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# COVID-19: Human Rights Adulation or Apathy of Health Rights

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The study in this research paper primarily focuses on an overview of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has rapidly spread throughout the globe and has emerged as a global challenge for all countries, affecting all sectors of society and putting virtually every individual at risk, regardless of social or economic status, ethnic origin, or gender, as no one in this world had anticipated. The threat of SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome) is still present, and we have already suffered and lost millions of lives as a result. Apart from that, the COVID-19 outbreak made it difficult for the government and citizens to decide whether to admire or disregard human rights. The study is the analysis of limitations of human rights during the pandemic in respect of freedom of movement, privacy, trade, and food & shelter. This research paper also focuses on the fulfillment of the rights from an Indian perspective and a global perspective (studies of the USA, UK, and China). And while concluding the topic by analysing the steps taken at both Indian as well as the global level and putting forward some on the suggestions. To carry out a deep analysis of the topic, various newspapers, articles, and journals have been made as to the sources of study.

**Keywords:** covid-19; human rights; health rights; freedom; pandemic.

#### INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19, an infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus, a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. With no vaccines or treatments to control the disease, the WHO urged governments to "take immediate and aggressive action to halt the virus's spread."1 These measures include stay-at-home orders and the closure of schools which have led people to reorganize their lives and necessitated changes in livelihood and health services<sup>2</sup>. In responding to public health emergencies, governmental authorities have to navigate the delicate balance between protecting the public's health and safeguarding their inherent human rights including education, freedom of movement, and access to health care.3 Measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases are not zero-sum trade-offs and can decrease fatalities but also increase suffering if human rights are not respected. As such, while being protected from clear public health threats, many people, especially vulnerable populations, may be deprived of their inherent human rights<sup>4</sup>The United Nations (UN) defines human rights as: "...fundamental to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. These rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more such as a safe & clean environment has become important to uphold. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination or threat of any kind."

## LIMITATIONS OF RIGHTS DURING PANDEMIC

It is critical to investigate how, in times of pandemic, the government's various measures are in conflict with our fundamental rights, and why it is critical for us to ensure that such restrictions conform to our existing legal safeguards and their impact on fundamental rights

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>'Rolling Updates on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)' (WHO, 31 July 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen">www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 'How the World Bank Is Mitigating the Impacts of COVID-19 in the Health Sector' (*The World Bank*, 22 June 2020) < <a href="www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/06/16/how-the-world-bank-is-mitigating-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-the-health-sector">www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/06/16/how-the-world-bank-is-mitigating-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-the-health-sector</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>António Guterres, 'We are all in this Together: Human Rights and COVID-19 Response and Recovery' (*United Nations*, 23 April 2020) <a href="https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/we-are-all-together-human-rights-and-covid-19-response-and">www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/we-are-all-together-human-rights-and-covid-19-response-and</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid

is appropriately addressed.

#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Freedom of movement<sup>5</sup> is a human right protected by domestic laws and international treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 136) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (article 127). Also, International human rights law protects, in principle, the right of everyone to leave any country and enter their own country of nationality, as well as the right of everyone lawfully present in a country to move freely throughout the country's entire territory. Restrictions on these rights can only be imposed when they are lawful, for a legitimate purpose, and proportionate, including in terms of their impact.8Travel bans and restrictions on freedom of movement must not be discriminatory, and they must not have the effect of denying people the right to seek asylum or of violating the absolute prohibition on being returned to a country where they face persecution or torture. As well as it is also mentioned in some famous international case laws where freedom of movement is stated as a basic right protected by national laws and international treaties, but it is subject to limits when necessary for the public's health. 10 To overcome the COVID-19 outbreak, governments around the world imposed strict measures and restricted their citizens' freedom of movement. Human rights are inextricably linked. Therefore, the right to freedom of movement is not absolute and can be restricted when needed for the public's health. Article 12(3)<sup>11</sup> of the ICCPR allows restrictions on the right to freedom of movement for reasons of public health and national emergency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> United Nations, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, art 13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>I nternational Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, art 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 'Human Rights Dimensions of COVID-19 Response' (Human Rights Watch, 19 March 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/19/human-rights-dimensions-covid-19-response">https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/19/human-rights-dimensions-covid-19-response</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 'Key Legal Considerations on access to territory for persons in need of international protection in the context of the COVID-19 response' (*UNHCR*, 16 March 2020) < <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/5e7132834.html">https://www.refworld.org/docid/5e7132834.html</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Shapiro v Thompson [1999] 394 US 618 [1969]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, art 12(3)

