The Scenarios of COVID-19 in the Context of the Indian Sub-continent (Bangladesh, India & Pakistan)

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Abstract
It is undoubtedly true that COVID-19 is a pandemic, hampering human progress and well-being all over the world. Therefore, based on the qualitative method of research, the author intended to discuss the sweeping impacts of COVID-19 in the Indian Sub-continent. Consequently, it is now clear that the COVID-19 at first attacked violently on the health opportunities of the countries. The overwhelming evidence is a large number of people infected and died for the longest time here. Truly, the economic progress of these countries was wounded seriously, creating food insecurity, lack of nutrition, high poverty rate, etc. At the beginning of the pandemic, having many effective and acceptable initiatives, the governments try to cope up with the loss gradually as far as possible. On the other hand, the education system was hampered tremendously due to the closure of their educational institutions for months. Most importantly, the governments initiated the E-learning system in catering to the needs of students although the lack of online materials in remote and rural areas was the main barrier of this system. Above all, people should go consciously beyond the call of duty to alleviate the far-reaching effects of COVID-19 with the government as much as possible.
Keywords: Health Condition, Economy, Education, COVID-19, Indian Sub-Continent

Introduction
As a matter of fact, the Indian sub-continent is the big Sub-continent in the world. After more than a few rulers, the British ruled the sub-continent for 190 years at a stretch from 1757 to 1947. Subsequently, there were many problems in the sub-continent which triggered to divide the sub-continent in the rest, including- riots, mass casualties, mass migration, and so on (Ansari, 2020). In August 1947, the British divided the Sub-continent into two countries based on religion, such as- the Muslim majority got Pakistan on August 14 and the Hindu majority got India on August 15 (Asrar, 2020; Ansari, 2020). Then, East Pakistan achieved freedom from West Pakistan on December 16, 1947, and emerged as Bangladesh. As a whole, there are three countries in the Indian Sub-continent, such as- Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. Next, every country goes independently in accordance with respective rules and regulations but a sudden virus made many damages in hot chase in these countries.
Actually, the name of the virus is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), cased of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which was first appeared in Wuhan City, China in December 2019 (Kanga et al., 2020). Typically, the Wuhan city under the Hubei province of China is well-known as the place of the wholesale market of wild and live animals and fishes (David et al., 2020). It is noted that this virus has a similarity with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-2003 (SARS-2003) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-2012 (MERS-2012) (David et al., 2020; Chand et al., 2020). Simultaneously, there

are a few symptoms among SARS-CoV-2 infected patients, including- fever, sore throat, cough, phlegm, fatigue during the initial stage, headache, dizziness, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, etc.
(David et al., 2020). As this is an air-borne virus, more than a few steps must take to be safe in general, including- isolation, quarantine, using sanitizer, social distancing, washing hands with soap, covering mouth with a mask, etc. (Chand et al., 2020).

Literature Review

As ill-luck would have it, COVID-19 becomes a burning question rapidly because many people were being infected and died in almost every country across the world. For this reason, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as the 6th international public health emergency on January 30, 2020 (Abid et al., 2020). Afterward, the impact of COVID-19 reached unexpectedly at the position of the pandemic. Therefore, the WHO has already declared the COVID-19 as the pandemic for all and sundry on March 11, 2020 (Kanga et al., 2020; Abid et al., 2020). Because there is no denying the vast amount of killing by the pandemic what the world may not see at all. Furthermore, the growing number of infections is also a matter of concern worldwide. In pursuance of the Worldometer's report until September 19, 2020, the number of infections of COVID-19 is 30,739,229 and the number of deaths is 957,290 although millions of people became recovered (Worldometer, 2020). It goes without saying that the Indian Sub-continent was also in danger position because of the outbreak of COVID-19.

