



Impact of COVID -19 On Rural Community - with Special Reference to 2nd wave

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Abstract : *COVID 19 An acute respiratory illness in humans caused by a corona virus, capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death, especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions. It was originally identified in china in 2019 and became pandemic disease in the year 2020. If we compare COVID -19 second wave with first wave second wave increased the death rates and pandemic disease in rural areas*

Rural Indebtedness and Pandaemic Disease:

The saying that Indian agriculturist is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt is a sad reality even now. Initially, the intermediary and tenancy system had made indebtedness an inescapable trap. Poverty crop failure, unfavourable market, uneconomic spending, familial responsibilities, and exorbitant rate of interest created vicious circle of rural indebtedness. Helpless of farmers and exploitation by the moneylenders further added to misery.

India is country where 70% of people live in rural areas according to **2011 census out of 121** crore Indian population 83.3crore live in rural areas and they face distinctive challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all are aware rural communities are facing different health challenges depending on where they are located. Each rural community facing problems like housing, unhygienic conditions ,health issues and transportation ,marketing unemployment, poverty ,low socio economic status caste and ethnicity problems under the pandemic situation rural communities need moral support

along with socio ,economic and medical support.

Problem Faced By Isolated Families:

As second wave has its severe impact on rural communities many families have been victimisation of pandemic disease. As per the government orders the families were suggested to be isolated. Where they were not accessed to market, hospital or any other day today needs. Even local governments did not approach the isolated families, only **Asha Workers** visited isolated families and issued few medicines as per the guidelines of Taluk health centres.

Due to lockdown situations even petty shops were closed in rural areas. At the same time even neighbours were panic to visited isolated families such being the situation how to lead the life without basic needs in the family. Its clearly understood that majority of the rural families depend on their daily wages and they will not be in a position to buy the daily needs for a month it shows isolated families struggled out of hunger along with the disease.

Any Family has the dimensions of human rights social use, economic security, cultural base and moral foundation.



When its roots are deeply spread over these domains in the communities character and feelings, its governance through “living law” of the people is admirably effective in such pandemic situations securing the families is the duty of government rather than rights. On the contrary, neglect of duties towards protecting such families inflicted injustice.

According to Article 22 of Universe to social Declaration of Human Rights, which states everyone as a member of society has the right to security and is entitled to realization, through national effort, international cooperation and in accordance with the organisation and resource of each state of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free developments of his/her personality

Single Parent Family:

Single parenthood has been common even in rural areas single parent is a person who lives with a child or without children who doesn't have a spouse or live -in - partner. These families when they became victimisation of pandemic disease its a huge challenge to face the situation without job, medicine, food and water (many rural families are not connected with water, they want to get water from community tanks /water facilities). These impacts are being felt most sharply by single parent, who have endured through COVID without the support of second parent.

Many families who are under below poverty line (BPL) suffered a lot because lack of access to daily need and worries about paying rent, utility bills and crisis to pay micro financing amount.

Single parent faced helplessness even to get vaccinated as they thought they may suffer with fever and other health issues

because of vaccination and they worried about their loneliness. It became challenge to the corona warriors to bring them for vaccination. Such families need socio, economic ,moral and psychological support.

Right to Food – A Fundamental Right:

Right to Food is inherent to a life with dignity and **Article 21** of the constitution of India which guarantees a Fundamental Right to life. **Article 39(A)** of the constitution, enunciated as one of the directive principles, fundamental in the governance of the country requires the state to direct its policies towards securing that all its citizens have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.

Persons living in conditions of poverty and hunger have often being found to be suffering from prolonged malnutrition. Even when their death could not, in strictly clinical terms, be related to starvation, the tragic reality remain that they often died of malnutrition and the continuum of distress, which had rendered them unable to withstand pandemic disease like COVID-19.

Decentralisation and democratisation are the vital processes in political systems that bring greater transparency, accountability, responsiveness, equity and opportunity for mass participation in local decision making for establishing just social order. While multicultural factors like language, ethnicity and regionalism persuade for some scope to have self-governance of cultural communities, the geographical complexion of the vast territory of India calls for decentralisation for the purpose of planning and administration of development.