These restrictions, however, must be legal, necessary, and proportionate." At a minimum, restrictions such as mandatory quarantine or isolation of symptomatic people must be carried out in accordance with the law".12 For India, Article 19(1)(d)13 of the Indian Constitution confers every citizen the right to move freely throughout the territory of India which is further supplemented by the "right to life and personal liberty" clause in Article 21<sup>14</sup>., and as for the rest of the world, COVID-19 has been a disaster of unprecedented proportions. As of 31st May 2020, COVID-19 had spread to more than 200 countries and territories, with nearly six million confirmed cases and 367,255 deaths. At this time, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) of India reported 1,82,143 confirmed cases; of which 86,984 had recovered and 5,164 had lost their lives.<sup>15</sup> By the middle of January, India's response to the disaster had taken shape, and it had progressed through several stages, from grading border restrictions to preparing the ground for what was arguably the world's largest lockdown as well as improving the health-care infrastructure. People from all walks of life in India came together in unprecedented numbers to help stop the spread of COVID-19. People in both urban and rural India, regardless of socioeconomic status, adapted their daily routines to the restrictions imposed by the lockdown.<sup>16</sup>

Several challenges, most of them foreseen, were encountered. The safety of migrant laborers directly affected by the lockdown became a major concern soon after the lockdown began on March 25. How do we strike a balance between the need to save lives from the virus and the need to protect livelihoods from the consequences of preventive measures? To address these concerns, the federal and state governments, as well as civil society, used a variety of methods and approaches.<sup>17</sup> COVID-19 has had a significant socioeconomic impact.

<sup>12</sup> Stanley M. Lemon, Margaret A. Hamburg, et.al., *Ethical and Legal Considerations in Mitigating Pandemic Disease: Workshop Summary* (Institute of Medicine of the National Academics, 2007)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Constitution of India,1950, art 19(1)(d)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Constitution of India,1950, art 21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 'COVID-19 Impacts and Responses: The Indian Experience' (*National Disaster Management Authority*, May 2020) <a href="https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/covid/COVID-19-Indian-Experience.pdf">https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/covid/COVID-19-Indian-Experience.pdf</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, art 12(3)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 'India: COVID-19 Lockdown Puts Poor at Risk' (Human Rights Watch, 27 March 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/27/india-covid-19-lockdown-puts-poor-risk">https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/27/india-covid-19-lockdown-puts-poor-risk</a> accessed 21 July 2021

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), total or partial lockdown measures have affected nearly 2.7 billion workers worldwide (roughly 81 percent of the world's 3.3 billion workforces). According to the ILO report, some labor-intensive industries, such as accommodation and food services, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, real estate, and business activities, are among the worst affected. These industries employ millions of often low-paid, low-skilled workers. As a result, 1.25 billion workers (or 38% of the global workforce) face drastic reductions in working hours, wage cuts, and layoffs. In low- and middle-income countries, a large proportion of these informal workers lack access to healthcare and social protection. India is no different. Many workers, including unorganized workers, were directly impacted by disruptions in several economic sectors, including construction, manufacturing, industrial hubs, and the hospitality industry.

The well-being of workers in the informal sector, particularly those who have migrated from rural areas to work in big cities, has emerged as a major concern for the government and civil society organizations.<sup>20</sup>The state and federal governments initiated direct bank transfers and collaborated with civil society organizations to provide migrant workers with basic services, food, and nutrition. Many migrant workers who were concerned about their lives and livelihoods in cities wished to return to their home countries.<sup>21</sup> The Indian Railways made arrangements for their transport. The state governments established quarantine centers for returning migrant workers and arranged transport to their villages.<sup>22</sup>

The movement of migrant workers in the aftermath of COVID-19 posed a huge challenge – not only for the affected people but also for the local administration, state governments, central