Research Objectives

It is an incontestable truth that COVID-19 threats intensely the motion of the world, particularly- the countries of the Indian Sub-continent. For this reason, the author aimed to make actuality regarding COVID-19 in the context of the Indian Sub-continent. Also here are a few special objectives, such as to analyze the condition of COVID-19; to discuss the economic impacts; to find out educational effects.

Research Methodology

First of all, the author initiated this study by reviewing previous research papers on the impact of COVID-19 in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh separately. Eventually, until conducting this study the author identified a gap that there is no specific study on the scenario of COVID-19 in the Indian Sub-continent. Hence, based on the research gap, the author searched data cautiously in regard to the Indian Sub-continent; COVID-19; the current state of COVID-19; the scenario of COVID-19 in the context of Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan; etc. As for searching data, the author used searchingly a few search-engines and websites, such as- Google, Google Scholar, Science Direct, Research gate, Social Science Research Network (SSRN), Academia.edu, etc. and collected data from reliable journal articles, the reports of international organizations, the valid newspaper, etc. Equally important, the author followed appropriately the method of qualitative research in the field of social science. That means this study analyzed and interpreted data descriptively. Simultaneously, the content analysis method has been applied as a tool for qualitative research. In summary, this study is a qualitative research based on secondary data.

Research Findings

It is true that the medical facilities and services of the world population suffered irreversible damages by COVID-19 in general (David et al., 2020). Likewise, it damages bitterly the base of the economy and education system all over the world. The author decorated this section by

analyzing data from the Indian Sub-continent's perspective based on the health-oriented, economic, and educational effects of the pandemic.

The state of COVID-19: The fact is the SARS-CoV-2 is the 7th respiratory system infecting virus which belongs in Beta coronavirus (David et al., 2020). Regrettably, this virus first attacked India among other countries of the Indian Sub-continent. On January 30, 2020, a patient was traced as COVID-19 infected in Kerala, India who came from Wuhan city of China with two children (Chand et al., 2020). Afterward, on March 11, 2020, a 76-year-old man died by infection of SARS-CoV-2 in Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India (David et al., 2020). By the way, to protect the people, the Indian government declared a nationwide Curfew as urgent action from 7 AM to 9 PM on March 22, 2020 (Vara, 2020). As the case may be, the government locked down the whole of India from March 26 to June 30 (Vara, 2020; Jena, 2020a). To cope up with the lockdown; all factories, schools, colleges, offices, and transports were closed in all provinces of India (Vara, 2020).

It is a very worrisome incident that as of September 19, 2020, India placed 2nd based on the number of infections. For instance, 5,312,537 people were infected, as well as 85,650 people were lost by COVID-19 in India (Worldometer, 2020).

In Pakistan, the first SARS-CoV-2 infected patient appeared in Karachi on February 26, 2020 (Abid et al., 2020). The state of medical facilities in Pakistan is a doctor for 963 people and a hospital bed for 1608 people (Saleem, 2020). Farther on, the health sector of Pakistan prepared 200,000 doctors, 1.4 million nurses, and 35 hospitals to treat infected patients in different provinces of Pakistan (Saleem, 2020; Waris et al., 2020). Simultaneously, the Pakistan government didn't wait to lock down the country for the sake of minimizing the outbreak of COVID-19. During the lockdown of Pakistan; shops, markets, shopping centers, both government and private offices were shut down (Latif, 2020a). Actually, Pakistan started lockdown by locking down Sindh province on March 23 (Shafi et al., 2020). After crossing a few stages of lockdown, Pakistan made an easy lockdown from May 9 (Latif, 2020a). Moreover, a large number of Pakistani was outraged by this evil virus. According to data of Worldometer, Pakistan placed 18th based on the number of infections with 305,031 infected patients and 6,415 deaths (Worldometer, 2020).

