



ECO-VIEWS, 2020

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY

WOMEN'S COLLEGE, CALCUTTA

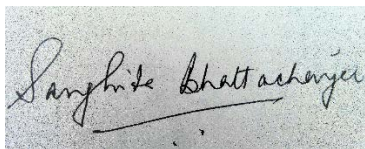
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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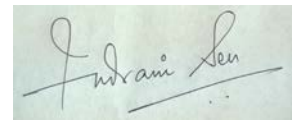
Foreword:

Despite social distancing during this Covid -19, interaction between students and teachers remains on in the digital platform. Our relationship has been found to have immense effects on the learning experience as a whole. Endless enthusiasm and persistence of students regarding the unknown focuses their motivation, resulting in this digital repository. In this work their participation ranges from designing the cover page to collection and graphical representation of data. The participating students are: Anisha Nandy (Semester IV), Bugmita Mondal (Semester-IV), Taniya Das (Semester – IV), Doyel Biswas (Semester – II) and Srijita Das (Semester II). However, we specially thank Anisha for meticulously designing the cover page.

Writing is hard, even for those who do it all the times. This e-book captures the writings of our students that shows their inherent competence of completing a project with perfection.



Sanghita Bhattacharjee



Dr. Indrani Sen

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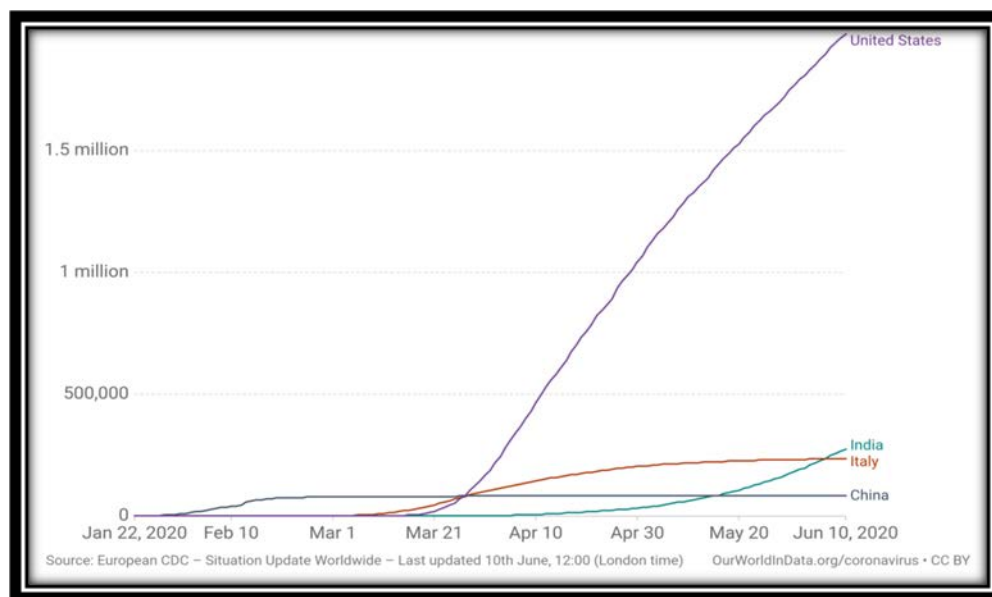
NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (nCOVID-19) – Trends in India, USA, Italy & China

Tania Das

Semester - IV

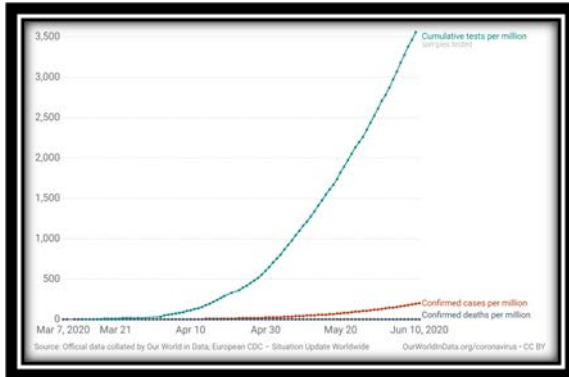
The global Covid 19 virus continues to wreak havoc over 200 countries across the world. The impact of the virus has varied across countries. In order to understand this we have tried to make a comparison of four different countries beginning with the chronology. The virus as we are aware, originated and spread in China first, but the cases across USA, Italy and India were reported within a ten-day timeframe.

