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Uncovering the Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19 on Women's Lives in Hyderabad

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Abstract

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the entire globe has been affected severely, especially women who are the primary providers for their families. This study includes a digital survey through a questionnaire consisting of 20 questions. The survey intends to examine the post-pandemic socio-economic issues, health and women's prospects. The total respondents were about 760, consisting of 479 females and 281 males. The research results show that 29 per cent of the women who belonged to the private sector/ street vendors lost their jobs, and 61 per cent did not have livelihood supporters. Meanwhile, half of the surveyed females experienced domestic violence without livelihood resources or insurance schemes. As a result, they could not recover from the Pandemic/lockdown effects.

Keywords: Women, Pandemic, Hyderabad, Socio-economic, Lockdown.

Introduction

The COVID-19 Pandemic had a negative impact on people from all walks of life and across all industries. The Pandemic has had enormous impact on every sphere of society, including the social and economic spheres of the majority, if not all, of the world's nations (Douglas et al, 2020). On March 24th, the Prime minister of India declared the first 21 days of Lockdown across the India. During the sudden lockdown in India, all public gathering places such as school, university, public and private institutions, and transportation facilities including trains, buses, domestic and international flights were banned. In addition to avoid further crowd and spread of COVID-19 Pandemic students and employee were asked to continue their task through online mode respectively. In spite of 21 days lockdown, the rate of infection could not control; so the lockdown further continuously extended for nearly about six months to control the spread of virus and safe lives. Due to multiple lockdowns implemented by the government several social and economic impacts were left in the country. In terms of social impact, radical changes had been followed in the habits of people and lifestyle. These social new habits include social distancing, social alienation, self-isolation, travel restriction, avoiding hand shake, wearing mask, changing the physical mode of contact to online mode of activities in almost all over the globe and the country. On the economic impact of COVID-19 lockdown, the severe economic crisis and recession, slowdown in production, and manufacturing, loss of job and occupation, shutdown of import and export except some medical and treatment equipment, and closing of all schools and institutions (Llamera, 2021). Above all, women were the only vulnerable groups who suffered the most, especially during all phases of lockdown from phase one to phase five. In India due to the entire lockdown that was imposed on March 22, 2020, most women were left with additional duties in doors such as cooking, caring for children and families, and other professional tasks doing online such teaching, exams, banking, and employees. The imposed lockdown in Hyderabad city put women without under huge economic pressure as some of them were only the bread takers of their families but they lost their job and occupation. Most of the women vendors who sell fruits, vegetables or other agricultural products, were not able to work due to the lockdown as a result, they left behind without any financial support. Moreover, many cases of domestic violence have been reported and mentioned in the study area that the male counterpart committed during the lockdown period. Several other significant issues were also raised during the lockdown such as drinking water issue, child malnutrition, stress and depression and outdoor limited activities of women. During the lockdown period most of the female restricted to the indoors chores and most of the employed women lost their job as a result, it affected the self-esteem of the women in their families. The current study also shows that most of the women who lost their jobs, are not able to get jobs.

Study area

Golconda-Hyderabad was the original twin city, followed by the idea of Hyderabad Secunderabad and then by the sizable cantonments built by the British and the Nizam (Figure 1). These developments led to the birth of Hyderabad. With

Osmania University, Railways, NGRI, N.F.C., E.C.I.L., and a number of small and medium-sized businesses and organizations, the public land use of the old Hyderabad is mostly restricted to the South, East, and a sizable North East. The latitude and longitude range from (17° 15' 30", 78° 15' 00") to (17° 40' 15", 78° 40' 15") for the study of Hyderabad city and its surroundings. The Hyderabad Urban Development Area (H.U.D.A.) covers around 1865 square kilometers. 29 planning zones separate the HUD region (11 Zones inside municipal limits and 18 zones in the non-municipal limits or peripheral areas).