In Bangladesh, the first SARS-CoV-2 infected patient was diagnosed in Dhaka on March 8, as well as the first patient died on March 18 (Kamruzzaman and Sakib, 2020). Truly, the state of medical services in Bangladesh is not good enough because of 8 hospital beds for 1,000 people and 0.5 doctors for 1,000 people in Bangladesh (Saleh, 2020). Nevertheless, to tackle the pressure of COVID-19, the Bangladesh government prepared 500 rapid response committees; three hospitals for formal isolation (Kurmitola hospital, Kuwait Motre hospital, and Infectious Disease Hospital); and other 500 hospitals for initial treatment (Health Service Division, 2020).

Besides, the Bangladesh government locked down the country in due time for ensuring social distancing and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the whole country was locked down at a pinch from March 26 to May 31 (Kamruzzaman and Sakib, 2020). During the nationwide lockdown, although all types of transports were closed for many days; emergency services were operational, including- medicine, food, grocery, and kitchen items carrying vehicles (Mithu and Ahmed, 2020). However, the matter of concern that till September 19, the position of Bangladesh was 15th on the basis of the number of infections, to illustrate, 347,372 people were infected and 4,913 people died for COVID-19 (Worldometer, 2020).

Economic Impacts: It is a matter of lucid that the world economy was affected by the Coronavirus by leaps and bounds. It is reported that about 81% of workers' jobs were affected and the global economy lost $3.4 trillion income across the globe (Shafi et al., 2020). Remarkably, since India is a country of developing economy, the pandemic is responsible for economic loss (Mukherjee et al., 2020). Accordingly, India lost 32,000 crores per day from

different sectors of incomes and 53% of enterprises were affected by this pandemic at the time of lockdown (Jothikumer et al., 2020). Besides, 40 million people beset with problems by losing their job because of the nationwide lockdown in India (Mukherjee et al., 2020). Recently, almost every farmer has faced uncertainty about the price of their goods due to COVID-19, as well as business industries cut the amount of salary of the employees due to the closure of incomes of the industries for a long time (Jothikumer et al., 2020). Above all, a few professions were more affected economically than other professions, such as- banks, restaurants, food vendors, and food delivery (Mukherjee et al., 2020). Be that as it may, the government has the responsibility to make economic supports for the country. At that time, the Indian government declared $22 billion as a support scheme to reduce economic vulnerability in India (Jothikumer et al., 2020).

It is equally important that Vara (2020) identified that the Indian government provided wheat, rice, pulses, as free of coast to many poor families and 83 million poor families got cooking gas. Also, a few initiatives are more trustworthy in India beyond all doubt, consisting- $13.31 cash was transferred to 30 million senior citizens; 200 million poor women got $6.65 per month for three months during COVID-19; and $66,000 was budgeted for health care workers, doctors, nurses, and paramedics (Vara, 2020).

On the other hand, the pandemic also played a crucial role in damaging the economy of Pakistan. Significantly, 2.45 million people were unfortunately in food insecurity due to COVID-19 in Pakistan (Saleem, 2020). And, the Pakistan government lost one-third of revenue, as well as 50% of exports were dropped queerly at that time (Shafi et al., 2020). A report found out that 55 million poor people who live below the poverty line will be 120 million at the end of 2020. That means the national poverty rate of Pakistan will grow from 29.5% to 50% in the future as a result of the pandemic. Also, the workforce of Pakistan felt a hard nut to crack because 19 or 20 million workforces lost their job among 75 million workforces. Similarly, the unemployment rate was influenced and will be 5.8% to 8.1% in the FY2020-2021 because of coronavirus (Research and Publication Department, 2020). Actually, micro, small, medium-sized enterprises were more affected rigidly by the pandemic in Pakistan (Shafi et al., 2020). It is a matter of hope that the Pakistan government announced Rs 1.2 trillion economic relief packages to tackle COVID-19 on April 3, 2020 (Research and Publication Department, 2020). Besides, Rs 144 billion was budgeted for 12 million poor people who got Rs 12,000 per person per month (Saleem, 2020).

