IMPACT OF PANDEMIC COVID 19 ON THE ECONOMIC CONDITION AND STANDARD OF LIVING AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

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Abstract: The pandemic Covid 19 has totally collapsed the standard of living and economic condition of all the people all around the world. The lock down under gone among the people really it was a challenge to run their daily lives. People lost their life and living due to this Covid. Therefore the researchers of this paper have made an attempt to study the economic condition and the standard of living of the people in Thoothukudi district. For this study 120 respondents was selected at random. Questionnaire were framed and collected among the respondents.

Keywords : Pandemic Covid, Standard of Living, Economic Condition

INTRODUCTION

The economic impact of 2020 corona virus pandemic in India has been largely disruptive. Within a month unemployment rose from 6.7% on March to 26% on 19th April 2020. During Lockdown, an estimated 14 crores (140 million) people lost employment. More than 45% of household across the nation have reported an income drop as compared to previous year. Those in the informal sectors daily wages groups are the most at risk[1]. A large number of framers, fishermen's, saltpan workers and daily coolies around the country who grow perishables are also facing uncertainty[2]. Thoothukudi – one of the leading edible salt producers in the country. A decline in the export orders, owing to the pandemic scare, has created a cascading effect, evaporating the sales and profits of the various industries in Thoothukudi. Likewise there are people in Thoothukudi who are engaged in earning daily wages and fishermen who earn daily wages to run their family. All of a sudden due to this Covid 19 the people has experienced a huge financial barriers to run their daily lives they lost their job, their earning, food and their livelihood. They are in difficult situation to run their day to day life. Therefore the researchers of the study has decided to assess how the people of Thoothukudi district is suffering to run the daily live and the problems faced by them to meet all the economic burden during this lockdown of pandemic Covid 19.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Corona virus outbreak, which was first detected in China, has infected people in 185 countries. Its spread has left businesses around the world counting the costs. Not only business of the countries but the economically backward people does suffer from various situations. The people earning daily wages, coolies, framers and fisher folk and salt pan workers and many others have lost their living due this pandemic Covid 19. IMF estimate, the expected increase in the share of people living in extreme poverty will range from 0.8 per cent to 1.5 percentage points. This is equivalent to an increase of between 50 million to 70 million people compared with the original estimates for 2020. Therefore keeping this in mind the researcher has made an attempt to find the economic conditions and the living standard of the economically backward people of Thoothukudi District.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

➢   To assess the economic condition among the people of Thoothukudi District.
➢   To find out the standard of living of the people in Thoothukudi District during the pandemic Covid 19.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

•   International Labor Organization (ILO) 2020, estimated that globally more than 25 million jobs would be threatened due to the spread of corona virus. It is estimated that four out of five people (81%) in the global workforce of 3.3 billion are currently affected by full or partial workplace closure[3].

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) 2020. The head of IMF Kristalina Georgieva said the world faced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. There are high concerns for low-paid and low skilled informal workers in low and middle income countries, where the industries and services have high proportion of such informal workers, who account for 61% of the global workforce or 2 billion people and they lack any social protection. This sudden loss of livelihood would be horrifying for them[3].

- CMIE 2020, report shows a significant fall in jobs and simultaneous significant increase in unemployment rate in March 2020. The unemployment rate stands at 8.7% in March 2020, which is way higher than government unemployment estimate at a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18. This is the highest unemployment rate since September 2016. The unemployed people have also gone up from 32 million to 38 million during the same period. The situation became further worse as we moved into the lockdown period in the last week of March and the unemployment rate soared to 23.8%. However, it is true that many of them would also not be able to get their jobs back, such as informal workers who involved in casual or contractual work and those who returned to their villages[3].