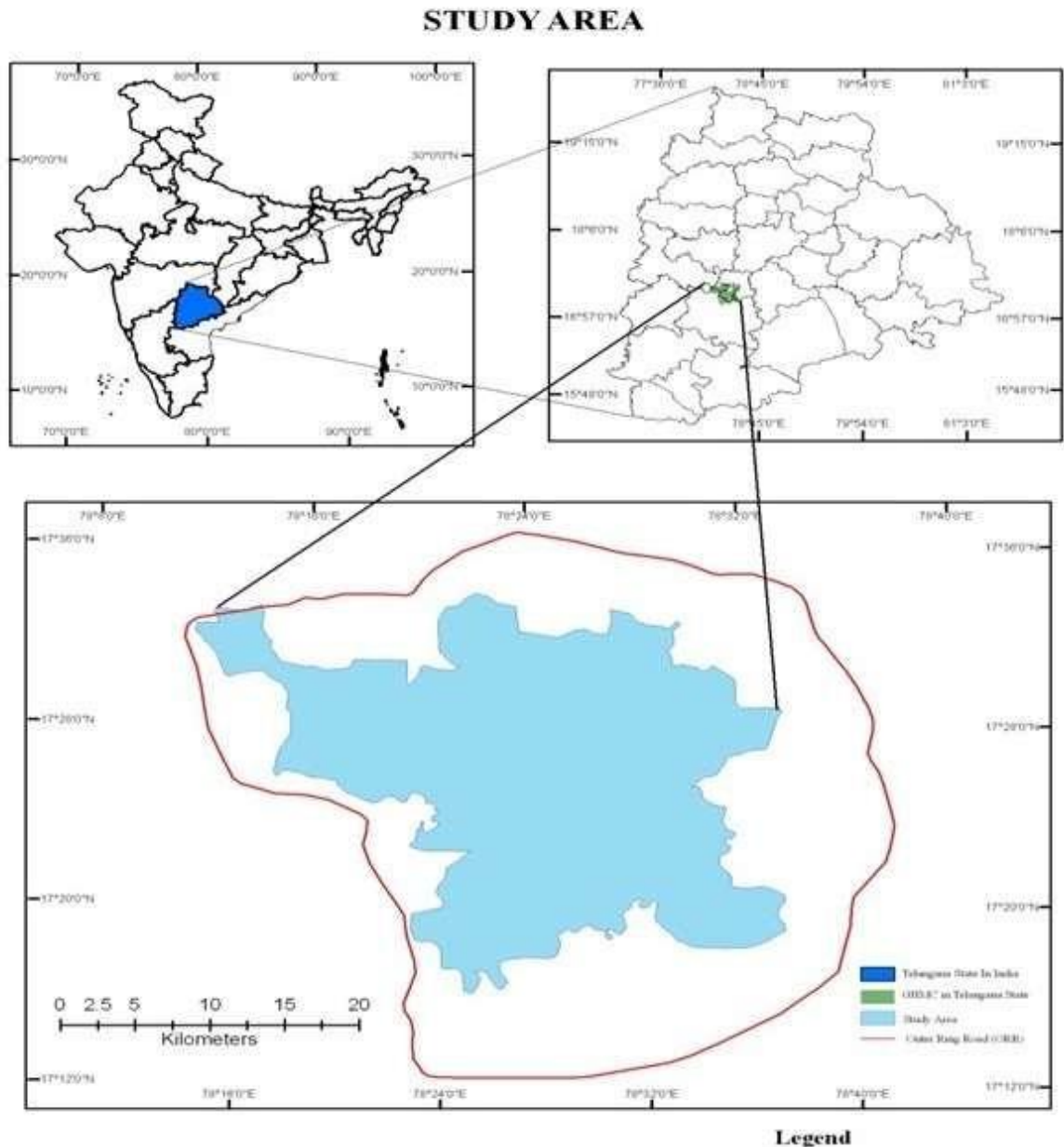


Figure1, Shows Hyderabad city map.

Analysis and Discussion Characteristics of the Respondents

In this study, the respondents include females and males. Most of them were female, making up 63 per cent of the research, between 20 to 50 years old. Most respondents were educated and university graduates with different working backgrounds, such as IT employees, teachers, researchers, higher education students and government and private sectors employees (Table

Table.1 Respondents' Basic Details

	Number	Percentage
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Gender		
Female	479	63
Male	281	37
Age		
20-30	327	43
31-40	243	32
41-50	133	17.5
Above 50	57	7.5
Total	760	100

