



Article Type: Research Article

Article Ref. No.: 21082500722IR

<https://doi.org/10.37948/ensemble-2021-CSI1-a008>



IN VIEW OF THE THIRD WAVE, RESPONSE OF HUMANITY TO COVID-19

Vijay Kumar Chechi^{1✉}, Ophilia Lobo²

Abstract:

The writer in this study wishes to let the readers know the thought process of human beings in this crucial pandemic time. This paper shows the uncertainty and anxiety of the people towards the predicted third wave of the coronavirus and the impending consequences along with the response to the pandemic through life building activities. The survey is conducted using the self-made questionnaire. The main responses are recorded and the conclusions are drawn from the responses. 150 respondents from 104 nationwide organizations responded to the survey.

Article History: Submitted on 25 Aug 2021 | Accepted on 20 Sep 2021 | Published online on 25 Sep 2021

Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic, Corona virus, Humanity, Crisis, Humanitarian work

1.0 Introduction:

The COVID-19 outbreak came to be known on December 31, 2019, when China was said to have informed the World Health Organization (WHO) of a group of cases of pneumonia of a unknown cause in Wuhan City. The outbreak of the novel Coronavirus leading to the COVID-19 pandemic, starting from China, raised the alarm across the world, creating a panic in the minds of the people. The disease spread to other provinces in China and the rest of the countries in the world. The WHO subsequently declared it a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Ever since then, it has become a crisis for the entire humanity. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said, "this is a health crisis of this century greatest after World War II". When we look at the Covid-19 situation, it is not only the health crisis; it has far-reaching impacts on the social, economic and political arena. Over the past 20 months, it has caused severe disruptions in life. International labour organization estimates over 255 million losses of full-time jobs besides part-time and hourly jobs of the people.

The world as a whole is trying to respond to the situation in varied ways, the people in the governance are attempting to control the disease and are trying to find solutions to the present disturbing conditions, the frontline workers, such as doctors, paramedics, health workers and service providers are trying their level best to save a life. The scientists and other intellectuals are trying to get the cure, those in communication are doing their best to reach out to everyone with

1 [Author] ✉ [Corresponding Author] Professor and Head of the Department, School of Education, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, INDIA. E-mail: vijay.chechi@lpu.co.in

2 [Author] Research Scholar, School of Education, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, INDIA

This article was presented in the International Conference on 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity: Issues, Concerns and Challenges' on 25th September, 2021 (via Virtual mode), organized by the School of Education, LPU, Punjab, INDIA in collaboration with the Department of Education, Dr. Meghnad Saha College, West Bengal, INDIA.

© 2021 Ensemble; The authors



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



the needed information, the educationist is spending their midnight oil to keep track of the education and the growth of the future of the nation. Those with resources are reaching out to the needy, providing shelter to the homeless and many other relief activities. It gives a feeling that the pandemic has opened the doors to reach out in possibilities.

The present situation on the verge of third wave of covid-19, has given rise to many perspectives and viewpoints as to how different sections of people have responded to the situation. Many have questions rising in their minds about the pandemic, such as 51% of the people “why this is happening” many could not grasp the situation even after a year hence had the question “what does it mean” 31% and “how could such a thing happen” 43% out of the responsible population chosen from various heads of the Institutions across the nation from varying religions and cultures.

2.0 Methodology:

The study was done post 2nd wave of Corona pandemic, in a span of one month. The online survey followed the “restricted open access method” of collecting the responses from the respondents. The questions were sent to the people through the Google form and were requested to fill in and circulate to the others in their contact list who were engaged in some humanitarian work.

3.0 Sample:

The survey was to ascertain how the organizations understood, perceived and responded to the crisis. As many as 150 individuals representing 104 organizations all over the country from around 20 states formed the sample of the study.91% of the participants acknowledged as belonging to a particular faith, and 9% were not specific about the faith but were belonging to the humanitarian work field.

