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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE PANDEMIC POWER: RICH VS POOR - A FACE OFF PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The article attached focuses on the socio-economic impact of the ongoing pandemic on the masses and the classes. It explores the economic impact of Covid 19 on the economically downtrodden in contrast to the affluent. The article is an attempt to establish the leveling power of pandemics over mankind thus eliminating the rich-poor divide that Man harps on. It is a humble attempt to study the coping strategies of both classes and the option of survival Vs money power for the masses.

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Introduction:-

Stop it at the start; it is late for the medicine to be prepared when disease has grown strong through long delays.

The above quote by Ovid way back in 17 A.D aptly describes the Covid crisis that has engulfed the globe. The power of money that creates a chasm between the haves and the have-nots has been surprisingly challenged in the present world scenario. One look at the rising statistics of cases and deaths in countries across the globe and the conclusion is contrary to the expectations. It is the developed and advanced nations where the pandemic is wrecking havoc not the poor and underdeveloped debt ridden nations.

Here there is a diagonally opposite determinant which chooses vulnerability to the vermin not on the basis of money and material luxuries. The striker is blind to this kind of bias. The air we breathe has the innate quality of intermingling and is imminent for the survival of mankind of any class. No one can live if the breath is choked. Hence the real power is not in the money and possessions but in the sustainability of breath and in the strength of immunity. Our being rich is not a condition of direct proportionality of resistance and reticence to the impact of COVID-19 on our body-and we must always remember that life breath is the only living connection between the condition of life and death. When death befalls- all trade, commerce, passions and relations come to a standstill for that person.

Actually COVID-19 has intruded into the safe haven where the rich sat atop and watched the economic storms which wiped out the have nots. This time it has shaken the foundations of confidence that power games had build. The opponent has stealthily penetrated unprecedented barriers where missiles ,weapons and diplomacy have lost their edge.

Of course the one effective measure lockdown has come with its side effects like that of bitter medicine. All economies will face a slump- the depression is inevitable for all. And definitely in such conditions hunger, poverty and unemployment will spread their tentacles and the brunt of suffering will be the poor man's burden once more.

The above is very predictable but what has really mattered in the present scenario is that the bubble of the make believe world in which the superpowers resided had burst. They have blatantly exposed their vulnerability to the whole world. Now they need to plaster their fractures in every sector as much as the poor nations.

The restoration to normalcy is a long and tedious road for everyone. Death is a great leveler, they say. The loss of life can never be compensated; but, as long as there is life, one has to bear the struggles and live.

Circumstances, conditions, policies, rules and regulations will undergo changes. Unprecedented falls and rises will take place. The course of life will be rewritten. Every person has to give room to flexibility. But this time it has to be kept in mind that being rich is not a bridge by which we can conveniently cling on and cross over the turbulent rivers of the present pandemic. It has the power to flood the banks and drown the bridges.

Careful and cautious surveillance, strengths, fortitude, courage and character will be tested in the coming future. We are all in this together. The problem is of global proportions and so will be the solutions.