

The Long Term Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19 in India

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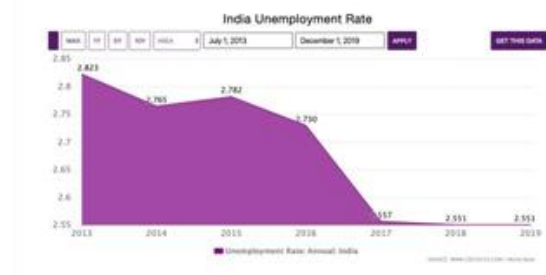
Abstract- *The crisis of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a battle of humankind with an invisible enemy. An enemy which proved that it is more powerful than the entire mankind. Perhaps it would be no more exist, perhaps one day the stubborn human will win with it. But till now it has tended to be a powerful destroyer of the human race. A destroyer, not only in term of life and death but for that cognitive awareness which has given the human a power to rule the animal kingdom and it became first hunter-gatherer which was earlier last in the row. It has a frightening effect not only in the third world but the most superior first world is not an exception. The virus may have emerged from the Wuhan city of China but now it has become an unexpected problem for the world. COVID-19 is not only the sore for the body but it has also a bitter impact on the world economy. The ground impact, i.e. Labourers, workers, daily wages workers, a Rickshaw driver and many more. Consequently, the third world will face the major crisis indeed. In the perspective of India, which was already facing the major crisis in the economy, the unemployment rate was at its highest, the GDP growth rate was in its lowest, hence this is a challenge for India to fight with this pandemic more carefully than the other ones. On the other hand, India is a country which has diversity within its people by its geographical, social, cultural, religious beliefs and in different thought of philosophy. So, the responsibility of the Indian government with the dense population is versatile, because its structure is making it more vulnerable, not only in term of the coronavirus diseases but the other negative impact of it. However, it may have a negative or positive impact on the market and this would be topic to be examined. The contemporary world would have the long term effect of this, that is because already the world is entering into recession and now the virus has stopped all production. But one thing we realised by this pandemic that after achieving this much in the field of medical science, natural science and technology*

we are still not capable to fight with tiny microorganisms. This virus giving challenge to humanity that human has to walk a long way in the field of science, we are just beginner. It also somehow connected with climate change and it is also alerting humankind that nature is far more powerful than human beings.

Indexed Terms- *Coronavirus, COVID-19, Climate Change, Pandemic, World recession, microorganism, GDP.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian government has decided the complete lockdown within the country due to stop the spreading of coronavirus, so it can't spread within the citizens. As it is a virus transmitted by a human it was undoubtedly one of the conscious step taken by the government. We would have read this phrase at least once in our lifetime that "Prevention is better than cure". The Indian government worked on the phrase and take a bold step. This step is a clear call of government that nothing is more important than the wellness of citizens. Though, the important thing is what would after humanity win? We will win? But again that what about the economic slowdown? Today there are millions of helping hand with poor and with poorest of the country. Government has taken the step to nurture the needy and citizens also helping government in this. But what after everything



will be under controlled? Will those workers have work to do? What about the upcoming recession in the field of economic sectors? In the Indian point of view, we already facing many economic breaks down. In January 2020, the unemployment rate in India was 7.16 per cent. This is substantially lower than the 7.6 per cent unemployment rate recorded in December 2019.

So, according to the current scenario we are already facing many challenges related employment, in such, for keeping India safe the government initiated complete lockdown for 21 days. It clearly means that now the government will nurture its citizens. But the challenges are not those who are salaried they will get their wages but it is for those who do not come in the criteria of employment. Now we will discuss in in-depth the impacts and benefits. Basically both phases of the coin.

II. COVID-19 IMPACT; CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

The father of economics Adam Smith had quoted that *“Every prodigal appears to be a public enemy and every frugal man a public benefactor.”* Right now India needs this kind of dedication to protect their economy.

- Impact of social lockdown:

Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Damodardas Modi has declared 21 days lockdown in the entire country. After the announcement, every state leader has given advisory to the police to maintain the law and order. WHO has also issued advisory to maintain the social distancing and Indian government has also urged to their citizens to follow the all precautionary advisory.

