

## **Covid-19 and Its Impacts**

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### **ABSTRACT**

India is in the midst of a conflict for its future economic and social relations one year after the Covid-19 pandemic began. During this time, the Indian government promoted policies that exacerbated labour exploitation and increased inequality. Both past economic crises, experience and early signs of labour market and social effects during the present epidemic, implies that the COVID19 crisis will disproportionately affect immigrants and their offspring. Prior battles to replicate conditions for accumulation and resolve the social reproduction dilemma can be traced back to these measures. This paper contends that this process will likely continue long after India and other countries have recovered economically from the pandemic, and that these contestations may provide possibilities for uniting struggles across existing boundaries. A pneumonia outbreak of unknown origin was reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. Epidemiological evidence linked cases of pneumonia to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. Inoculation of respiratory materials into human airway epithelial cells, Vero E6 and Huh7 cell lines, resulted in the isolation of a novel respiratory virus, which was later identified as a novel coronavirus linked to SARS-CoV after genome analysis (SARS-CoV-2).

### **INTRODUCTION**

Immigrants are at a considerably higher risk of COVID-19 infection than native-born people due to a variety of vulnerabilities such as a higher prevalence of poverty, congested living circumstances and a high concentration in professions where physical distance is difficult (Barzilay et. al, 2020). According to studies conducted in a number of OECD nations, the risk of infection is at least twice as great as that of native-born people (Barzilay, 2020). The seventh human coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was

identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, during a recent pneumonia outbreak in January 2020 (Cluver et. al, 2020). Since then, the virus has spread around the world, infecting 4,806,299 individuals and killing 318,599 people as of May 20, 2020 (Zai and Du, 2020: Daniel, 2020). Due to this Most individuals are resilient in the aftermath of a tragedy and do not succumb to psychopathology. Some people do discover new abilities. Nonetheless, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) caused by trauma is a major problem in “conventional” natural catastrophes, technology mishaps and purposeful acts of mass devastation.

### **Impact on health**

Immigrants are, on average, younger than the native-born population, making them less likely to acquire significant health consequences from COVID19 (Wang et. al, 2020). In European OECD nations, for example, 8% of foreign-born people are over 75 years old, compared to 12% of native-born people (Das, 2020). However, it is a well-known fact that socioeconomically disadvantaged groups of people are more prone to have poor health (Zhou, 2020). Along with poor living circumstances, immigrants are more likely to reside in higher density buildings and neighborhoods, making social distance more difficult to maintain. This is especially true for some populations that reside in common housing, such as asylum seekers. The world's biggest COVID-19 nationwide lockdown has been extended till May 3 (Dsouza et. al, 2020). Since the first case on January 30, India has recorded 18,985 confirmed cases and 603 fatalities from COVID-19 in 31 states and union territories as of April 22 (Kanitkar, 2020). India was fast to seal its international borders and impose an emergency curfew, which WHO commended as “tough and timely” (Choudhari, 2020). The shutdown has also allowed the authorities time to prepare for a probable increase in cases as the epidemic approaches its height in the coming weeks (Kanitkar, 2020). Nonetheless, India's 1.3 billion people spread across several states, health inequities, growing economic and social gaps, and varied cultural values create unique problems (Kumar, 2020).

### **Effect on Lives and Livelihood**

However, the loss of migrant labours livelihoods is not the only issue confronting the country. The shutdown may devastate the country's small and medium-sized businesses, generating additional job losses, sluggish demand, a drop in output, and a vicious cycle of economic decline. To address the problems created by the scenario, the Indian government proposed a relief package worth 1% of the country's GDP (Kumar and Nayar, 2021). Given the diversified structure of the economy, as well as the issue of saving lives or livelihoods, a relief package alone may not be sufficient. We conducted a thorough examination of the country's economic condition and relevant data in order to provide the following policy recommendations.