In Bangladesh, COVID-19 also affected the national economy, creating a major existential crisis for poor people. The nationwide lockdown of Bangladesh raised the pre-existing poverty rate because the number of poor people will be 33 million, even 20 million youth laborers were deprived of income sources who had completed their study (Chowdhury, 2020). A study showed the scene of the economic problem created by the pandemic in which 98.6% of poor people were victimized of COVID-19 in which 88.7% of poor people had the lack of sufficient and nutritious food; 8.6% of poor people ate only two meals per day; 5% of poor people ate the same food for many days (The Bangladesh Protidin, 2020). Then, the pandemic endangered 85% of informal earners in Bangladesh, including- the day laborer, marginalized low income based earners, and self-employees (Chowdhury, 2020).

Thus the pandemic made a major concern that the Bangladesh government lost BDTK 3,300 crore every day during COVID-19 and will lose revenue around BDTK 1 Lakh crore (Ghosh, 2020; The Somoy News, 2020).

It is a matter of optimism that the Bangladesh government didn't late to make economic support and declared BDTK 72,750 crore in that direction for recovering economic pressure of COVID-19 as stimulus packages (The BBC News, 2020). With the help of the Army, the Bangladesh government provided much relief in different needy areas of Bangladesh, such as- potato, lentils, rice, onions, cooking oil, soap, and so on (Rahman and Ruszczyk, 2020).

Educational Effects: Coronavirus directly pushed to close the educational institutions all over the world, signaling the major challenges for learners. For this reason, in the meantime, around 1.5 billion students were long away from their educational institutions globally (Saeed, 2020).

In only India, COVID-19 stopped to take admission, examination, entrance test, and competitive examinations, as well as 32 crore students were out of teaching (Jena, 2020a). Among the total students of India who stayed at home because of the closure of institutions, there are 14 crore primary students and 13 crore secondary students (Jena, 2020b). By staying at home without going to school, students felt depression, anxiety, unfavorable study environment, etc. (Kapasia et al., 2020). It is encouraging that the authority suggested conducting class through online learning system to continue the education process and recover the study gap as much as possible. In this case, both students and teachers used several types of online meeting apps, including- Google Meet, Skype, YouTube live, Facebook live, Zoom Cloud, and Web-Ex; and other a few information sending apps, such as- Google Drive, Whatsapp, Telegram, Twitter, etc. (Jena, 2020a).

But unfortunately, many students didn't take lessons from the E-learning system. Because, most of the poor and rural students had no laptop and smartphone by which they can take classes (Jena, 2020b). It is a tragedy that they are indeed an average of 70% of Indian students who were inactive in online classes (Kapasia et al., 2020). It is also important that junior-level students were deprived of mid-day meal, signaling the loss of nutritious food. Along with other students, fresh graduates were far away from getting employment due to COVID-19 (Jena, 2020b).

In Bangladesh, the authority closed all types of educational institutions after the declaration of the government from March 17, 2020 (Akhter and Rahman, 2020). For this reason, from the primary-level to higher-level education, 5 crore students were out of academic institutes in Bangladesh (Kamol, 2020). Since both students and the education process were threatened, the authority initiated an online learning system in Bangladesh for solving the problems (Khan, 2020). A report showed that access to the online learning system is not equal for all students. Because only 5% of the household had mobile phones; 5.60% of families had a computer or tablet; and 37.60% had internet connection in Bangladesh (Uddin, 2020). For this reason, the BTV and the Sangsod TV were used to telecast the lessons of primary and secondary students (Abdullah, 2020).

It seems that the dropout rate will rise from 17% to 30% since many students lost online education facilities (Kamol, 2020). Equally important, primary level students didn't get nutritious food from their school due to the closure of their schools (Jasim, 2020). Therefore the Bangladesh government took steps to provide foods and 50 packet biscuits in the remote areas of Bangladesh, as well as the scholarship was sent to the mobile number of the parents (Abdullah, 2020; Jasim, 2020).