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 'ILO: As job losses escalate, nearly half of global workforce at risk of losing livelihoods' (*International Labour Organization*, 29 April 2020) <a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\_743036/lang-en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\_743036/lang-en/index.htm</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 'ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the World of Work' (second edition)' (*International Labour Organization*, 7 April 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms\_740877">https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms\_740877</a>. pdf > accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Stanley M. Lemon, Margaret A. Hamburg, et.al (n 12)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 'An Analysis of Food Security Trends in Major Migration Hotspots' (*United Nations World Food Programme*, November 2020) < <a href="https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/populations\_at\_risk\_-\_implications\_of\_covid-19\_for\_hunger\_migration\_and\_displacement.pdf">https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/populations\_at\_risk\_-\_implications\_of\_covid-19\_for\_hunger\_migration\_and\_displacement.pdf</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Geeta Pandey, 'Coronavirus in India: Desperate migrant workers trapped in lockdown' (*BBC News*, 22 April 2020) <<u>https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52360757</u>> accessed 21 July 2021

government, civil society organizations, and industry. There are numerous lessons to be learned in terms of planning, coordination, and communication that must be carefully examined and absorbed. Looking ahead, reverse migration represents opportunities for rural areas, where new employment opportunities can aid in local development and economic growth. State and federal governments are working together to achieve this goal.

#### **RIGHT TO PRIVACY**

Digital solutions help in saving lives by the means of technological environment, by spreading health messages it creates a safety among peoples, increasing access to remote physical checkups and health alerts. At the same time, surveillance tools in today's world that trace individuals' location and their contacts which is important for people in normal day-to-day life as it makes a present profound challenge to privacy, data protection rights, and freedom of information. The government launched the AarogyaSetu mobile app in April, ostensibly to speed up contact tracing and ensure timely access to essential health services and public health information.<sup>23</sup>There was no word on which government agencies would have access to the data collected by the app. The code of AarogyaSetu was not available to the public, in violation of the government's own policy.

Although the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology claimed that downloading the app was optional, many government agencies and private companies, including the Airport Authority of India, made it mandatory for their employees to do so.<sup>24</sup> In the case of Turkey, the government has launched a GPS-based centralized app<sup>25</sup>, making registration of all COVID-19 affected people mandatory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>Andrew Clarance, 'AarogyaSetu: Why India's Covid-19 contact tracing app is controversial' (*BBC News*, 15 May 2020) < <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52659520">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52659520</a>> accessed 21 July 2021 <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52659520">24 July 2021</a>

 $<sup>^{25}</sup>$ Ankara, 'Turkey to use mobile data to track isolation' (*Hurriyet Daily News*, Turkey, 9 April 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-use-mobile-data-to-track-isolation-153698">https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-use-mobile-data-to-track-isolation-153698</a> accessed 21 July 2021

A similar app in Kyrgyzstan<sup>26</sup>, though it claimed to be based on voluntary consent, was later reported to be mandatory for persons put into quarantine. In Azerbaijan, people's movements are controlled by an application<sup>27</sup> that issues electronic permits to people who would like to leave their homes during quarantine and is accessible to the police, while Kazakhstan has relied on video surveillance<sup>28</sup> to find violators of the quarantine regime. The right to privacy, including data protection, is a fundamental human right, articulated in major international human rights instruments. "If we can manage the pandemic without violating the right to freedoms, why shouldn't we"<sup>29</sup>

