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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN: TESTIMONY OF SOME BRIGHTER PERSPECTIVES

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#### Abstract

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 24<sup>th</sup> March midnight 2020 declared a three-week (25<sup>th</sup> March-14<sup>th</sup> April 2020) lockdown extended from the Union Territories and most states to the whole country and provided a more definite timeline. It was stated that this Janta-Curfew is the only way to break the cycle of COVID-19 Pandemic. Looking at the death toll world wide the Lockdown phase had been increased from 15<sup>th</sup> April to-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 and then 4<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This increased the restlessness and anxiety of each and every Indian whether Employer, Employee, Politician, Student, Teacher, Industrialist, labour, Actor or even children. The economy got a hard back-hit and all the economic, commercial and social activities got paused with a horrifying uncertainty. But amidst this phase of uncertainty, fear and anxiety there had been some miraculous transformations in the set perceptions and ideologies of the general public, which were very positive and motivational. This generated new real life Heros and new records of charity and humanity.

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#### Introduction:-

At the end of December, public health officials from China informed the World Health Organization that they had a problem: an unknown, new virus was causing pneumonia-like illness in the city of Wuhan. They quickly determined that it was a corona virus and that it was rapidly spreading through and outside of Wuhan. Corona viruses are common in animals of all kinds, and they sometimes can evolve into forms that can infect humans. Since the start of the century, two other corona viruses have jumped to humans, causing the SARS outbreak in 2002 and the MERS outbreak in 2012.

The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic in India was reported on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in Kerala, which rose to three cases by 3<sup>rd</sup> February; all were students who had returned from Wuhan, China. No significant rise in cases was seen in the rest of February. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 22 new cases came to light, including those of an Italian tourist group with 14 infected members. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, India observed a 14-hour voluntary public curfew at the instance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The government followed it up with lockdowns in 75 districts where COVID-19 cases had occurred as well as all major cities. Further, on 24<sup>th</sup> March, the prime minister ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, affecting the entire 1.3 billion population of India. On 14<sup>th</sup> April, the prime minister extended the ongoing nationwide lockdown till 3<sup>rd</sup> May and then 4<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

During this crucial phase many myths and the perceptions which were well established, shattered down and new ideologies and positivity's emerged at national as well as state levels. The motive of the Reviewer is to bring forth

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and put focus on the positivity's which took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the whole world was panic and facing the depression; at economic level as well as at Human resource level, Many Angels of Humanity and Charity roused up and taught the lesson of humanity to the whole society. This Review is an effort of the Reviewer to bring upon the humanity, positivity and unity of Indians during lockdown which faded out the old vision and perceptions.

### **Objective of the Review:-**

The lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic at one hand resulted into many psychological and social disorders like, stress, anxiety, depression, aggression, domestic violence, hypertension, over-eating, , sleeplessness, excessive use of internet, over-eating etc., on the other hand it showered the petals of positivity in the spheres of humanity , environmental aspects and social ideologies.

It is a small effort of the Reviewer to provide recognition and felicitation to the positivity and the humanity carriers of the nation when the whole world is overlapped by the darkness of the pandemic.

### **Methodology:-**

This whole Review is based on the online matter, the newspapers, media reports and the individual opinions taken on telephone. Some of the broken myths /old perceptions were taken one by one and as per the observation and analysis the explanation has been provided for its acceptance or rejection.

### **Findings:**

#### **Image transformation of Indian cops from inhumane and corrupt to the Super Heros:**

Indian police cops are more feared and hardly trusted by common men in India. During the Lockdown the perception about Indian Police of being lethargic, corrupt and inhumane took a "U" turn and the Indian police cops became the superheroes, the front line worriers against COVID- 19. The cops which used to be recognized as brutal and inhumane, by their creativity and selfless social service became the favourites of Children and the Nation started felicitating their heroic efforts. This is a drastic transformation which could not have been brought in without the soulful efforts of Indian cops. The newspapers were daily filled with such Heroic deeds of Cops whether it has been the news of providing food to the road side people, taking the critical patients to the hospital, working for endless hours continuously, making people to remain inside their homes by their creative ideas or bringing a smile on the face of a little girl on her first B'day by delivering her the B'day cake during the lockdown.

While citizens in India remained in their houses, following the lockdown, the cops in various Indian cities and states became quite creative when it came to spreading the awareness of staying indoors, practising appropriate hygiene, and following government protocol. Along with the health workers and medical staff, Indian cops worked day and night to make sure that people do not step outdoors for their own safety. Some of them came out on roads with their melodious voice requesting people to follow the lockdown in the form of songs. Whereas some others were found with Corona shaped helmets and spreading the awareness. They were out on the roads with a slogan- "Hum baahar hain isliye aap gharon main Rahen" The cops worked round the clock to ensure the safety of the public. These selfless efforts, devotion and dedication of Indian Police transformed their image and the perception about them of being lethargic corrupt and inhumane to Superheroes and respectable.

Here are some pictures reflecting the humanity, creativity and devotion of Indian Police.

