they sold it for Rs 38-40. There is also an increase in agricultural input costs such as seeds, machinery, fertilizers, such as tractors, harvesters, threshers etc. This increase is due to supply disruptions that impact the agricultural input supply chain. It was observed that there was also an increase in staple foods such as vegetables, wheat, rice, sugar, flour, oil, etc. This disturbance is due to a sudden blockage. Due to this, panic spread among people and people started to bulk store daily necessities. However, vendors saw the opportunity and raised the prices of basic necessities, and supply was also limited due to transport restrictions.

CONCLUSION

All systems have strengths and weaknesses. Maximizing strengths and minimizing weaknesses in order not to miss the opportunity to move forward should be the goal. The main purpose of the study is to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the rural communities of India. It covers the impact of COVID-19 on rural and urban sector. These sectors are mentioned above

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