#### FREEDOM OF TRADE

The Freedom of Trade and Commerce stated as a Fundamental Right under the constitution of India provides an impetus to the economy by encouraging citizens to engage in professions of their choice. Article 19(1)(g)<sup>30</sup> guarantees to every citizen the right "to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business". In the situation of COVID-19 as an unprecedented global health crisis, trade is essential to save lives and livelihoods; and international cooperation is needed to keep trade flowing. Owing to the lockdown, many Indians found themselves with no work. In May 2020, the unemployment<sup>31</sup> levels reached a new high with more than 27 percent of the country's labor force unemployed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>'Home quarantine monitoring system launched' (News of Kyrgyzstan, 13 April 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://24.kg/obschestvo/149939\_zapuschena\_sistema\_monitoringa\_nahodyaschihsya\_nadomashnem\_karanti\_ne/">https://24.kg/obschestvo/149939\_zapuschena\_sistema\_monitoringa\_nahodyaschihsya\_nadomashnem\_karanti\_ne/</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>Ofeliya Afandiyeva 'Azerbaijan restricts citizens' movement amid COVID-19 quarantine regime' (*AzerNews*, 3 April 2020) < <a href="https://www.azernews.az/nation/163678.html">https://www.azernews.az/nation/163678.html</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Anna Gussarova, "Kazakhstan Experiments With Surveillance Technology to Battle Coronavirus Pandemic' (2020) 17 (47) Eurasia Daily Monitor <a href="https://jamestown.org/program/kazakhstan-experiments-with-surveillance-technology-to-battle-coronavirus-pandemic/">https://jamestown.org/program/kazakhstan-experiments-with-surveillance-technology-to-battle-coronavirus-pandemic/</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> 'Covid-19 tracking app must satisfy human rights and data laws' (*The Guardian*, 3 May 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Constitution of India, 1950, art 19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> 'Impact on unemployment rate due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown in India from January 2020 to January 2021' (*Statista*, 11 January 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/1111487/coronavirus-impact-on-unemployment-rate/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/1111487/coronavirus-impact-on-unemployment-rate/</a> accessed 21 July 2021

However, the effects within the different parts of society varied. In April 2020, small traders and laborers<sup>32</sup> suffered the most due to the coronavirus, as nearly a hundred million lost their jobs in the COVID-19. Contrary to this, the farmers saw an increase in employment. In India, Freedom of trade can be restricted with the Article 302<sup>33</sup> gives power to the Parliament to impose restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse carried on within a state or across states anywhere in the territory of India as these restrictions can also be imposed taking into due consideration the interests of the public in the country. Apart from this, In other countries, too, the downside scenario saw global growth cut in half to 1.5 percent in the March 2020 OECD Interim Economic Outlook. That was overly optimistic. The most recent estimates in the OECD Economic Outlook, published on June 10, predict an unprecedented collapse in the first half of 2020 – a nearly 13% drop in global GDP.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, the costs to the global economy from support packages, through central banks and fiscal actions, are very significant and likely to have long-lasting and complex effects on the management of sovereign and corporate debt. Yet notwithstanding these efforts, most major economies now look set to enter recession, and more serious scenarios cannot be discounted.<sup>35</sup>

#### FREEDOM OF FOOD & SHELTER

The handling of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed flaws in the public health care system by governments in India and around the world. As a result, citizens who do not have adequate social and economic protection, such as community health care workers and religious minorities, face unsafe and poor working conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic overburdened the public health care system, but front-line health workers received little protection in terms of safety equipment and social security, such as medical and life insurance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> 'Impact on employment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown in India in April 2020, by type' (*Statista*, 19 March 2021) < <a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/1117138/coronavirus-impact-on-employment-by-type/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/1117138/coronavirus-impact-on-employment-by-type/</a> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>33</sup>Constitution of India, 1950, art 302

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>COVID-19 and International Trade: Issues and Actions' (OECD, 12 June 2020)

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

People working in the community, such as Accredited Social Health Activists and sanitation workers, were among them. In India, The Supreme Court delayed a hearing in a public interest case urgently seeking transport, food, and shelter for migrants and workers who were left stranded for over a month by the sudden imposition of the lockdown.<sup>36</sup>On April 7, as many migrant workers walked to their distant homes in the absence of government-sponsored or public transportation, India's Chief Justice, S.A. Bobde, stated during the petition hearing that the Supreme Court "did not want to interfere with the government decisions for the next 10-15 days." During the lockdown, at least 200 migrant workers were killed in road accidents while walking long distances home in other districts or states.<sup>37</sup>Following intense public pressure, the government began operating special trains for stranded migrant workers in May. However, many people died on these trains due to a lack of food and water, including a fouryear-old child who died of hunger.<sup>38</sup> During the lockdown, workers in the informal sector which employs more than three-quarters of India's workforce - faced a slew of challenges due to widespread job losses in all sectors. Many states, however, have suspended the legal protections normally afforded to workers, such as working-hour regulation, the right to form trade unions, and safe working conditions.