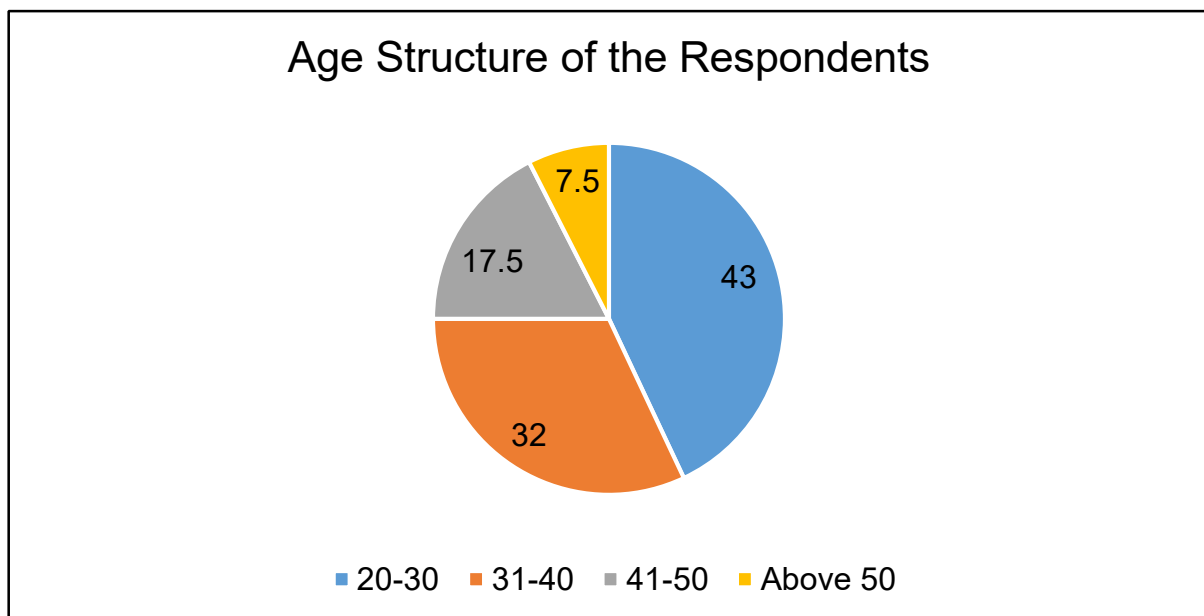


Figure 2, Shows Age Structure of the Respondents

Common methods of awareness about the covid-19 in hyderabad

During the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the respondents in Hyderabad city had several mediums to receive information and awareness. Most of the respondents, who make up 92 per cent of the survey, usually received information through social media, TV and newspaper. These three mediums were common in Hyderabad city for getting News and updates regarding Novel Corona Virus, and the remaining 8 per cent includes mobile messages, friends and any other means (Figure, 3)

The role of social media in transferring information and awareness was very significant during the Pandemic. Subsequently, the TV and Newspaper played a great role in making people up to date with the News..

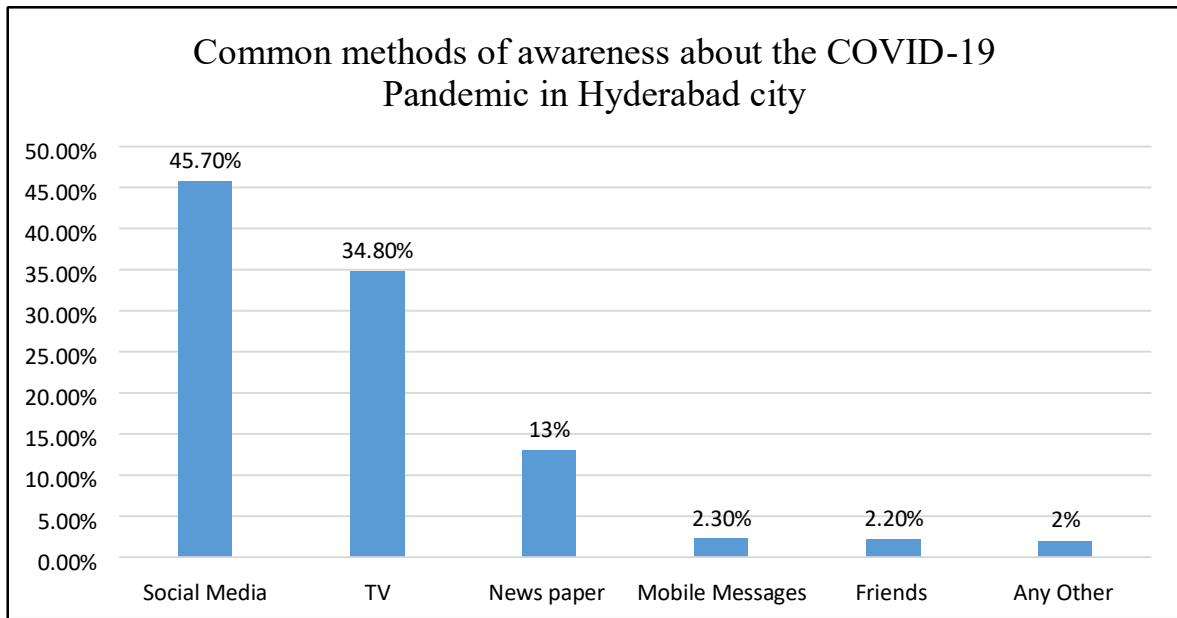


Figure 3, Shows Common Methods of Awareness in Hyderabad City

Time spent during lockdown period

The survey also asked respondents about their time spent during the Lockdown period. The majority of the respondents (46 %) spend their time using social media, 26 per cent watching TV and 21 per cent reading books as their best favourite hobby during the Pandemic. The remaining work outside and doing other activities (Figure 4).