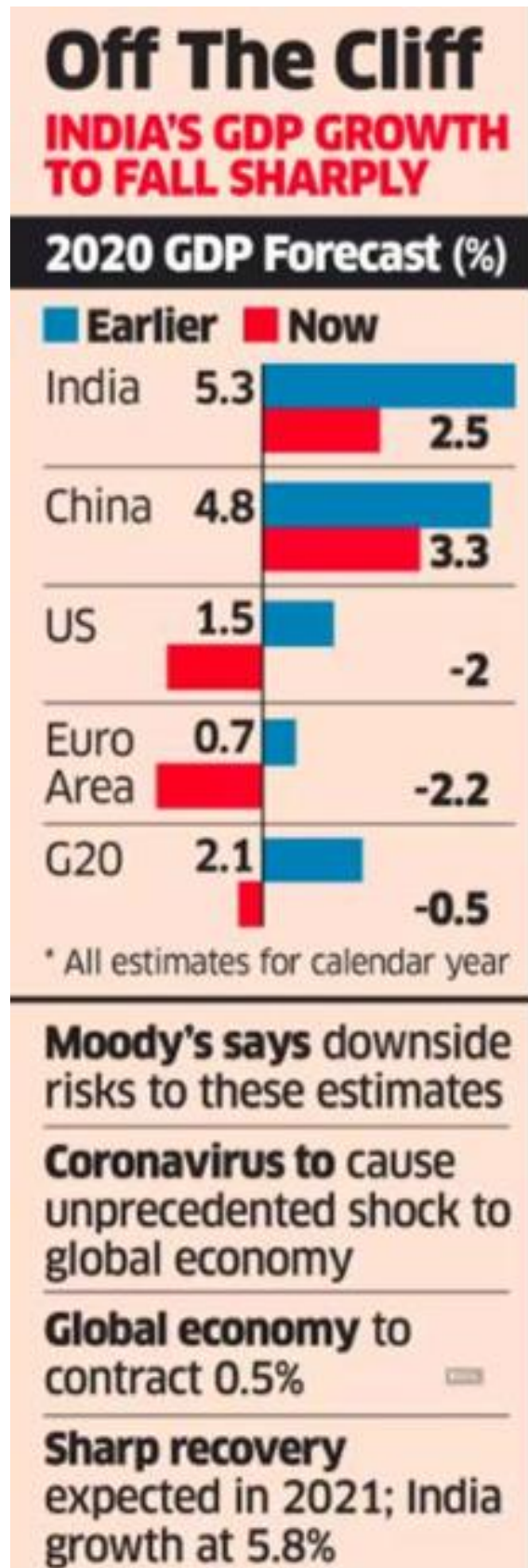
Indian Prime Minister had released the statement of complete lockdown within the nation. Many intellectual thinkers are criticising the step taken by the government. But one thing was clear, nothing is more important for government than its citizens and government intention is pure that everyone would have to be quarantined in their house for the upcoming 21 days at any cost. The intention was clear that if India wants to win with its enemy it has to first focus on social distancing. Therefore, the priority is no

migration at any cost, wherever you are, no migration, stay there. But the question arises here is that already the death caused by hunger is India’s tragic reality. So, lockdown in between is work like adding fuel to the fire. By country-level