The COVID-19 lockdown increased societal violence against women, particularly domestic violence. Pregnant women and girls had even more difficulty accessing health care, and the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity was increased. Steps were taken to establish in-state relief camps - some along highways - with food, water, and sanitation, as well as social distancing measures. It was also stipulated that migrant people who arrived in their home states/towns be held in the nearest quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Krishnadas Rajagopal, 'Supreme Court orders Centre and States to immediately provide transport, food and shelter free of cost to stranded migrant workers' (The Hindu, 26 May 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-takes-suo-motu-cognisance-of-migrant-workers-">https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-takes-suo-motu-cognisance-of-migrant-workers-</a> issue/article31679389.ece> accessed 21 July 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup>Annie Banerji, 'Nearly 200 migrant workers killed on India's roads during coronavirus lockdown' (*Thomson* Reuters, 2 June 2020) <a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-migrants-">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-migrants-</a> idUSKBN2392LG> accessed 21 July 2021

The Central Government authorised the use of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the implementation of these measures on March 28th. The Central Government made SDRF funds available to all states in advance, totaling Rs 11,092 crores.<sup>39</sup> These measures, undertaken in the last week of March and early April, alleviated the distress of migrant workers to a large extent.<sup>40</sup> Concurrently, article 25<sup>41</sup> of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health of himself and of his family. Also, article 12<sup>42</sup> of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognizes everyone's right to the highest attainable standard of health and calls on governments to take steps to prevent threats to public health and provide medical care to those in need.

#### REALIZING THE RIGHTS RELATED TO HEALTH

# Indian perspective

Viewing the impact of such a huge outbreak of covid-19 in India has caused serious distress on humankind with a total of 25,228,996 cases and more than 278,751 deaths as of 18th May 2021. The continuing rise in the number of cases is putting extensive overburden on the health system of the country, the health sector the covid-19 pandemic and now outbreak is impacting the healthcare system and patients of other severe ailments. Taking into considering the covid-19 following rights related to health is announced by the government and ask to refer them throughout the country where the institution is private or government must have to follow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> 'Centre gives Rs 11,092 crores to states from disaster management fund' (The Economic Times, 3 April 2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/centre-gives-rs-11092-crores-to-states-from-disaster-management-fund/articleshow/74970730.cms?from=mdr">https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/centre-gives-rs-11092-crores-to-states-from-disaster-management-fund/articleshow/74970730.cms?from=mdr</a> accessed 21 July 2021

40 Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976, art 25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976, art 12

- Related to access to healthcare: Covid or non Covid patients who approach the public health facilities and don't have much financial support should be provided with the entire essential healthcare from the public health department. As cases of the Covid in the country is at their peak, every poor and unaffordable person should be tested freely and all government hospitals are directed to do so. The government also directs to provide ambulance services to reach hospitals timely and also to execute all the payments and bills through cashless mode in all the hospitals
- Related to the observance of patient's rights charter: Charter of patient's right and responsibilities to be displayed and observed by all the healthcare that he has right to adequate relevant information about the nature, cause of illness, proposed investigation, and care. Have the right to ask for the information of expenditure for each type of facility given. To examine the copy of case papers, reports, and detailed bills. To ensure the presence of any female practitioner during the physical examination of any lady patients. The Release of the dead body of a patient can't be denied by the hospital authorities in any case.
- Related to non-discrimination: All the patients and persons who require the necessary healthcare at the time of this outbreak have the right to be treated well and properly without any discrimination on any basis, should be treated free from any prejudice associated with caste, religion, gender, linguistic, ethnicity or social origin. Healthcare for elderly persons, especially abled persons, sex workers, LGBTQI persons, impoverished persons, and various vulnerable groups should be given or treated equally without comparison to others.
- Related to safety and quality care: Each patient during the pandemic has the right to receive quality healthcare according to the norms and Guidelines ensured for Covid patients in the hospitals and quarantine sectors. All the necessary drugs, medicines, injections, and therapeutics for various types of the Covid patient must be available to all those patients in all the hospitals whether government or private.