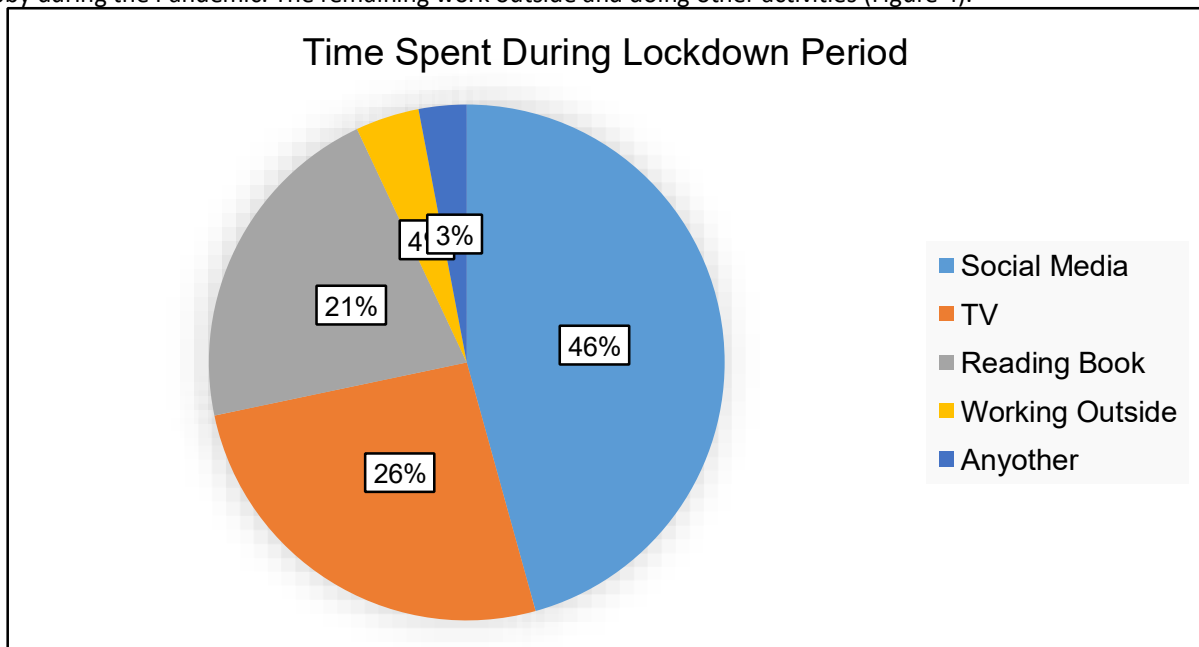


Figure 4: Illustrates Time spent during Lockdown period

Satisfaction level during lockdown period

The survey also sought to reveal the respondents' satisfaction level during the Pandemic. The majority of the respondents (Figure, 5) who make up 53 per cent of the survey, showed their dissatisfaction with the socio-economic situation during the Lockdown; 33 per cent favored neutrality, meaning that neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, the small portion of the surveyed people not more than 13 per cent were satisfied during the Lockdown time.

