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AN ECONOMIC STUDY ON THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF DAILY WAGE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDAMIC WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KURUSADY VILLAGE OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Far away from the human tragedy, there is a direct economic influence from lives lost in an epidemic. People of those families lose the income and their lovable contributions to meet domestic expenses such as bringing up the children and the growth of the family. It is worth paying attention to this, because the distribution of COVID-19 fatalities attacks the elders of the family, sometimes take their lives too. So, there will be no one to work for the upliftment of their lives and to meet the daily financial challenges as they are the primary provider for their families. Even if there is no loss of lives, they fall sick and their families face the financial burden as they cannot work for days or weeks.

Keywords: covid19, income, expenditure, wage workers.

INTRODUCTION:

Most of the daily wage workers have lost their earnings due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Delivery boys, contract workers and daily wage earners are either out of jobs or have seen a decline in their earnings. In many cases, the daily wage earners are migrants. The lockdown has come as a tsunami – in their life, leaving them little time to prepare for the sequel and to take away the belongings they had managed to build and save.

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a global pandemic and was declared as a "notified disaster" by the government of India on March 14, 2020. Following this declaration by the central government, several state governments such as Delhi, West Bengal and Maharashtra proceeded to force a complete lockdown in their states invoking the 123-year-old legislation viz Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

The cruelty of the lockdown with minimum relief packages has left in its trail an awful suffering, thrust by the state on informal labour. The impact of this and fears may last in the minds of the victims for at least a generation. Many more children will be pulled out of school into labour and trafficking as an outcome of financial stress. As a result, most of the people will suffer and die either of hunger or malnourishment and millions have the chance of slipping into poverty which is felt more intensely.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE DIFFERENT GROUP OF DAILY WAGE EARNERS:

The lockdown has pushed the employees of industries and companies to work from home. As people are confined to their houses, the urban poor who earned their livelihood because of the needs of Delhi's huge working class suddenly find themselves out of work. Those who earned their livelihood by washing the cars of residents of upper classes and posh localities lost their job and the people who did laundry and ironing services have no work because of the lockdown. Lakshmi, who ran a shack for ironing clothes in an East Delhi locality is just one of the many such unwitting victims of the financial crisis activated by the lockdown.

The 21 days lockdown with no vehicular movement affected a large informal ancillary that thrived because of Delhi's massive traffic volume. Sunil Singh Tomar could earn between Rs. 800-1000 per day by repairing punctured tyres. As vehicles went off roads with the lockdown, Tomar's daily earnings now has dropped to Rs. 100-200. Now the cops want him to keep his shop shut as per the restrictions imposed until April 15.

MIGRANT WORKERS:

Among the worst-hit by the aftermath of financial crisis that followed the lockdown, are the migrant workers. With inter-state borders locked down and passenger trains suspended, the migrants - mostly from UP, Bihar and Jharkhand - can't return to their native places while the restrictions of the curfew have left them with no source of income in Delhi. Karu and Muso Singh, natives of Begusarai in Bihar, lived on Delhi's busy streets, earning their livelihood as cycle-rickshaw pullers. The rickshaws aren't their own and they must pay a daily rent of Rs.60 to the 'malik'. The lockdown has banned all public transport and left Karu and Muso with no work and no money. They say they have no savings to buy food and have been surviving on Delhi's streets for the past three days on water and food donated by the people of the social welfare team.

STREET VENDORS:

On a good day, street food vendors are the primary feeders of a large chunk of Delhi's population. From the neighborhood chaiwala, the omelette wala at the corner of the street, the gol gappe wala or the chaat ka thela corner to the more specialised kebab and tikka vendors in different pockets of Delhi - each of them ensures that there's always some hunt for their living in bustling Delhi. The ongoing lockdown has now forced even the street food vendors to shut their shops. With

no work and no patrons, those who fed Delhi now have no resources to feed themselves and their families and by the time the lockdown is over their life is going to be tangled for ever.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS:

The COVID-19 outbreak has severely hit the construction industry and thousands of workers who depend on it for their livelihoods are affected so badly with no work and wages.

