

“SOCIAL & CULTURAL CHANGES DURING COVID-19 – A CASE STUDY OF VILLAGES OF FOUR IDENTIFIED DISTRICTS OF MADHYA PRADESH IN INDIA.”

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Abstract

This paper provides a comprehensive study of the Social and Cultural Changes during Covid 19 (Lockdown), specifically the Case Study of Villages of Four Identified Districts, Panna, Sagar, Damoh, and Chhatarpur of Madhya Pradesh in India. The study reveals that all villagers were well informed about the origin, safety measures, and other details about the Pandemic. Empirical research finds that 40% of people followed safety measures such as maintaining physical distance, wearing masks and hand hygiene, etc., and only 5% focused to boost their immune system by taking hot water, kadha & healthy food, etc. People faced Social Isolation and Social Diffusion due to the closure of Temples, Schools & all other Institutions, various restrictions on the functioning of Shops, and prohibitions of Social, Cultural & Religious gatherings during the Corona period. Indian villages are places full of colors of Festivals, Social Institutions and Social Cultural Solidarity but Covid 19 affected the social and cultural environment drastically. The Study provides some meaningful insights that social contraction develops the process of Social Cultural Marginalization and Social Alienation. The study motivates Researchers to investigate the positive and negative impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Social and Cultural Environment in various unexplored areas.

Keywords: Corona, Social, Cultural, Environment, Mask

INTRODUCTION

A new crisis Covid 19, came before the world in 2019 and originated in Wuhan, China. On March 25, 2020, the Government of India imposed a three-week lockdown across the country to prevent the spread of this virus. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, not only the health of the people gets affected, but economic, social, and cultural changes also took place across the Country. The researcher has taken villages of four Identified districts of Madhya Pradesh, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, and Panna in his study and tried to find out what changes had taken place in these villages during the Covid-19 period. Madhya Pradesh is located in the heart of India and surrounded by Uttar Pradesh on one side, Jharkhand on the other side, Maharashtra

on the third side, Rajasthan on the fourth side, Gujarat on the fifth side and Chhattisgarh on the sixth side. Damoh, the first district of research has 1224 villages and is surrounded by Sagar in the west, Narsinghpur in the south, Chhatarpur in the north, and Panna in the east. Chhatarpur, the second district of the study, consisting of 1189 villages, is surrounded by Uttar Pradesh state in the north, Panna in the east, Damoh in the south, and Tikamgarh in the west. Sagar, the third district of the study, is the third most populous district after Indore and Jabalpur, is located in the central region of the state, and has 1902 villages. The last district is Panna, which is famous as the City of Diamonds and situated in the northeastern part of Madhya Pradesh amidst the picturesque mountain ranges of Vindhya has 1022 villages. The social life of the village people is very simple, calm, real and pollution-free and they are the best in terms of tradition and culture. Most of these villages have schools only up to class VIII but some villages have up to class 10th and 12th also.

Villagers are occupied in self-employment work such as agriculture & trade, marginal activities like laboring on the farm, non-farm activities & handicrafts, and laborers in neighboring villages. Females were engaged in stitching, knitting, and embroidery work.

Asha workers, members of Government hospitals & Anganwadis are responsible to take care of the health of the villagers but still, there is a lack of good schools, roads, transport systems, higher education institutions, and career opportunities in villages. Rural marriage, family, lineage, gotra, kinship, caste, and various types of political, religious, and economic groups are included in the Indian rural social structure. The population of villages ranges from 500 to 5000, Pakka (brick) & Kachcha houses, joint & nuclear families are found, Fairs, Ramlila, Akhara, Sangeet, and Bhajan Mandali, etc. are a rare combination of cultural & social forms of these regions. People sing folk songs & perform folk dances in front of deities on festivals and various occasions and play drums and musical instruments and celebrate together with pomp. The reason for unity among people is family bond, caste system, and regional attachment, 90% of the people are Hindus, 7% Muslims, and 3% of all religions and the main tribes are Gond, Saur, Khairwar, Kol, and Maria in these areas. The topic is very significant in itself and shows the social and cultural life of the villages and the social & cultural changes during the Lockdown. Research shows how aware people were, what steps were taken by the government, and what social and cultural changes did people make to protect themselves from Coronavirus. The researcher also suggests the best recommendations to deal with epidemic-like situations in the future.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The secondary data has been collected from e-newspapers, publications, articles, and websites, while primary data has been collected through structured questionnaires and telephonic interviews with the prominent villagers to ensure the proper representation of local communities. The Random sampling method was used in the selection and the questionnaire included 20 unique questions. The research is based on 50 Interviews with the villagers of the 11 to 30 age group, 30 Interviews with the villagers of the 31 to 50 age group, and 20 Interviews with the villagers of the 51 to 70 age group. 60 % of