4.0 Discussion and conclusions:

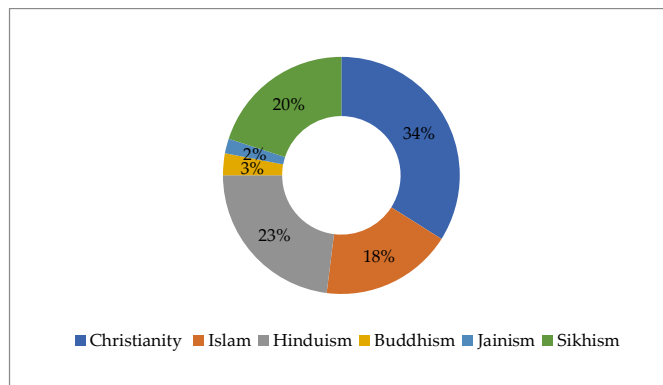
The online survey followed the “restricted open access method” of collecting the responses from the respondents. The questions were sent to the people through the Google form and were requested to fill in and circulate to the others in their contact list who were engaged in some humanitarian work. The total number of respondents were 150 in number.

Few questions were posed to the respondents, one of them being “**What type of organization do you belonged to?**”

In answer to this question, 84% of the respondents were working for humanity beyond their faith, and 7% were secular organizations working purely for humanitarian development, 5% were faith-based organizations working for humanity, and 4% were faith-based organizations working for their faith-based community.

When specifically asked about their faith, the following responses were gathered,

Fig. 1: Religion of respondents
(Source: Primary data generated by author)



34% of the respondents were from a Christian background, 23% were from Hinduism, 20% were from Sikhism, 18% were from Islam, 3% were from Buddhism, and 2% were from Jainism. Though significant religions of India were represented, the Christian representation was more in number, which is considered the setback of this study.

More than 60% of the organizations have served humanity for almost more than 50 years. At the commencement of the third wave of the pandemic, it seemed proper for the researcher to ask, **“How do the people working in your area see this pandemic and upcoming third wave as?”**

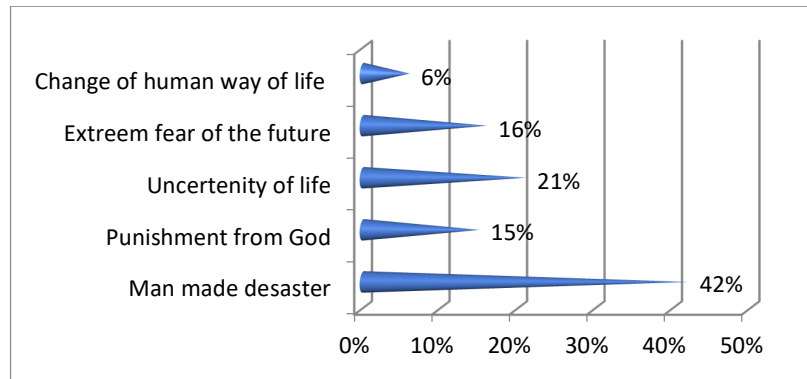


Fig. 2: How do the people working in your area see this pandemic and upcoming third wave as?
(Source: Primary data generated by author)

Most of the respondents, 42% felt it was an unnatural disaster; hence we need to deal with it, in our way; 21% felt the uncertainty of life, 16% felt the extreme fear of the future, 15% thought it was the punishment from God, 6% thought it is a call for the change of way of life.

The researchers then asked the respondents,

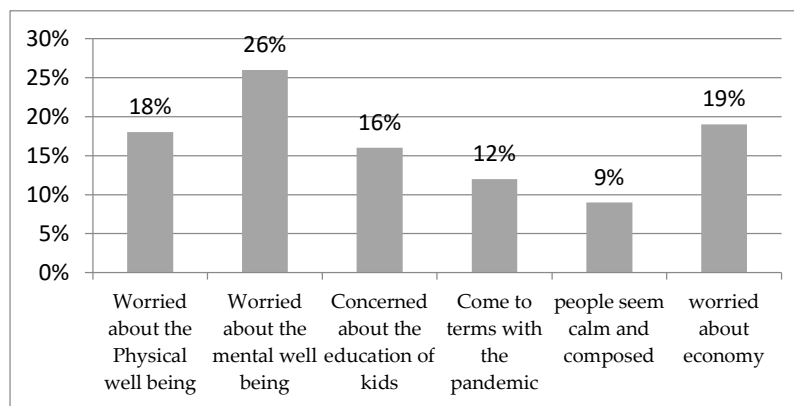


Fig. 3: What is your perception about the people in your area about this third wave and lockdown that might follow?
(Source: Primary data generated by author)

