

# **Daily Bread Winners-Worst hit by Covid 19.**

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## **Abstract**

The outbreak of pandemic Covid-19 all over the world has disturbed top most economies like US, China, India, Japan, France, UK etc. Stock markets as well as the prices of oil have fallen off a cliff. But among all the most severely affected from this virus is daily wage earners.

The current research study is an attempt to know the present condition of daily bread earners during lockdown and study of various schemes introduced by Government at various levels for these vulnerable.

## **Introduction**

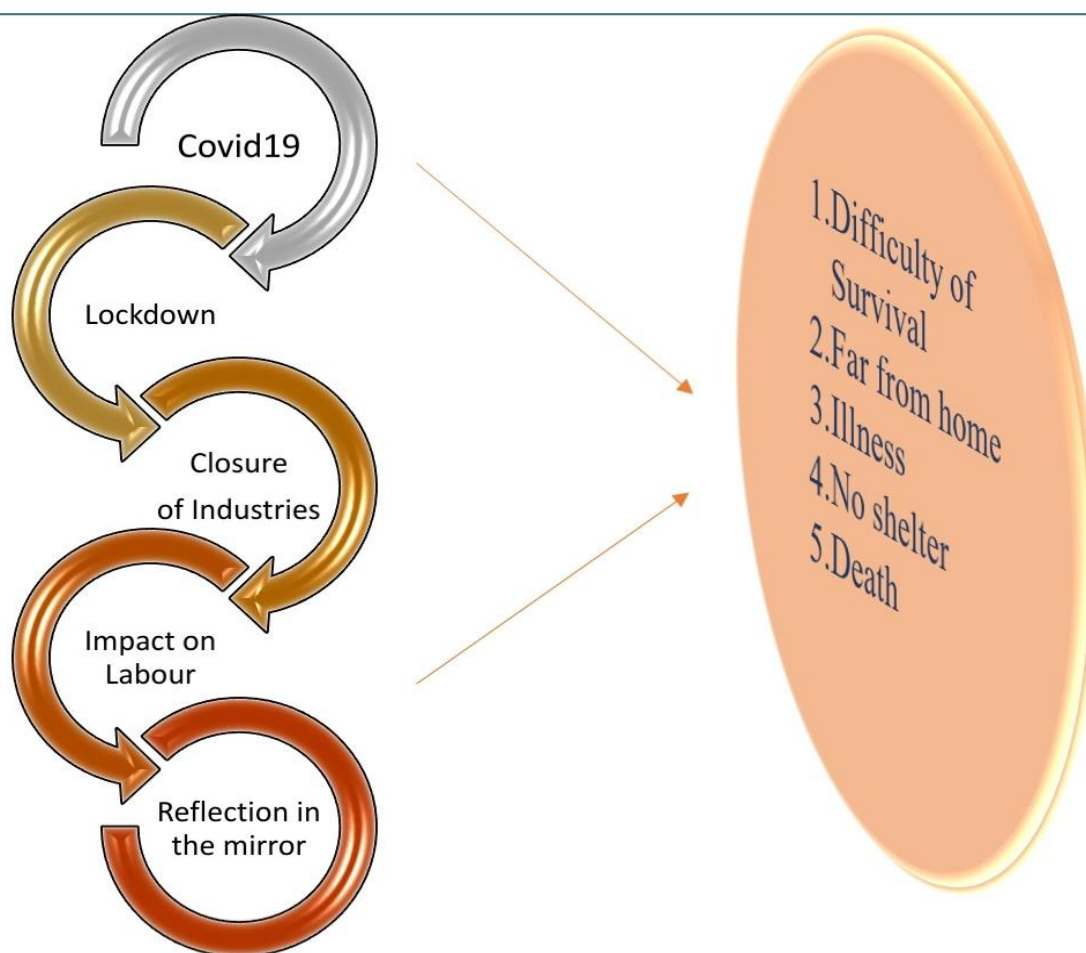
The year 2020 has brought unprecedented economic crisis to the world in the form of Covid-19. It has taken serious toll on human life. The Government has implemented complete lockdown because that is the only way of social distancing. In India, to avoid any kind of social interaction, the Prime minister Narendra Modi is keep on extending lockdown which is having deep impact on Indian businesses, workers, Migrants etc. Therefore, many economists have fear and predicted that pandemic could lead to inflation Thus, lockdown has not only snatched earnings from daily wage earners but also left them at their condition. Delivery boys, contract workers etc. are either out of job or have seen a drastic drop in their earnings. The lockdown has come as a major disaster before them without giving them any clue to prepare them for the consequences. They are having hard time surviving as they are left jobless and with no clue whether they will have work in future.