respondents are Male and 40 % are female. The researcher took 30, and 20,30,20 Interviews respectively from the Villages of Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, and Panna Districts.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the Social and Cultural Changes in Villages of Four Identified Districts of Madhya Pradesh in India during Covid 19.
2. To identify the awareness level of people in these Villages during Lockdown.
3. To identify the measures /strategies taken in these Villages to deal with various challenges caused by Covid-19.
4. To suggest the best practices to overcome the Pandemic situation in the future.

RESULT/DISCUSSION

The study was conducted to find out Social & Cultural Changes on Villages of selected Districts during Covid 19 (Lockdown). 90% of the people said that in the first wave, people had a belief system that their immune system is very strong and they will not die and only 10% of the people who were educated followed safety measures. In the First wave, Villagers followed Corona guidelines due to the strictness of the Administration but in the second wave, people were so scared & they started being cautious and followed guidelines. According to respondents, only 50% of people wore masks while doing work & went out of the home when it was very important, also took care of hand hygiene & social distancing. Most of the people in the villages were in good health, if they were ill, they would be cured by home remedies, otherwise get treatment from private doctors and government hospitals as well, when they were not well, they went to other villages for treatment. When the situation deteriorated too much, they were admitted to the government or private hospitals of the district.

In Lockdown, less than 5% of people used to drink khadh or hot water to increase their immunity, awareness came in villages after one month compared to cities and all villagers followed the restrictions imposed in social & cultural events, sports activities, & entertainment centers, etc. Respondents said that food stalls (Dhaba), tea stalls, temples, small businesses & shops were closed, more than 50 people could not gather at a wedding and people who came from outside were quarantined for 14 days & their names were registered. There was a fixed time for the opening of grocery shops during the Lockdown, but those who had shops in their house used to provide goods secretly. If someone got Covid infection, 90% of the people would have distanced themselves from him and his family instead of helping him. People had a misconception that drinking alcohol will not cause Corona, and that' 's why they increased the consumption of alcohol.

Schools in villages were closed during the lockdown and online classes were started, but where the network was not available and the children did not have Android mobiles, teachers provided them study materials but the students suffered a lot who did not have any facilities. The trend of private tuition also became much more popular. Villages first got information about the

pandemic and lockdown from social media, TV, and newspapers. Asha workers and Village Panchayat played their role later but Panchayat played a major role in quarantining the migrant people. Respondents said that 50% of the Covid guidelines have been followed in the villages near the city because the public is less uneducated, while 10% has been followed in the villages far from the city because the public is more uneducated.

CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

The researcher reveals that the impact of Covid 19 is on different social and cultural factors such as Invention, Income & Employment, Economy, Education, Religion, buying habits, Family size & Population, Safety, Housing & Food security, social connections & support, Communities & Family, Conflicts & Disasters, New Ideas, Aesthetics, Rights & Freedom, Laws & Orders, Designs & Infrastructure, Health, Education, Environment, Medical, Art, Music, & Literature, etc.

Research shows that there was a lot of difference in the behavior of people in the first wave and second waves of Corona. It is found that compare to the first wave, there was more atmosphere of fear among the people in the second wave but still, people used to talk to their neighbors. All villagers were informed about the safety measures, treatment, and other details about the Pandemic, and the majority of villages were imposed complete lockdown by the Government due to that, the public had to face an economic crisis but they were aware that it was for their benefit. It is also observed that people only greeted each other by their Traditional Indian Customs “Namaste”, “Jai Shree Krishna” & “Ram Ram”, also developed the habits of handwashing, maintaining hygiene & social distancing, and housewives cooked healthy & tasty food for their family members at homes.

It was seen in the villages that there was a return to the Traditional Indian customs like changing clothes, washing hands, and eating home food as soon as you come home.

