

COVID-19 : CHALLENGES AND OPPROTUNITIES

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Abstract : *The present situation of the world is probably the worst time in the history of any country because it has shuffled whole system upside down and raised many questions with regard to the different sectors. An attmpt has been made here in this paper to analyze the effect of corona virus on society in terms of economy, politics, religion, education, global issues, etc. It also tries to seek answers to some questions that the society will face after the slowdown of this pandemic. It is an attempt to look at this world problem as an opportunity. Amidst all threats related to life and humanity, there can be certainly a ray of hope that safely brings the society out of this hurdle. This pandemic also provides different opportunities to find new ways in production, technology, education, job policies, global relations, medicinal research, infrastructure, market policies, environment etc.*

Key Words: *Pandemic, society, challenges, opportunities.*

Introduction :

COVID-19 has now become a pandemic threat to the whole world. It has shuffle the world from upside down drastically. All the countries in the world are on the same verge of threat of the virus as they are more or lesser at the risk of life. This period of pandemic has equally affected most countries in Europe and Africa. Thinkers have a strong doubt about its nature as a man made virus to cater the selfish motif of a country and to attain a victory over world by means of destructing and devastating the rival nation. Yet there is no stamping on the truth. Out of many probable reasons one is its natural existence and the dangerous spread. For every nation, including India the first marathon task is to save the population, and the second is to control the pandemic and come out of this emergency. While it is surging as a challenge for the globe, it can also be proved as an opportunity on the other side. The effects of this peril on the world are to be long lasting and difficult to tackle. The complex nature of overall society and its interrelations, interdependence on various sectors makes the problem more complicated to solve.

The politics is dependent upon the economy of the country and the economy is dependent upon education which can't be sustained without the support of government showing the interdependence of existence. Again it's the role of the politics to maintain balanced society and ensure sustainable development of its citizens. The natural calamities of any sort posed challenges before the nation and takes trial of its capabilities. Out of many pandemics that the world suffered is Plague, bird Flu, Swine Flu, Ebola, SARI and now Novel Corona virus. Out of these entire pandemic, the present one is more drastic as it is easily infectious and moreover the vaccine is not invented till date, which makes it a threat to the world causing millions of people infectious and claiming large number of lives making it as a serious concern to worry. In this rather dim and dull global situation, there is a ray of hope to find the way out. It's a time for every responsible citizen to engage in contemplating over the current hazardous situations and suggest ways to overcome it.

Beginning from the future of the individual everyone is concerned about the future of the society at large. Most of the countries have resorted to lockdown which appeared as the 'first in the history' event. The Wuhan in china becomes the epicenter making other cities, and then the other countries infected with a rapid force and speed. It has created a wonder to confine millions of people in the home shutting down businesses and ceasing almost all economic activity. When one thinks over the world that would be recreated after corona virus pandemic, many aspects can be visualized. It is appeared as the worst time in the history of an individual's life. No one has ever thought of the break to the world, no one has thought about locking themselves inside the home, no one has thought of still silence on the road and public places.

No one ever thought that education is not a primary need for survival as the government of almost all the countries have declared closure in the institutions for indefinite time. No one thought that adopting old simple ways of life can be the only solution to survive. It is the time to think that even liquor shops have its massive role in building economy. One very important lesson the virus has taught that the humans should not overestimate themselves and underestimate the power of nature. It is just like law of nature that whatever goes up must come down. Whenever the human being tries to rule over the universe, it is the nature, in one form or other that make him realized the temporary and momentary existence of human life.

The present jerk to economy, small scale and large scale industry, education, farming, tourism, vegetation, hoteling business, hospitality sector, transportation, international

relation, global exchange, and most serious threat is of long lasting recession that the world would face is unexpected and the loss is not easy to recover. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 – the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Out of innumerable other problems, the problems of unemployment, poverty, migrant labours, threat of private job losses, vegetation and farming loss due to non availability of transport, depression among young aspirants due to delayed employment schemes of the government, etc. are some to stress which are difficult to resolve and regain the previous speed.

Therefore, it is a time to search for options for regaining the past glory of their professions. The world can be seen from different glasses with new vision and wisdom. At one side there are innumerable challenges before countries but at the other there are many positive effects that the world witness during the period of last two months. The major opportunity comes up in the field of education in terms of digitization and technology oriented teaching learning process. The opportunity to look at educational process with different dimension is the result of the lock down in the country.

The experts, the educationist and the policy makers are thinking to widen the vistas of education by making it more comfortable and more update by the use of modern technological tools in teaching learning. The present scenario of education in the world and particularly in India has drastically changed giving opportunity for school and college students to study from home and teachers to teach from home. All the educational activities are being conducted through online tools and techniques and making the students and teachers ready for future changes that the system will have to generate to overcome this crisis. Another very positive effect of the Pandemic is on the environment. The pause to human interference in environment has made it purest as never before.

The pollution graph has unbelievably came down in most of the over polluted cities including New Delhi in India, The water purity is raised and the air quality improves considerably. The wild life is using freedom at its best. The roads are still, the fields are blooming, the nature is celebrating its glorious existence. Due to forced shut down of all industries and commercial companies, millions of people from high class officials to low class labours need to go back homes and the migration to homes for many are the reunion of families. It's an opportunity for children to be with parents and old people to be with children. It is an opportunity to think the true happiness of life, to understand the crucial importance of relations and meaning of life. It is an opportunity to realize the futility of so

called modern techno possessed world of artificiality and interminable competition that has obsessed the individual due to work pressure and market competition.

It is a time of recreation, relaxation and refreshment of mind to those who are overburdened by job pressures. It is again an opportunity to build the country as of the dream visualized by Mahatma Gandhi. The importance of cleaning and hygiene is surging high among people as UNO has stresses it as the only alternative to prevent the virus infection. The temporary force of cleanliness can be long lasting and can turn into habitual actions and life style of people. The dream of Clean India has the hope to come into reality. Further, the challenge to accept people without conditions can be transform into opportunity by inculcation of human values such as empathy, sympathy, cooperation and generosity. The pandemic has created the sense of humanity as many philanthropists show generosity in helping the society in terms of monetary and non –monetary support to the government and citizens in general. Still there is a question that even as economic activity resumes gradually, the situation will take time to normalize, as consumer behaviours change as a result of continued social distancing and uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve.

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