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has selected Thoothukudi district because it is researchers own home town. A maximum of 120 respondents has been decided to be selected for the study purpose using Simple Random Sampling. A structured questionnaire was framed and circulated among the respondents. The targeted respondents are the economically backward people (daily coolies, drivers and fisher folk). The researcher has decided to use SPSS Software for analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents:

Variable	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SEX:		
Male	84	70
Female	36	30
Total	120	100
OCCUPATION:		
Fisher folk	60	50
Drivers	35	29.1
Coolies	25	20.8
Total	120	100
INCOME:		
Rs.100-Rs.300	35	29.1
Rs.301-Rs.600	60	50
Rs.601-Rs.900	20	16.6
Above Rs.901	5	4.1
Total	120	100

Inference: Table 1 demonstrates the Demographic characteristics of the respondents. Majority 70% of the respondents are male and 30% are female. The main occupations of most of the respondents (50%) were fishing and 29.1% of the respondents are drivers and 20.8 of the respondents are coolies. Majority of the respondents (50%) earn a daily wages of Rs.301-Rs.600, 29.1% of the respondents earn a daily wages of Rs.100-Rs.300, 16.6% of the respondents earn a daily wages of Rs.601-Rs.900 and 4.1% of the respondents earn a daily wages of Above Rs.901. Therefore majority of the respondents are male and they are engaged in fishing work and they earn a daily wages of Rs.301-Rs.600.

Table 2 Influences of Covid and Lock Down on Economic Conditions

Variable	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Influence of Covid on Economic conditions		
Yes	120	100
No	0	0
Total	120	100
Lock down Stressful		
Yes	120	100
No	0	0
Total	120	100
Ability to meet expenses during Lock down		

Yes	0	0
No	120	100
Total	120	100
Had work like the normal days during lockdown		
Yes	0	0
No	120	100
Total	120	100
Felt Hard to survive during Lock down		
Yes	120	100
No	0	0
Total	120	100

Inference: Table 2 illustrates the influence of Covid and lock down on the economic condition of the respondents. All the respondents (100%) responded that there was influence of Covid on Economic conditions and their living, 100% of the respondents felt that the lock down was Stressful, 100% of the respondents that they was not able to meet their daily expenses during Lock down, 100% of the respondents felt that they have no work like the normal days during lockdown and 100% of the respondents felt Hard to survive during lock down.

Table 3 Hindrances during Covid 19 and Lock Down

Variable	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Not able to purchase food materials		
Strongly Agree	85	70.8
No Opinion	0	0
Strongly Disagree	35	29.2
Total	120	100
Scared to go to hospitals		
Strongly Agree	96	80
No Opinion	0	0
Strongly Disagree	24	20
Total	120	100
Not able to go out for normal work or day to day work		
Strongly Agree	102	85
No Opinion	0	0
Strongly Disagree	18	15
Total	120	100
Rise in purchase of grocery and food items		
Strongly Agree	116	96.7
No Opinion	0	0
Strongly Disagree	4	3.3
Total	120	100
Had no earning to run the family		
Strongly Agree	115	95.8
No Opinion	0	0
Strongly Disagree	5	4.5
Total	120	100

Inference: Table 3 explains the hindrances during the Covid 19 and lock down. Majority 70.8% of the respondents have responded that they was not able to purchase food material and 29.2 % of the respondents have strongly disagree the statement. 80% of the respondents have responded that they were scared to go hospital during pandemic covid and lockdown and 20% of the respondents have strongly disagreed. 85% of the respondents felt that they were not able to go out for normal work or day to day work and 15% have strongly disagreed. 96.3% of the respondents felt that there is a rise in purchase of grocery and food items and 3.3% of the respondents have strongly disagreed.95.8 % of the respondents has felt that there was no earning to run the family during covid and lockdown and 4.5% of the respondents have strongly disagreed. Therefore from this table 3 it is clear that the respondents have an impact on their standard of living during covid and lockdown.

CONCLUSION

Pandemic covid has destructed many common people living, many have lost their life and others have lost the survival. In this study it was found that, Majority the respondents are male and their main occupations were fishing and they earn a daily wages of Rs.301-Rs.600. the study was focused on drivers and fisher folk and coolies. These respondents felt that they felt hard to survive during this pandemic covid and also because of lockdown implemented throughout the whole state. The people was not able to run a normal life and felt it very difficult to go out from their home. The rise in groceries and products and services during covid and lockdown also had a great impact on the lives of many people. They also lost their work and earning. People was scared to go to hospital for regular check up or even for a fever they were so frightened to approach the hospitals. The survival of the common people became so pathetic. Thus the study has brought that the covid and lockdown had a impact on the people of Thoothukudi district.

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