

THE JURAT INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL**CHAOS AMID CORONA: THE SOCIAL AND LEGAL IMPACT ON
INDIA*****RAJA KUMAR******CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH BIHAR*****ABSTRACT**

This research paper mainly deals with the different types of chaos that arose amid the Corona. In this, the focus is mainly on the Social and Legal impact of the pandemic on India. The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a highly contagious disease transmitted by contact or droplet, by a novel coronavirus, which requires diligence and strict infection control policies for prevention. India is coping with this epidemic with the rest of the countries. The clouds that make India flourish like the economy, education, employment, medical, transportation, the legal system, agriculture etc. are in midst of major constrains. The global pandemic has broken into a crisis over people's employment. Corona has also changed the idea of people towards nature, environment and life values. In this epidemic, many people have also taken the path of suicide due to the financial crisis. Looking at the current situation, it seems that after the first and second world war, the whole world is fighting the Third World War against Corona. Before this terrible period, people used to shake hands and hug each other. But since beginning of Corona period, people have stopped getting mixed up, as it is also important in terms of security. Also, it has absorbed that Mental illnesses are increasing among people. Due to the spread and lockdown of Covid-19, manufacturers and retailers raised concerns about the impending shortage of food and the scarcity of essential commodities in the market. This paper willingly began to draw the problems and conclusions regarding plausible present and future scenarios. Apart from health, hunger, employment, protection of migrant labours, safety kits available to doctors and their security, these are some of the issues which are finding a place in the atmosphere.

Keywords: Chaos, Coronavirus, Legal Impact, Pandemic

INTRODUCTION

It is said that a small spark burns a large forest, a small hole in the ozone layer can affect the entire atmosphere, a one-degree bend changes the direction of the airplane and so did the Coronavirus to the world and India is also not untouched by this. This virus changed the whole world in just one month. Its notoriety, perhaps, begins from the fact that in India, coronavirus outbreaks have spiraled very quickly. The first confirmed case was reported in the southern state of Kerala on January 30, 2020; and now it has increased to more than 9.26m where about 136k people have died, these figures are constantly increasing. But this thing does not just end here, during this entire epidemic, the country is also facing various types of social, moral, economic disaster.

There were many situations in India that forced people to move out of the house, but for the first time in the history of India, it was not only the people that stopped to get out of the house, but the transportation via air, water and land also had to be stopped. Lockdowns were imposed in the country, the lives of the people were stopped, the Courts also had to be closed due to security, which increased the case, but not its redressal.

SOCIAL IMPACT

The lockdown in order to prevent the spread of virus threat had a profound and perhaps more than expected impact on society. Women were facing more domestic violence during the ongoing lockdown in the country, most cases of domestic violence had been reported from north India, especially Punjab. The data stated that the men sitting in the houses have become upset, whose anger is being carried out on the women. According to the annual report of National Crime Records Bureau-2019, a total of 405861 criminal cases have been reported in India in the year 2019, out of which around 31% cases of domestic violence, 21.8% cases of modesty and 9% kidnapping were recorded.

This report also indicated a 7.8% increase in female harassment cases over the previous year. It is clear that there have always been reports of domestic violence, but there has been an upsurge in such cases in lockdown.

In terms of the Economy, India's economy operates on two things, business activity and consumption, which is feared to be hurt a lot. Global Institutions such as the economist and Asian Development Bank have recently lowered India's GDP growth estimates. In the first quarter of the current financial year, India's GDP has recorded a weakness of more than 24 per cent. The effect of coronavirus had an immediate impact on international financial markets.

Shocks were also felt in India's equity market. Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus, cotton and

yarn exports from India to China have come to a standstill and there is no import of chemical material and accessories items used in the textile industry, which has affected the domestic textile industry. Inflation has increased due to supply constraints due to lockdown. According to government data, retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, where retail inflation rose mainly due to increase in prices of vegetables, pulses, meat and fish. The Reserve Bank of India has said in its annual report that due to Covid19; the country's GDP growth rate can go down to zero. The RBI has predicted that the country's GDP growth could be below 4.5 per cent below zero in FY 2020-21. Regarding the global growth rate, RBI estimates that it can go from zero to 6 per cent to 7.6 per cent. At the same time, the central bank has predicted a sharp rise in inflation due to the supply being less than the demand due to the global epidemic. In the annual report by RBI, it is feared that due to epidemic supply chain block, inflation in India may increase rapidly in the coming months. The central bank has expressed the possibility of a rise in the wholesale inflation rate along with the retail inflation rate in the country.

