

A Pragmatic Study of issues of Marginalized Sectors during Lockdown Period

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Abstract— The outbreak of coronavirus disease has created a global health crisis that had a deep impact on the way we perceive our world and our daily lives. Due to this fatal disease, many of the countries across the world have declared nationwide lockdown. This lockdown has affected both upper as well as lower-class people, but comparatively lower class is adversely affected. Many daily wage workers lost their jobs and were forced to migrate. In this manuscript, we are going to discuss how lockdown has affected the marginalized sector of India and we will be furthermore comparing the situation with the developed countries like the USA and Netherlands. We will also discuss how much the schemes, of government, are helpful in the present scenario and what kind of new initiative the government should take to improve the condition of marginalized sectors.

Keyword—Covid-19, Lockdown, Marginalized Sectors, Developing & Developed Countries.

I. INTRODUCTION

Declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic on March 11 by the World Health Organization is completely justified because 192 countries are currently under the grip of this outbreak. Strict prohibitory measures have been taken across the country and as a consequence, industries, shops and malls, tourism sector, restaurants, bus and train services and all others have been closed in an attempt to stop spreading the COVID-19. This resulted in the economic recession and the lockdown has already disproportionately hurt marginalized communities due to loss of livelihood and lack of food, shelter, health and other basic needs.

II. IMPACT ON MARGINALIZED SECTOR

The declaration of COVID-19 as the pandemic lead to nationwide lockdown because social distancing is the only vaccine that we have right now. The month-long nationwide lockdown without any financial support leads to the panic in the marginalized sector of India. The marginalized sector is the one in which the worker earns on the daily basis. The Marginalized sector in India includes:

1. labours
2. Farmers
3. Sex workers
4. Migrants
5. Household workers
6. fisherman

They are the one which got affected the worst by the pandemic. Due to the less cash in hand, they were forced to move back to their home towns. The factory workers, sex workers are generally migrants they usually live in slums or brothels so to save themselves from this pandemic they need to move out of these places because they are so much congested that approx 80 people live in 20 rooms and the rooms are very close to each other and even 20 members use the same washroom. It's a concern for hygiene.

As per the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) survey, about 670 million rural Indians live on Rs 33 per day and they fall under the line of extreme poverty, and more than half of the population depends on manual labour for their livelihood. The statistic also reveals that every night approximately 19 crore people sleep with an empty stomach.

According to the census of India 2001, the total number of migrant was 314,541,350 which compromise 30 per cent of the population of India. The major concern among these people is the hunger strike if the

pandemic will not affect them than the hunger will lead them to death. The government policies are also not that much affective that their problems can be resolved the only option left was to move back to their hometown.

A. Sex workers and their issues

The number of sex workers according to a survey by UN Aids, in 2016 India had 657,800. They are also on the same plain with no government support; the onus to help these has fallen on the voluntary sector. "Sex workers don't feature anywhere as a marginalised group. The government doesn't want to accept that there's prostitution in the country. It's the elephant in the room," says Basu

The marginalized sector is also at a risk to get in the debt of endless loan as they are not much educated and the private moneylenders lend them money at the interest rate of 12-15% which is very high. It leads to the consumption of invested money and the small gold ornaments they have. The sex workers already suffer from many diseases so they are more prone to COVID. Many of them already have high blood pressure, Diabetes, Anxiety and many more the government needs to think that who is going to help these people at present NGOs are doing so but how long government need to include them in their policies so that they can also manage to meet their ends. For the safety of other section, the government closed the red light areas but they are not ready to solve the problem as well as many countries just locked them behind the bars. But it should not be the reaction of government every citizen is important and they are approx. 6 lakh in Indian society and approx. 5 lakh people visit these places daily so we need to take steps and bring reform by removing the social stigma.

According to the article in THE HINDU 60% of Delhi's sex workers are forced to move back to their home states. They are one who needs financial and moral support because they already suffer from many diseases including HIV government should take steps and provide them with healthcare facilities.

Netherlands is a country where prostitution is legal still the government is not taking any steps to overcome the problem of those.