Rights regarding the safety of the female, elderly persons, PWD<sup>43</sup>, and minors should be taken into consideration and given extra care and security. And most importantly that all the necessary amenities should be made available to every patient in the different quarantine centers including clean drinking water, well balanced - diet, hygienic space, clean toilets, and bathrooms, regularly change of bed sheets, proper sanitation, and facility for meeting to relatives & friends with proper safety and social distancing.

#### **WORLD'S PERSPECTIVE**

Talking about the situation and health rights reserved for the people around the world. Every country is trying to provide the best healthcare facilities which are essential at the moment to their people as before the Covid -19 outbreak the healthcare everywhere over the globe is unsatisfactory and then all of a sudden struggling and surviving in this pandemic becomes too difficult. countries with less or limited resources are unable to face and hold the situation and for that, the developed countries are helping these developing and underdeveloped nations to cope with this pandemic and save their people's life. All the persons who are suffering or patient of novel coronavirus have the right to be treated well in any hospital with all the necessary facilities.

China: The country which is the main reason for originating this Novel Corona Virus from the city of Wuhan. The rights related to health that is being provided by the China government during this outbreak that they pass an ordinance that none of the citizens should have to worry and each of the patients will be treated equally and given necessary treatment. They have the right to avail themselves of the medical facility in the hospitals and without giving any prejudice to any of the patients.

**USA:** The country who is at the top in the maximum number of cases to date and who not only controlled the situation also fully vaccinated all of its citizens and also at the time of maximum cases they announced that each facility related to health and Covid -19 cases will be treated

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

free of cost and not a single penny will be charged from any of the citizens. Not only this, there will not be any discrimination while admitting any patient on any basis, and should be given proper healthcare.

**UK:** The measures taken by the UK government is that visitors from overseas and got stuck due to Covid - 19 pandemic situation need not pay any charges related to testing novel coronavirus (even if after the test it shows that you don't have coronaviruses, second you don't have to pay for the treatment for Covid -19 including any children effected with the multisystem inflammatory syndrome. And the last thing is that no vaccination fee against the coronavirus will be charged. And also services and support for those who are not well enough to bear their expenditures should now be prioritized and made easily available, in both virtual and real sense. Not only physical health should be given importance but mental health will also be given the same importance & time and proper counseling sessions and mental health awareness programs will be done to reduce the stress, fear and to motivate from all the bad ideas coming into the mind in this worst pandemic situation.

#### MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO CONTROL COVID - 19

The arrival of such a dangerous and new virus which is unpredicted with such dangerous peculiar traits and features is being researched in all the laboratories throughout the world. India also researched the virus and its variants that how to overcome the effect of this virus. The Indian government has taken a lot of strict precautions to control Covid -19. Immediate actions which were taken is that banning all the fights and passengers coming from abroad. Total restrictions were made to leave the country and passengers who were returning India were being quarantined for 18 days to reduce the transmission of the virus among others. It was also ordered to avoid large gatherings or postponed the events, marriages & celebrations and also minimize the gatherings at the funeral.

A medical kit<sup>44</sup> is being provided to the Covid -19 patients which include all the prescribed medicines, steamer, thermometer, masks, sanitizers & oximeter. Proper and regular sanitation is being done in the small cantonment zones in the cities and door-to-door facilities like vegetables, milk, fruits, etc. are being provided by the government bodies during the lockdown. The main reason or we can say the challenges which occurs multiple times during this Covid -19 pandemic that due to continuous lockdown in the country the person who lives his life on the daily wages got pissed off and tried to get back to their hometown from these big cities. And some of the main reasons for that is the involvement of internal security agencies that how some fake news are being trended on the social media, due to which a huge crowd got collected at a single place which causes in the sudden hike of cases. The second serious loophole in the measures taken to manage the Covid situation is that no arrangements or planning is done for the poor and low category people which can help them to move back to their villages.