18% of the respondent said that the people around them are worried about their physical health since it becomes difficult for the movements and they need to be confined to their own homes or close surroundings and thus are deprived of their movements and exercises in Jims, walks in the parks, sports activities, etc. 26% were worried about their mental health and the mental health of their dear and near ones since all activities would be confined to their homes and online. 16% were concerned about the education of the children, especially those who have never been to school and yet have completed 2 years of schooling. Their growth as relational beings was the primary concern besides the emotional and psychological growth of the children. 12% have come to terms

with the existence of this pandemic, and they see no way out, and life has to go on. 9% of the people seem to be calm and peaceful. 19% are worried about the economic condition of the family and the nation as a whole. The financial crunch has been great in the past 20 months, and they see the downfall still further.

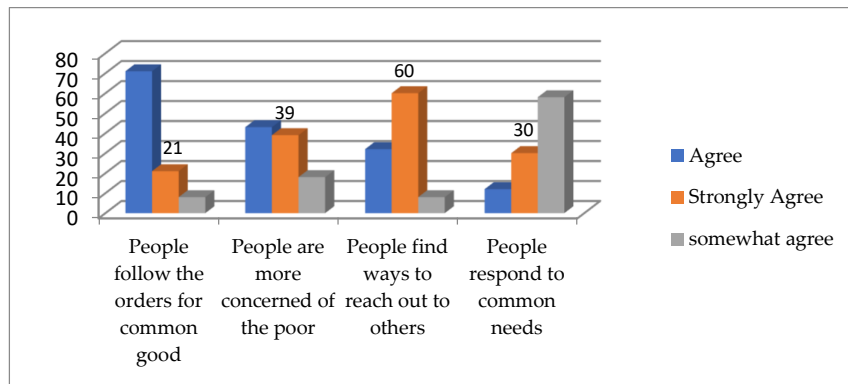


Fig. 4: Attitudinal change due to the corona pandemic
(Source: Primary data generated by author)

When asked about the attitudinal change, 21% responded, saying that they follow the governmental orders and the orders from the authority for the common good of the locality and its citizens. It was seen that the 39% people now have become more conscious about the poor living in their locality and have become concerned about their well being and their sustenance. 60% feel that everyone tries to find ways and means to reach out to the poor in any way that is available and ease their burden of daily living. It is seen that 30% of the people respond to the common needs.

They were asked about

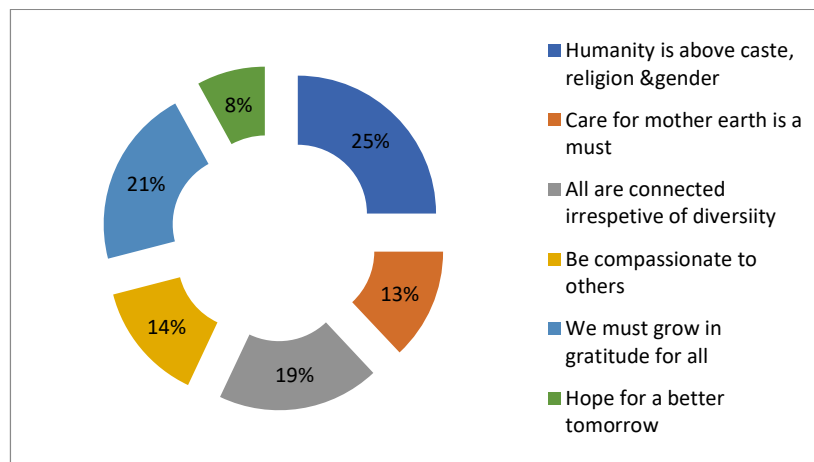


Fig. 5: Lessons learnt from the corona Crisis
(Source: Primary data generated by author)