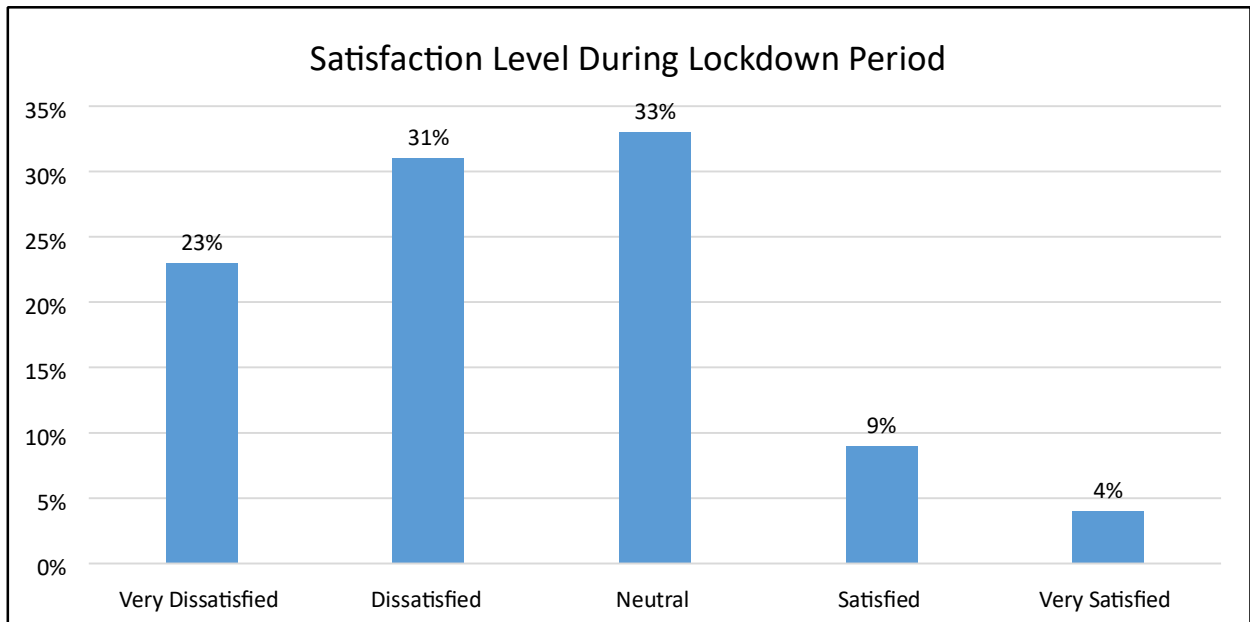


Figure 5, shows level of satisfaction during the Lockdown period in Hyderabad city

Basic needs and economic impact of lockdowns

The study revealed the issues about basic needs and economic conditions of the study area. The most important issues were the limited activities of the female during the pandemic. The majority of the respondents (86) who worked outside could not go outdoors to do their work, and 29 per cent who were working in the private sector lost their job due to the Pandemic time. Among the female respondents, 61 per cent were without livelihood supporters, 65 per cent were unable to feed their children, and half did not have any insurance scheme (Figure 6). Most female respondents who made 58 per cent had experienced domestic violence and harassment during the lockdown and its issues. In addition, 25 per cent of the respondents complained about the non-availability of potable water in their areas, and 65 per cent of the respondents still could not get any job. Among the respondents, 55 per cent expressed their regret that still they are not recovered after the release of the lockdown; as a result, they are not ready for another wave of lockdown in their areas.

