

EMERGENCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT DURING PANDEMIC COVID 19(A CASE STUDY OF DELHI NCR)

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ABSTRACT

COVID 19 pandemic has created havoc on the minds of people all over the world. The Indian government, as well as governments from other countries of the world, worked following WHO guidelines to save the population. In some situations, it could achieve success while in others it became like a mess. Many published articles and newspapers throughout the world have revealed the result in unimaginable alarming situations such as unemployment, economic deterioration, marital problems, and family breakup in society due to extraordinary interference in the natural processes; i.e., a lab experiment in China as reported in media reports. Individuals and category wise groups, encountered challenging difficulties during the lockdown period. Many other challenges such as social distancing, shutting down of educational establishments, cancelling of events and social gatherings, hand-hygiene, body temperature scan, the use of personal protective equipment is also a record. Imposed restrictions, such as face masks, hand sanitizers, and internet facilities added additional expenses on the individual and family. The study highlights some of the challenges that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. This study is based on primary data collected through Google forms questionnaire in NCR, Delhi. The change in lifestyle associated with the pandemic influenced the people economically, socially, emotionally and spirituality. The majority of the respondents lacked most of the basic resources and even those who had a suitable home environment sometimes failed to fulfil the basic facilities. Some of the respondents had no resources to work at home, many people faced psychological stress, depression, regardless of family bonding experienced during stay at home.

Keywords: Covid19 Pandemic, NCR, Delhi, Social Environment, Economic Environment.

Introduction

A novel coronavirus disease also called Covid-19 which causes a severe acute respiratory disorder in humans with its epicentre in Wuhan (in a seafood market), China emerged in December 2019 and from there virus outbreak then happened and had affected all over the world, affecting more than 7 million people worldwide accounting for death of the affected population and counting. The covid outbreak had been declared as a pandemic globally by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March, 2020. Clinical analysis results of the virus showed person-to-person transmission.

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January 2020, the 1st case in India was reported in Kerala. The United States with other countries reported positive cases on January 20 after which restriction in travelling was imposed. Prime Minister Modi announced a 21-day lockdown in the country to control and avoid the spread of the novel Coronavirus on 24th march,2020. Social distancing and wearing of masks are the only way out for the country, and he imposed the rules for everyone to follow. All transport services (Roadways, Airways, and Railways) were shut down during the national and state lockdown. The essential services were provided by the Centre and State Government.

Methodology

For present study, to investigate the effect of COVID 19 outbreak on individuals and families, a survey was conducted to collect the primary data. The sample consisted of 140 households from DELHI and NCR. The questionnaires were distributed online among the respondents via Google forms. This survey consisted of multiple-choice answers, few questions were related to the demographic structure of the respondents i.e., age, family structure. The data was analysed with the help of charts and diagrams.

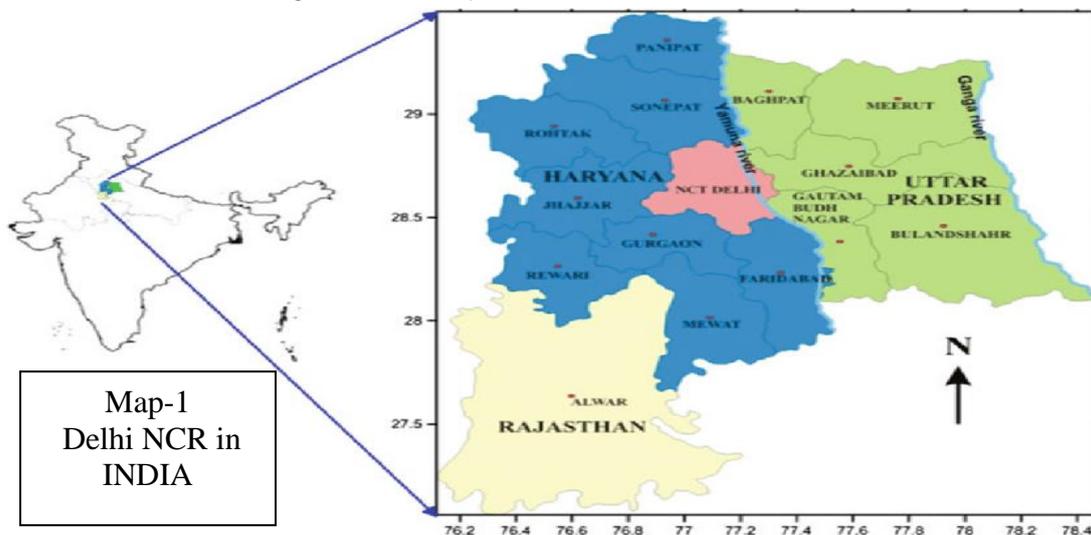
Physical Setting

NCR lies between 27°03' and 29°29' North latitude and 76°07' and 78°29' East Longitude. The Ganga skirting it as its eastern boundary, the Yamuna flowing North-South forming the boundary between UP (Uttar Pradesh) and Haryana, Sand Dunes and Aravalli chain in the west, fertile valleys and high table lands in the south west, plains dominated by rain fed torrents in the south, rest of the region is plain with gentle slope.

