

The Challenges of Covid-19 Lockdown on Daily Wage Workers and their Employment - A Sociological Study of Bangalore Urban District

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Abstract - The Corona virus pandemic is having a agonizing and painful impact on the living conditions of the people who belong to the daily wage society. The impact of the death of the Corona virus on retail markets and other businesses is clearly visible in their banking communications, but in the case of daily wage it is invisible because they spend what they earn and may not have an excess in their profits. Since the daily bets are in different categories, it is very difficult to find various problems with limited impact. This paper reveals about the standard of living for daily wagers during the lockdown period. The researcher collected primary data from 100 salaried workers using simple random data collection techniques and analyzed the data using the simple percentage technique. On the basis of finding, recommendations are suggested to overcome these adverse situations in Bangalore Urban of Karnataka.

Index Terms - Lockdown, Painful, Unemployment, death, business loss.

INTRODUCTION

Corona virus is a pandemic disease that has affected everyone for no reason and recognizes no color, religion, cast, language, literacy, businesspeople, occupations, community etc. It has affected nearly 40,000,000 people worldwide and could exceed the death rate of 3,000,000 globally at the time of this research article. Everyone knows that this virus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and named a person as a Covid-19 patient on 17th October 2019. It then gradually began to mark the countries of the borderless world. In this order, when India was about to be affected by the COVID-19 virus, the Indian government decided to implement Lock Down / Shutdown from 25th March 2020 to 14th April 2020 for the first time and it spread again from 15th

April 2020 to 17th May 2020. The objective of the lockdown system was to serves to guarantee people's lives by checking or halting them from the Corona Virus. Hence, it's a great system and also helps people prevent corona by detaching themselves and staying at home. At the initial stage of the lockdown, people were able to manage what they had as savings with their own financial resources and with left over groceries. Later gradually, when their financial situation started to disintegrate or it came down to zero, they started horrible for food and money to take care of their children and the elderly at home. This is the time when the government, the volunteer organization and local authorities plan and support people to compensation for their basic needs.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DAILY WAGE WORKER'S LIVELIHOOD

The painful days of lockdown affected the entire Indian economy in large scale. All types of industries such as hotels, transportation, automotive sectors, electronics sectors, chemical sectors, tourism, textiles, film industries and even agriculture have been affected due to unfamiliar conditions. There is no doubt that all of these sectors are the heritage of the Indian economy and can be raised with a concrete plan. But very dangerous and sad to note that these days of closing have completely changed the standard of living of the people who belong to the society of wage workers to the limit of waiting even for a cup of tea at least once day. This study is the result of learning the standard of living of that particular group of people they are the Daily Wage Workers who are dependent on their daily wage earning. Building construction labours, vegetable sellers on the foot path, home maintenance,

dry cleaning, rag picking, playing traditional instruments, cooking, barbers, cleaning tea stalls and mini eating centers, waste collection boys, street vending, mechanical workshops, supermarkets, retail stores, weightlifting in the market who carry loads on their shoulders, offers employment opportunities to wage workers. But the periods of confinement disrupted the functions of all those places and thus totally closed the lives of day workers without food, money, routine medicines and to meet the needs of children.

DEFINITION OF DAILY WAGE WORKERS

According to the Apprenticeship Act of 1961, "worker means any person who is employed for a salary in any kind of work and who receives pay directly from the employer but does not include an apprentice".

DAILY WAGE WORKERS

In simple words if we want to say that "People involved in building construction, housework, dry cleaning, picking up rags, playing traditional instruments, cooking, barbers, cleaning pots at tea stalls and mini Tiffin centers, tailoring, beautician jobs, plumbing, paints, brick Work, peddling, machine shops, weightlifting at the railway station and market, and other types of contract work are called daily wage workers".

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Bangalore Urban district is one of the districts of the Karnataka. It is totally surrounded by various trades, small and large factories and is famous all type of business activities. The Bangalore Urban District is comprising of Electronic city, BTM layout, Chandapura, HSR layout, Begur wage workers and the illiteracy rate is high even among these wage workers.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Bangalore Urban District Southern part is the only district surrounded by various small scale industries. The illiterate people prefer to carry out daily wage jobs such as Cleaning Jobs, Hotel Work, roadside eateries and Tea Stand, Street Vending, Tailoring Work, Supermarkets and Retail Stores. The Lockdown period

has affected the routine life of the Daily Wage Workers and that is why they suffer a lot to live a normal life.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Ritu Kumar Ahmad¹, Mohammad Shakil Ahmad², Riyaz Ahamed Shaik³ (May 2020) clarify in their research article titled "India's response to the COVID 19 pandemic and its impact on migrant workers: a public health perspective" that the blockade and the global COVID-19 pandemic has caused the destruction of millions of workers' lives.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The research paper deals with daily wages workers. The Universe of the study was all the category of daily wage workers in Bangalore Urban Districts Southern Part. The Sampling units covered all the daily wage workers from: Mason, House Keeping, Hotel Workers, Two-Wheeler & Four-Wheeler Mechanic, Painting & Plumbing, Super Market / Retail Shop Work, Tea Stall & road side eateries, Barbers, Street Selling, Drivers Tailoring and others. Sample sizes of the study is 100. To make a convenient study 50 responses of men and 50 responses of women were collected on the basis of random sampling method.

OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. To investigate the impact of the Covid-19 Lockdown on daily wage workers.
2. To comprehend the reason for daily wage workers
3. To ascertain various livelihood problems of daily wage workers during this Covid-19 Lock-down periods.
4. To suggest some measures to the government, corporates, voluntary organizations and local authorities.

Interpretation of the data:

The study explains that 50% of the respondents are illiterate, 30% of the respondents have only completed their school and others have completed their diploma and degree in the same percentage. The study also shed light on the reason for going to work with the daily salary and gender of the interviewees. It shows that

50% of the interviewees are illiterate and live in uncalled-for economic conditions, so they have to cover medical expenses and children's education. The study describes the nature of the problems faced during and the gender of the respondents. It shows that 16.25% of men & 8.75% of women interviewed face financial difficulties, 17.5% of men and 12.5% of women. Women surveyed face food / grocery glitches, 10% of men and 7.5% of women surveyed face medicine purchase problems, 8.75% of men and 6.25% of women surveyed they face police problems and 7.5% of the men and 5% of the women interviewed face problems of social, psychological and emotional trauma. The study explains that 55% of respondents collectively face financial and food problems as they are basic necessities for living. At the same time, 12.5 of the respondents face problems of social, psychological and emotional disturbance that need to be eliminated with extreme urgency. The paper makes clear the nature of the daily wage work and the gender of the respondents. From the analysis it is identified that 20% of the respondents will work in Mason, 10% of the respondents will work in Supermarket/Retail Store, 7.5% of each of the respondents work as a daily salary such as home maintenance, hotel work , tea shop and Mini Tiffin center, street vendor and tailor shop; 5% of each of the interviewees carries out paid daily jobs as hairdresser and guide (car, taxi, freight vehicle) 3.75% of each of the interviewees carries out salaried daily jobs such as carrying heavy goods on their shoulders at the market and painting and plumbing work, 2.5% of the interviewees perform 2 and 4 wheel mechanics jobs; and only 5% of respondents choose other jobs. The study highlights the fact that 20% of the respondents are Mason and 10% of the respondents work in the supermarket and retail store. Due to the scarcity of groundwater and rain, agricultural work is only 7.5%.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Based on the Data Analysis and Interpretation of the study the following are the major findings of the Study:

1. 50% of the respondents are illiterate and live in hazardous economic conditions, so they have to cover medical expenses and children's education.

2. 40% of respondents earn up to Rs.200 and another 25% of respondents earn Rs.201 - Rs.300 making their life very difficult to manage things at home.
3. 55% of respondents collectively face financial and food / food problems, as they are basic necessities for living. At the same time, 12.5 of the respondents face problems of social, psychological and emotional trauma.
4. 20% of respondents are Mason and 10% of respondents work in supermarkets and retail stores.
5. Due to the scarcity of groundwater and rain, the work of Agriculture is practiced only by 7.5% of the total interviewees.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

The following are the suggestions to the government, corporates, local authorities, volunteer teams and non-governmental organizations to handle the grieved situation in the Lockdown Period.

1. The essential food, groceries and medicines must be provided free of charge for a stipulated period.
2. Sufficient medical facilities, clean drinking water and sanitary facilities must be ensured at minimum cost.
3. While people leave their homes to have their own needs, punished under any situations by the police or any should not have harassed by any government officials.
4. The job prospect must be created on the basis of the skills and qualifications of the people after the closing period.
5. Daily wage workers can be allowed to relax when they are stuck to do their job through which they can stand on their own legs and without looking at the hand of others.

CONCLUSION

The impact of Covid-19 on day-to-day workers is the correct argument from the researcher's point of view during the lockdown period due to the covid-19 virus outbreak. Salaried workers usually face many problems such as irregular work and unstable wage structure. In all these unavoidable critical conditions, day workers swim against the tide and live their lives. But unexpectedly, the surprising death of new lives and the pandemic death of Covid-19 has completely

closed the lives of people without work, without income, without food, without security and without medicine and has generated a problem of social, psychological and emotional trauma. Therefore, the government, local authorities, volunteer teams and non-governmental organizations should step forward and take immediate action to save people from malnourishment first and then save them from the Covid-19 virus.

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