

# Collision of Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown on the Economic Conditions among Women: A Sociological Perception

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## Covid-19 Pandemi Kilitlenmesinin Kadınlar Arasındaki Ekonomik Koşullar Üzerindeki Çarpışması: Sosyolojik Bir Algı

### ÖZ

Covid-19 salgını, iş ve bakım taleplerini dengelemeye çalışırken orantısız iş kaybı ve tükenmişlik ile dünya çapında kadınlar üzerinde endişe verici bir etki yarattı. Covid-19 pandemisinin ekonomik yansımaları onlar üzerinde düşüncesiz bir etki yaratıyor ve orantısız bir şekilde düşük ücretler, az sayıda sosyal yardım ve en az güvenceli işler sunan sektörlerde temsil ediliyorlar. Başta dullar olmak üzere ailelerinin tek ekmekçisi olan kadınlar, daha sonra hayatlarının diğer bölümlerini de etkileyen bir ekonomik başarısızlıkla karşı karşıya kalmışlardır; çocuklarının eğitiminde, besleyici gıdada, sağlık koşullarında, barınmada ve şehirlerde genellikle insanlar kiralık oda veya evlerde yaşıyorlardı ve bu insanlar için evin kirasını, elektrik faturasını, su bağlantılarını vb. ödemek zorunda kalıyorlardı. Dünya genelinde ve özellikle gelişmekte olan ülkelerdeki düşük gelirli kadınların, yaşlanan kadınların ve bekar annelerin, kadınlar için var olan eşitsizliklerle ve aynı zamanda nispeten dezavantajlı bir diğer toplum grubuna ait olmanın kırılganlıklarıyla karşı karşıya kaldıkları tespit edilmiştir. Bu makale, ilgiyi Covid-19 pandemisinin kilitlenmesinin farklı konulara ve özellikle kadınların hayatta kalmak için çok daha fazla zorlukla karşı karşıya kaldıkları ekonomik kayıplara olan büyük etkilerine çekiyor. Çalışma, birincil veri kaynaklarının (gözlemlerin) yanı sıra ikincil veri kaynaklarının gözden geçirilmesine dayanmaktadır. Devlet ve sivil toplum kuruluşları, bu incelemeye dayalı çalışmada verilen tavsiyelere dayanarak, Covid-19 pandemisinin ilk günlerinden itibaren kadınların karşı karşıya olduğu bu sorunlara dikkat etmelidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Faiz, Müslümanlar, Memurlar, İslam, Ekonomi, Nasarawa Eyaleti.

## Collision of Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown on the Economic Conditions among Women: A Sociological Perception

### ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an alarming impact on women globally, with disproportionate job loss and burnout as they attempt to juggle work and care-giving demands. Economic fallout by the Covid-19 pandemic is having an inconsiderate impact on them and they are disproportionately represented in sectors offering low wages, few benefits and the least secure jobs. Women, who are the only bread earners of their families especially widows, have faced an economic failure which later effects other parts of their life as well, such as; in education of their children, nutritious food, health conditions, shelter and in cities usually people used to live on the rent rooms or houses and for those people they have to pay the rent of the house, electricity bills, water connections etc. And it has been found that low-income women, ageing women, and single mothers, around the world and especially from developing countries, encounter the inequalities that exist for women and also the vulnerabilities of belonging to another relatively disadvantaged group of society as well. This paper places the interest on major impacts of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on different issues and especially on economic toll through which the women are facing many more difficulties to survive. The study is based on reviewing of primary data sources (observations) as well as secondary sources of data. On the basis of the recommendations given in this reviewbased study, the government and non-governmental organizations should look towards these issues that the women are facing since the early days of Covid-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Economic Issues, Women, Sociological Perception, Economic Conditions.