Topographically the NCR has two major sub-units, the Alluvial plains major part of NCR and is formed by the Yamuna and the Ganga rivers. Major rivers are the Ganga, the Yamuna, Hindon and Kali. Sand dunes in western parts of NCR.

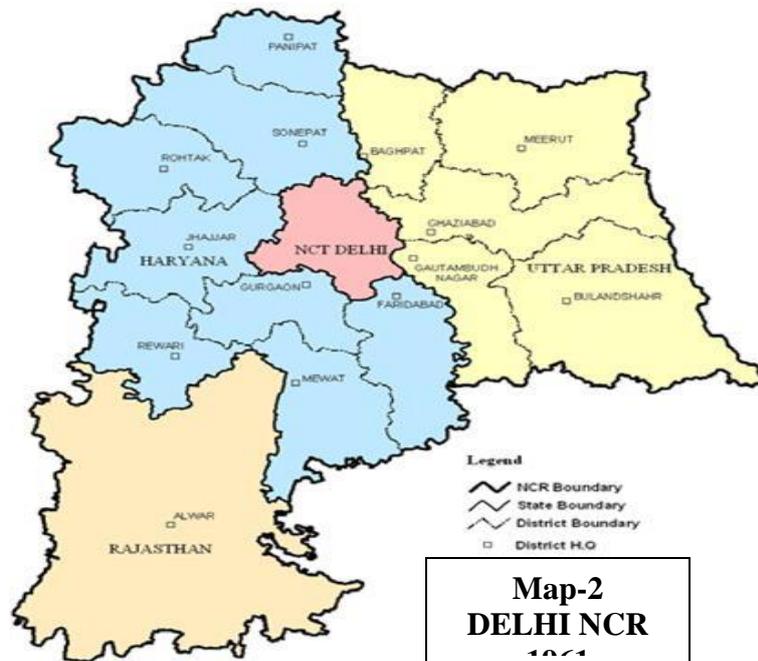
The National Capital Region area comprises:

- National Capital Territory of Delhi (1483 sq. kms). 4.41 percent of the total area of NCR
- Haryana Sub-region comprising eight districts namely, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Mewat and Panipat districts, 39.95 percent of the area of NCR.
- Rajasthan Sub-region comprises Alwar district, 23.32 percent of the area of NCR.
- Uttar Pradesh Sub-region comprising five districts namely, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr and Baghpat, 32.32 percent of the area of NCR.
- Total area of the region is 33,578 sq. kms.



Background of the Study Area

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Location-map-of-Delhi-NCR-It-covers-subregions-of-three-neighbouring-states-le.fig1_325489212



The National Capital Territory of Delhi, recorded an extraordinary growth during 1941-1951, doubling its population with lakhs of immigrants to Delhi, the area experienced decadal growth rate of above 50 percent since 1951 except in the last decade (1991-2001), when it was 47.02 percent. This increasing trend made Delhi to reach the population level of 138 lakh in 2001 and 179 lakhs in 2011. So, in view of the unprecedented growth of population and haphazard development of urban areas due to partition and independence, the Government of India felt a need for planned development of Delhi. Town Planning Organisation (TPO), prepared Interim General Plan (IGP) in 1956 for greater Delhi, it stressed the necessity of planning Delhi in a regional context. The master plan of Delhi (MPD - 1962) for the perspective year of 1981 also recognised the need of planning of Delhi in the regional context. It defined Delhi Metropolitan Area of 800 square miles including the Union Territory of Delhi and the six Ring Towns, Loni and Ghaziabad in UP, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Bahadurgarh and Gurgaon in Punjab (now Haryana) and Narela in the UT of Delhi.

The board was constituted for the task of coordinating the development of urban and rural areas in the NCR within the framework of a comprehensive Regional Plan to be formulated by the board in collaboration with the concerned State Government.

The constituent areas of NCR are sub-regions of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Government is in all plans and talks to extend and advance connectivity of these cities to the state of Delhi. To make the movement convenient, roads and flyovers were built. Recently the Metro services have also been extended to Noida and Gurgaon regions, offering ridership to almost 3 lakh people to and fro from Delhi. (Regional plan, NCR)

Haryana Districts in NCR

Gurgaon, Rohtak, Faridabad, Jhajjar, Mewat, Sonapat, Palwal, Rewari, and Panipat

Uttar Pradesh

Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budha Nagar (Noida), Hapur, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Shamli and Muzaffarnagar

Rajasthan

Alwar and Bharatpur

Delhi

Entire NCT (National Capital Territory)

<https://www.delhionline.in/city-guide/delhi-ncr>

Research Objective

The major objective of the studies are as follows:

- To study the various challenges faced by the people of NCR during Pandemic.
- How the pandemic affected the family members
- How pandemic affects the education quality and mental health as well as physical health of the children.
- To study the effect of lockdown on domestic workers of the household, especially after the ban on alcohol.
- How Yoga and Meditation helped the people to fight against this disease.

