

Future lessons from Covid-19 Pandemic in Indian Context

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Abstract - Current pandemic shows that the preparedness is required in every phase. Covid-19 was declared as a pandemic by World Health Organization in 2020. And the normal human life got slowed down due to lockdown all over the world in which most of the Countries got affected including India. Different countries have different types of response to this Corona virus. Delayed detection of this virus in China was overburdened to the entire health system. At the same time other countries have put effective measures to get very low number of cases. Few measures were taken to restrict the spread of the virus like lockdown, social distancing and isolation. The study will provide the responses to this pandemic by different countries. Based on the responses of the other countries how India responded to this pandemic situation. The future implications are clearly given out of this research to control the pandemic and the preparedness.

Key words: COVID-19, pandemic, India

1. Control Actions

The statistical analysis says the virus is highly contagious and may spread fast if having low immunity for which strong control measures are required. The WHO suggested frequent hand washing with soap or alcohol-based hand rub can be the best measure. [9] [2] WHO also never recommends the use of mask by everyone [2]. Corona virus can survive on different surfaces for different interval of time; on plastic for 3 days, on steel for 2 days, on cardboard for one day and on copper for four hours [10,11]. The virus can be disinfected by 70% isopropyl alcohol, 0.5% hydrogen peroxide or 0.1% sodium hypochlorite. So, this solution is used to disinfect the public places. Healthcare personnel are advised to use triple-layered masks. [2] Social distancing is recommended in crowded places and among the individuals. If anybody suffering from cough, cold, fever and breathing difficulty are advised to take medical attention. In a broader sense, the important steps are isolation, identifying the positive cases and quarantine them for infection reduction. Some major steps were taken like prohibition of mass gathering, closing of schools, colleges, worship places, malls and cinema halls. Even any kind of social events like marriage, sports and meetings were stopped during lockdown. Consequently, temperature

screening was introduced at the public places like airport, bus stop, railway station, banks, hospitals etc. The reason for temperature screening is to identify the number of virus carriers that was counted as 50% of the mass [8]. The countries which were affected more restricted the travel, closed the boarder and curfew. In India also we followed the same measures by restricting the flights.

These measures were taken to reduce the spread of infection that can lower the seriousness of the epidemic. In the same time the healthcare system was working for the new treatments and vaccine against corona virus.

2. Responses of Various Countries to COVID-19

Different measures were adopted by various countries based upon their population and healthcare facility. Major problem is delayed measures for the vaccination. As per Shengjie and Tatem if China might have taken the measures to control the spread of the virus before, 70% of the virus spread might have been prevented. [13, 14, 15, 16, 17] The Wuhan airport connectivity with other airports like Singapore, Thailand that facilitated the spread of the virus.

On January, 2020, the lockdown was declared to the nearby cities of Wuhan and people were allowed to outside activities for 30 minutes only. Slowly the transport system got stopped. The people were insisted to take a temperature measurement on daily basis. A hospital was made with the capacity of 1000 beds within 10 days for Covid-19 patients.

3. India's Response to COVID-19

The first case of Covid-19 was reported on January, 2020 in India which had a travel to Wuhan, China. In March again two more cases were detected from Hyderabad and Delhi. Then after the numbers increased vastly. Government of India issued a travel restriction for inside country and for the international flights as well. 14-days self-quarantine rule was imposed on the travellers. Even all the travel visas to

outside the countries were cancelled. And the public visiting places were closed down including the shopping malls, shops and cinema theatres.

Some guidelines were given for the personal hygiene. Even hospitals are advised to check only the emergency patients and online doctor consultation was introduced. One mobile app called as Arogya setu was developed to check the contaminated zone. Schools, colleges, hotels, etc. were converted into quarantine places to deal with more number of cases. March 22nd, the Prime Minister of India declared 14 hours Curfew followed by lockdown for three more weeks. Latter stage the duration of lockdown increased based upon the severity of the virus on different places. Then the control was given to the state-government to operate the activities publicly based upon the spread of virus. Even schools, colleges adopted the online way of teaching, software companies as usual followed the work from home trend. Definitely this lockdown process affected the Indian economy. Being a developing country, the lockdown effect was more on India as compared to the wealthy countries. It has increased the poverty rate and hunger. Presently, in so many places the lockdown has been removed and now it seems another phase of Covid-19 has been started. India has come with two types of vaccine to control the spread of the virus. First one is Covishield manufactured by Serum Institute of India and second one is Covaxin, manufactured by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). So, in short India has got some measures to control the spread of the Corona virus.

4. Global Impact of COVID-19

Social discrimination is a major issue apart from death and human infections due to the measures taken for Covid-19. For example, healthcare workers are considered to be the major spreader of this virus in the society. US President named this virus as "Chinese virus" considering Chinese as the major spreader of this virus in front of the world. Again, the virus impacted the international travel, entertainment, tourism, restaurants etc. So many people lost their job as well. A great extent of depression and psychological issues were reported due to isolation.

5. Future Directions

Keeping the future in eye, we should maintain the hygienic practices and social distancing in public

places. It will help in reducing the number of new cases. After the pandemic, it will take some time to get back to the normal life and daily routine activities. Rare information is there those who already recovered from the infection, there is no guarantee of re-infection. Immunity rate should be checked to sustain the virus. The current vaccines need to be verified effective without any side effects. The vaccines should be available in large for common people as well. Online doctor consultations for healthcare and online teaching procedure should be adopted till the entire recovery. There is enough awareness is required for the second phase of Covid-19. So, our survey study will identify the similar type of experience gained out of this pandemic.

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BIOGRAPHIES



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