Decentralization is not an end in itself. Protection of human rights, goals of era



diction of poverty, ensuring of right to work, providing of civic amenities, extension of health and educational services, optimum use of community resources, protection of environment through cleanliness practices in group life are some of the factors and goals linked to the working of decentralised institutions. By resolving fundamental social and economic problems faced by various cross sections and diverse communities, decentralisation constructs the necessary social prerequisites of nation building. Looked from perspective, it is an effective and indispensable instrument of social and economic transformation. It reflects consensus model, relies on people's cooperation, motivates people to strive their own good and adopts integrated approach towards welfare. **As Lal Bahadur Shastri** opined, "...only the Panchayats know the needs of villages and hence development of villages should be done only by the Panchayats. The Panchayats are foundations of democracy and if the foundation is based on correct leadership and social justice, there can be no danger to democracy in this country. Effort should be made that the institutions established for community development and Panchayat Raj, after independence, are used for establishment of real democracy and improving the economic and socio conditions of the people."

Panic Towards Vaccination:

Rural folk hesitates to get vaccinated as majority of them are illiterates and ignorance towards vaccination, it became a challenge to the corona warriors to bring them to the vaccination centres. The negative attitude and due to panic people refuse to get vaccination as a result second wave of COVID-19 occupied many families by that time

people realised about the strength of vaccination many of them sacrifice their lives to this pandemic. Once people started to realize about the importance of vaccination their was less supply of vaccination, this made people to suffer more.

Absence of free choice ,access to medicine and health care service due to isolation ,its fact that majority of the villagers are far from health centers atleast more than 5km. Due to lockdown situation single woman,physically challenged and aged person struggled a lot .

Social Distance and Wearing Mask:

Rural communities are known for we feeling and oneness, rural people felt difficult to maintain social distance and even they refused to wear mask.

In public health, social distancing and physical distancing is a set of non pharmaceutical interventions are measures intended to prevent the spread of contagious disease by maintaining social distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other. Social distancing measures are most effective when the infectious disease spreads from one person to another while coughing, sneezing and physical contacts but rural folk didn't understand the importance of social distance and wearing mask

Concept of Rural Sanitation:

The concept of sanitation of broadly includes liquid and solid waste, disposal personal and food related hygiene and domestic as well as environmental hygiene. The central rural sanitation program which was started in 1986 was one of India's first efforts to provide safe sanitation in rural areas. During pandemic situation rural health and



sanitation was given much more importance by central and state governments. Still rural people are facing unhygienic living conditions. Many of the rural folk work in hazardous jobs and addicted to alcoholic and drug substances they are not bothered about cleanliness and hygienic it causes multiple health issues so once the spread of pandemic in rural areas affects many innocent people. The worst economic conditions of the people make them to step back to use sanitizers, soaps, masks and also other preventive products.

Rural School children:

Rural children are suffering without online nor offline class since March 2020 still today. Many children are the dependents on mid day meals. There are families who are not in a position to give two times food for their children. As majority of the families parents are uneducated their children became helpless, just speaking to the children one can understand the sufferings of rural children due to Covid. **NPE,1986A review committee for review of National policy on Education**, Upheld the need for adequate support services (water, food and childcare) to the promotion of girl's education.

The National Policy on Education (NPE) is a policy formulated by the Government of India to promote and regulate education in India .The policy covers elementary education to higher education in both rural and urban India .

Right to Education :

Though the **Article 45** of our constitution enjoins that the state shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years from the commencement of the constitution. Due to the failure in that constitution (**86th amendment)Act**, 2002 inserted **Article 21-A** in the

Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all childrens in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a Fundamental Right. The Right of Children to free and compulsory education (**RTE) Act , 2009**, came into effect **on 1st April 2010** to fulfil 100% universalization elementary education.

Conclusion

Outbreak of Covid 19 has forced over populated Country like India to go under lockdown coupled with social distancing norms .This situation is shocking in fact rural community are not prepared for the sudden changes in Social-Cultural ,Economic and Education related issues as a result the rural folk became victims of this crisis.

Its Social responsibility of every educated person NGO voluntary organization and Government to Educate the innocent people to get rid of this crisis by getting vaccinated .It also helps family and people around them to be safe and healthy. It is also useful for our Indian economy at least in future we may not face the worst situation of lockdown. Even today rural school children are not access to online classes as a result children are losing interest in studies. At the same time urban children studying in private schools are engaged with online classes, just imagine how will the rural students in future compete with global challenges.

Rural communities are suffering with several problems like health issues, poverty, food, education, jobs, and debts. Hence the government should introduce special component schemes to overcome the crisis. Mass illiteracy and child education have to be tackled on a war footing because of the sheer magnitude of the problem After all education is the backbone of the nation.



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