Literature Review

Research on pandemic and its social economic impact at Global and Indian level has been focus of the researchers especially in the NCR region. Hundreds of millions of people were infected all over the world by the Covid-19. Pandemic has not even left political structures unaffected at global and regional levels. Impact on transport services and retail industries among others has severely disrupted flow of goods and thereby disrupted people. (Nasser Yassin & Shadi Saleh, 2021)

Covid-19 community transmission happened due to partial lock down in the Bangladesh. This worsened the health care crisis, economic burden and loss of GDP despite the resumption of industrial operations. Loss of lives and livelihood created psychological and economic insecurity in the people and society at large. Risk assessment, communications, and financial stimulus toward the public to alleviate their fear and anxiety became urgency at government level. At the same time proper action to boost mental health and wellbeing became immediate need of time. (Doza, et al., 2020)

The Studies also show that the covid-19 has done unprecedented loss globally but as Indian economy was emerging and likely to be affected more in every sector and that too disproportionately. (Aneja, Ranjan & Ahuja, Vaishali, 2021). The lifestyle changes in association with the pandemic influenced the working group economically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. (Mulugeta, 2021). Millions of families across India experienced significant losses in income, employment, and savings as a result of the crisis. It also emerged that nearly three-quarters of primary income earners lost jobs or wages and many did not expect to return to work in the near future. It meant that for the roughly 174 million people living below the poverty line in India, government entitlements were a critical lifeline — and would be for some time. (<https://Dalberg.com>>ourIdeas, 2021).

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the urban labour market had shown signs of improvement in terms of labour force participation rate (LFPR), Worker population ratio (WPR) and Unemployment rates (UR). However, the nation-wide lockdown imposed in late- March, 2020 adversely impacted the urban labour market. (India, 2021-2022)

Studies on impact of socio-economic pandemic in Delhi reveal, income and work of a significant number of patients was affected due to COVID-19, as there was a decline in income and work efficiency. The work of two-third of the employed patients was affected due to COVID-19 disease and more than one-third of the patients reported a decrease in their income. One-fourth of the patients had to take personal leaves for the COVID-19 isolation or care. A large number of COVID-19 patients faced stigma/discrimination in the workspace. This made need felt for providing financial protection to COVID-19 patients, and to expedite efforts to be made to address the social stigma associated with the disease. (Chandra, et al., 2021).

During Covid19, a study on women waste pickers during lockdown in Delhi, showed that a large proportion of respondents faced difficulties in going out to collect waste as police are patrolling in the streets and they had no protective equipment. 68 per cent of interviewed respondents, reported that the closure of go downs and junk shops have made sorting and selling recyclables nearly impossible. The study also revealed that the waste pickers faced a severe shortage of food and hindrances for accessing essential medicines and healthcare services. The severe impact of the pandemic on their life and livelihood means that, wherever possible, waste pickers are stepping out for work, irrespective of protections for their own safety and health. A study of women vendors in Delhi found that the majority have completely lost their livelihoods, as 97.14 per cent of the respondents reporting that they had been adversely affected by the lockdown. 65 per cent of respondents also said that they were dependent on personal savings to sustain from the loss of income. (Majithia, 2020)

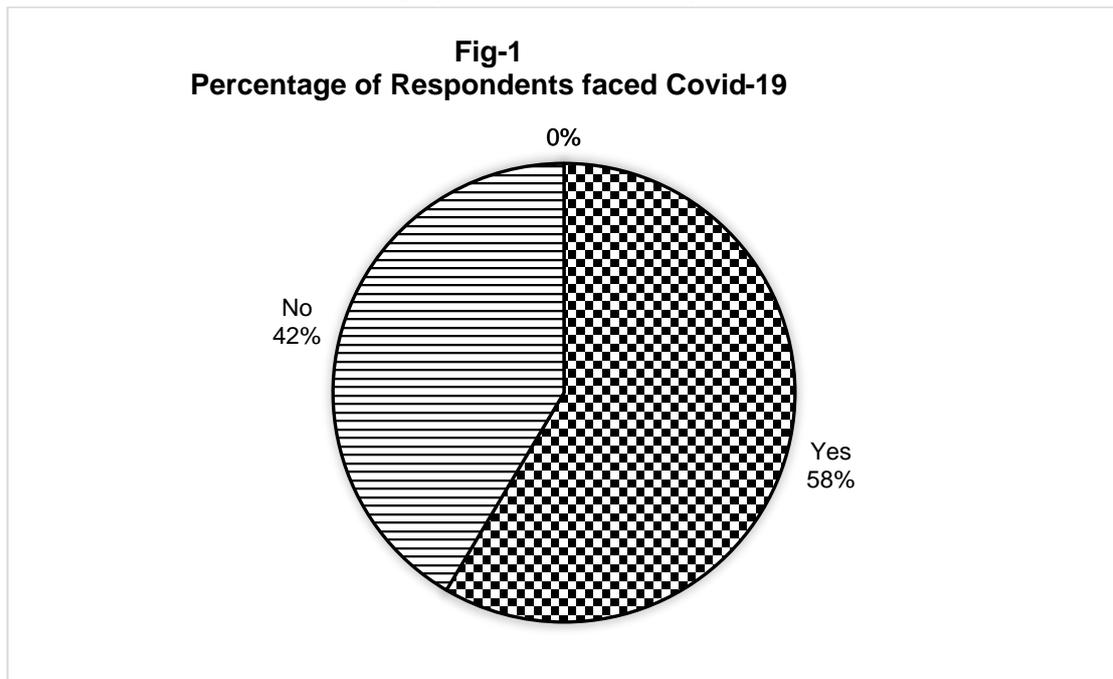
The loss of income of the home-based category of workers in Delhi is causing severe hardship. Amongst these workers many were not able to meet even their basic needs for food or milk. While a small number found an alternative way to earn an income by preparing masks, or dependent on another breadwinner in the house, others were in extreme distress. All or most of their savings have been used up and many workers had to either sell their assets or borrow from moneylenders at high interest rates. The risks of COVID-19 were very high, which prevented workers from going out and looking for work.