The third flaw in the measures taken is that less testing is being done due to lack of facilities of PP Kit, mask and testing kit; from which not all the people are getting tested and left being ignored. And when these things come under control, these elections at the state and panchayat level help the virus in transmission and reason for the increase in cases and death rates. Mainly election commission is responsible for allowing such huge political rallies without any rules and advisory being followed by any of the political parties. The pandemic of Covid -19 affected almost every sector or field, government offices, educational institutions, stock market, GDP, frontline health workers, banks, etc. But every department comes up with new ideas to run and govern their offices while sitting and working from home, Students attending and giving exams virtually, etc. And after a long tough fight against Covid where scientists and doctors got success in making the vaccine of this dangerous virus.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Pankaj Jain & Tejshree Purandare, 'From Covid-19 kit to phone call with doctors, how Delhi govt reaches out to patients in home isolation' (*India Today*,12 January 2022) < <a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/coronavirus-outbreak/story/covid-19-kits-special-team-consultancy-how-delhi-govt-help-patients-home-isolation-1899130-2022-01-12">https://www.indiatoday.in/coronavirus-outbreak/story/covid-19-kits-special-team-consultancy-how-delhi-govt-help-patients-home-isolation-1899130-2022-01-12</a> accessed 17 January 2022

Things got worse when there was a sudden hike in cases and death rates go the only reason that is the Indian government can't meet the basic necessary medicines and oxygen cylinders and the hospital's beds are not sufficient to mark the requirements and people died due to the lack of bed facilities in hospitals. Not only this, but the Indian government also lacked with the injection i.e. "Remdesivir" which acts as a lifesaving injection in this pandemic. So basically Indian government has tackled this covid-19 pandemic to some extent but there are many, many a lot many loopholes that can be prevented if special and extra attention was given. But now, observing the current scenario India is seeking help from all the other nations who are now a little bit stable, controlled almost the situation, and doing well. They are coming front to help India in all possible ways such as providing oxygen cylinders, vaccines, injections, medicines, kits, etc.

#### WORLD'S PERSPECTIVE FOR MEASURES CONTROLLING COVID

China: China has a history of tackling and handling the coronavirus, as can be seen in the SARS and MERS outbreak back in the year 2002. In December 2019, several cases were started reporting in the Wuhan city, also known as "the Chicago of China". And these are the cases where there is an infection in one or both lungs of the patient which further creates respiratory problems which cause the death of the patient. Later on, at the beginning of January 2020, there started reporting more cases due to large gatherings, crowds & unnecessary movement. And this is the main reason for the escalation of the virus within china & throughout the globe, after which reporting of deaths, alarm the Chinese government and take immediate steps.

The health emergency due to the spread of the coronavirus within humans is the biggest threat for the community which can cause a serious health impact and has the potential to break down global trade and travel. China's government has been working on improving and nourishing its health system which can be seen easily while handling the situation during Covid - 19 outbreak. After the confirmation of Covid -19, china stops and restricts the market of meat, bat, and seafood with immediate effect. And Chinese scientists and doctors start an immediate investigation on the virus and its solution. At the same time side by side, the Chinese government ordered to detect the chain of the people who got in connection with the

infected person and started quarantining them. As studies show that it is a human-to-human transmission disease, the government ordered to shut down the public transport, public places, government institutions, and schools & colleges. Including shut of all the shops except necessary ones i.e. medicine, grocery, and vegetables. And also here the term "social distancing" discovered that people have to maintain social distance to stop the spread of the virus. After observing in non-decreasing in the cases the government declared to build more hospitals in the city of Wuhan for Covid affected patients so that nobody has to move outside for treatment. After these measures, quarantining the affected patients, proper long-term lockdown, and most important social - distancing help the most to control this Covid -19 outbreak. And china ensures hope for the rest of the nations who are still fighting with this virus is that even after the worst condition things get back to normal one day.

USA: The USA is among the first few countries that suffer and are infected from Covid - 19 cases. After seeing the outbreak in China, the USA declared a public health emergency and announced a long lockdown after the first case in the country got confirmed. The US government imposed to follow social distancing nationwide and restricted the movement of more than 10 people at a time also shutting down all the public places such as malls, bars, restaurants, and monuments. The US started screening tests on the entry and exit points of travelers who are returning to the country or leaving the country. Also, government bans all flights to china or via the china. And keeping the view of testing US government passed an order in which testing for the Covid cases is free for the residents. The impact of Covid -19 affected a lot of US-based MNC with offices in China and other countries under this coronavirus outbreak. Pharmaceutical and medical industries and industries other than tourism were also get affected by the pandemic spreading to other developing countries on which US companies are dependent such as India. And in the end, the USA fully vaccinated its citizen with both the doses of vaccine and now it is officially announced by the USA govt. that from now onwards its citizens don't have to wear masks they can breathe in the open air and all can hug each other.