Total Confirmed COVID-19 cases.



This chart shows the total number of corona cases in four countries (USA, India, China & Italy). If we compare the progression in India with USA and Italy, we notice that USA has suffered the most number of corona cases in the world. So far, the number of corona cases there has exceeded two million. In India, the graph of corona infestation is upward. India now ranks fourth in the world in terms of corona infestation. A few days ago, a large number of people were infected in Italy, but now that number is slowly declining. In China, the total number of corona cases though declined, but cases of new infections in the Chinese capital, Beijing has induced cause of concern.

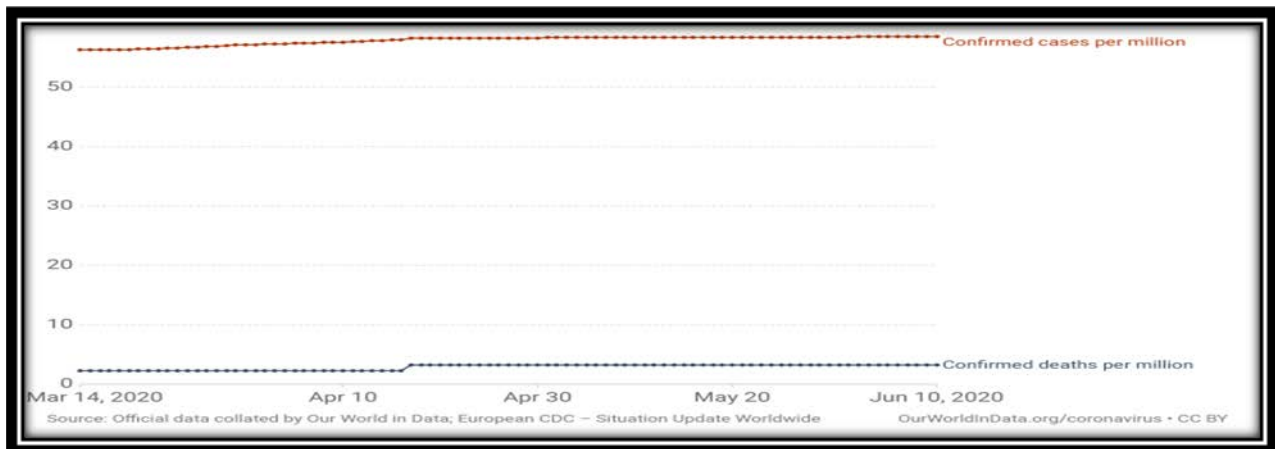
Total COVID-19 tests, confirmed cases, & deaths per million people, in INDIA.



The number of corona patients in India is around 559,910 as June 29, 2020. The growth rate of new corona virus cases in India is now doubling every 12 days. However, India’s recovery rate is showing the light of hope. India’s recovery rate from the corona virus disease improved to over 48.2%. There are now more people in India recovering than active cases with corona and also 16,757

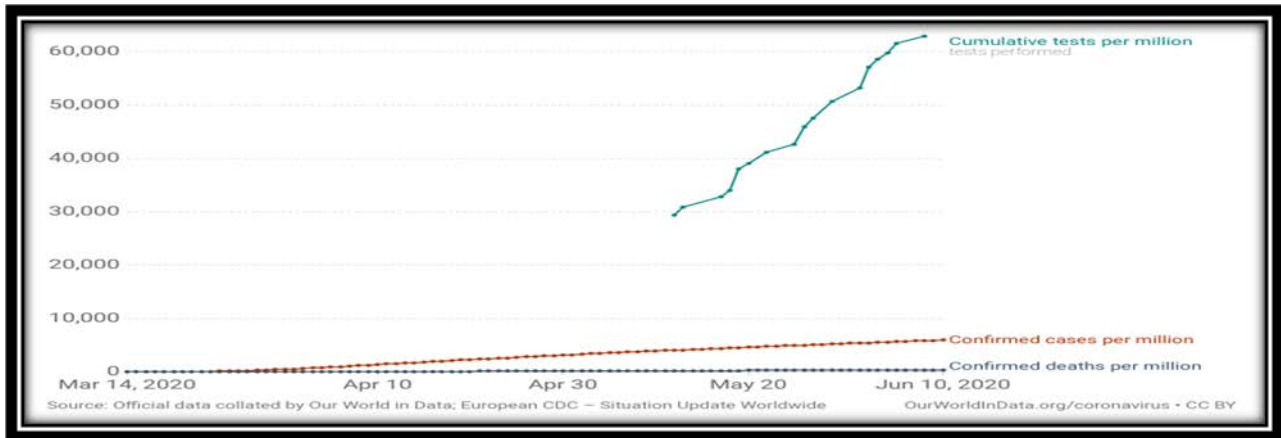
people have died from the infection. India ranks fourth in world in the term of corona virus testing but more testing is needed for India’s overpopulation.