Most home-based workers are women who face additional demands on their time for household chores, cooking and child care during the pandemic. And since schools and child care centres were closed, that work was without respite. The need to increase the visibility and recognition of home-based work is a longstanding demand and was even more urgent then. Unlike many other informal workers, domestic workers have a clear relationship with their employers. Hence, in the context of the lockdown announced to curb COVID-19, public advisories were put out urging employers to pay their domestic workers for the period that they were unable to do so because of the movement restrictions imposed. However, as this was not enforceable in any manner, the vast majority of workers received only partial payment for the month of March and no wages for the subsequent two months, when lockdown was extended. Instead, they had to rely on emergency provisions from the government or civil society for food. Surveys found that, because income from women's domestic work was regular and often accounts for around 50 per cent of the household income, many families were pushed into exhausting all their savings and became indebted. (Narayan.Malavika, 2020)

Women, who are "supposed" to do all their official and household work were now required to do all of it simultaneously because of lockdown amid covid-19. I did this study to analyse the perceived stress and depressive tendencies among the non-clinical population of employed women residing in Delhi-NCR and whether work from-for home is acting as a mediator between the two. Further, marital status and family status were also taken into consideration. (Beri, 2021)

Result and Discussion

Demographic Profile of the Respondents



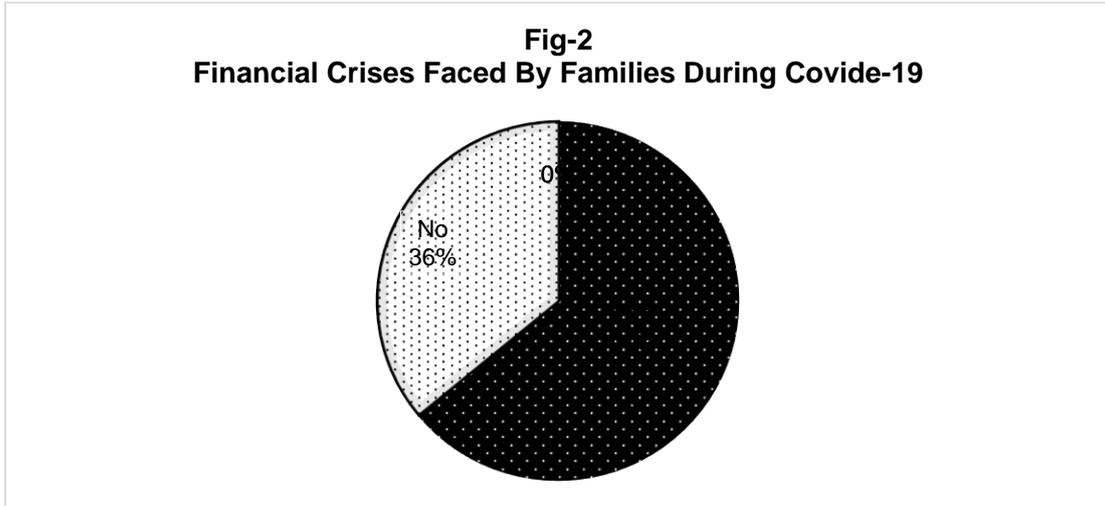
The data represents the demographic profile of the Delhi NCR people, among the 140 households. 62 percent are females and 37 percent males. Almost 60 percent of the household are enjoying their stay in a big extended family type and 40 percent are living in nuclear family structure. In 90 households only one person is employed or earning, in 36 households two earning members are generating money for the family and in 14 households more than 2 members are earning.

