



REVIEW OF RESEARCH

ISSN: 2249-894X

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631 (UIF)

VOLUME - 11 | ISSUE - 4 | JANUARY - 2022



IMPACTS OF COVID -19 ON WOMEN AND HER WORK- A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO KANGRA DISTRICT OF H.P.

Anjana Gautam¹ and Naresh Kumar²

¹AP Sociology, Govt Arya Degree College Nurpur.

²AP Sociology, GC Baroh(Kangra) HP.

ABSTRACT:

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Women play a very important role in the development and growth of a nation. In the modern world they have equal status that of men. Methodology plays an important role in any research. In order to attain the objectives of any research, methodology acts like a compass to take the researcher to the pre-determined objectives and present study is no exception as well.



KEYWORDS: COVID-19, health, women, virus, Kangra.

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age. Till January 8, 2022 total 5,499,010 people have succumbed to this disease worldwide whereas India alone saw 483,463 persons died of this dangerous disease and millions become homeless due to the death of their breadwinners. This is the reason Covid-19 has become not only a new health hazard in this universe but it has induced social change in many ways. Not even a single aspect of human life is untouched by this life threatening disease. The covid-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food system and world of work. The devastation caused by this pandemic is massive. Millions have been rendered jobless and that's why forced to live in extreme poverty. According to WHO estimates 690 people are undernourished and figure is increasing day by day.

Millions of enterprises worldwide are at the risk of extinction and nearly half of world's 3.3 billion global work force {WHO estimates} are at the risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets.

Kangra is the biggest and most populous district of Himachal Pradesh situated in 32°13'0"N and 76°19'0" E having 2,216 sq. Km of area and population of 1,510,075 {2011, Census} having 263 sq. Km of density and literacy rate of 85.67%. Fortunately having sex ratio of 1012 which justifies the logic of present study.

PRE- COVID -19 SCENARIO:

Women play a very important role in the development and growth of a nation. In the modern world they have equal status that of men. Unlike the ancient times when their role was restrained to the walls of a house at present there is no front under the sky where they are not playing a decisive role. Even in armed forces which was earlier presumed to be a male domain, women are playing equally important role in tactical positions. Working women and men taking care of children and household is new normal everywhere in developed and developing world. Single mother is not a utopian word in modern times. Pre-Covid -19 period has been golden era for women in the whole world as thousands of women scaled new heights in almost every arena be it business, sports, science and technology. Medicine, art, cinema, defense and security.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

The present study is conducted with the following objectives

1. To examine the impacts of Covid-19 on women,
2. To examine the impacts on women's work, and
3. To compare their Pre-Covid 19 status with the present

METHODOLOGY:

Methodology plays an important role in any research. In order to attain the objectives of any research, methodology acts like a compass to take the researcher to the pre-determined objectives and present study is no exception as well. In the present study the data is collected on the basis of secondary sources like reports, publications books and magazines etc. Questionnaires, interviews, participatory observations have been employed to collect samples. Mixture of qualitative and quantitative approach has been employed so as to ensure the objectives of study are attained.

SAMPLE:

The sample area predominantly being a rural area and of heterogeneous one as far as literacy rate is concerned. A total 300 samples were collected from Kangra, Dharamshala and Nurpur sub-divisions of District Kangra who were working either in organized sector or in unorganized sector. Since the study is concerned with the work of females only females aged above 18 were selected for sampling. All the females were from the different categories i.e. General, SC, ST and OBC.

TOOLS:

As far as research tools are concerned predominantly interview coupled with questionnaires and schedules were employed for the collection of samples.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

Table -1: Educational Profile

Education level	No. of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	0	00
Matriculation	52	17.33
intermediate	77	25.66
Graduates	123	41.00
Post graduates/ Professional education/ ITI etc.	48	16.00
Total	300	100

Table-1 depicts the educational background of females, majority of the females i.e. 41% are graduates as the previous governments have opened colleges in every nook and corner of the state and these institutions are available for all the sections of society irrespective of their economic background. 16% are having some professional qualifications like ITI and B.Ed. etc. making them employable in skilled categories, still 43% combined are studied till the level of intermediate or below having lesser chances of employability.

Table-2: Nature of Employment Pre - Covid -19 Scenario

Sector	No. of respondents	Percentage
Unorganized	89	29.66
Semi- Organized	118	39.33
Organized	93	31.00
Total	300	100

Table -2 represents the working scenario in pre- Covid -19 times as 29.66 % of the respondents were employed in unorganized sector which includes petty household workers, saleswomen in small shops and those who are running their own small shops. 39.33 % of the respondents were employed in semi organized sector like small factories, industries, hotels and tourism industry especially in Dharamshala sub-division ad this is the house of HH Dalai lama and Tibetan Government in Exile offering massive potentials for tourism. 31% of the respondents were in organized/ government sector in different departments like education, health, banking and insurance etc.

Table -3: Work Scenario during Covid-19

Sector	No. of respondents	No. of respondents Faced retrenchment	% of respondents faced retrenchment
Unorganized	89	83	93.25
Semi-organized	118	72	61.01
Organized	93	00	00.00
Total	300	155	51.66

Table-3 represents the grim scenario which the Covid-19 pandemic has triggered in the society. Females employed in the unorganized sector seems to have faced the major blow as 93.25% respondents faced either retrenchments or lost their jobs due to lockdowns and fear of community spread caused their entries banned from other households. Semi-organized sector was no better smaller factories either shut down their operations or were compelled to do so due to cash crunch. Tourism sector being the major employer saw no tourists entering the state due to entry restrictions hence led the employers expelling their workers like housekeeping staff from hotels. A few respondents working in BBN region were forced to return home due to lockdown could not get their jobs back as industries could not become fully operational till 2021. The organized / government sector was the safest option to work with, as none of the respondent faced retrenchment nor they lost their jobs due to the frequent lockdowns in the state.

SUGGESTIONS:

Suggestions can be made on the basis of present study so as to mitigate the impacts:

1. The retrenched workers should be compensated as they have been agents of financial growth of their employers. Governments must intervene so as to make compensation lawful.
2. The government must provide Contributory pension schemes mandatory even in the semi-Organized sector so as to provide safeguard to workers from unseen contingencies like Covid- Pandemic.
3. A sufficient insurance cover must be provided to all such persons employed in unorganized and semi-organized sectors

CONCLUSION:

Covid-19 pandemic not only caused heavy death toll in the country and Himachal Pradesh but it has multiple impacts on our lives. The present study tries to highlight only one aspect in particular. As depicted above the women employed in unorganized and semi-organized sectors bore the brunt of this pandemic. Despite facing risk of infection the workers dedicated towards the wellbeing of their employers yet they were expelled from their works put them in the category of unemployed masses leading towards the vicious cycle of poverty.

REFERENCES:

1. Ahuja Ram,- "Society in India"- Rawat Publications
2. Beteille Andre {ed.}, 1969. Social Inequality.
3. Bottomore,T.B., 1966.-"Class in Modern Society", Pencon, New York.
4. Bertrand AL., 1967- " Basic Sociology: An introduction to theory and Method
5. Dr. Jyotshna Sethi. -"Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurship."
6. Giddens ,A -"The constitution of Society "
7. <http://www.who.int/news>
8. Novel Coronavirus[2019-nCov]situation report-1 [pdf] WHO ,30 January,2020