In terms of Sports, the coronavirus which has caught millions of people worldwide has made a large impact in the sports world. Sports activities have come to a standstill across the globe due to the pandemic. Many top competitions have been cancelled or postponed due to this. The future of sports like hockey looks bleak. Olympics-2020 has also been postponed this year. Among the badminton Olympic qualifiers, the German Open, Polish Open, Portuguese International Championships have been cancelled.

The revenues of sports bodies come from the licensing of television broadcasting rights. When sports competitions around the world have come to a standstill, there is a possibility that there will be a financial deficit like other areas. Due to corona sports complexes, stadiums, gyms etc. remained closed during lockdown due to which trainers and coaches lost their jobs. With no competition, the livelihood of the athletes has also been affected.

With India's economy in crisis in this epidemic, the budget for sports in India could be extremely low next year as well, as the government is looking to focus on other key areas or in the post-epidemic world. The budget for 2020-21 was Rs 2826.92 crore, with more spending on the Khelo India program aimed at grassroots development of the Games and a significant drop in the funds of the National Sports Federations and Sports Authority of India.

If the figures are to be discussed, according to the news of an English media portal, a 25 per cent decline has been recorded in sports jobs in India due to Corona period. Apart from this, in

the last month, there has been an increase of 11 per cent in the search for sports jobs compared to the year 2019, which is enough to prove that the corona epidemic has spoiled the mathematics of the sports world. Every year on August 29, the Rashtriya Khel Awards are traditionally organized in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, but this time this tradition was also organized online rather than in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In terms of Education, Education opens up the mind, develops it and allows us to improve our lives in so many ways. It is just what Aristotle said, “Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity”. Education provides life skills to the younger generation and motivates them to move forward in life. Also, it plays an important role in making common people aware of their rights for good governance.

The study on the emerging dimensions in the field of education in and after the passing of Covid-19 said, "Due to Covid-19 pandemic, more people are studying in the digital medium and short duration courses are also becoming popular. These changes are causing difficulty, but they are also showing examples of innovation in the field of education. By using of apps and email like WhatsApp, zoom, Google Meet etc. the team is increasing to achieve educational goals. According to a recent United Nations report, the economic consequences of the coronavirus have resulted in the risk of about 24 million children not returning to school next year. The closure of schools and educational institutions has affected about 94% of the world's student population and 99% in low and low-middle income countries. During the second quarter of the year 2020, about 86% of children at primary level dropped out of school in low-income countries, compared to only 20% in high-income countries. The impact of this pandemic can be seen on girls and women, with the possibility that school closures will make them more vulnerable to child marriage and gender-based violence.

Almost 23,000 people from 203 districts took part in a survey of an organization called Local Circle, out of which 43% said that they do not have things like computers, tablets, printers, routers for children's online classes. In which it was also revealed that the problem is not just Internet facility or laptop, tablet, the problem is that most people are doing work from home at the moment, people say that we have only one laptop and due to that either there be a loss of their child's education or their work.

In terms of the Employment, it is well said by Sunday Adelaja that, “Joblessness is a time for reflection”. But what reflection will one see in themselves, who became unemployed from

employment simply because a virus has caused an outcry all over the world and they have to leave their jobs and stay home despite not wanting to.

The effect of coronavirus is not only on the health of humans, but it is also proving dangerous for employment worldwide. Another immediate serious impact of the coronavirus crisis has had on the work of the people. Just as India's economy is plagued by a sudden pandemic, the reduction of wages of people in employment, retrenchment of artisans has also given a strong shock to the people. According to a survey by the Indian Society of Labour Economics, the immediate impact felt by this crisis is the loss of jobs.