Total COVID-19 tests, confirmed cases, & deaths per million people, in China.



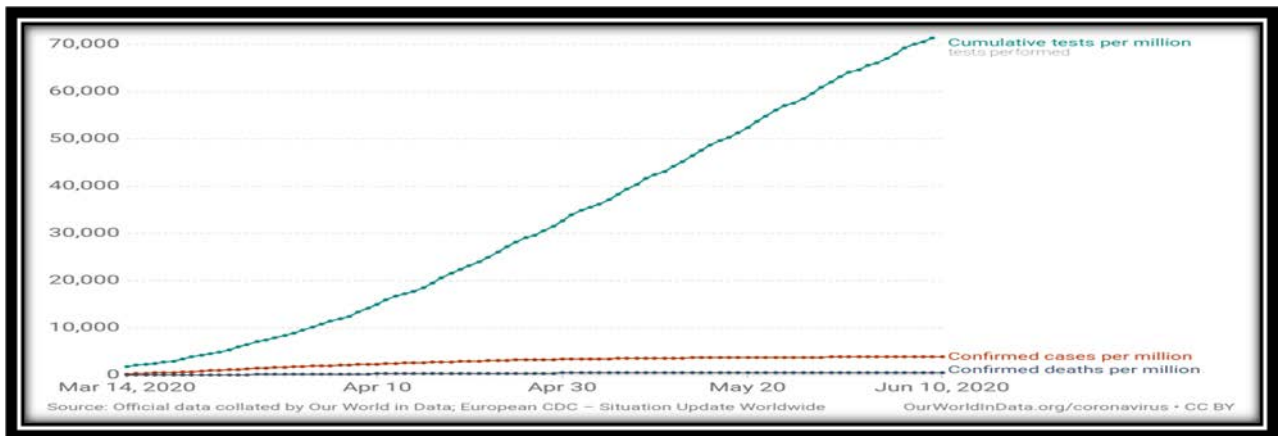
China is the country where the first corona outbreak was seen. On December 31, 2019 China alerted the World Health Organization to several cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people. In China total 9.9 million people had been tested. The total number of corona cases here is around 83,512 and the death toll is around 4634. With new corona victims in Beijing, doctors call this the second wave.

Total COVID-19 tests, confirmed cases, & deaths per million people, in United States.



USA is the most affected country in the world. Twenty million people have been infected here so far. As per US' Centers for Disease Control latest data, total number of tests stands at 15,766,114 and the positive cases are 12% of the total sample tested. Total death count in US has crossed 1,00,000, with total mortality rate at 5.26%.US recovery rate is 25.82%.US where Covid-19 cases jumped from 10000 to 1 lakh in only 25, 30 and 35 days respectively. New York has the highest number of people affected in USA.

Total COVID-19 tests, confirmed cases, & deaths per million people, in Italy.



Like other countries, the corona virus has had a serious impact in Italy. This is the most affected country in Europe. The number of corona cases in Italy is around 2 lakh 40 thousand. The total number of tests for corona virus infections conducted in Italy exceeded 4.4 million. One lakh 73 thousand people have recovered and 35000 have died from this disease. The mortality rate here

is 16.2 and the recovery rate is 83.84. Currently, there is some improvement in the situation in Corona, though 200 to 300 people are being infected with corona in Italy every day.

The positive outgrowth, however, should not lower the guard. The lock down has to be rolled back in a phased and staggered manner while ensuring better health safety as well as economic safeguard in the countries.

COVID 19 and THE MIGRANT SCENARIO

Bugmita Mondal

Semester – IV

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another to benefit from better economic opportunities in the receiving place. Migration is not a new phenomenon in India. The images of migrants desperately seeking to return home with the imposition of lockdown due to Covid 19, will not be erased from public memory soon. The realisation of the magnitude of dependence of the migrant workforce in the development process is certainly new for many.