Nearly 70,000 workers are in the construction industry in Mysuru district. A large number of workers from Hunsur, Mysuru Taluk, Sarguru, Nanjangud, T Narasipura, HD Kote and KR Nagar used to come to Mysuru for jobs, with a male worker getting Rs 450 per day and a female worker Rs 300.

OBJECTIVES

- To find the income and expenditure level of the sample respondents.
- To know the impact of Covid-19 on daily wage earners.
- To know the health conditions of the daily wage workers.

DATA COLLECTION:

Data was collected through primary mode of data collection, i.e. through questionnaire.

SAMPLING SAMPLE:

Size for the study was fifty.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Monthly Income:

Income is an important determining factor of the status of the family .The distribution of income influences the aggregative propensity to consume considerably.

1- Monthly Income of the sample respondents

Monthly Income(in Rs)	Number of respondents	Percentage
Below 4000	5	10
4000-6000	20	40
6000-8000	15	30
8000-10,000	6	12
Above 10,000	4	8
Total	50	100

Table 1 reveals that forty percentage of the sample respondents have monthly income ranging

between four thousands to six thousands and only eight percentage of the sample respondents have an income above Rs. 10000.

Monthly Expenditure:

Expenditure is the index of the standard of living of the people generally if the income is more, one can spend more. Hence expenditure is based upon the earning.

2- Monthly Expenditure of the sample respondents

Monthly Expenditure (in Rs)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Below 4000	5	10
4000-8000	23	46
Above 8000	22	44
Total	50	100

Table 2 shows that 46 percentage of sample respondents have incurred Rs. 4000-Rs.8000 and 10 percentage of sample respondents have spend Below Rs.4000.

Health:

Health determines the ability to work. To remain healthy food alone is not enough but mind also should be relaxed. This Covid -19 has created a state of depression and unemployment may lead to negative decisions.

3- Health conditions of the sample respondents

Health	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Good	39	78
Not well	11	22
Total	50	100

Table 3 shows that seventy-eight percentage of the sample respondents were healthy and twenty-two percentage of them were not so well. Because Corona lockdown has left the people under depression and ill health.

Impact of Covid-19:

Covid- 19 pandemic did not help the people in anyway. They lost their jobs, broken families due to depression and above all death. These are the most significant impact of Covid-19 in the life of the sample respondents.

4- Impact of Covid-19 sample respondents' life

Impact of Covid-19	Number of respondents	Percentage
Jobless	32	64
Depression	11	22
Broken families	5	10
Death	2	4
Total	50	100

The above table 4 reveals that sixty four percentage of the sample respondents expressed that they lost their daily work, and even four percentage of them felt that there were deaths due to lack of meals and daily medication.

FINDINGS:

- Forty percentage of the sample respondents have monthly income ranging between four thousands to six thousands.
- Forty-four percentage of the sample respondents spent most of their income for food.
- Seventy-eight percentage of the sample respondents were healthy.
- Ninety-two percentage of the sample respondents were not satisfied about the work.
- Seventy percentage of the sample respondents have taken loan.
- Sixty four percentage of the sample respondents expressed that they lost their daily work.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ❖ Awareness programmes should be conducted to motivate the people to face the unexpected events.
- ❖ The Government should come forward quickly to take remedial measures without much delay.
- ❖ It would be better if every family could save money in the bank to meet the expenses during any disasters and pandemics.

CONCLUSION:

The corona virus continues to spread across the world, mutating itself, following a path that is difficult to trace. The health, humanitarian and socio-economic policies adopted by countries will

determine only the speed and the strength of healing. An organized global effort is needed to aid countries that currently do not have sufficient fiscal space to finance social policy, in particular, universal social protection systems and sustainability should be given priority in this endeavour. Without long-term structural changes, the profound inequalities exposed by the crisis will get intensified. In tackling the immediate effects of the crisis, the international community must follow a unique opportunity to adopt policies aimed at attaining social justice and a human centred work. The standards that deal with safety and health at work, social security, employment, non discrimination, working arrangements and the protection of specific categories of workers furnish guidance on the work of rapid responses that can facilitate a stronger recovery from the crisis. COVID-19 with no doubt is an acute threat to the world public health security and global economy. However, it has shown some positive impact on nature as pollution is controlled and earth is bringing back its self, which tries to make people healthy.

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