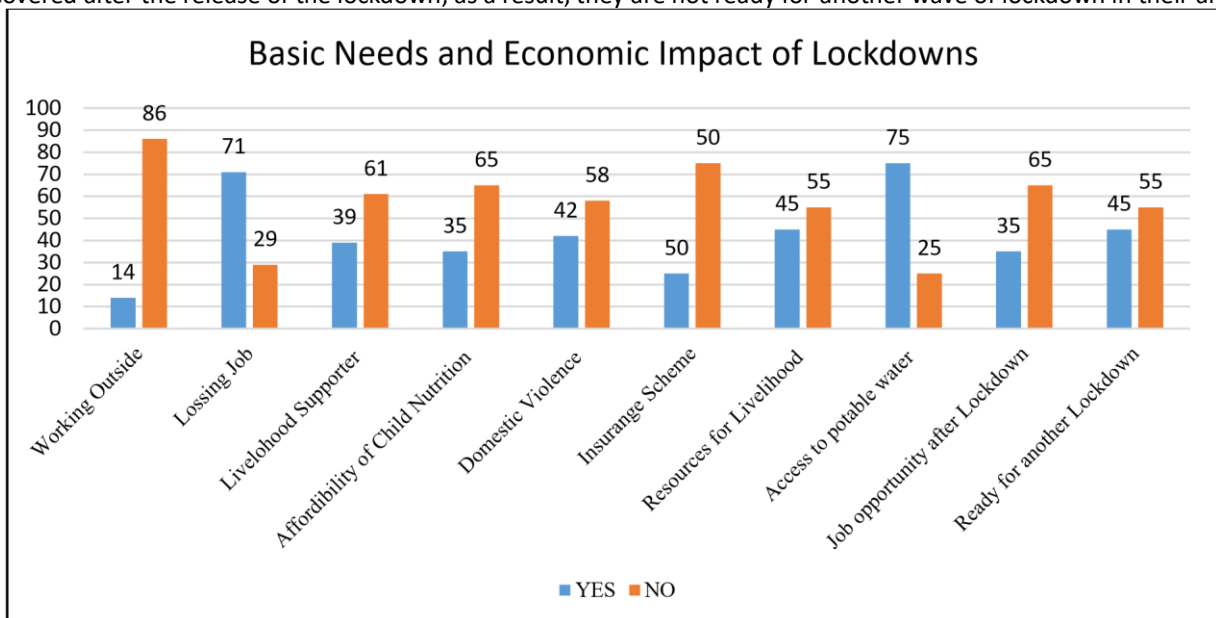


Figure 6, illustrates Basic Needs and economic impact of COVID-19 Lockdown

Rating school/college online classes

Due to the prolonged lockdown during COVID-19, all the educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities shifted from offline to online. With regards to the online mode of education, the respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with the online classes. Forty per cent of the respondents were not satisfied with the online mode as they mentioned that it adds to the burden of females' indoor activities, taking care of children, lack of space for recreation and playing, and creating anxiety for the parents and depression for the students. Thirty per cent of the respondents were neither in favor of the online sessions nor against them; only 28 per cent of the respondents in favor of online sessions to prevent school students' educational disruption (Figure, 7).

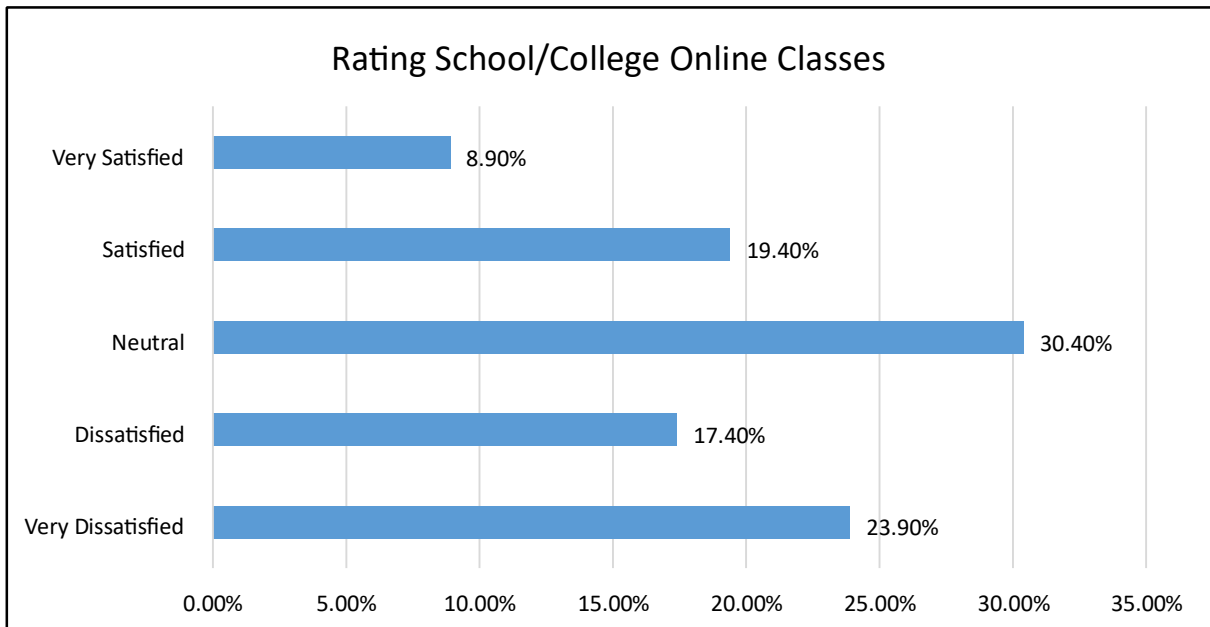


Figure 7, shows the level of satisfaction with online classes during COVID-19 Lockdown.

Getting stressed while working outside

Most respondents (58.8 %) were frightened due to COVID-19. As a result, they were stressed while working outside; 20 per cent were neutral, and the remaining 21 per cent felt comfortable working outside during the Lockdown period (Figure 8).