Indian migrant workers during the Covid 19 pandemic have faced multiple hardships. With factories and work place shut down due to the lockdown imposed in the country, millions of migrant workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortage and uncertainty about their future. Following this many of them and their families went hungry. Thousands of them began walking hundreds of miles on foot to reach home finding no means of transport due to the lockdown. Many workers lost their lives due to starvation, hardship and exhaustion on their way back home, road and rail accidents or comorbidity and some even committed suicide. In response, the Central and State Governments took various steps to help them. This consisted of some direct cash transfers and steps to ensure food security and latter arranged transportation. The State government ensured health checkups and arranged quarantine centres for migrants returning back.

Covid 19 triggered exodus is a sudden reversal of the cumulative migration of seven decades. The resulting churning is an opportunity for India's socio-economic renaissance. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha face a multiple disaster scenario and are scrambling to provide health care, sustenance and employment for the reverse migrants. The major host states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Delhi and Kerala are trying to minimise the loss of labour and skills and prime for 'unlocking' of economic activity.

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with largest returnee loads have realised their workers asset value. They are establishing online data bases, skill directory and migration institutions. These two states are working to secure better economic and social security bargains for them.

Home states have started drawing upon the Centre's migrant workers welfare Fund and other poverty eradication and empowerment schemes, including enhanced MGNREGA. States have also initiated the involvement of Non-governmental Organisations and other volunteers to support them in this endeavour. But there are many migrant workers who have been in a difficult situation, working out plans to sustain and return back to their origin. Economist Jean Dreze stated that the lockdown had been "almost a death sentence" for the underprivileged of the country.

In a relief to migrant workers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of the National Portability Cards (**One Nation One Ration Card**) which can be used in any ration shop in any part of the country as migrants move from state to state. Besides, the FM said the government will give 5 kg/person of wheat or rice and 1 kg/family of channa for **non-PDS card holders for two months** which is going to cost the national exchequer Rs 3,500 crore.

There is a huge insecurity about how long this crisis will last and what damage it would do to the economy, livelihood of people and availability of basic health care services. Given its size and spread, management of migrants under lockdown represents a massive logistic challenges. Some of these challenges need to be addressed instantly and others are long term.

POLICIES to ADDRESS THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Doyel Biswas

Semester - II

With all the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, government is proposing many policy proposals to address the current situation. Obviously, many of these could lead to an erosion of free markets, limited government and federalism. Nearly 162 countries went steadily into lockdown and businesses across the globe are operating in fear of an impending collapse of global financial markets. This situation, clubbed with slow economic growth in the previous year, especially in a developing country like India, is leading to extremely doubtful market condition.

Policy makers cannot prevent economic damage from the outbreak, but they can limit it. From the month of March, India along with many other countries is under lockdown. Many small industries and bigger industries are facing loss. Though bigger industries' or companies' loss is not at all big but the smaller companies are going through a big loss. There are many more people who are working in those companies; they will also face financial problems. Those companies had to stop production during these days. People belonging to middle class are facing issues too. But the problems are more for the lower middle class and poor category people who are daily wage earners. They are facing financial problems so much that they don't have money even to get food. They are fasting for days. They don't have any income source. The government is making direct cash transfer and also providing food to the poor. Cash transfers to marginalized people would create demand for products in the local markets.

The process of import and export also has been paused. So there is shortage of some products. India is bearing many problems regarding development, management, and production. The pandemic indicates that when the economy is in distress, the Government has a major role to play.

India should do testing and mass testing and release the data to find the solution and inform the public.

- The citizens have to be empowered with accurate information, make everyone well alert and enable them to follow proper precautions to ensure safety.

- In this situation the most important thing for the government is to organize medical resources and enough equipment for doctors so that they can treat people fast.

- The government should provide partial guarantees to make sure banks are lending to small and medium business and to large business if needed.

- Government should help poor and below poverty level people by transferring money through direct cash transfers.

-Policies should be addressed to cater to the fruitful use of the reverse migrant labourers. By using their skill the government can transform the crisis into opportunity.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi has given a clarion call to be '*Atmanirbhar*' (self-reliant) to enable the resurgence of the Indian economy. Though it cannot be achieved in the short-run, but the economic health of the country would improve by improving the condition of agriculture, employment and manufacturing. Manufacturing would include production of all exported materials in India for not just domestic needs but also to be able to export products. But all this needs a focus on education and skill developments.