## Introduction

As an infectious disease caused by corona-virus; the Covid-19 pandemic and its associated economic crisis have impacted women differently than men all around the world. Even if gender issues have never been so high-up, the effects of the Covid-19 crisis are putting in difficulty the progress achieved in the past decades in terms on the reduction of gender inequalities in terms of making women economically empowered. According to a policy brief published by the United Nations in April 2020, the pandemic increases pre-existing inequalities and exposes weak social, political and economic mechanisms, amplifying the effects of the crisis. From its early period, the International Labour Organization (ILO)<sup>1</sup> estimated that 195 million jobs could be lost (UNDP: 2020). And it has been said that *'It is very hard to see what the other end of this crisis is going to look like at the grassroots level, at the base of the economic pyramid,'* said by Sally Roever, international coordinator of Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). She also added by saying that the *'Street vendors can go in the street, but there is no one to sell, same as the home-based workers can make things, but there is no one who will buy them. So that is the real challenge actually.'* During the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdown has been a common admonition that has been mulled over by many people. As of March 2020, lockdown has been implemented by authorities across the world to restrict people from leaving their places of residence, leading to massive quarantines and stays at home<sup>2</sup>. It was this virus that triggered the first phase nationwide lockdown in a developing country such as India on March 25, 2020, for 21 days, then repeated on April 15, 2020, for 19 days as the second phase; on May 04, 2020, for 14 days as the third phase; on May 18, 2020, for 14 days as the fourth phase; and on June 01, 2020, for only the containment zones, taking 16 days. And to get control over Covid-19 pandemic was/is only possible with people's uncontrolled fortitude of the strict deterrent procedures such as maintaining physical isolation by following medically instructed quarantine process (Khachfe: 2020). But by knowing about the great loss that the women around the world, has faced during this Covid-19 pandemic; women across the globe, earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs, are more likely to be employed in the informal sector and especially during the days of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown they had faced and are stilling facing a lot of economic loss. An estimated 740 million women are employed in the informal economy. In developing nations, such work constitutes more than two-thirds of female employment. But as countries all over the world locked down, these jobs quickly disappeared<sup>3</sup>. That can have catastrophic consequences. Economic challenges during the outbreak pose a serious threat to young women's work and business activity and expose them to increased

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<sup>1</sup> ILO- International Labour Organization is an agency of United Nations and its motive is to work on socioeconomic justice making setting international labour standards. Founded in 1919 under the League of Nations, it is the first and oldest Specialized agency of the UN- (ILO. Global wage report 2018/19: what lies behind gender pay gaps? Geneva: International Labour Organization; 2018.

<sup>2</sup> The emergency protocol implemented by the competent authorities to restrict people from leaving their place of living <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7832355/>

<sup>3</sup> Covid-19 pandemic negatively Impact of employment chances; content accessed from; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7836874/>

risk of exploitation and abuse<sup>4</sup>. The unemployment rate for men in regular economic crises is higher because they tend to work in highly cyclical sectors (e.g., manufacturing, construction). However, currently, the current crisis has turned into a 'she-cession' because of the lockdowns and social distancing measures, as the service sector has been unduly vulnerable to the economic shock and women now face a greater likelihood of poverty, at least in the short-term. It is not only the case that women have experienced disproportionately heavy job losses during the outbreak, but that they have also experienced greater challenges when reentering the workforce between the first two 'waves' of Covid-19 cases in summer 2020, when Europe experienced a partial economic recovery. Therefore, between the second quarter and the third quarter of 2020, employment prospects for men increased by 1.4 percent but only by 0.8 percent for women. The inability to transpose the overwhelmingly female-dominated sectors has also led to multiple laying offs of women to a Tele-working modality. Oxfam International reports that women globally lost 64 million jobs by 2020, representing 5 percent of all jobs. In contrast, 3.9 percent of men's jobs were lost last year. Oxfam International also reports that women have lost at least \$800 billion in earnings as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, more than the combined GDP of 98 countries. In an overview of Cher's data, she emphasizes that the 'conservative estimate' does not include the millions of women working in the 'informal economy' such as domestic workers, market vendors and garment workers, whose income and hours have plummeted due to the pandemic. In times of economic hardship, girls and young women are more likely to take on high-risk work in order to stay afloat. The experience of women in foreign countries in Liberia specifies that recovering from a pandemic is a tough proposition. The vast majority of market traders in the West African nation are female. During the 2013-16 Ebola outbreaks, they endured higher levels of unemployment than men and it subsequently took considerably longer for them to re-enter the workforce<sup>5</sup> (Parveen: 2020). The United Nations has cautioned that a lot of women who have fugitive extreme poverty are at risk of falling back and for large population of women in economic sector alongside of with loss in earnings, unpaid labor and domestic work saddle has detonated. Everyone is grappling with unprecedented challenges; however, women are bearing a disproportionate share of the economic and social ramification of covid-19. Poor and marginalized women face a heightened risk of Covid-19 transmission, fatalities, loss of livelihood, and increased violence. Approximately 70 percent of first sufferers are women, yet they do not earn the same as their male counterparts<sup>6</sup> and the gender gap in the health sector is 28 percent, exceeding the overall gender wage gap of 16 percent (Staab: 2020). It can be said with assurance that if we do nothing now, and act deliberately, then Covid-19 will roll back women's economic gains of the past decades. 'For the last 22 years, extreme poverty has been declining globally and as a result of Covid-19, a huge job loss, shrinking economies and losing of livelihood took place, especially for women. Weakened social protection systems