**UK:** After the arrival of the first case in the country, the UK restricts the flight. The health department of the UK rolled out the testing Kit which can be used for testing the coronavirus and for that government proclaimed the increase in the laboratories for the testing. And that time Italy and its neighboring countries are in the most critical position so the UK restricted the flights and ask the passengers traveling back to the UK from Paris, Italy, and china to go under screening and then self-isolation to stop the transmission of the virus. UK government announce a nationwide lockdown on 23 March 2020. And citizens are requested not to go outside unnecessarily unless they had urgent work, also requested to avoid large gatherings of more than 2 people have been banned. All the essentials other than the gym, shops, libraries, schools, colleges, and public palaces have been shut. Keeping in view and health security of its citizens those who got stuck in different countries due to covid -19 pandemic, the government arranges private planes only for those citizens and after returning to the nation they all are quarantined. After announcing \$20 Million specifically for the Coronavirus vaccine all citizens<sup>45</sup> were given full vaccination both the doses and after which started cutting down the restrictions step - by - step and now the government announced that lets people decide to take their judgment i.e. to whom they want a hug and with whom they want to get connected socially. Wherever everyone is still being told to remain cautious.

#### CONCLUSION

The analysis in the paper gives an overview of both aspects i.e. Positive and negative sides in the time of this Covid-19 pandemic. Though the major part of this hurts the society in every field such as economy, employment, public health, and education system. Many rights are withdrawn and many rights are being provided in this outbreak. Most important thing is that at the end which prevails after the analysis is the health rights without violating human rights. After all, if humanity survives then only we can ask for human rights. And what I examine is that the lockdown has many positive sides too on the environment as well as in everyone's individual life. Restriction on the movement of the vehicles leads to the purity of air quality in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines for developing countries: An equal shot at recovery' (OECD, 4 February 2021) <a href="https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccines-for-developing-countries-an-equal-shot-at-recovery-6b0771e6/">https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccines-for-developing-countries-an-equal-shot-at-recovery-6b0771e6/</a> accessed 06 July 2021

many countries and cities which reduces all the other health diseases and people get more cautious towards their healthy lifestyle and balanced diet. And most important in this era of 2021 everyone is so busy in their work as no one have time for its family and friends and this lockdown comes up with an opportunity that where people lost their close ones and they also spent a very memorable moment with their family members. And supreme issue which overcomes this pandemic is that the countries all over the globe still need a lot of upgradation to do as they all are lacking in their health care facilities and techniques. Although many rights are been violated and been restricted some of them are genuine and valid as it all about health security some of them are pointless such as the right to information i.e. restricting the family members from meeting the patient, not providing the proper feedback or report to the guardian of the patient and in the last perform the funeral without informing or without their presence while the some of the right decision for restricting the human rights i.e. freedom of movement as the due to country's lockdown nobody is allowed to move.

## **SUGGESTION**

Analyzing all the topics thoroughly I believe that along with tackling healthcare on a war footing, the government will have to pay extra attention to the brewing economic crisis. Many of the great economists throughout the world pointed out that a downturn could feel upon itself, as more layoffs happen, there will be lower demand, leading to more companies going out of the business. It could be a vicious downward spiral, and the government needs to step in to prevent that. Also, lockdown in the country could have been managed in some better way. I propose the different governments that should announce some extra emergency benefits to the employees those who are working still in the Covid - 19 pandemic for the essential services. Government should provide them at least 60 lakhs as health compensation to each person who died while doing the service in this outbreak. And, talking about the violations of the health & human rights that it can be managed in a better way by providing time to time-accurate reports and feedback to the patient's family. And lastly, I want to conclude that the loved ones should spend some time with their family members and friends despite waiting for such time to come as an opportunity. And everyone should understand the

importance of time as this time of Covid - 19 pandemic teaches something to each one of you and gives us chance to correct all our mistakes by strictly working on it.