HOW COVID-19 BOOSTED ENVIRONMENT

Dr.R.L.POONGUZHALI
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ADM COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (A), NAGAPATTINAM, TAMILNADU
<drrlpavc@gmail.com>

ABSTRACT:
COVID 19 Pandemic having a terrible impact on Human life. On the other hand, the Environment looks quite good. For the first time in 25 years, most of the cities' air quality has turned to the green index. It is indicating that the environment is healing. In this article, researchers tried to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment. It was found that the environment was healed in the quarantine and lockdown period. Reports from around the world indicate that the world's major cities have shown an improved index in air quality during March and April. Due to complete closure in the Wuhan city of China, NO2 was reduced by 22.8 µg/m3 and 12.9 µg/m3. The imposition of the lockdown makes the whole machinery and vehicle standstill. All the transportation was stopped entirely. All these things lead to a reduction in environmental noise considerably. As a result of the social distancing measure and stay-at-home orders, people were confined to their homes, and hence a very notable change was observed at the famous beaches of the world. They looked bright and clean. Some negative aspects of the coronavirus pandemic were also discussed: increase in the organic and inorganic waste in the lockdown period; Increase in the Medical Waste; waste management activities have been suspended and hence reduced recycling of waste. Data has been obtained from secondary sources. At last, some lessons for the future are discussed for the benefit of the environment.

Keywords: COVID-19; Environment; Positive Impact, Issues

INTRODUCTION

This year was miscued by a virus called COVID-19. The World Health Organization declared it as a pandemic on 30th January 2020. A coronavirus is a widespread virus of its kind that causes an infection in the nose, sinuses, or upper throat of a human being. Most of the coronaviruses are not dangerous. The new virus identified as SARS-CoV-2 is a new member of the family of coronavirus. The evidence collected from society shows that it spreads from person to person among those in close contact. The virus transmits through the saliva droplet or nose discharge of an infected person. No vaccine has been developed so far; neither is antidote. To contain the transmission of this various government has issued an order to stay at home and social distancing (6 feet apart). The whole nation is locked. All the government departments, private companies, manufacturing hubs, and educational institutes were closed immediately. This is affecting the

lives of all the persons of our country in one way or another. We have seen a drastic fall in crude oil prices, and it went to negative some time ago. When we look at the economic development indicator, reports show that "GDP growth rate for March quarter slipped to 3.1% from 4.7% recorded during the previous quarter. The economy grew by 4.2% in 2019-20 for the year. The coronavirus lockdown will have more impact in the June quarter." In other words, economic conditions are also falling drastically. When we are looking at some law and order and peace in this crisis, reports show that "From 27th February to 22nd March, a total of 396 offences related to women were reported to the NCW, while from 23rd March to 16th April, as many as 587 such complaints were received" and "From 27th February to 22nd March, a total of 396 offences related to women were reported to the NCW, while from 23rd March to 16th April, as many as 587 such complaints were received". We currently have no research available to prove the impact of this pandemic on children's education in India. However, from previous experiences, we know that a short period of missed school can severely impact children's learning, especially disadvantaged children. The school closer will undoubtedly have a negative consequence on the learning development. It has already created dome tensions in students' minds about the remaining exams, delayed academic sessions, new admissions, etc. Hence, COVID 19 on education will be counted as unfavourable unless some research work disproves it. So we have seen in no case that the effect of this pandemic on human lives is joyous. Everything is messed up. However, the environmental impact of this COVID-19 pandemic was not wholly negative. The coronavirus threatened the government and people to close down everything, and this has benefitted in the environmental up-gradation and healing. In the rest of the paper, we will be dealing with the environmental impact of this COVID-19 pandemic situation.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT OF THE PANDEMIC

Stay-at-home orders are standard in the present situation. The entire population is confined within the four walls of their homes. All the offices, schools, and factories have limited their activities. The road traffic has dropped down. All the domestic and international flights came to a halt. Very limited trains are on route. This can be associated with a significant fall in air pollution and greenhouse gases emission in the environment. The most visible example of the reduction in the pollution level is of Cities of Punjab; for example, people could see the many ranges of Dhauladhar mountain of Himachal Pradesh, far away, for the first time in 25 years. Some people are thanking lockdown because this spring, they can see the clear blue sky and the air quality index of the top cities in India coded as green (even in Delhi).

- **Reduction in Greenhouse Gases:** Reports from around the world indicate that the world's major cities have shown an improved air quality index during March and April. Air quality improved because of the reduction in factory and road traffic emission of CO2. Decreased concentration of Nitrogen Oxides and Particulate Matter 2.5: it is a well-known fact that air quality has an essential aspect of people's health. As per the World Health Organization, 2016, around 91% of the population lives in reduced air

quality zones. According to the data presented by World Health Organization, air pollution is responsible for almost 8 per cent of the total deaths in the world. "most affected countries are those found in Africa, Asia, and Europe "(WHO, 2016)". As per data available researcher found that in the Wuhan city of China, due to complete closure.