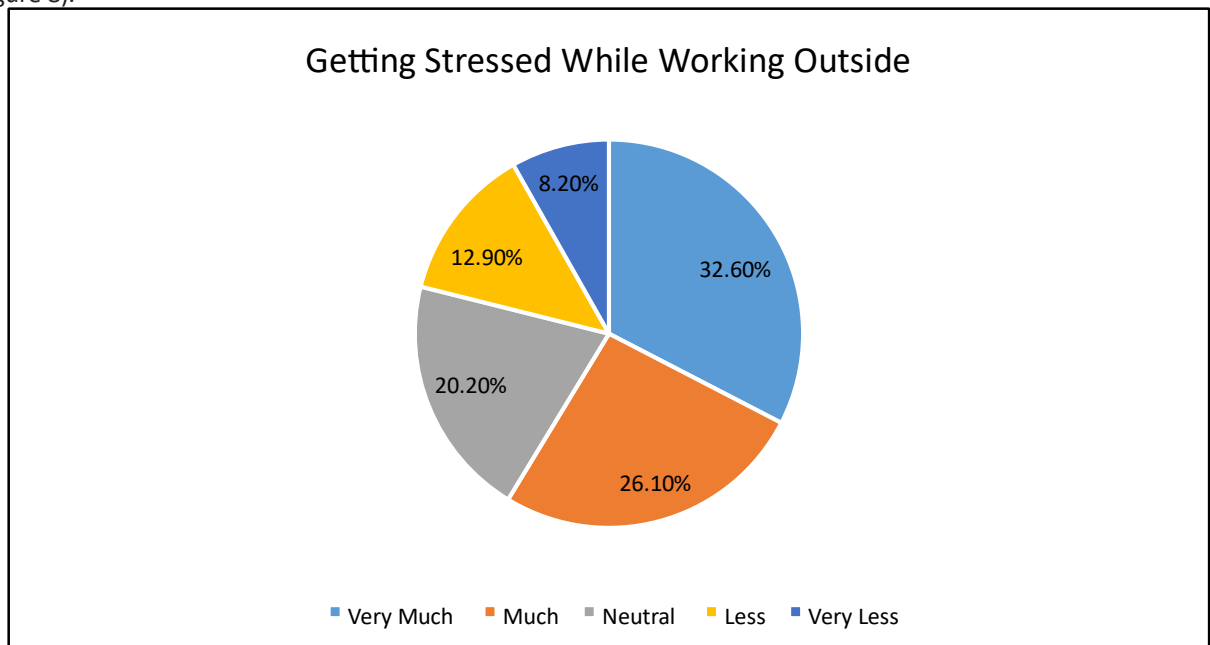


Figure 8, demonstrates the stress level of the people during the COVID-19 Lockdown.

Still afraid of covid-19 pandemic

Most of the respondents received the COVID-19 vaccination; however, 43 percent of the female respondents showed they were afraid of COVID-19 and its imposed lockdowns (Figure 9), and 41 percent were neither afraid nor braved, and the remaining did not afraid of any similar Pandemic and lockdown.

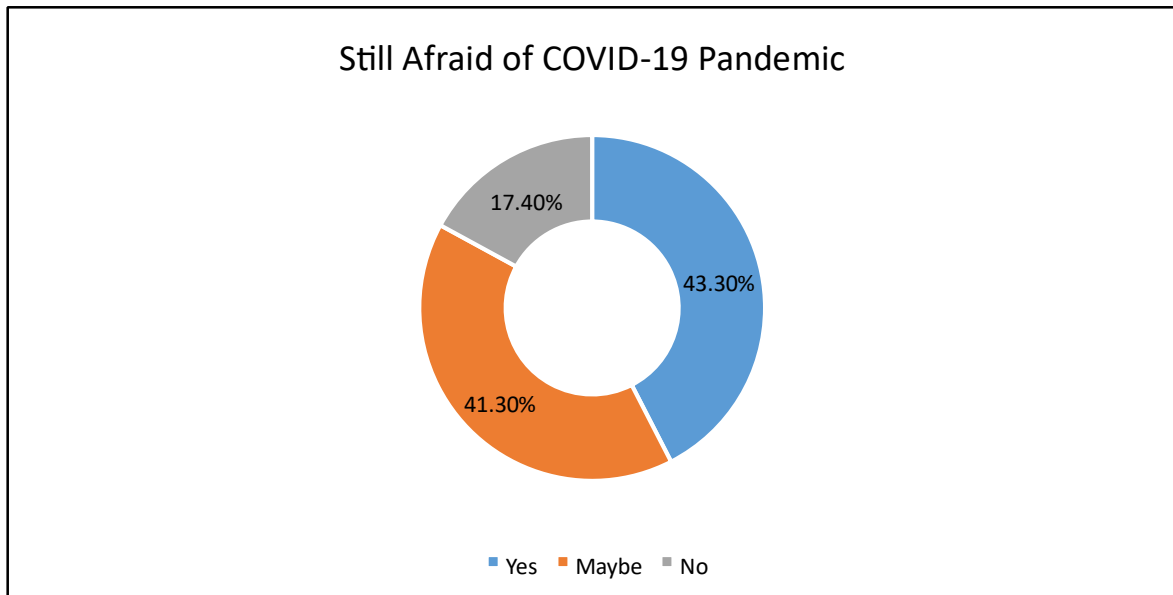


Figure 9, shows the people's reaction to a similar kind of COVID-19 lockdown in the future.

Assistance during the lockdown

In response to the assistance during the lockdown, the respondents, the majority of them (78 %) were in replied that they received less assistance from the government and private sectors, 14 percent were helped medium, and the remaining of them received good assistance from the donors (Figure, 10).