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<sup>4</sup> Threat for women workers in all fields- retrieved from; <https://plan-international.org/emergencies/covid-19-faqs-girls-women/>

<sup>5</sup> DESA Policy Brief-58, 'Covid-19: Addressing the social crisis through fiscal stimulus plans', accessed from; <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa/policy-brief-58-covid-19-addressing-the-social-crisis-through-fiscal-various-policies>

<sup>6</sup> Loss of livelihood and increased violence among women during Covid-19 pandemic lockdown- Retrieved from; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

have left many of society's poorest without safeguards to cope,' stated Ginette Azcona lead author of UN Women's latest report<sup>7</sup> Senior Research and Data Specialist<sup>8</sup> at UN Women; according to a report released in 2020, the pandemic will push 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021, of which 47 million will be women and girls<sup>9</sup> (Azcona: 2020). With the pandemic-induced poverty surge, there will also be a wider gap between women and men in-terms of extreme poverty, as more women the men will live on USD 1.90 or less than 435 Million<sup>10</sup>. At the height of their family formation and productivity period<sup>11</sup> 25 to 34-years old are more likely to see this trend. Before, it was projected that there will be 118 women aged 25 to 34 living in extreme poverty out of every 100 men aged 25 to 34 living in extreme poverty globally by 2021, that ratio could go up to 121 women out of every 100 men by 2030<sup>12</sup>. According to Anita Bhatt, Statistics Specialist and Co-author of the report '*From Insights to Action*<sup>13</sup>' the resurgence of extreme poverty due to the virus revealed women's precarious economic security'. Women often earn less and have fewer job security opportunities than men. Women are particularly vulnerable to the loss of their livelihoods as economic activity declines<sup>14</sup>. As a result of losing income, women on every continent are now taking on increased unpaid care work, says Bucher. She also added by saying that, 'women worldwide have lost \$800 billion in income as a result of the combined impact of unemployment and the pressure to care for children'. According to a report by Lean and McKinsey and Company, mothers have been responsible for a majority of housework and childcare during the pandemic. Furthermore, mothers have twice as much to worry that they will be negatively judged for their work performance during the epidemic because they were caring for their children. In September, approximately one in four women said that due to the Covid-19 crises they were considering downsizing or quitting their job. Bucher further notes, that the government worldwide must make greater efforts to improve women's security by investing more in child-care and offering more flexible work arrangements in response to the pandemic's devastating effects on women. According to Oxford International, there have been only 11 countries worldwide that have introduced short-term or flexible work schedules to accommodate employees with care-giving duties, and 36 that have strengthened their family and paid sick leave policies.