- **Clean Beaches:** In a report, it was claimed that the non-responsible use by people has caused many beaches in the world to present pollution problems (Partelow et al., 2015). However, due to the coronavirus lockdown, tourism activity was stopped. As a result of the social distancing measure and stay-at-home orders, people were confined to their homes, and hence a very notable change was observed at the famous beaches of the world. They looked bright and clean.

- **Reduced Environmental Noises:** The unwanted noises generated by the anthropogenic activities and the noises generated by the transportation of the engine vehicles and melodies at a high level are called environmental noise. These noises are responsible for the discomfort of the population and animals. It can cause some serious health-related issues. The imposition of the lockdown makes the whole machinery and vehicle standstill. All the transportation was stopped entirely. All these things lead to a reduction in environmental noise considerably.

NOT ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES ARE POSITIVE

We have covered several positive effects on the environment because of COVID-19 directly or indirectly. However, not all the environmental consequences were positive. Here are some of the unwanted aspects of the COVID-19 situation on the environment.

- **Increase in the volume of non recyclable waste:** The lockdown measures imposed in most of the world's countries led to an increase in the online shopping of products, and as a result, organic waste generated has increased. Food purchase online has also increased considerably, so it has inorganic waste.

- **Increase in Medical Waste:** We have seen a sharp rise in biomedical waste during the COVID-19 situation. Discarded masks and gloves are a threat to the environment. Its disposal is risky, and it degrades the environment. In other countries, such as the USA, there has been an increase in garbage from personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves (Calma, 2020).Reduced recycling of waste: In the pandemic, it is not advisable to operate recycling programs because of the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the recycling stores. In European countries such as Italy, France, United Kingdom, waste management activities have been suspended. "the industry has seized the opportunity to repeal disposable bag bans, even though single-use plastic can still harbour viruses and bacteria" (Bir, 2020). These negative consequences on the environment are not absolute.

They are alterable with a positive attitude and will power. If govt. Moreover, people work desirably; these negative consequences can be eliminated.

LESSON FOR FUTURE

This pandemic will undoubtedly have more impact on people's minds because it is the first time in the modernized age that people have witnessed something positive in the environment. Researchers provide some insight for helping the environment to grow in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era. "After COVID-19, we cannot go back to an economy based on dying industries like fossil fuels. It is bad for the planet and bad for business". It has been realized that we should work on other types of fuels than fossil fuels. It is terrible for the environment. The idea of digital gathering is far better than travelling to and fro for every conference. In the post-COVID-19 world, we have to continue digital gathering and webinars. It is even more helpful for climate change meetings; the digital meetings are needed to show that action on climate change can be a low carbon experience. Because of the lockdown and quarantine measures, the green activists made the 50th anniversary of Earth Day online. They took environmental actions through webinars and digital campaigns. This is proof that the call for environmental up-gradation can be made without harming it.

CONCLUSION

This paper talks about the effect of the coronavirus and the lockdown measure on the environment. All the aspects of human lives were affected negatively by this pandemic. Education at all levels, economic aspect, criminal aspect, etc., all were negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We have seen in no case that the effect of this pandemic on human lives is joyous. Everything is messed up. The coronavirus threatened the government and people to close down everything, which has benefitted in the up-grading and healing of the environment. This paper deals with the impact of coronavirus on the environment. Stay-at-home orders are standard in the present situation. The entire population is confined within the four walls of their homes. All the offices, schools, and factories have limited their activities. A significant fall in air pollution and greenhouse gases emission in the environment was observed. The most visible example of the reduction in the pollution level is of cities of Punjab, Haryana and Utter Pradesh. After lockdown, Pollution level of New Delhi is the best example. Air quality improved because of the reduction in factory and road traffic emission of CO2. There was also a decrease in nitrogen oxides and PM 2.5. As per data available researcher found that in the Wuhan city of China, due to complete closure, NO2 was reduced by 22.8 μg/m3 and 12.9 μg/m. As a result of the social distancing measure and stay-at-home orders, people were confined to their homes, and hence a very notable change was observed at the famous beaches of the world. They looked bright and clean. The imposition of the lockdown makes the whole machinery and vehicle standstill. All the transportation was stopped entirely. This reduced the environmental noises. Although not all the environmental consequences were positive, some areas were affected by

adverse consequences such as increased volume of non recyclable waste, an increase in Medical Waste; Reduced recycling of waste, etc. This paper ends with some lessons for the future.

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