1. Because there is a time restriction on how long the lockdown may be prolonged in India, the government has little choice but to guarantee that the lockdown is successful. However, if the impoverished people find it difficult to subsist during the lockdown, they will not be

discouraged from venturing out onto the streets in search of work. As a result, the government must ensure that these people are able to live throughout the lockdown. However, the government's task this time is different, and instead of responding smartly, the government must move quickly. As a result, while distributing funds, the government should not be concerned if some non-vulnerable individuals benefit. The good news is that, during the last 10 years or so, the vast majority of such vulnerable persons have obtained bank accounts (Lancet, 2020).

2. Given the agricultural nature of the Indian economy in addition to the actual fact that crop harvest home is round the corner, a harvesting-time relief package for the farming category might facilitate survive the economy in huge way.
3. Since India is a welfare state, there are many retirement plans in the country (such as old age pension plan, widow pension plan, etc.) and the beneficiaries of these plans have no other means of earning a living, the state must pay all these pensions on time and pay part of the pensions in advance (Majumdar et. al, 2020).
4. The Indian financial system has recently shown amazing results. In response to the epidemic, the Reserve Bank of India lowered interest rates and on March 1 also allowed banks to suspend payment of outstanding term loans by March 2020. The adoption of similar measures by all banks in the country (and the implementation of the measures by the government) bodes well for the survival of vulnerable groups.
5. The above measures require the government to spend at least 5% of GDP to deal with the COVID-19 crisis (compared to 10% in the United States and 1% in India previously announced) (Majumdar et. al, 2020). A conservative approach to solving this problem will have a long-term impact on the socio-economic development of a country.

### **Effect on Mental Health**

The COVID-19 pandemic is related to the increase in peoples stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance and panic. The terrible pandemic has caused unprecedented ethnic isolation in many countries, including India (Majumdar, 2020). Sudden changes in daily life due to obstruction and long-term isolation can cause psychological stress. People who live alone during detention tend to feel nervous and feel bound. People whose family members have severe complications of COVID-19 may experience the expected pain. Lack of materials can also increase stress. Health care workers, the unemployed/poor, the elderly, children, pregnant women and people with pre-existing mental illnesses such as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and depression are more likely to feel anxious (Miller and Blair, 2009).

Front-line workers directly involved in the treatment of COVID-19 patients are more likely to experience mental stress than others. Excessive working hours, insufficient personal protective equipment and sensational news can all lead to fear. The pandemic situation has exacerbated the fear problem. For those who have obvious symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder and those who overestimate the risk (Wu et. al, 2020). These people are afraid of infection and the accidental spread of infection. It is difficult for children and adolescents to spend so much time

at home without meeting face-to-face with friends, which makes them, feel anxious and bored. During this scary period for children, violence against children has been reported to have increased.

In a period of total isolation, the sudden travel ban, unemployment and financial crisis caused severe panic among migrant workers in India, forcing them to walk thousands of kilometers to reach their place (Kumar, 2020). In addition, massive unemployment, wage cuts, and the growing economic crisis have exacerbated the situation of the majority of the population and caused obvious psychological pressure. The blockade leads to excessive use of digital platforms and media, which interferes with sleep behavior and negatively affects mental health over time. In addition, it is reported that students and office workers experience more depressive symptoms during isolation than before isolation, which may be due to family constraints, stress and anxiety. The Indian Psychiatric Association reported that the incidence of mental illness has increased by 20% since the pandemic (Shafran and Coughtrey, 2020). The suicide rate increases due to fear of infection and feelings of helplessness (Pfefferbaum and North, 2020). Mental health conditions during the global pandemic are very similar, with approximately 45% of adults in the United States reporting mental health effects (Pfefferbaum and North, 2020). In an online survey conducted in Albania from March 25 to April 20, 2020, about 47.74%, 31.82% and 12.90% of the 715 respondents said they had mild, mild and moderate depression (Pfefferbaum and North, 2020). This infrastructure was created by Taiwan to support the clinical and psychosocial aspects of care during the pandemic. Residents of Taiwan and Spain are required to limit viewing information related to COVID19 to 30 minutes a day to minimize feelings of despair.

