

Corona and Its Drastic Effects On Community

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Key Points

- Variants of coronavirus have been discovered
- Covid-19 crisis presents a real and present threats to community
- Pandemic lockdown group reported higher rates of mental distress compared to pre-lockdown group

Introduction:

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease originating from Wuhan (China) caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Till now 4 variants have been discovered, delta being the deadliest one. Symptoms may range from mild coughing to loss of speech and difficulty in breathing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an anomalous challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is cataclysmic: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by 132 million by the end of the year.

Effects on community:

In the Global South, significant proportions of the population are homeless or living in overcrowded concentrations of shack dwellings, with high levels of poverty and food insecurity. Communities with deeply entrenched poverty, overcrowded housing, and limited employment flexibility. COVID-19 can spread more rapidly (The Lancet, 2020), and the impact will likely exacerbate already extreme social inequality (Graham, 2020). In England, for example, the government's response to the COVID-19 crisis presents a real and present threat to the rights and lives of disabled people. In South Africa, for example, unemployment is alarmingly high among young people, with more than 50% of young people without work (Graham et al., 2020). Not everyone has the social network to make alternative arrangements, not all supermarkets deliver to the home, and the financial vulnerability of this group also means that online shopping and asking someone else to do the shopping is not always possible. While governments urge citizens to remain in their homes to stay safe, we must be mindful of the problems that such orders

create for those who are exposed to violence in their homes.¹

The contagiousness and deadliness of COVID-19 have necessitated drastic social management to halt transmission. Against a backdrop of general resilience, small increases in psychological distress serve as a warning about potential psychological consequences of lockdown and isolation.² Pandemic/lockdown group reported higher rates of mental distress compared to people in the prelockdown/prepandemic group.

The most sensitive agriculture sector which is the backbone of our country is also hit with the externalities of Covid-19 outbreak. Although not directly, but indirectly the aftermath of corona virus spreading effect i.e. lockdown across the country has turned out to be a black hole for the farming community. The farmers are likely to feel a dip in their income. Mostly due to lockdown the restrictions on the movement of agriculture commodities from it's place of production to the ultimate consumer has been hampered. Another problem lies with the shortage of labour force due to the fear of viral transmission which ultimately leads to the wastage of harvested commodities, mainly fruits and vegetables which are perishable in nature, in the farmer's field itself. The Corona virus pandemic has put a potential impact on the agriculture product supply chain which is a complex web of producer, transporter, wholesaler, retailer and finally the consumer.³

Luxury seafood declined and markets collapsed for Canadian and American lobsters, Australian crayfish, Vietnamese shrimp and many other fisheries (Tester

2020; Dao 2020; Taunton and Cropp 2020; Johnson 2020). Knock-on economic effects from market disruptions, increased health risks for fishers, processors and communities, additional implications for marginalized groups, exacerbated vulnerabilities to other social and environmental stressors, and increased illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.⁴

This study finds that COVID-19 has a significant impact on local people's health, psychology and income. This study is one of the first to provide empirical evidence regarding the early health and socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 at the household level in rural communities, which are very important to devise policies to ease the outbreak and prevent further losses at the local community level.⁵

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the provision of psychiatric care in the US across all settings. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the US psychiatry physician by raising personal, financial, and ethical concerns. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way medical students and residents learn; the many changes also represent an opportunity for evaluation and innovation that will better prepare us for the next threat to the commonweal.⁶

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