### **Challenges in Employment Opportunities**

<sup>7</sup> Impact of pandemic on employment as well as economies- accessed from; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women/>

<sup>8</sup> Global Humanitarian Response Plan Covid-19 United Nations Coordinated Appeal April - December 2020; <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19.pdf>

<sup>9</sup>The pandemic will push 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021- article accessed from: [www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/8/press\\_release\\_covid-19\\_will\\_widen\\_poverty\\_gap](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/8/press_release_covid-19_will_widen_poverty_gap)

<sup>10</sup> Report released in 2020 showed that the pandemic push's 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021, 47 million of whom are women. The content retrieved from; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

<sup>11</sup> The Covid-19 pandemic lockdown impacts the gender gap as well as family formation period. Information retrieved from; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women/>

<sup>12</sup> increasing of poverty among people especially women- single parent households; <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/covid-19-will-widen-poverty-gap-between-women-and-men-new-un->

<sup>13</sup> Work at home during pandemic lockdown information cite the link; <https://www.chegg.com/homework-help/questions->

<sup>14</sup> Sexual violence threat and increased cases among women; <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict>

Economic issues faced by the women because of losing employment opportunities were very frustrating for them as a whole. During the pandemic, women lost/are losing their jobs, and the steps to stop it spreading are causing a disproportionate increase in women's unemployment (as opposed to men) and a reduction in their overall working time<sup>15</sup>. Women are overrepresented in many of the industries hardest hit by Covid-19, such as food service, retail and entertainment<sup>16</sup>. For example, 40 percent of all employed women only 510 million women globally work in hard-hit sectors, compared to 36.6 percent of employed men (Turquet: 2020). Before the pandemic, workers in some of these sectors, where informal employment is common, faced low pay, poor working conditions, and a lack of social protection (pension, healthcare, unemployment insurance)<sup>17</sup>. Globally, 58 percent of employed women work in informal jobs, and estimates imply that informal workers lost an average of 60% of their income in the first month of the pandemic<sup>18</sup>. The situation for domestic workers, who make up 80% of the workforce, has been dire: 72 percent of domestic workers have lost their jobs globally, and even before the pandemic, paid domestic work, like many other informal economy jobs, lacked basic worker protections such as paid leave, notice periods, and severance pay<sup>19</sup>. During Covid-19, the burden of unpaid care and domestic work has exploded on both women and men. As quarantine measures kept people at home, schools and day-care facilities closed, the burden of unpaid care and domestic work increased<sup>20</sup>.

Nevertheless, women performed unpaid care on average for 4.1 hours per day before Covid-19 while men did it for 1.7 hours. So, this means that women did three times more unpaid care work than men, accords the globe<sup>21</sup>. While both men and women report that unpaid work has increased since the pandemic began, women are still shouldering the bulk of that work. Combined with the reduced availability of outside help, the closure of schools and daycares has resulted in months of additional work for women. For working mothers, this means balancing full-time careers with childcare and academic responsibilities<sup>22</sup>. Women's unpaid workload is exacerbated by poverty and issues with basic services and infrastructure<sup>23</sup>. A third of the world's population lives without safe sanitation facilities, and roughly 4 billion people lack access to clean water at home. As a result, girls and women are often left in charge of water collection and other necessary tasks.

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<sup>15</sup> Future predictions in economic loss among women; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/>

<sup>16</sup> Food service, retail and entertainment connected with the life of a single earned lady has been overrepresented during pandemic. Content cited from: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202009250607.html>

<sup>17</sup> Impact on economic condition; <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/themes/informal-economy/lang>

<sup>18</sup> Government policy during pandemic; <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/women-at-the->

<sup>19</sup> Covid-19 impacting domestic workers; <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/domestic-workers/>

<sup>20</sup> The quarantine measures keep people at home, closed schools and day-care facilities, the burden of unpaid care and domestic work has exploded both for women and men. This information has been accessed from; [https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/cms/upload\\_](https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/cms/upload_)

<sup>21</sup> Media reports on women condition during pandemic; <https://intractive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/>

<sup>22</sup> Pandemic covid-19 has also created several issues for working mothers: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202009250607.html>

<sup>23</sup> Pandemic has also increased the workload on women in different fields. Content retrieved from; <https://www.ijcspub.org/papers/IJCSP22A1117.pdf/>

Today, economic insecurity encompasses more than just job insecurity<sup>24</sup>. There is a long-term impact on the lives of women and girls. In addition, education and employment effects have far-reaching consequences, which could reverse hard-won gains in gender equality. According to estimates, an additional 11 million girls may leave school by the end of Covid-19. Based on previous crises, many of them will not return (UNESCO report plan). There are serious implications for women when the education gender gap widens<sup>25</sup>. Women who lack education and are insecure economically are also at higher risk of victimizing gender-based violence. The lack of adequate economic resources threatens women's ability to escape abusive partners and exposes them to a greater threat of sexual exploitation<sup>26</sup>. These consequences would not disappear when the pandemic subsides: women are likely to experience long-term setbacks in work force participation and income. The effects of pension cuts and savings will have profound implications for women's economic security in the future.