পরিশায়ী শ্রমিকও কোভিড ১৯

সুপর্ণা পাল

সেমিস্টার - IV

দেশের পরিশায়ী শ্রমিকদের মধ্যে অধিকাংশ আসে উত্তরপ্রদেশ, বিহার, রাজস্থান ও মধ্যপ্রদেশ থেকে। অধিকাংশ শ্রমিক আকর্ষিত হয় দিল্লি এবং মুম্বাই এই শহর দুটি দ্বারা, যেখানে বেশীরভাগ পুরুষদের পরিব্রাজন ঘটে কাজের জন্য এবং মহিলাদের বিবাহ সূত্রোগোটা বিশ্ব যখন লড়াই চালাচ্ছে করোনা অর্থাৎ COVID -19 এর বিরুদ্ধে, তখন ভারতের পরিশায়ী শ্রমিকের লড়াইটা আরো ভয়ংকর।

এই সময় তাদের উভয়সঙ্কট, ঘরের বাইরে বেরোলে করোনাতে মরবে আর ঘরে থাকলে না খেতে পেয়ে মৃত্যুর আশঙ্কা। Lockdown -এর জন্য কাজ বন্ধ তাই রোজগার নেই, খাবার নেই, শুধু আছে বাঁচার আশায় বাড়ি ফেরার তাগিদ।

ইন্টারনেশনাল লেবার অর্গানাইজেশন (ILO) তাদের প্রতিবেদনে জানাচ্ছে অসংগঠিত ক্ষেত্রে কর্মরত ৪০ কোটি ভারতীয় শ্রমিক এই করোনা ভাইরাসের প্রকোপের জেরে ঝুঁকির মুখে একেবারে দারিদ্রের গভীরে ডুবে যাওয়ার আশঙ্কা রয়েছে। এই প্রতিবেদন বলছে যে কোভিড ১৯ অতি মহামারী ও তার জেরে ও লকডাউনের কারণে সারা বিশ্বে ২-৩ বিলিয়ন শ্রমিকের আর্থিক জীবনে প্রভাব ফেলবে।

গত কয়েক মাস ধরে একটি ছবি বারংবার দেখেছে দেশাকিলোমিটার এর পর কিলোমিটার পথ, পিঠে ব্যাগ এবং বাচ্ছা নিয়ে হাট্টা এই পরিশায়ী শ্রমিকদের। আবার অনেকে সাইকেল চড়ে শত কিলোমিটার দূরে একাধিক রাজ্যে পেরিয়ে বাড়ি ফেরার আশায় পথ চলেছেন। পেটে খাবার নেই, পায়ে ফোঁসকা, মনে যন্ত্রনা, অনেককে বাড়ি ফেরার পথে পরতে হয় নানা দুর্ঘটনার সামনে যাতে তাদের অনেকের মৃত্যু ও হয়েছে। করোনা এদের সব কিছু কেড়ে নিয়েছে যেমন - কাজ, আশ্রয়, আহাৰ আবার অনেকে হারিয়েছে প্রিয়জনদের। আবার পরিশায়ী শ্রমিকদের

বাড়ি ফেরার সাথে রয়েছে গ্রামে সংক্রমণের আশংকা, তার ফলে হেনস্তা হতে হয় পুলিশ এবং স্থানীয় লোকের কাছে।

এদের উদ্দেশ্যে কেন্দ্রীয় ও রাজ্য সরকার পরিবহনের এবং খাবারের ব্যবস্থা করেন। ১.৭০ লাখ কোটি টাকার প্যাকেজ তৈরী হয়েছে Pradhan Mantri Gram Kalyan Yojana (PMJKY)-র মাধ্যমে এবং ত্রাণের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) এর মাধ্যমে। কিন্তু সরকারকে থাকতে হবে এদের পাশে আরো দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী কৌশল নিয়ে যেমন-
---খাবার পৌঁছতে হবে সকলের কাছে।

---স্বাস্থ্য পরিষেবা উন্নত করতে হবে।

---স্বাস্থ্য বীমা চালু করতে হবে।

এই সব মৌলিক কৌশল অবলম্বনে সময় সাপেক্ষ হলেও এদের অবস্থার উন্নতি ঘটানো সম্ভব।