

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN IN DIFFERENT RELIGION– A MICRO LEVEL EMPIRICAL STUDY

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Abstract

Globally, as well as more so in the context of India, one such major marginalized section seems to be that of 'women' and the lack of differential understanding of how the COVID-19 has impacted their lives remains neglected and a huge omission considering that women provide us with most of the informal care within families. More so, during crisis, women are more prone to risks due to gendered nature of the health workforce, which include women fighting the disease at the forefront, are subjected to limiting work and economic opportunities. Quarantine measures as a response to the disease have also put women at heightened risk of violence at home and cutting them off from essential protection services and networks, which they had prior to the imposition. This will further exacerbate gender inequality and become a source of stress on women's physical and mental health. Based on the above background this paper made an attempt on understand the impact of Covid-19 on Women in different religion in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu. The objective of the study are : i) to understand how women are affected differently as individuals and religions and ii) to recommend effective policies and interventions as a means to be prepared and prevent the outbreak by in cooperating women in the various processes.

The study aimed towards collecting data about the impact of Covid-19 among women on health, livelihoods and domestic violence in different religions. An in depth interview schedule is prepared for collection of data from women in different religion. A sample of 50 women respondents. Out of 50 respondents, 15 respondents are from Hindus, 18 respondents are from Christians and the remaining 17 respondents are from Muslims. The purposive sampling method is adopted for collections of primary data. The data are collected from the period of March 2021 to April 2021 in Virudhunagar, Tamilnadu. To verify the objectives, One Way ANOVA and Mean Plots are used.

Key Words: Impact of Covid-19, Covid-19 and women and Covid-19 and women in different religion

Introduction

Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic, which broke out in late 2019 in the Wuhan city of China has directly and indirectly affected each and every sphere of life across the world. Till date it has affected more than 3.9 million people with a death toll of 270,740 the world over. Coping with a pandemic medically is hard, but more difficult is to come out of the fear and panic it has causes and can cause to the victims. However, the fear caused by potentially falling victims to the disease can itself be an overwhelming experience as it stirs up people's emotions and sensitivities. Women are mostly the victims of such sensitivities. According to the Lancet report (2020), there has not been any gender analysis of the pandemic by any government of health organization or any estimates of potential victims in preparedness phases.

Plan International (2020) highlights that the COVID-19 has interrupted our way of life and has further disrupted individuals, families and communities putting them under stress of health and economic burdens. However, there are other reasons of stress caused by the COVID-19. In times when social isolation and