Due to the closure of social and cultural programs like Ramlila, Akhada, Bhajan Mandali, Fairs, etc., there was a bad effect on the mental state of the people, along with the cultural decline of the society. People had heard the words mask, sanitizer, and quarantine for the first time, this disease was different from every other disease, so there was an upheaval in the social life of the people. Due to Corona, people could not celebrate various festivals and festivals with pomp and could not enjoy folk dance, folk music, and Dholak Nagade on various occasions. The closure of schools, sports activities, and recreation centers damaged the education & social development of children and greatly hurt the tradition and culture of the villages. The researcher analyses that limited attendance of people and various restrictions on family function & marriage which were less expensive, unpolluted, and peaceful made social & cultural changes. The study encourages the researcher to investigate the various unexplored areas concerning Social & Cultural Changes during Covid -19 in Four Identified Districts of M.P. Finally, Researcher has concluded that only 50% of social and cultural changes can be seen in villages compared to cities.

Recommendation

To avoid such an epidemic in the future-

1. More awareness should be spread among the people, the administration should be stricter, level of education should be enhanced.
2. Government should fix the time at which classes of all subjects should be run on the radio or T.V. and the Head of the Panchayat must issue an order that all the children should listen to and watch those programs during the Pandemic. Study material must be sent to those students who cannot read online and parents must pay special attention to their children.
3. Government must provide basic health facilities in the villages so that people will not go to a city for treatment and the villagers together should make some contributions & arrange quarantine centers, beds & oxygen cylinders etc.
4. Government guidelines must be followed strictly and there should be a provision of severe punishment for violation.
5. A Campaign for Covid 19 should be launched by the Panchayat in the villages so that people will get aware, false rumors will be stopped, people will come forward to help each other and the belief system of the public will change.
6. Infrastructure and transportation of villages should also be improved.

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QUESTIONNAIR

1. Personal Information

1. Name

2. Gender

3. Village (District)

4. Employment Status

a. Business

b. House Wife

c. Private Sector Employee

d. Government Sector Employee

e. Student

5. Age Group

a. 10-30

b. 31-50

c. 51-70 and above

2. Research Questions-

1. Are you a resident of this Village?

a. No, thank you for your participation. b. Yes. How long have you been here?

1. क्या आप इस गांव के निवासी हैं ?

a। नहीं, आपकी भागीदारी के लिए धन्यवाद। b। हां। आप यहाँ पर कितने समय से हैं?

2. How often did you talk with your neighbours during Covid-19?

a. Basically every day b. A few times a week

c. A few times a month d. Once a month

2. कोविड-19 के दौरान आपने अपने पड़ोसियों से कितनी बार बात की?

a. मूल रूप से हर दिन b. सप्ताह में कुछ बार

- c. महीने में कुछ बार d. महीने में एक बार
3. Did you spend any time volunteering for any organization or helped for Corona Patients?
a. Yes b. No c. Sometime d. Very rare
3. क्या आपने कभी किसी संस्था के लिए स्वेच्छा से काम किया या कोरोना मरीजों के लिए आर्थिक मदद की?
a. हाँ b. नहीं c. कुछ समय d. बहुत दुर्लभ
4. How was your health during Covid 19?
a. Excellent
b. Very Good c. Good
d. Bad
4. कोविड 19 के दौरान आपका स्वास्थ्य कैसा था?
a. उत्कृष्ट b. बहुत अच्छा अच्छा c. अच्छा d. खराब
5. Did you focus to boost your immune system by taking hot water, kadha & healthy food etc. during Covid 19?
a. Strongly Agree
b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree
e. Strongly Disagree
5. क्या आपने कोविड 19 के दौरान गर्म पानी, काढ़ा और स्वस्थ भोजन आदि लेकर अपनी प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान दिया?
a. अत्यधिक सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. अत्यधिक असहमत
6. Villagers were well informed about origin, safety measures and other details about the Pandemic
A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Neutral D. Disagree E. Strongly Disagree
6. ग्रामीणों को महामारी के मूल, सुरक्षा उपायों और अन्य विवरणों के बारे में अच्छी तरह से सूचित किया गया था
a. अत्यधिक सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. अत्यधिक असहमत
7. Most of the people in the village follow various restrictions on Social and Cultural Events and Gatherings?
a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree
e. Strongly Disagree
7. गाँव के अधिकांश लोग सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक आयोजनों और सभाओं पर विभिन्न प्रतिबंधों का पालन करते हैं?
a. अत्यधिक सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. अत्यधिक असहमत
8. You faced these changes during Covid19- 1. Closure of Work 2. Closure of Schools & other Institutes
a. Strongly Agree
b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree
e. Strongly Disagree
8. आपने Covid19 के दौरान इन परिवर्तनों का सामना किया- 1. काम बंद करना 2. स्कूलों और अन्य संस्थानों को बंद करना
a. अत्यधिक सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. अत्यधिक असहमत

9. You faced these changes during Covid19 1. Closure of Food Dhaba (Hotel) & other businesses 2. Closure of place of Worship

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

9. आपने कोविड-19 के दौरान इन परिवर्तनों का सामना किया 1. फूड ढाबा (होटल) और अन्य व्यवसायों को बंद करना 2. पूजा स्थल को बंद करना

a. अत्यधिक सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. अत्यधिक असहमत

10. You faced these changes during Covid19- Various restrictions on Public transportation, Domestic Travelling and Quarantine requirements or Stay-at-home orders?