Occupation

25 percent of the respondents are government employees, 26 percent are in private jobs, 16 percent are in the business sector. 11 percent are labourers and farmers, 8 percent people are skilled workers.

Household wise income status of family members and financial Crisis

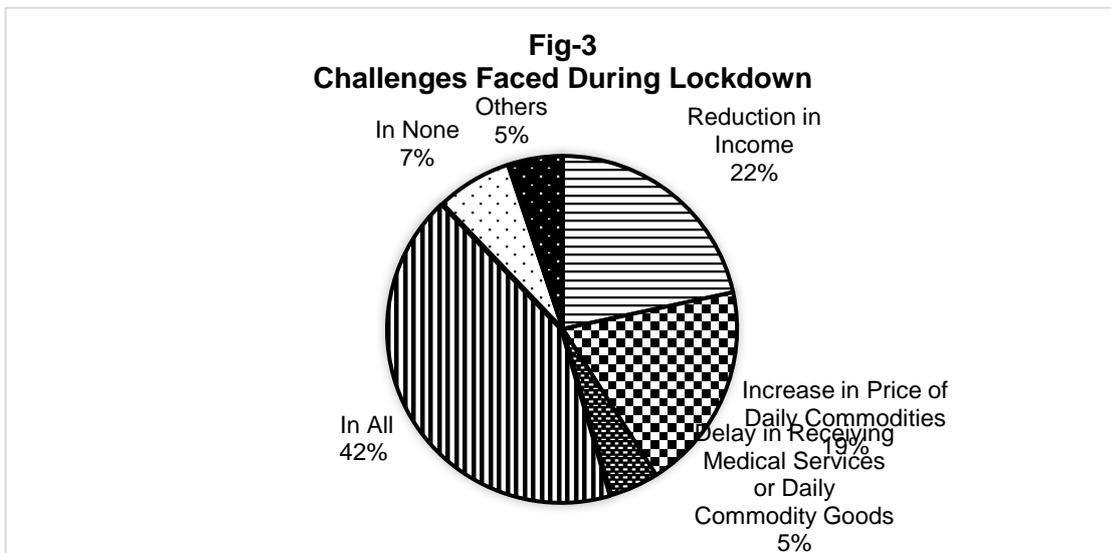
Nearly 43 percent households are from less than 1 lakh income group, 26 percent are from 1-3 lakh income group, 14 percent household belongs to more than 5 lakh income group and 14 percent are from 3-5 lakh income group



The Coronavirus pandemic has no doubt impact from large to small scale industrialists to varying proportions i.e., shortage of labour, lack of demand. all domestic and international travel was terminated as a result of which industries faced direct supply disruption which ultimately hindered production activities.(Dwivedi, 2021)

According to survey, 64 percent of the household suffers from financial crises.

Challenges faced by People during National and State Lockdown



Many challenges were faced by the people of NCR Delhi such as reduction in income, delay in medical facility, increase in daily commodities goods. In spite of these problems shutdown of business, labour shortage, sales of products were also faced by many peoples of this area.

Fig-4
RESPONSES FOR LOSS OF JOBS

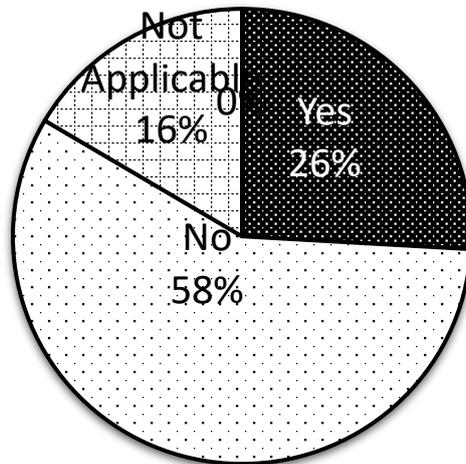
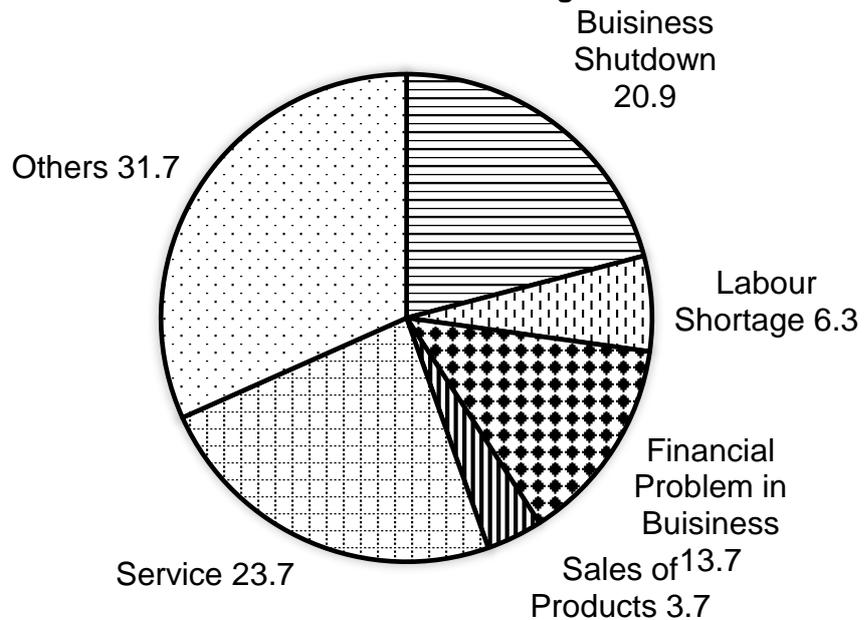