25% of the population felt that humanity is above the caste, religion and gender because of which the wars have been fought, nations are divided, and the people are killed, 13% say that we have been using the mother earth and her resources relentlessly without minding the future and now is the time is given to everyone to stop, see, think and proceed in the usage of the resources of mother earth. 19% feel that the diversity is forgotten in the nation when it comes to the corona pandemic. All seem to be connected and levelled by the pandemic. 14% of the people feel that we



do not know our life of tomorrow; therefore, it is a call to be compassionate towards the others, 8% think that gratitude is the lesson that we have learnt from Corona for being alive to this day.

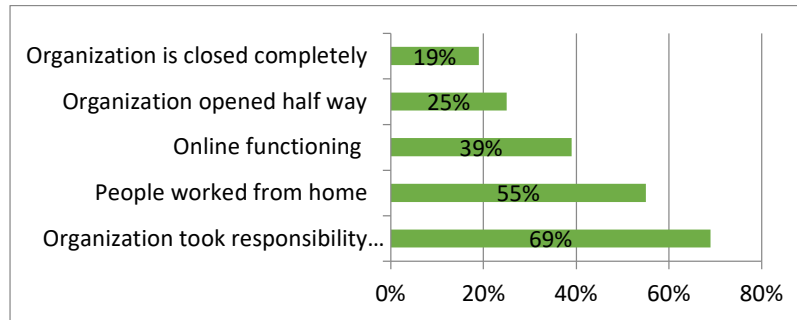


Fig. 6: What has been your contribution to society during the past lockdown period? (Multiple responses)
(Source: Primary data generated by author)

On March 24 2020, the Government announced the nationwide lockdown with very short notice. Various organizations acted in different ways, 19% of the respondent organizations were completely closed down, 25% of the organizations had their half the number of employees working, 39% of them were working online, 55% of them worked from home, and 69% of them took responsibility for the relief work such as distribution of food, conducting online awareness programmes, distribution of masks, distribution of dry ration to the less privileged people of the locality.

Knowing that this crisis would continue for a while, the researcher questioned, “**What will your organization do in the future weeks or months?**”

In response to this, most responded in the following way;

- Follow the Government orders
- Reach out to the needy distributing clothing, food and basic needs
- Open places for the shelterless
- Work from home
- Encourage small scale industries
- Awareness-raising among the masses
- Accompany the Governmental organizations and plans

5.0 Conclusion:

Based on the responses of the organizations, there are few ways in which the organizations could continue reaching out to the humanity

- **Taking care of the mental well-being of the population:** We hear more and more cases of depression, mental breakdown, helplessness and loss in the world, melancholy and stagnation, which leads people to end their life. Life needs to be conserved at all costs.
- **Building Peace in the Society:** Due to the economic recession, the people look out for ways to live, in such situations, few are led to steal, kill and do harm in order to maintain their own family. Therefore, it is the call of the hour to maintain peace in the society.
- **Training self-employability skills / small scale industry:** For building the economy of the nation, it is pertinent that the economy of individuals grows too, this step of developing small scale industries / having self employability skills will take the nation a long way.

- **Increase civic engagements:** Help people to move out of their comfort zones of their own families and see to the nation-building and the needs of the locality.
- **Create spaces for positivity:** In view of the third wave, the people start panicking and bringing around the hostile atmosphere, which leads to tensions and mental imbalance. Therefore, the positive surrounding will increase the life span and well-being.

The third wave of Covid -19 is awaited, and people's response towards it is pretty encouraging and gives thought to future plans.

Reference:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/27-04-2020-who-timeline---covid-19>

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_743146.pdf)

[dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_743146.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_743146.pdf)

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32191675> -WHO Declares Covid-19 a Pandemic.

<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/>

<https://www.rt.com/business/513545-255-million-jobs-lost>