The hardest hit of all will be the most vulnerable women- those often out of the spotlight: migrants, refugees, people from marginalized racial and ethnic groups, single-parent households, and the world's poorest<sup>27</sup>. Those recently escaping extreme poverty will inevitably fall back into it. In addition, we would like to point out a few things that the government and businesses can do to minimize the negative economic impact of Covid-19 on women. As a first measure, cash transfers or unemployment benefits can help to ease the financial burden of informal workers who are unemployed and can defer or exempt taxes and social security payments for workers in the informal sector. The second step is to strengthen social protection systems to support women's income security for example, expanding the availability of affordable and quality childcare services will enable more women to work. Enacting laws and policies that guarantee equal pay for work of equal value and stop undervaluing the work done by women is the first step toward bridging the gender pay gap. The third recommendation is that women-led businesses should receive specific grants and stimulus funding, as well as subsidized and state-backed loans. Whenever possible, governments should source food, personal protection equipment, and other necessities from women-owned businesses to ease tax burdens. Women comprise a significant proportion of the workers in many sectors and industries where economic relief should be targeted<sup>28</sup>. Fourth is; introducing economic assistance packages including direct cash transfers, enhanced unemployment benefits, tax breaks, and enhanced family support programs for vulnerable families. These measures would provide tangible assistance to women at this time<sup>29</sup>. To round out

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<sup>24</sup> Economic insecurity has negatively in all respects especially related to women. The information accessed from; <https://www.ngeckenya.org/Downloads/>

<sup>25</sup> UNESCO Report; <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379270>

<sup>26</sup> Inadequate economic resources threaten women's ability; <https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/pandemics-and-vawg-april2.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> The people who were affected by the negative impact of pandemic lockdown are usually the poor and helpless sections of the society. And the more detailed information's cit the link given; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts->

<sup>28</sup> Inequality in pay-gap always an issue; [https://www.ngeckenya.org/Downloads/SPEECH%20BY%](https://www.ngeckenya.org/Downloads/SPEECH%20BY%20)

<sup>29</sup> Lack in income, can be a lifeline for those struggling to afford day-to-day necessities during this pandemic. These measures provide tangible help that women need right now- <https://www.msf.org/women-and-girls-face-greater-dangers-c/>

the list, all primary caregivers should be offered paid leaves and flexible work arrangements, and essential workers should be provided with childcare. Moreover, unprecedented measures have already been taken to address the economic crisis, while comparatively few have been taken to support families struggling with paid and unpaid work, including care needs<sup>30</sup>. It would also be useful to promote public campaigns that involve citizens and workers to promote equity of care and domestic work<sup>31</sup>.