Fig-5
Problem Faced in Buisness During Lockdown



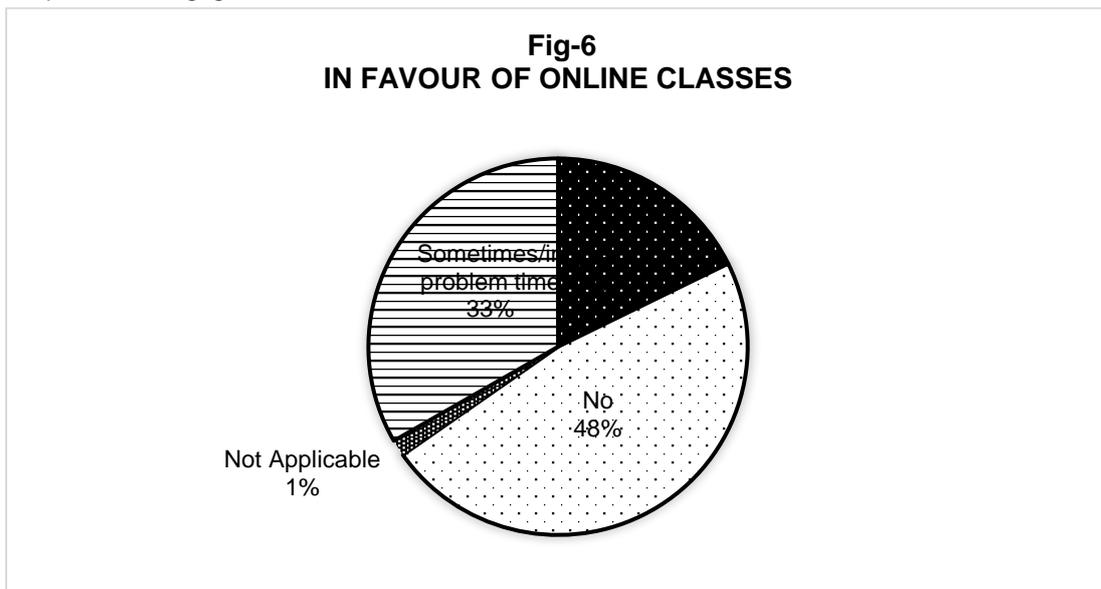
Expenditure on bare necessities of food, shelter, and home are replaced by cell phones, the internet, and apps. YouTube, Disney, Netflix, Amazon have become more important than bread. (Jain, 2021)

Family Problems

7 percent of people witnessed domestic violence of their near and dear but many people faced financial problems. Surprisingly, only 41 percent of people affected by this disease got support from their family members. Only 11 percent of household members have reported that they were supported by any social organisation. The maximum number of people get support morally and by food from their family members and few people get monetary support in the NCR.

Education Sector

Educational institutions, which have always been placing for real-life, physical interaction, have been among the hardest hit. Online learning became inevitable now. In this pandemic situation to bridge the gap between faculty and students, online learning is the only solution. Instead of the traditional blackboard and chalk method, a computer monitor and keyboard system is to be used to face the situation. Online education is going to reign in the future, as it is easier, faster, cheaper, reproducible, and less personnel engagement.



“Technology will never replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers is transformational”(Radhika.D, 2021) Online learning always focused on “No child left behind,” “Every student succeeds” and yes “Online” learning became the backbone of education during Covid-19” Online learning is generally not as effective as in-person classes, but they are certainly better than no classes(Singh & Ranjith, 2021)