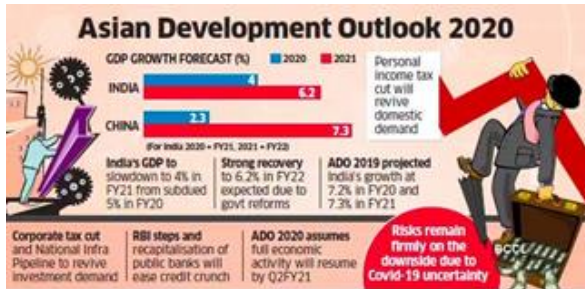


lockdown, the bulk tsunami India will be going to face. The tsunami will hit all sectors but for the Indian economy, it will mostly affect informal sectors. On the other hand, we already discussed that India is a country with diversity. Therefore, it would be tough to describe the consequences of COVID-19 to their citizens, in India, the illiterate people are mostly influenced by their local preacher and for the establishment of their influence within people they overlap the knowledge of science with their irrelevant talks. So, the toughness for the government has to effectively follow the lockdown as it has implemented due to the cause. The next problem is the geographical diversity within country. India is the seventh-largest country in terms of geographical area. People from the North region have to migrate in the industrial sector which basically in Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra etc. Since India is geographically as well as politically divided within regions. It could be possible the migrants who are basically the workers on daily basis will face the major crisis in their life because the regional politician perhaps will have no mercy with them because they are not the voters for them. In this, center government should take the responsibility of those migrants because centre has somehow ambition with them. However, many migrants and workers are right now migrating for their respective home and if government will not take any action immediately there would no any benefit of the lockdown. Fighting with this invisible enemy is far more hard and destroyer

than the world war. The first such incident took place in Delhi, Delhi had announced lockdown a week before country-level lockdown. Delhi C.M Arvind Kejariwal was an IIT alumnus and Civil servant. Mr Kejariwal is right now the Chief Minister of Delhi. On 23rd March 2020, Mr Kejariwal warns citizens that no more gathering of fifty people will allow in the state, he further added that Strict action will be taken against those violating the Delhi governments decision. But after the announcement of country-level lockdown, the situation got worse in Delhi. All the migrants of north India came to the Delhi-UP border. Thousands of people gathered on the border. Here, the question arises that what was Delhi government doing? Where was the Police when more than fifty people are gathering there? Whatever would be the reason but this was a total case ambition in politics. During a time of national emergency, these type of diplomacies will intolerable. Here, I am not criticising anyone but whoever the responsible should liable for those such incidents. And the centre should condemn these ductilities with in power.



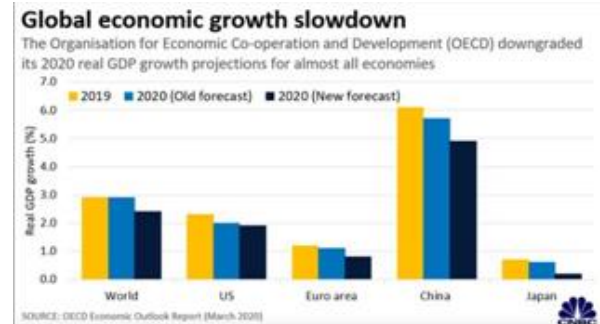
- Impact of Economical Lockdown:
Now the bigger challenge arising is an economic crisis. Constantly we are discussing that already we were going through an economic lockdown these days. The GDP growth rate of India is 4.8 per cent in FY19-20, and



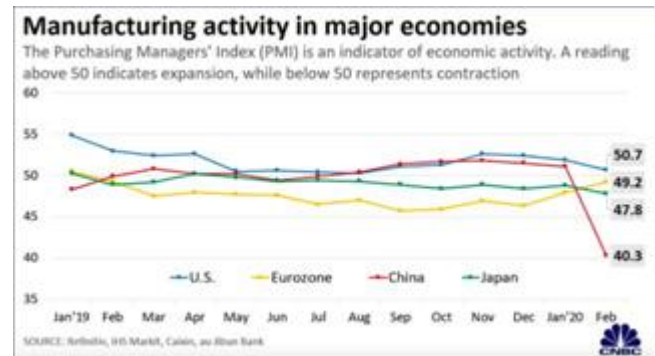
some economist has forecast that it would as down as 2.5 due to coronavirus outbreak. Some illustrated data is attached. During lockdown people will have to stay at their respective house, it may not be effective for the person with fixed salaries but it will directly affect those who are engaged in the job whose salary depends on the performance basis. On the other hand, the stock market is also falling rapidly. So, the overall consequence is opposite towards growth theory. But despite this, good is coming from the U.N report that India and China will face less loss compared to other countries in the world. But for of neighbours, eg; Pakistan, for Pakistan lingering pandemic COVID-19 is expected to have far-reaching negative impacts on the economy as the number of people living below poverty line might get double going up to 120 million from the existing figure of 50 to 60 million. In such a way it will negatively affect India too.

