

Impact of Pandemic – COVID 19 in Agrarian Part of the Country – A Study across Villages Adopted by Mount Carmel College, Autonomous, Bangalore

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ABSTRACT

This paper is showing that COVID19 has affected all walks of life. Protecting lives of people suffering from the disease as well as frontline health responders have been the priority of nations. Governments have swung into actions since the Corona virus attack created an unprecedented situation. India declared a three-week nation-wide lockdown till mid-April in the initial phase, which was subsequently extended for achieving satisfactory containment of the virus spread.

Keywords-- Covid-19, Pandemic, Frontline Workers, UGC

I. INTRODUCTION

The ongoing health crisis around COVID19 has affected all walks of life. Protecting lives of people suffering from the disease as well as frontline health responders have been the priority of nations. Governments have swung into actions since the Corona virus attack created an unprecedented situation. India declared a three-week nation-wide lockdown till mid-April in the initial phase, which was subsequently extended for achieving satisfactory containment of the virus spread.

The government is looking to learn from the best practices of villages as cities grapple to deal with the rising number of coronavirus cases. The government has asked all colleges and universities to research on the way villages and rural areas have handled the covid-19 crisis and have dealt with social-economic challenges in the past few months.

"We require greater cooperation, understanding and adaptability to the situation. Importantly, there is a pressing need to sensitively analyse the impact of the pandemic, as well as the role played by communities in agrarian part of the country," according to a letter written by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to universities and colleges.

"While the cities have struggled, some interesting practices are emerging from blocks and village level. It would be interesting to capture them explore how to scale up good practices," said an official familiar with the

development. The official said the learning from best practices from rural Rajasthan to Kerala or from Odisha to Sikkim will be helpful for other states.

Therefore, The current report carried out by Dr Govinda Gowda - analyses the impact of Pandemic COVID-19 in the villages and how they have combat the struggles of such deadly diseases both in medical and economic terms.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The focus of this study would be to elaborate on the following issues:

- To identify and analyse the awareness level in the villages regarding covid-19,
- To recognize how the village withstand various challenges posed by the current pandemic
- To identify the best strategies and measures adopted by the villages to combat the challenges posed by covid-19

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Type

Exploratory research

3.2 Data Collection Technique

Interview method (Keep in consideration the social distancing and other precautions)

3.3 Data Collection Tool

Interview schedule consisting of 4 Parts –

- Part-1 Demographic Profile
- Part-2 Awareness levels (5 Questions – Likert scale of agreement)
- Part-3 Withstanding Challenges (5 Questions – Likert scale of agreement)
- Part-4 Best strategies used by the Villages (5 Questions – Likert scale of agreement)

3.4 Sampling

3.5 Sample Size

5 villages

3.6 Sampling Techniques

Convenience Sampling is used to select the 5 villages which are associated with the college and proximity with those villages

Due to the consequences of the Pandemic the interview was possible with at least 10-12 members from each of the villages

3.7 About the Villages

Table 1: About the Villages

Village	Taluk	District	Area in Hectares	Population	Household	Corona Cases	Respondents
Marasandra	Arekere	Bangalore	409.12	965	203	0	10
Koramangala	Devanahalli	Bangalore	568.58	1,892	370	0	12
Huvinayakanahalli	Bandikodagehalli	Bangalore	256.42	642	147	0	10
Hebbagodi	Anekal	Bangalore	NA	NA	NA	NA	10
Thyamagandalu	Nelamangala	Bangalore	348.2	8,160	1,918	0	12
Total Respondents							54

3.8 Limitations of the Study

- The study is limited to the 5 villages
- Due to time constraints only a small sample could be collected

3.9 Plan of Analysis

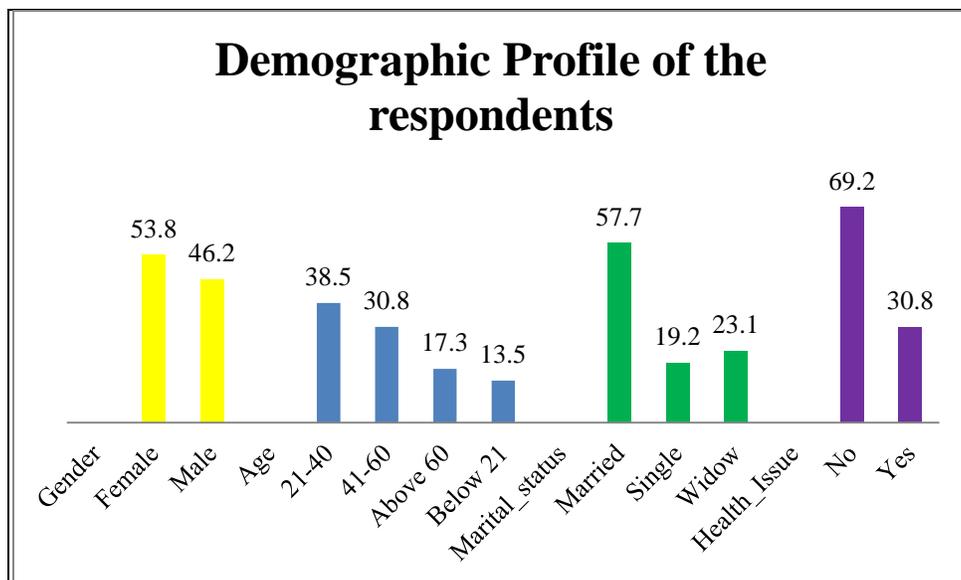
SPSS software is used to analyze the data- Descriptive statistics is used to study the impact of demographic variables on the awareness level, the Best strategy of the villages is selected with the help of highest mean values.

IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1 Demographic Profile

The demographic Profile of the respondents shows that a majority of 53.8% respondents are female and remaining are male, 38.5% of the respondents are youth and 17.3% are above 60 years who the most vulnerable to the diseases. A majority of 57.7% respondents are married and sadly 30.8% of the respondents had previous medical issues.

Graph 1: Demographic Profile of the respondents



4.2 Awareness Level of the Respondents

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics - Awareness

	Descriptive Statistics					
		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
I am aware of the symptoms of COVID-19	Awareness_1	52	1	5	3.67	1.294
I am aware about the consequences of COVID-19	Awareness_2	52	1	5	3.13	1.314
I am aware of the precautions to be taken to prevent transmission of COVID-19	Awareness_3	52	1	5	3.46	1.179
I am aware of the Government regulations and facilities provided by Government to face COVID - 19	Awareness_4	52	1	5	2.96	1.220
I am aware on the current economic crisis caused due to this Pandemic	Awareness_5	52	1	5	3.04	1.508
	Valid N (listwise)	52				

Source: Field Survey

The awareness levels of the respondents is measured using 5 likert scale items and the highest means score is obtained awareness of the symptoms – 3.67, which indicates that majority of the respondents have agreed that they are aware of the symptoms. The lowest mean value is

obtained for awareness on the Government facilities provided during the pandemic – 2.96 which indicates that not many villagers are aware of the Government help provided to them through various policies.

4.3 Withstanding the Challenges Posed by the Pandemic

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics - Withstanding the Challenges Posed by the Pandemic

	Descriptive Statistics					
		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Education and information was provided to every house hold to take preventive measures such as sanitization, Social Distancing and wearing of masks	Withstand_Challeneges_1	52	1	5	3.40	1.053
Fencing across the village and limiting new people entering the village	Withstand_Challeneges_2	52	1	5	2.75	1.046
Taking measures to decrease the movement of people and mass gatherings	Withstand_Challeneges_3	52	1	4	2.88	0.983
People with COVID 19 symptoms are encouraged to take preventive measures and quarantine	Withstand_Challeneges_4	52	1	5	2.85	1.127
Migrant workers entering the native village are given facilities to quarantine	Withstand_Challeneges_5	52	1	5	3.04	1.066
	Valid N (listwise)	52				

Source: Field Survey

Education and information was provided to every house hold to take preventive measures such as sanitization, Social Distancing and wearing of masks had the highest mean score of 3.40 which indicates majority of respondents have agreed to it. The villages under study are not very satisfied with the activities of the villages in with

standing the challenges of the Pandemic as the mean scores for all other items is below 3.00 indicating disagreement to neutrality range of responses.

4.4 Best Strategies Adopted by the Villages to Combat the Challenges Posed by Covid-19

Table 4: Descriptive statistics - Best Strategies Adopted by the Villages to Combat the Challenges Posed by Covid-19

	Descriptive Statistics					
		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Creating awareness among the people in the village on the symptoms and preventive measures	Best_strategies_1	52	2	5	3.35	0.926
Taking help from the NGOs's and other government institutions to avail food facilities	Best_strategies_2	52	2	5	3.13	0.864
Continuous monitoring on whether the people are following the sanitization, mask wearing and social distancing	Best_strategies_3	52	1	5	2.63	1.121
Taking steps to help the workers who return to native village by giving them good quarantine facilities	Best_strategies_4	52	1	5	3.19	1.011
Taking measures to help farmers to sell the agricultural products through online sources, facilitate transportation of raw materials	Best_strategies_5	52	1	5	2.79	1.126
	Valid N (listwise)	52				

Source: Field Survey

The highest mean score of 3.35 is obtained for the statement – ‘Creating awareness among the people in the village on the symptoms and preventive measures’ indicating strong responses. The least mean score is obtained for the statement ‘Taking measures to help farmers to sell the agricultural products through online sources, facilitate transportation of raw materials’ -2.79 indicating failure of the village in helping through the agricultural activities.

V. SUGGESTIONS

- The awareness levels in the villages in high but the facilities provided by the government are not known to the villagers, therefore there is a need to create more awareness among the villagers through Advertisements, Panchayat meetings, External Display like Hoardings and the Newspapers , so that they can enhance their economic activities and conditions
- The activities used to withstand the challenges are also not agreed upon by the villagers, there is need to enhance the current activities in fighting

the pandemic. There is a need for Gram Panchayat and Government Officials to take action in saving the interest of the villagers

- The best way the villagers are dealing with the pandemic is through creation of awareness about the symptoms, spread and preventions of the Pandemic. This is the general strategy used by all the villages, But there is need to learn from best strategies of neighbouring villages who are coping with this pandemic
- Due to Good eating Habits, the immunity of villagers is very good- The pandemic has not affected the villagers in medical terms, but the economic difficulties faced due to the lockdown is very high.
- The Pandemic is vulnerable in Cities and the mistakes of the City population are affecting the villagers due to seal downs and Lockdowns.
- The Villagers are also facing a difficulty in marketing the products, especially farmers who grow Perishable crops have faced major difficulty. The transportation is the main Hindrance.

- The villagers are also facing the rude behaviours of the government officials while they require help in terms of transportation, Online marketing and selling of their Produce.
- Indeed the Government have taken many measures to fight the pandemic, but the middlemen in Chain are causing hindrances in reaching of facilities to the actual needy and poor
- The villagers are majorly affected by the economic consequences of the Pandemic and not by the medical difficulties, therefore the government and associated institutions need to extend help to the villagers in fighting the aftermath of the Pandemic, especially the economic and financial Difficulties.

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