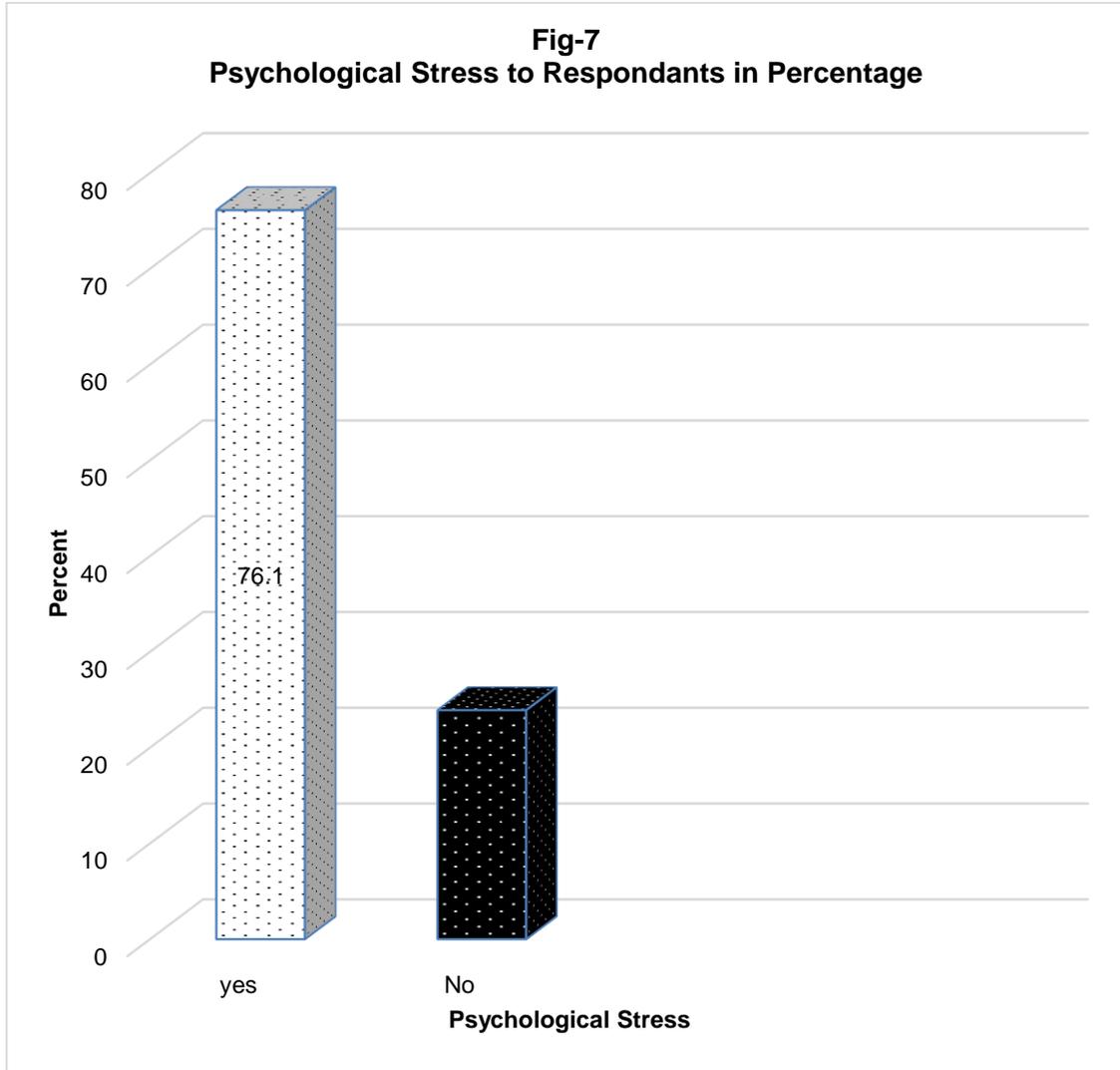
94 percent parents reported about loss of studies of children, here a new concept of learning emerged as online mode of learning, 33 percent people are in favour of online mode in problematic times. but Respondents of the questionnaire are reporting lack of communication between teachers and students, almost same percentage of people are responding about good communication between them.

Concept of Work from Home

According to(Kumar & Saravana, 2021) A new trend of working from home came into existence, this concept is popular in foreign. In India, during pandemic, it was also effective as it saves transportation time for the employees. Employees generally feel more comfortable and satisfied with work when they are given choices to work on flexible work hours. Working from home as employees feel more involved and committed to family relationships. Employees feel that when working from home they have the freedom of not maintaining attitudes and behaviours as supervisions are not direct and only virtual. Work from home has reduced the operating cost for companies to a considerable extent. But with higher technical disruptions reported, the level of communication and coordination between the workforce is comparatively very less when working from home. Distractions are very common when working from home. Weak cyber and network security system can put a business at risk. In spite of some drawbacks this new emerging concept ‘work from home’ can be accepted in India.

As per respondents, 54 percent people are in favour of work from home and the reason is it saves time and money of travelling, 45 percent people are against of work from home, they have recorded about the spend money on purchase of mobile, connection and allied facilities such as electricity.