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree e. Strongly Disagree

10. आपने कोविड-19 के दौरान इन परिवर्तनों का सामना किया- सार्वजनिक परिवहन पर विभिन्न प्रतिबंध, घरेलू यात्रा और संगरोध आवश्यकताएं या घर पर रहने के आदेश?

a. अत्यधिक सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. अत्यधिक असहमत

11. You followed Safety measures such as maintaining physical distance, wearing mask and hands hygiene etc. during Covid 19?

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

11. आपने कोविड 19 के दौरान सुरक्षा उपायों जैसे शारीरिक दूरी बनाए रखना, मास्क पहनना और हाथों की सफाई आदि का पालन किया?

a. पूरी तरह सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत

12. You started greeting by "Namste" and enjoyed tasty & healthy food made at home?

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Neutral

d. Disagree e. Strongly Disagree

12. आपने "नमस्ते" से अभिवादन करना शुरू किया और घर पर बने स्वादिष्ट और स्वस्थ भोजन का आनंद लिया?

a. पूरी तरह सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत

13. Which of the following changes did you face during Covid19?

a. Restrict timings of grocery shops b. Restrict timings of fruits & milk shops c. Restrict timings of vegetable markets d. All

13. Covid19 के दौरान आपको इनमें से किस बदलाव का सामना करना पड़ा?

a. किराना दुकानों के समय को सीमित करें b. फलों और दूध की दुकानों के समय को सीमित करें c. सब्जी मंडियों के समय को सीमित करें d. सभी

14. You trusted people in your neighbourhood during Covid 19.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

14. आपने कोविड 19 के दौरान अपने आस-पड़ोस के लोगों पर भरोसा किया।

a. पूर्णतः सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ

d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत

15. Which of the following restrictions did you face during Covid-19?

a. Ban on gatherings of 100 people or more b. Ban on gatherings of 50 people or more

c. Ban on gatherings of 20 people or more d. Ban on gatherings of 10 people or more

15. कोविड-19 के दौरान आपको निम्नलिखित में से किन प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ा?

a. 100 लोगों या अधिक लोगों के एकत्रित होने पर प्रतिबंध b. 50 या अधिक लोगों के एकत्रित होने पर प्रतिबंध

c. 20 या अधिक लोगों के एकत्र होने पर प्रतिबंध d. 10 या अधिक लोगों के एकत्रित होने पर प्रतिबंध

16. Which of the following restrictions did you face during Covid-19?

a. Closure / reduced public services b. Cancelled sport activities c. Closure of Entertainment Centres d. All

16. कोविड-19 के दौरान आपको निम्नलिखित में से किन प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ा?

a. सार्वजनिक सेवाओं को बंद करना/कम करना b. रद्द की गई खेल गतिविधियाँ c. मनोरंजन केंद्रों को बंद करना d. सभी

17. There was tremendous change in society and social behaviour of people of your village during Covid 19.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

17. कोविड 19 के दौरान आपके गांव के लोगों के समाज और सामाजिक व्यवहार में जबरदस्त बदलाव आया है।

a. पूर्णतः सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ

d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत

18. Covid-19 changed our relation with others.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

18. कोविड-19 ने दूसरों के साथ हमारे संबंध बदल दिए।

a. पूर्णतः सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ

d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत

19. There was huge cultural changes in your village during Corona Period.

a. Strongly Agree

b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

19. आपके गांव में कोरोना के दौरान बहुत बड़ा सांस्कृतिक परिवर्तन हुआ।

a. पूर्णतः सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत

20. Social & cultural events & functions were less expensive, unpolluted and peaceful during Corona?

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Neutral d. Disagree

e. Strongly Disagree

20. कोरोना के दौरान सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम और समारोह कम खर्चीले, प्रदूषण रहित और शांतिपूर्ण रहे?

a. पूर्णतः सहमत b. सहमत c. तटस्थ d. असहमत e. दृढ़तापूर्वक असहमत