Regarding the loss of employment, it has been estimated that 80 per cent of jobs have been affected in urban areas. Most of them were self-employed. At the same time, 54 per cent of jobs were affected in the rural economy. Lockdown implemented to stop the spread of coronavirus epidemic has snuffed out employment to 41 lakh youth of the country.

However, in this lockdown some people saw it as an opportunity for themselves and employed not only their own entrepreneurship skills but also some other people as well, as we also got to read and hear how one the person created an online application for labourers, using which people can call the workers to work at home. But such things can only move forward when people have proper knowledge of its use and the proper network to run it. Which is still a serious problem in the villages of India.

LEGAL IMPACT

During World War II, when the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) was wreaking havoc on London with its frequent bomb attacks, then the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill took notice of heavy casualties and economic diversions. While he was told about the casualties and the economic collapse, he asked, Are the courts working? When told that judges were treating justice as normal, Churchill responded, **“Thank God. If the courts are working, nothing can go wrong”**.

Neither I nor you would have thought that there will be a time in India when the judicial organ system called the pillar of this country suddenly will stop to function in that way as it has been doing for years. But For the first time in the **Indian Judicial System**, the first date of June of 2020 was a historic day for the Supreme Court. For the first time that day, a full paperless hearing was held in front of a bench of the country's highest court.

As we know that the Indian courts are facing this global pandemic for the first time but as we say that if one way is closed then the other way is opened and the same is with the Supreme

Court of India, as **Article 142** of the Indian Constitution gives some similar powers (such as giving a decision different from the existing law) which can prove to be good in situations like COVID-19.

COVID-19 Outbreak has left its impact on the judiciary in many ways like:

Pendency of cases increase

It is said that Justice delay is Justice denied. And in a recent report by the National Debt Grid revealed that a total of 22% pending cases have increased since 2006. In the year 2019, 3.5 crore cases were pending in the lower court to Supreme Court of the country and now it is a huge challenge before the Indian Judiciary in the era of this epidemic. COVID-19 has reduced the urgent need for interim relief from the High Court and the Supreme Court. With the functioning of virtual courts only, about 80% of the daily judicial workload has disappeared. The Supreme Court is acting on a strength of 15 to 20% in the judicial side with 4 to 10 judges, which is currently out of the strength of 32 judges and the litigation burden is around 10% to 15% of the normal list of a daily business.

Quasi-judicial bodies have stopped functioning

The Central Zonal Bench of the National Green Tribunal had been hearing cases through video conferencing for nearly two years but stopped functioning after the lockdown. Also, in Maharashtra petition was filed in Bombay High Court seeking resumption of the functioning of quasi-judicial bodies including Central, state information commission, National Human Rights Commission, state electricity regulatory commission.

Today there are around 25 lakh registered lawyers in the country. Courts were also closed due to the lockout in the Corona epidemic, due to which only a few lawyers who understand the concept of the virtual court can work but most of the lawyers are less in this case.

Now our Legal System, after battling this Pandemic, in this new phase, has been brought a new function of the court to the fore and that is “**Virtual Courts**”. Which works through, e-filing, video conferencing, that also mentions the online fees for important matters. But the thing to note here is that this virtual court is violating the right of those who have the right to attend the court to see the court's proceeding. As it was also held in *Naresh Shridhar Mirajkar v. State of Maharashtra*, where the Apex Court observed that the public has a right to be present in court and to watch proceedings.

CONCLUSION

Covid-19 started in India with tourism and labour migration. As countries all over the world started implementing Lockdown, India also followed this and implemented it across the country. As in the wake of Covid-19 and U.S- China trade tensions global companies have diversifying China's strategy. This offers India a second chance to emerge as a global manufacturing hub. So far, the system of education that has been going on in India for years has changed, now we also desperately need to change our education system which can manage education and time in this pandemic.

If advocacy is considered an outstanding work in the service sector, then the Indian Judicial System is the cradle of this excellent work. And it cannot be denied that the current technical challenges are a hindrance in the access of people to justice. However, Chief Justice of India

Sharad Arvind Bobbde has said that “there will be no looking back” and will later use a mixed system of “new and old” real courts and virtual courts. It seems that coronavirus is here to sojourn, and the judiciary needs to deal with it.

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