The wave of the closure of the educational institutions was in Pakistan what other countries did for protecting the students from the virus. For which 46,803,407 students were far away from their academia in Pakistan where 8,636,383 students at primary level, 13,357,618 students at the secondary level, and 1,878,101 students at the higher level (Saeed, 2020). Afterward, the authority began online classes as the best possible way of continuing the education system but most of the institutions had not sufficient materials to conduct online classes (Latif, 2020b). The unpleasant matter in taking online classes that most of the families had mobile phones but students had the problem of data availability in Pakistan (Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan, 2020). Because Pakistan placed 76th in the ranking of web availability, ability, affordability across the world (Saeed, 2020). Then the authority didn't open educational institutions because of the scarcity of safety guidelines everywhere. Therefore, there were a few policies regarding the students as the school-colleges were

closed, such as- high school level students will be promoted without taking examinations; admission of colleges will be held on the basis of previous results; etc. (Latif, 2020b).

Discussion of Findings

It is cloudless that COVID-19 is consternation by all means for all people worldwide. To speak frankly, no one is out of the bottomless bad impacts of the pandemic more or less. In this situation, millions of people were infected in record time in the Indian Sub-continent. Coupled with more than 90 thousand lives died having been infected by this deadly virus in the three countries of the Sub-continent. In the same way, having the 2nd highest population, India reached the 2nd top of infected people in the whole world but Bangladesh and Pakistan placed below 10th of the ranking in compliance with the number of infections and deaths. Further, between Bangladesh and Pakistan, the number of infected patients in Bangladesh crossed Pakistan. On the contrary, the number of deaths in Pakistan was more than Bangladesh in accordance with the result of the study.

Subsequently, no government of these countries waited to tackle the outbreak of COVID-19 and locked down in the nick of time their respective countries in consideration of ensuring social distancing by March. In the case of the lockdown, all offices, industries, banks, shopping centers, transports, and so on were closed for the duration of the lockdown here and there. As a consequence, the economic sector of the countries was hampered utterly in broad daylight due to lockdown.

It is a troubling matter that this closure weakened regrettably the economy of those countries as they are developing countries. More importantly, each country spent a lot amount of money in the face of all dangers as a stimulus package in the cause of reducing the economic pressure of COVID-19. In the midst of other sectors, the education sector of the countries was damaged because of the closure of all types of educational institutes. In the face of all opposition, the authorities remained to study operational through the E-learning system although many poor students had no opportunities to take online lessons. As a result, COVID-19 pushed many unprivileged students to drop out in many areas of the countries. In the long run, the pandemic harmed in full swing the Indian Sub-continent in many ways.

Conclusion

The fact of the matter is the news of COVID-19 exists in all the headlines of news portals worldwide. In addition, Coronavirus is considered by all means as the first and foremost human disaster in the context of the world in 2020 (Mukherjee et al., 2020). Therefore, the myriad effects of it are obviously dangerous in economic costs, educational risks, and health implications. Already everyone has faced beyond question the abysmal worse impacts of it globally- especially Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. By the way, letting the pandemic go unaddressed could lead to the preventing of the severity of the world. For this reason, every person has respective responsibility and duty to reduce the mischievous impacts of this pandemic. However, the governments took effective strategies but the number of infections and deaths is ongoing. It may be the major cause of the general scarcity of awareness among the populace and lack of proper sanitation materials everywhere. But, with the necessary public will, this formidable task can be overcome by and by. As the economy of the countries is developing stage, the people have to take the issue into consideration and be aware level best of the spread of COVID-19. On the other hand, the researchers should conduct many pieces of researches on different aspects of COVID-19 so that policymakers can pay attention to those issues properly. At the eleventh hour, it is clear that people from every step should try to alleviate the vulnerabilities of COVID-19 until inventing the effective vaccine of COVID-19.

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