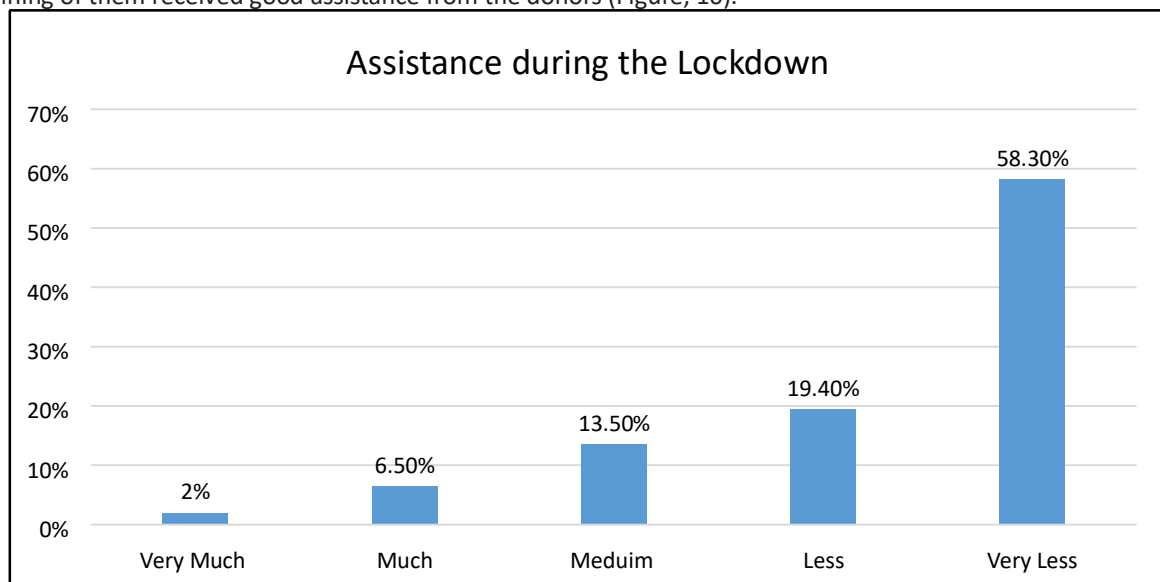


Figure 8 shows assistance with the people during the Lockdown

Views expressed by the respondents about the socio-economic impact of the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown in hyderabad

Most female respondents expressed that they have faced a financial crisis during the lockdown, the reason was a slowdown of daily wage activities, or even many of the low social class people lost their earnings and jobs, especially street vendors. In addition, they talked about health issues about the Novel Corona Virus, and even though some of them lost their family/relatives, they still cannot revitalize themselves. On the other hand, some people suffer from the non-availability of food and resources to feed themselves and their children. As a result, they were faced with child malnutrition. Such a scenario left 60 % of the respondents with stress, anxiety and depression, especially women. Moreover, most of the children’s study was disturbed and added to the level of parents’ anxiety and depression, and even the online classes could not compensate for the onsite education system. As a result, degraded the level of education and human being. While some of the respondents were satisfied with the discipline, which led to the improvement of hygiene and taking good care during the Pandemic, keeping social distance, and children following their parent’s advice. On the other hand, the rate of medicines, vegetables, fruits, and eat nary increased and expensive at the time of lockdown that most people could not afford to take their daily requirements.

Conclusion and suggestion

According to the survey, women were the most vulnerable group during the COVID-19 Lockdown. Most females who worked in the private sector or as street vendors faced a huge financial crisis due to their daily wage or job loss. Furthermore, the loss of family members, relatives, taking care of children, and house chores, added to the burden on females during the Pandemic crisis. Meanwhile, half of the surveyed families had no insurance scheme or livelihood supporter. As a result, women with small kids suffered severe challenges such as child malnutrition, health issues, and even the loss of their loved ones. Still affected women could not recover from the Pandemic crisis, which shows the lack of comprehensive socio-economic and health care schemes, especially for women and children. Tackling the pandemic crisis issues compels the authorities to create a sustainable environment in the interest of vulnerable social classes and females. In the study area, respondents experienced severe pain and a lack of basic needs, jobs, earnings, and space for recreation. In continuation and repeating of such a crisis, it will be a good initiative for the responsible authorities to encourage online jobs/earning and educational facilities to address the gap between offline and online modes of education. Moreover, health facilities and personnel were not sufficient in Hyderabad city during the Pandemic. As a result, investing in health quality and quantity services will equip the health centers to cope with such Pandemic in the future.

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