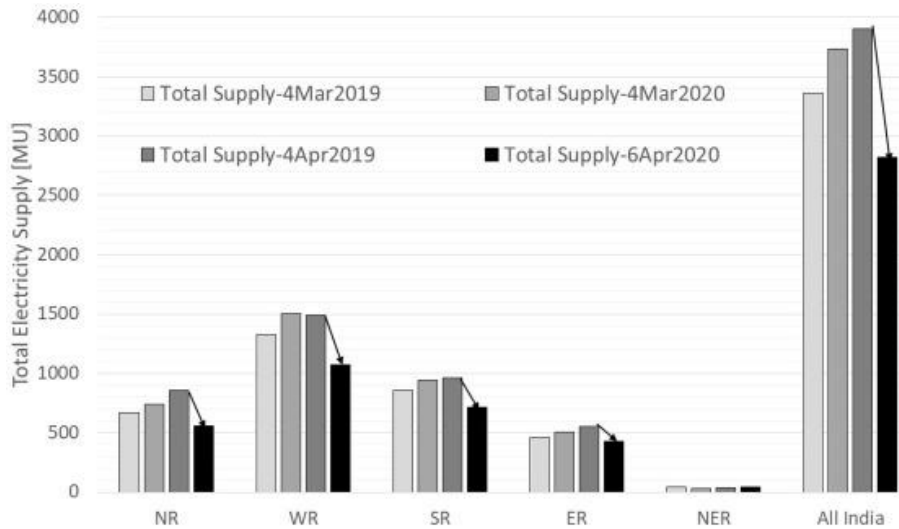
### **Impacts on economy**

Input-output (IO) analysis is an analysis framework developed by Wassily Leontiev in the late 1930s. The IO model consists of a set of linear equations. Each equation describes the distribution of industrial output in the entire economy. The supply and demand in the system are balanced by a series of national accounts proposed in the analysis (Okuyama, 2007). There is no such prediction in this analysis. The only time-related change is an estimate of the 2020 IO table based on the 2017 factor (Okuyama and Santos, 2014). This is a relatively short period of time, and although all odds may be inaccurate, the deviation may be large. The short-term or long-term effects of the blockade will disrupt the production of any sector, which is equivalent to an external shock to economic activity. The analysis in this article attempts to use this to measure the degree of loss involved only for the impact of this year. This method has been widely used when studying the economic losses caused by natural disasters. Yasuhide Okuyama has published many articles on this topic. In recent years, with the popularity of planning itself, the linear input/output (IO) model has become obsolete (Okuyama and Santos, 2014). It has been replaced by computable general equilibrium models that use neoclassical assumptions about fully rational agents in the market. This analysis requires the IO table for the region. Unfortunately, the last

official IO table issued by the Indian government for the country was in 2007-08. The 12-year-old economy has undergone considerable structural changes during this period, which makes the coefficients calculated using this table redundant. The next step is to estimate the total production loss caused by the site lockdown to contain the spread of COVID19. Loss estimates vary from report to report, not all departments are covered, and if so, they are summarized in some way. Therefore, these four scenarios are based on the loss of working days in each department. Assuming that production occurs evenly throughout the year, the loss of working days may result in total losses in the industry. Open all year round, especially in the agricultural and even financial services sectors. However, this assumption is made here because we are looking for an overall estimate of the amount of damage.

**Impact on power demand**

Although India currently has a synchronized core network, the industry is still divided into five regions, each with four to five states (Spoorthy, 2020). The energy demand structure and supply sources of these regions are different. For example, its industrial demand is very high, and the southern region has 49% of India's renewable energy (Spoorthy, 2020). The eastern region is rich in coal reserves, while the northern region has the highest hydropower potential and capacity in the country. The demand is because it is made up of smaller and relatively less industrialized countries. Figure 1 shows the total energy supply of 5 regions and the country for 4 days: March 4, 2019, March 4, 2020, April 4, 2019, and April 6, 2020 (Spoorthy, 2020).