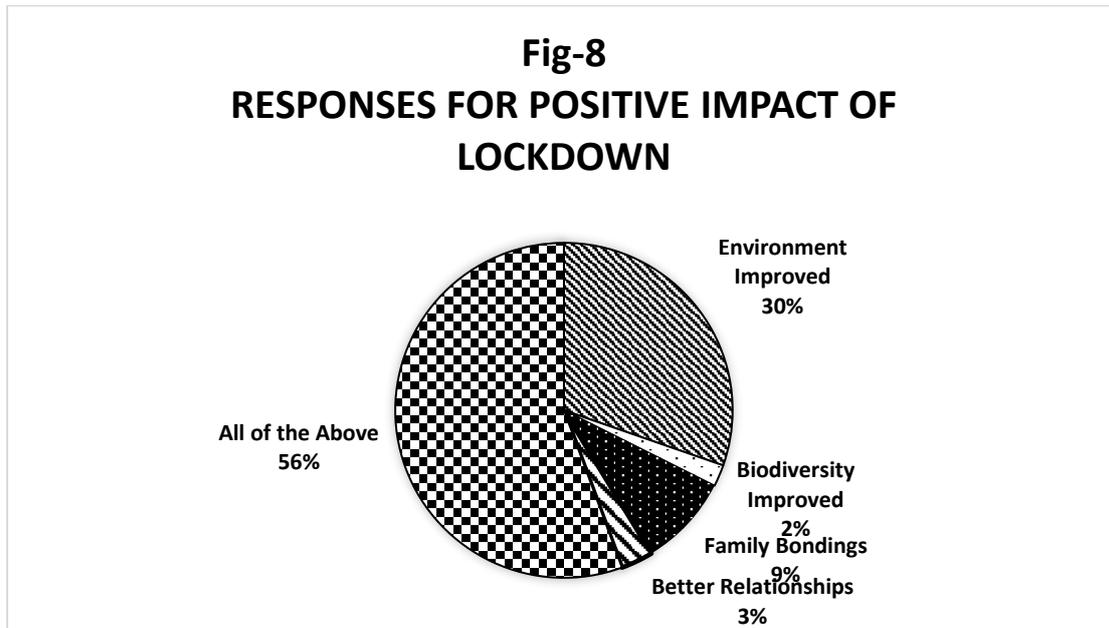
Psychological Problems in Family



50 percent of families are reporting about change in behaviour, increase of irritation in nature, lack of concentration in studies, addiction of phone and TV and increase of anger. 21 percent of the household's children are suffering from lack of concentration in studies. Here it is very important to add that 76 percent of the respondents suffer from stress during these waves of COVID 19.

Ban on Alcohol and Shortage of Oxygen Cylinder

15 percent of people have faced problems due to the ban on Alcohol, 53 percent reported no problem, 23 percent have seen `Kala Banjari` of Alcohol, 8 percent are neutral. 1 percent reported that no one takes alcohol in the family. 23 percent families have faced problems due to the ban on Alcohol, 40 percent reported domestic violence due to the ban on Alcohol, 40 percent families faced other problems such as hunger and violence in the family, and 9 percent families were unaware about this ban. During this period shortage of medicines and Oxygen Cylinder has been detected by 32 percent respondents, but 68 percent have not seen any shortage.

Positive Impact of Lockdown

Positive Impact during National as well as State Lockdown is the paradigm of consumer behaviour that has shifted from 'MATERIALISM' to 'SPIRITUALISM'. Indian culture of 'NAMASTE' is taking place instead of western culture of hug and handshake.

The survey reflects that Yoga and Meditation helped 85 percent families for recovery during this pandemic time period. 56 percent of families reported positive changes in relationships, improving family bonding and environment.

Conclusion

This study assessed the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the people of NCR Delhi and many challenges of staying and working from home, students of school, colleges and university to attend online classes. The lives of the people have been severely affected by the pandemic. The change in lifestyle associated with the pandemic influenced the people economically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Many challenges such as social distancing, shutting down of educational establishments, cancelling of events and social gatherings, hand hygiene, body temperature scan, the use of personal protective equipment. Many restrictions were imposed such as social distancing, shutting down of educational establishments, cancelling of events and social gatherings, hand hygiene, body temperature scan and personal protective equipment, travelling restrictions. The burden of costs of personal protective items such as face masks, hand sanitizers, and internet added additional expenses. The pandemic caused social restriction, an economic loss, psychological shock due to the pandemic situation.

Lockdown suitability also observed economic and social impact. The majority of the respondents lack most of the basic resources and even those who had a suitable home environment sometimes failed to fulfil the basic facilities. Many of these workers have been unable to meet even their basic needs for food or milk. While a small number found an alternative way to earn an income —making masks, for example— or have another breadwinner in the house, others are in extreme distress (Narayan.Malavika, 2020). Some of the respondents had no resources to work at home. This situation of lockdown has become unbearable.

Due to COVID-19 the declared curfews and lockdowns to contain the spread of the virus infection and no other better alternative. According to the current finding, most of the respondents found it very difficult to stay and work from home. 75% of people faced psychological stress, depression. However, the respondents still accept the advantage of lockdown for the sake of their wellbeing regardless of the emotional impact they are bearing. Improvement in physical environment, biodiversity and better family bonding experienced remained positive impact during stay at home.

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