#### **Male Participation increased in house - works.( The Gender gap squeezed):**

As it is the tradition of Indian houses that the kitchen and the home affairs department lies with the females in most of the homes No matter how much they earn in a job, women tend to do more household works than their male partners, according to a study which shows the persistent gendered nature of division of housework. but during this lockdown this tradition broke down. With reference to many channels and news updates the male participation increased in kitchen and other house works during the lockdown. Even in my own house this happened. The family time increased and the family bond got strengthened.

As per the discussions held with many women it was found that 42 percent males started helping their partners in kitchen works. 38 percent males started supporting their better halves in other house works whereas 8 percent males

showed their interest in gardening. So the gender gap in chores decreased during COVID-19 lockdown, which again is a positive aspect.

**Techno updation due to work from home culture:**

During lockdown the government and the private institutions emphasised on work from home. Due to this those who didn't know the online working procedures, got themselves acquainted to this culture and performed well. School, college and office employees got themselves updated with the online working tools and discharged their responsibilities. The adverse impact of lockdown was minimized with this effort and the people kept themselves engaged during lockdown. The social connectivity was maintained with the help of internet without social gatherings and the important information also got floated among the people. Online classes and transfer of study material made the studies uninterruptedly floating from the source to the recipients. The usages of internet also increased drastically during lockdown period. Every sector moved towards digitalization from schools to colleges and libraries to concerts.

**lockdown brushed up the hobbies of the people:**

Shortage of time was the topmost excuse of any creativity before lockdown period, but during lockdown people came out with their hidden skills and hobbies which were buried under the burden of work. People started spending quality time with family members and paid heed to their hobbies. Many painters, dancers, singers, Poets, drama artists and composers recreated themselves. They were contended and happy to see their special skill and art blooming out. This was made possible only due to the lockdown, where no worries and plenty of time originated the hidden art. . The Bollywood Celebrities also turned to their hobbies during corona virus lockdown registered by Newspapers and Media.

**Cleaner and pollution free Environment:**

The nationwide lockdown that brought 1.3 billion people to a stop has apparently caused positive changes in the environment, Skies are clearer and river water seems cleaner. Cleaner visuals of River Ganga emerged from Kanpur and Varanasi. The water of River Yamuna has also started to appear clearer in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj. The lockdown also led to better air quality. According to the World Air Quality, the average concentration of PM 2.5 in New Delhi lowered by 71 per cent and Nitrogen Dioxide, a pollutant, has also witnessed a decline of 71 per cent. This is the biggest positive aspect of Lockdown as the World's environment was on the stake due to heavy pollution; the corona virus lockdown emerged as a shower of blessing and has done that work which could not be made possible by the Top International Authorities by minimizing the Air, Water and Noise pollution.

**The trust in Government health services increased:**

According to the survey conducted across the country, in 2018, 37.6 percent people had a lot of trust in government hospitals. But this year, this figure increased rapidly and 52.8 percent people started trusting government hospitals. In the same way a little confidence has increased in private hospitals. In 2018, 34.1 percent of people relied on private hospitals for treatment but now it is 38.2 percent. This change in trust in the hospital is due to the efforts being made by the doctors during the treatment of people infected with Corona. On the contrary, the number of Indians showing lack of confidence in these institutions has come down dramatically.

In 2018, 1.6 percent people did not trust government and 41.3 percent people did not trust private hospitals. Now this rate has come down to 0.8 percent people trusting government and 20.6 percent private hospitals. This change has been reflected in all geographical, income and education levels as well as caste identities.

**Conclusion:-**

The whole world has stricken by the COVID -19 pandemic. Affrays panic and increasing death tolls has been registered. Many countries have announced national lockdown to combat against this infectious viral disease. In India also the lockdown has been announced. The running life has got an uncertain pause, no one knows till when. In such conditions many psychological, behavioral and social disorders have been raised like domestic violence, anxiety, hypertension, over-eating, stress, sleeplessness, aggression etc. But there has been a brighter side of this lockdown in the form of Charity and Social service. Many youngsters themselves came out to the frontline to render services to the needy and migrant labors and the deprived class. Along with Government, NCC, NSS, NGO's, Celebrities, came on the road to help the needy. The diligence of frontline worriers made them Superheroes', like Indian Police Force and medical staff. The lockdown helped to make the environment clean worldwide due to less emission of carbon, the river water became clean and transparent, air pollution level also minimized and sky became

bluer and stars gleamier. The noise pollution also decreased. Office going people got chance to stay at home and spend time with their families. Male participation in chores increased, as a good symbol of decrease in gender Chores gap. Work from home culture developed leading India to more digitalization. People recreated their abandoned passions and hobbies during this lockdown. The most apparent outcome of lockdown is the transformation of Indian cops image. Earlier the name of the police used to generate a threat in the minds of the people, but after looking at the supportive and dedicated form of police, the cops became the Superhero.

#### Appeal:

Don't panic due to the lockdown, stay positive and active. Follow the social distancing and other guidelines of lockdown/ modified lockdown. This is a temporary phase which will definitely change. Stay Safe!

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