**Fig 1:- Total electricity supply in different regions of India. (Thermal power projects under construction as on 1 April 2021)**

The nationwide blockade of India was announced on March 25 and will remain in effect until May 3, at which time this document is being prepared. By April 2020 (when the quarantine measures are implemented), the energy supply of the entire western region will be greatly reduced (Kanitkar,

2020). This region is the most industrialized region and also includes a large part of the country's financial and commercial services. Energy demand has fallen sharply.

The greatest reduction in supply was achieved through the withdrawal of coal-fired power plants. It is necessary to increase natural gas power generation, perhaps to improve the balance of the network. So far, this part has been achieved with the help of coal-fired power plants. They have also fallen by an average of 14%, but this is partly due to internal changes in the wind and solar parks (Dsouza et. al, 2020). Even in a normal year, the wind power output from March to April has slightly decreased. This leads to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

### **Key Points**

- Our results are not only interesting for India, but also for other countries similar to India in one or more of the above-mentioned ways, namely the exponential growth of COVID19 cases, high population density, agriculture with large numbers of migrant workers, and high budgets. deficit. Some examples of these countries are Singapore, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Philippines, Nigeria, etc. Sooner or later, these countries will face the dilemma of livelihood choices. The key is that our proposed policies can be adjusted and copied to solve this dilemma and contribute to people-centered economic growth.
- The fear of pandemics and isolation is inevitable, but India is a country where people have grown accustomed to difficulties and compromises. However, the current struggle is difficult and requires psychological strength, patience and resilience. Communicating with relatives, avoiding sensational news, and living a healthy lifestyle with a positive attitude are some ways to get rid of anxiety.
- Due to various vulnerabilities, such as high poverty rates, crowded living conditions, and a high concentration of workplaces where it is difficult to maintain physical distance, immigrants are at a much higher risk of contracting COVID-19 compared with indigenous people. Countries have found that the risk of infection is at least twice that of local residents.
- This paper contributes to the growing literature on the impact of COVID19 in two ways: First, it demonstrates the use of the IO model to estimate the industry and economic losses caused by the COVID19 blockade. This model can be applied to any economy that has national statistics. Like any modeling framework, the OK model also contains assumptions that lead to uncertainty in the results, from assumptions about the constancy of technical coefficients to the number of working days lost during the lock-in period. By creating a series of scenarios instead of providing a single prediction. Others are the products of the method itself and are still part of the model. Even so, the IO model is a simple but complete tool that allows us to estimate the magnitude of the potential loss of the economy and each sector due to the direct and indirect effects of congestion.
- The mortality rate of immigrants from COVID can also be very high, exceeding the mortality rate of the indigenous population

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- Immigrants are doubtless in an exceedingly additional vulnerable position within the labour market because of their usually less stable employment conditions and lower seniority on the job. Studies additionally counsel that discrimination powerfully will increase in times of a slack labour market, whereas networks of contacts – of those migrants have fewer – become more relevant for locating a job.
- The negative impact on the labour market outcomes of immigrants is exacerbated by the fact that they are severely overrepresented in the sectors most severely affected by the pandemic. Born abroad, double their share of general employment.
- It is too early to assess the impact of the pandemic on the labour market, especially in OECD European countries where job security programs have cushioned the immediate effects of lockdowns. on immigrants in the vast majority of countries for which data are currently available, particularly southern European countries, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United States.
- School closings and distance learning to curb the spread of COVID-19 disadvantaged children of immigrants in several ways: Their parents tend to have fewer resources than local people to help them with their schoolwork, and 40% of local immigrant children do not speak the at home Language of the host country. These children are also less likely than native parents to have access to a computer and internet connection at home or in a quiet place to study.
- The pandemic has encouraged remote language learning for adults as well. Several countries introduced new innovative systems. In Germany, for example, online tutorials have been set up to compensate for the temporary closure of migrant integration courses. Online learning has proven difficult for low-educated immigrants, especially in the early stages of language learning, resulting in delays in both language learning and wider social integration.
- With rising unemployment and the role of international travel in the initial spread of the pandemic, there is a risk of public opinion backlash against immigrants. Various communication campaigns have aimed to address this issue, with a particular focus on combating misinformation about the role of immigrants in the spread of the virus.

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