- A path towards a closed economy:
The contemporary situation pushing the whole world towards a closed economy. This might be for a short period but right now the whole world experiencing the closed economy. In times to come, the export will be low and this what I'm telling is after everything shorted out. In current time there are no export and import within the countries we currently experiencing the era of no international trade. But after someday when the thing will go normal and industries and manufacturing hub will start working the problem emerged of the basic need of the country itself. We can see through following graphs about the changes in the

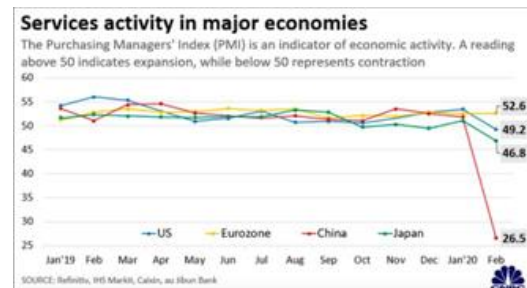
nature of market. According to the OCED Economic Outlook Report (March 2020). The COVID-19 outbreak largely in China in its starting, so the Chinese manufacturing activity is widely affected by the virus. We can see a large fall in between Jan'20 to Feb'20 in the graph depicted. This fall in the manufacturing activity will largely affect world trade.



The world's largest exporter by value is China. So this will negatively affect the neighbouring country as well as the world. The rise in production will take place after the race between humanity with the virus ends. This much decline in manufacturing will be a long term



impact on world GDP. Here we can see that not only the manufacturing sector but service sectors also affected



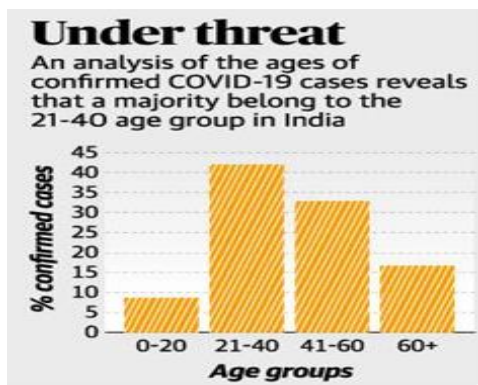
due to the lockdown. Now, by COVID-19 current update, the USA is the upmost country where viruses outbreak. United States of America and China are the two countries which share a large part of the world's GDP's cake. Consequently, this outbreak will lead the world towards a great depression. All these consequences pushing the world towards a closed economy.

- **Increase unemployment:**

The outbreak of the virus and country-level lockdown will have many negative impacts. We already discussed the job crisis within the country and this outbreak will work as a metaphor. The major problem is, all businesses run through Bank's loan and due to COVID-19 business owner are not able to pay the debt because of a complete stop in production. This will lead to creating a burden on the owner and will indirectly surge the NPA. To reduce the burden of bank company owner will reduce the workers to increase profit and it might be caused the huge unemployment within the country. Well, predictions are scare, so let it be.

- **Educating Young India:**

Young people are more careless than other ones. India is a country with large numbers of youth, youth are those who strongly believe that nothing could harm us. With this type of thinking and spreading rumours through social networking platforms, like, WhatsApp Groups, Facebook posts and other social networking sites. Young India should think that nothing is more important than strengthening themselves by quarantine in the house these days. As a report of The Hindu showing how COVID-19 is affecting young India through the following graph.



III. COVID-19 IMPACT; OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

- **Frugal India:** This crisis is not only the crisis which came and went. But this time it came with responsibility for every citizens. In the beginning I have quoted a line of Adam Smith, this is the time to make it possible. The new slogan should be "Frugal India-Forceful India." Self-Sufficiency; COVID-19 is a pandemic came with opportunities for India. If problems come it has solution come with itself. It is a time to self-develop itself. Mr Modi once announced "Made in India" program but are we really making in India or it just assemble in India? Yes! We are manufacturing many things but we outright depend on the raw materials from China and other countries. Isn't it time to self-sufficiency in those things. If Indian entrepreneur and industrialist think towards this it will change the dynamics of the Industrial sector. This will strengthen the economic condition as well as improve job opportunities in the country. Thinking towards self-sufficiency will be thinking towards futuristic India. It is also a great time to think about the Agricultural sector. In this intricate time, everyone now understands that anything could be postponed but you couldn't postpone the hunger. So, India should concentrate on Agricultural and Industrial sector simultaneously.
- **Medical Improvement:** One thing India understood by this pandemic that India needs more equipment and in medical sciences. Radically, it is time to invest in research and development in medical science. This could be a very tiny problem come for humanity but humanity should be prepared for a mammoth battle. Investing and improving research and development will not only protect Indians but it will be the economical backbone for the country as well in tough times. It is a time to think about the interdisciplinary approach in the study that from the versatile field of researcher get together and try to solve the rigid and complex theories to develop the environmentally friendly and sustainable resources. Humanity will need the type of growth and development that would not have any adverse impact on nature. If we would not deem in this way nature will respond in much more cruel manner than this time. So, Research and