As per reports, many have gone back to their home states and many are stranded in the country with or without any support.

### **Theme of the Article**

The study aims to know the present situation of the daily wage earners and various government initiatives introduced for reliving the pain of them.

Model :-



In the above model, I have explained the effect of covid-19 and the ultimate effect on labour in the form of reflection in the mirror.

The various problems faced by labour are explained as below:-

**1. Difficulty of survival :-**

Since the lockdown is announced by PM Narendra Modi, the wage earners are facing the prospect of no income. They are not only running out of food but also 90% of the India's population is working in informal sector they do not have access to pensions, sick leave or any kind of insurance cover. They hardly have any savings which is leading them to run out of cash and making it difficult for them to survive.

**2. Far From home :-**

To practice social distancing, the transport services i.e. rail and bus services are shut down. This has left various migrants away from their native place. The daily wage earners and migrants who have come to city to work are now left jobless and due to lack of funds they are unable to cope up with city life. The worst hit by the adverse financial consequences of lockdown are the migrant workers. With interstate borders locked down and passengers trains suspended, the migrants can't return to their natives.

**3. Illness :-**

The fast evolving health emergency has rendered the migrants jobless. They are forced to leave the city in order to be close to their families in these uncertain times. Unavailability of transport services have left them only one option. They are leaving city by walking with their children. This not only poses the problem of various illness to them but also affects their children.

**4. Death :-**

For daily wage workers and laborers, the lockdown means that they are deprived of their only source of income. They are financially insecure with no savings. They are forced to leave city to go to their natives. But with the transport being shut, many migrants are crossing railway tracks and travel in

cattle trucks violating the rule of social distancing leading to illness and ultimately death. The lack of food, shelter, Cash, savings have caused death of various migrants.

#### **5. No Shelter:-**

In order to be safe from Covid19, it is suggested to practice social distancing by staying at home. But what about the daily bread winners? They are migrants who have come to city to earn daily and spend daily with no prediction of future. They neither have home to stay safe nor are they capable of surviving this lockdown due to lack of funds. They have become homeless and away from their family.

#### **Problems post lockdown:-**

The labour is facing all of the above problems in this lockdown but his problems are not likely to be end after lockdown. The soon-expected end of coronavirus-led lockdown may not be the end of troubles for many, especially labourers and migrant workers. The end of lockdown will likely start a new phase of problems for them, as labour exploitation may rise significantly in the pockets where there is an oversupply of workers, even as the industry seeks to dismiss the idea of such a situation arising. The exploitation of the labour class may rise after the lockdown is lifted, as more and more people try to regain their jobs and financial health, making an oversupply in the market, experts said.

Things are going to get worse after the lockdown is lifted. As the people are already desperate to get wages, work, or means of livelihood, chances of exploitation increase,” Trinanjan Radhakrishnan, project coordinator, Oxfam India, told Financial Express Online. Even earlier, the workers were working for 12 hours instead of 8, now they will be working for 16-18 hours.”

### **Initiatives taken by Government:-**

- 1) With small and medium businesses, agricultural units, farmers and daily workers hit hard by the lockdown in India, experts are calling for relief. Finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday (March 26) announced a relief package of INR 170K crore to help mitigate the negative impact on agriculture and farmers.
- 2) Moreover the government has also increased the daily wages of workers employed under Mahatma Gandhi National rural employment guarantee act (MNREGA) scheme from INR 182 per day to INR 202 for the next three months. This measure is sure to give relief to 5 Crore families in India.
- 3) The government has also taking various initiatives for providing essential food to daily workers and migrants through public distribution system.
- 4) The Financial assistance is also being given to workers from various schemes.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions:-**

The condition of the daily bread winners is getting worse day by day as they hardly have any savings and they have no work for unlimited period. Besides that, they are living in slums which may force them to get affected by coronavirus. The government is facing an extraordinary challenge to protect over a billion densely populated country

Hence it is necessary for the government to take all the necessary steps to make sure everyone has access to food and medical care. Even though government has taken various initiatives still it haven't reached to all the affected victims.

Thus, it is necessary to take right, fast and urgent measures because only then it will make the difference between survival and collapse.

Since the lockdown phase is going on. The impact of schemes introduced by government can be evaluated post covid19.

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