B. Household labours

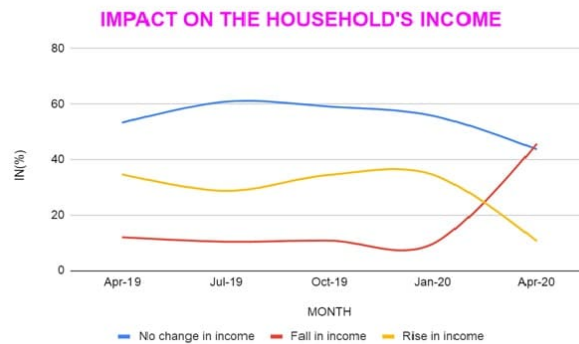


Fig 1: Impact on the household's Income

The situation in households jobs is also same they are not getting paid sick leaves and many face unemployment issues as well because at the time of crises the higher section excludes this domestic help so their risk also increases. The high liquidity crunch and the unemployment led to the issues of anxiety, depression and stress. Many of these people are migrants so for them its not possible to go back to their home town as if someone is from a country like Nepal than they can't even imagine to go back this time of crisis because of health issue and sometimes the political issues because there are political boundary where every country has a different way of dealing the issue. The help for them is minimal as many of them also don't have citizenship.

C. LabourMarket

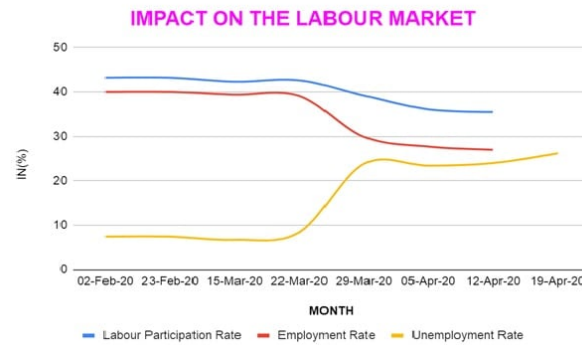


Fig 2: Impact on the labour market

The labour market is not new they are also similar as the companies are facing economic challenges the burden passes on to the lower section which we called marginalised because they are sidelined and no one is going to listen to them and help them we need to realise that they are the only one who is going to build our nation they are the building blocks and we should consider them like that only.

A. Fisherman

The fishermen are also facing the same problems. They are also not able to meet their ends as they are not allowed to go to ports and collect fish as usual but if they can collect in any way then also no one is going to buy the fish in this scenario. The government policies are the only option that can help them but the problem here is they are not educated so how are they going to avail the benefits of the same. All we need to do is to educate them so that they can solve their problem on thereon.

We need to consider that our society consists of those people as well who earn on the daily basis and at the time of crisis the government should take care of them. We read daily in the newspaper that people died because of starvation. It's a serious issue and we need to keep an eye on that as India is somewhere financially stable or we can say its a developing country but we also need to think that what about the African countries they are underdeveloped they are not financially stable so we can think that what would be the condition there.

III. SUGGESTION

We need to consider that the marginalized sector is also a part of our society and we need to take care of them. The government should exclude social stigma and the sex workers should be included in the policy for daily wage workers and the benefits of the Public Distribution System can be availed by them. As the government policies are helping the vendors and street workers so the socially excluded are to be included in the government policy. A very beautiful line said by DrB..R.Ambedkar that“*Sir, my friends tell me that I have made the Constitution. But I am quite prepared to say that I shall be the first person to burn it out. I do not want it. It does not suit anybody. But whatever that maybe, if our people want to carry on, they must not forget that there are majorities and there are minorities, and they simply cannot ignore the minorities by saying, "Oh, no. To recognize you is to harm democracy."*”. We need to take care of our minority sector by availing all the necessary benefits and making them educatedso they can take steps to overcome the burdens of being ignored in society. We can likewise have an organization at world level which is specifically for the marginalized sector where the problems of the marginalized sector can be taken care of and their problem can be solved.

IV. CONCLUSION

The government should focus on the marginalized sector they need to take major steps so that these people get benefit from the schemes the scheme of government as PM-Kisan fund transfer of Rs 18,700, PM-Fasal Yojana claim Rs6,400 crore, Rs 40,000 crore increase in allocation of MGNREGs scheme so that the workers can get fund in the home towns. Rs 20,000 crores for fisherman through Pradhan Mantri matasaya Sampada Yojana(PMMSY). But here we need to think that every sector is included but the sex workers are not getting

the benefit of Public Distribution System because many of them do not have ration card as well they are facing liquidity issues because they are not getting money from any source and government is not ready to help them. Another important fact is that the government should educate marginalised sector for the schemes so that they can avail benefits of these schemes as well as they should be counselled so that they can handle anxiety, stress and depression also the government should seriously think for those who are struggling to make their ends meet.

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