development project should be nature friendly and it should be in a sustainable manner. Considering this type of management would need an interdisciplinary approach in medical science as well where Medical scientist, Natural Scientist, technologist, environmentalist and social scientist will come together and unite for research and development.

- E-commerce: This pandemic teaching us that e-commerce would be the future of humanity. One day it will lead the world. In this time when social distancing is the key to success, e-commerce is doing the primary role in the market sector. When each and every market are closed e-commerce are providing the essential needs for the society. This is time for the small investor to think towards e-commerce. That is because the upcoming time will be the time of e-commerce when everyone would want to buy the needful goods by the tip of their finger. Pandemic has already taught the importance of E-commerce. In India, e-commerce platforms, I.e. Amazon, Flipkart, Big Basket etc., are started focusing on essential goods and this will lead to having faith in e-commerce of those people who were not yet contemplating the e-commerce for their goods and services. We can see that another giant of market store Big Bazar who was not previously adopted the e-commerce as its form of business has now changed and it has started delivering essential goods door to door. Improving government policies; Now it is the time to enhance government policies, to fight with this virus India needs a long time but in between by the help of e-commerce system and door to door delivery system India could think to start his production again. Those who can work from home they could work from home and in the direction of medical advisors the labourers' sector can work with the essential protecting kit. This will not only fulfil the needs of the country but in this low production time, this would be an opportunity for India to be colossal in export. It will strengthen the Indian economy, will increase job opportunities and create a sustainable environment in the foundation development of the country.

This is also a time to young entrepreneur to think diversely in the field of informal sectors and

combine them for the door to the door system. This will lead to an unanticipated change in the market and the informal sector could also be the witness of the change within it. This could be the bank of the river but there are lots of opportunities for young start-ups at this time. This will create compatibility within nation.

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The influence of the virus SARS-CoV-2 which is responsible for COVID-19 is long term and this will not only for developing countries but it would have a long term reaction on the developed nations as well. This is because the virus SARS-CoV-2 is not only spread in some regions but it has an impact on 206 Countries and Territories around the world have reported a total of 1,203,941 confirmed cases of the coronavirus COVID-19 that originated from Wuhan, China, and a death toll of 64,787 deaths till now and it continues outbreaking. Several countries shut down their markets and cities but somewhere shutdown is not enough to break the chain, for braking the chain the focus should be in the field of aggressive testing as well as with shutdown. India should also follow vigorous testing as well as with mitigation. India should also focus on the banking sector after all this will settle down the business will need elasticity from the financing system of India. Once Adam Smith said that, *"It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest."* So, it would be the responsibility of the government to protect the benefits of the industrialist and entrepreneur. On the other hand, it would be the liability of citizens too to protect their economy to more constantly connect with it. Kalidas, One of the renowned classical Sanskrit writer, widely regarded as the greatest poet and dramatist in the Sanskrit language of India. His plays and poetry are primarily based on the Vedas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas. His surviving works consist of three plays, two epic poems and two shorter poems has once said that *"The state collects tax for the greater welfare of its citizens in the same way as the sun evaporates water only to return it manifold in the form of rain."* The overall outcome is that at time of pandemic it came with many challenges for a country like India where already numerous problems hovering. However, every problem has a

solution in them itself. If this came with hurdles it has possibilities as well with it. As a curious human being by the help of the interdisciplinary approach, all of the scientist from different discipline should come together and should find a way to prosperity for tomorrow.

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