

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING COVID-19

Written by *Jeuti Nath*

*Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Anundoram Barooah Academy Degree  
College Pathsala, Assam, India*

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### ABSTRACT

Originating in the city of Wuhan, China, the virus spread all over the world rapidly and made a huge loss for humankind. To stop the spread of the virus the whole world undergoes the situation of lockdown. As a result, these countries faced multifaceted losses. On one side losses of life, on the other hand, socio-economic problems arise as a result of lockdown. The World Health Organization declared covid-19 as a pandemic in 2020. Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on societies, livelihoods, communities and the wellbeing of families, redefining the overall everyday life of people all around the world. All of these covid-19 have a brutal impact on human rights. While covid-19 poses a huge challenge to the whole society, the impact on vulnerable groups is at its peak. This paper is a study about the impact of public health policies on the enjoyment of human rights. The worsening of such human rights violations increases the need to utilize a human rights approach in response to covid-19.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Human Rights, Women, Children, Elderly People, Employees.

## INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 prevention and mitigation efforts were abrupt and challenging for most countries with the extended lockdown straining socioeconomic activities. Poor marginalized groups and individuals are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of the pandemic such as human rights abuses and violations. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency of international concern in response to the global pandemic of the covid-19. To reduce the spread of the virus, countries have implemented urgent emergency health measures. These measures include staying at home orders and the closure of schools which have led people to reorganize their lives and necessitated changes in livelihood and health service. In response to public health services, the government need to navigate the balance between the protection of public health and safeguarding their human rights including education, freedom of movement and access to healthcare. Measures adopted by the government to prevent the spread of covid-19 increase human rights violations in different parts of the world. The UN defines human rights as... “ fundamental to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. These rights including the right to life and liberty, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and many more such as a safe and clean environment have become important to uphold. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination or threat of any kind.” Although the covid-19 pandemic has had a global impact on human rights violations it worsens the living condition of poor people. Different age groups people are affected differently and the nature of their human rights violations are also different.

## OBJECTIVE

The present paper aims to study-

### *Human rights violations in covid-19 pandemic*

Methodology: The conducted study follow the descriptive method. Data are collected through direct non-participant observation. The present study was carried out in the village Barkapala under sarukhetri development block.

## **RESULT AND ANALYSIS**

The conducted study revealed various cases of human rights violations in the adopted village area. Most of the people in the adopted village work in the private sector. In the time of the covid-19 pandemic, all working people find themselves in a state of economic insecurities which also led to other forms of insecurities and threats to their life. Human rights violation is another noticeable issue in the pandemic period in the village. People most vulnerable to human rights violations are elderly people, women, children and private employees.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN**

Children are at less risk of severe disease from covid-19 and lower mortality rates than other age groups. But countless other ways, the covid-19 crisis is having a devastating effect on children, with potentially far-reaching and long term negative impacts. Many children are out of school and widespread job and income loss and economic insecurity are likely to increase rates of child labour, sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy and child marriage. Stresses on families particularly those living under quarantines, lockdowns and other restrictions on freedom of movement, may increase, large numbers of children will be orphaned and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

According to UNESCO, more than 1.5 billion students in 188 countries were out of school due to covid19 on April 8, 2020, reporting over 91% of the world's student population. The crisis has exposed vast disparities in internet access for children and the availability of learning materials. School closures may disproportionately affect children who already experience barriers accessing education or who are at higher risk of being excluded for a variety of reasons. These include children with disability, students in remote locations, asylum seekers and refugees and those whose families have lost income as a result of job cuts.

The present study exposes various cases of human rights violations of children, including the right to education, the right to have nutritious food, child labour and early marriage and child abuse etc. In the village students studying in both government and private schools lack the opportunity of online classes. Many students don't have the facility of the smartphone, many have been facing the problems of internet connection. At the same time schools in that area

doesn't have the facility to organize online classes both in public and private sector. Parents of many students don't know how to use the internet. The teacher provides notes in the WhatsApp group, which is also not effective learning for students reading in lower and upper primary levels. It also comes that teacher does not provide notes on regular basis lack regularity in the teaching-learning process in lockdown time.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE**

Human rights are equally enjoyable for all regardless of age. However, the covid19 pandemic might pose distinct threats to the equal enjoyment of human rights by older persons. Older persons are at higher risk of serious complications due to covid19 and targeted actions may be necessary. Older persons will need additional support to access essential goods, services and to maintain human interaction. States must take additional social protection measures so that support reaches those who are at most risk of being disproportionately affected by the crisis. Failure to deliver essential support during the crisis amounts to a breach of human rights.

During the lockdown, physical distance creates social isolation for older people. Social contacts are necessary to maintain people's health and wellbeing. Whilst digital social networking is now being widely used by families to communicate during the lockdown time, many older people do not have access to a PC, tablet or smartphone, an internet connection or the necessary digital skills to maintain remote contacts with family and friends. It is also found that limiting movement disproportionately affected medically and socially vulnerable populations. Older people are among them experiencing reduced access to health care which can result in delayed detection of disease.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN**

Since the outbreak of covid19 emerging data and reports from those on the front lines, have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence has been identified. The latest figures from the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment

of Women confirm that during the covid-19 pandemic levels of violence against women and girls have increased.

It comes into focus in the conducted study that women began to experience gender-based violence during the pandemic than before and household conflicts had become more frequent. The most common form of violence is verbal abuse, sexual harassment, physical abuse, denial of basic needs and denial of means of communication. Another fact is that economically dependent women face more problems than working women. Among those women whose partner has no earnings has at the highest risk of violence.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF PRIVATE SECTORS EMPLOYEES**

Covid19 pandemic creates a tremendous effect on private sectors employees. Many of them throughout from their jobs during the pandemic situation. Salary cut is another issue dealt with by private employees. Many private organisations take advantage of the situation and exploitation reach at the peak. The World Inequality Report, produced by the World Inequality Lab, found that the covid19 crisis has exacerbated inequalities between the very wealthy and the rest population. India stands out as a “ poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite”, where the top 10% holds 57% of the total income, including 22% held by the top 1%, while the bottom 50% holds just 13% in 2021, according to World Inequality Report 2021.

Suggestion and conclusion: Analysing the facts and findings of human rights violations during the covid19 pandemic, a study revealed various issues that need special concern. Human rights violations are not just violations of rights but violations in themselves. International human rights law guarantees everyone the right to the highest attainable standard of health and obligates governments to take steps to prevent threats to public health and to provide medical care to those who need it. Human rights law also recognizes that in the context of serious public health threats and public emergencies threatening the life of the nation, restrictions on some rights can be justified when they have a legal basis, are strictly necessary, based on scientific evidence and are neither arbitrary nor discriminatory in the application, of limited duration, respectful of human dignity, subject to review and proportionate to achieve the objective. The scale of severity of the covid19 pandemic rises to the level of a public health threat that could

justify restrictions on certain rights, such as limiting freedom of movement. At the same time, careful attention to human rights such as non-discrimination and human rights principles such as transparency and respect for human dignity can foster an effective response.

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