Lockdowns and physical distancing measures have also contributed to a disturbing spike in reports of domestic violence, including sexual violence. Some 243 million women are thought to have experienced physical abuse at the hands of an intimate partner. Many of these women have been trapped with their abuser. Within one week of France instituting its lockdown, reports of domestic violence had surged by 30 percent. It was a similar story in dozens of other countries. Staying home is not safe for many women and girls who may be trapped with an abuser. The World Health Organization reports that one in three women experience physical or sexual violence. During the Covid-19 pandemic, emerging data from around the world show that domestic violence has intensified, according to UN Women. Even in normal times, accessing care for sexual violence can be extremely difficult due to stigma, fear of retribution, and a lack of trust in authorities, among other reasons. But now women and girls face even more hurdles. Only emergency cases are being seen at many health facilities, and only by appointment with doctors. Tensions can build up in confined spaces, especially with added stress over health concerns, economic insecurity, and fear for the future. Even as the need for sexual violence care is apparently growing, access to health services is more difficult<sup>32</sup>. In countries outside India like Choloma, Honduras, it has been reported that gang violence has decreased during the lockdown, but domestic violence has gone up like it has everywhere,' says Dr Jennifer Stella, MSF's<sup>33</sup> medical advisor in Choloma. But when we talk about India (a developing country) has been buckling under the fatal spread of Covid-19 ever since the first case was detected on January 30-2020, in Kerala. The meter currently stands at a staggering 3.3 million total cases, with deaths touching almost 60,000, making India the third-worst affected country in the world behind the USA and Brazil. But in the shadow of this newer pandemic looms an older, more persistent one that has been around for a year is rape. One would think that in a time when the entire country is under lockdown and streets are relatively emptier, this particular gender-based crime against women would have shown signs of eradication. Every new morning brings reports of fresh rapes, murders, and mutilations of women. There arise questions that if a woman is not safe from rape even amidst a life-threatening pandemic, will they ever be or when will they be then?

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<sup>30</sup> Issues of development and being independent has become nearly impossible for the more marginalized sections of our society especially during pandemic. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp->

<sup>31</sup> Efforts are needed to engage citizens and workers in public campaigns that promote equitable distribution of care-  
<https://www.msf.org/women-and-girls-face-greater-dangers-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>32</sup> Sexual violence and lack of health services during pandemic; <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/women-and-girls-face-greater-dangers-during-covid->

<sup>33</sup> Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF); a worldwide, self-determining, medical humanitarian organization that distributes Crisis aid to distressed public by armed divergence, outbreak, pandemics, natural calamities and segregating from healthcare

It was reported recently that a 17-year-old girl was viciously raped and killed in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri-India, the second of two such similar crimes from the district in a matter of a mere 10 days. The first one occurred on August 15, the day we celebrate the country's Independence, when a 13-year-old, allegedly a Dalit<sup>34</sup>, was raped and thrown in the fields with her eyes gouged out and tongue slit. News of another rape came from Utterpardash's (UP's) Sitapur area where three teenage boys were charged with raping a teen girl on August 17. And these are only the reported cases God Almighty knows how many more are unreported because many of the parents do not want to register any complaint against the wicked person sometimes because of the threat of the brute's gang by taking the revenge and sometimes because of the threat of society. Meanwhile, in its neighbouring state of Haryana, which according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data had the third-highest rape count in 2018 behind only Assam and Madhya Pradesh, violence against women is proving to be a virus far deadlier than any other. The Tribune reports that the state 'has recorded 66 rapes, 62 cases of abduction and 142 incidents of molestation in April this year.' Out of 66, as many as 17 have been gang-rapes. This is just north India. Data by The New Indian Express indicates that between March and May, there were a total of 64 rape cases and 716 molestation cases in Karnataka. It was also reported that three migrant workers from Utterpardash (UP) were arrested for alleged gang-raping a 14-year-old minor in Kerala<sup>35</sup>. National Crime Records Bureau<sup>36</sup> (NCRB) data showed that out of the 33,356 reported rapes in 2018, offenders were known to the victims in almost 94 percent cases. This alarming fact is ringing truer than ever during the lockdown. As many as five cases were reported between the months of March and May where fathers had raped their daughters, including one incident involving a 75-day-old baby girl. These are rape cases and the data for domestic violence, sexual and otherwise, is telling a whole other horror story. Complaints of domestic violence were reported to have reached a 10-year high during the lockdown. A study published by the US National Bureau of Economic Research in June, with help from NCW<sup>37</sup> data, registered that there was a whopping 131 percent increase in complaints of domestic violence in May 2020 in red zones (Covid-19 hotspots with stricter lockdown measures). Women are often disapprovingly told to stay home and not venture out onto the streets at night, for fear of losing their lives, or worse, the honor of the family<sup>38</sup>. But what could be the danger of an unknown street be compared to their own unsafe houses? Women are not safe from violence even within the sanctuary of their homes; could there be a bigger indicator of the disadvantage that our gender is at?

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<sup>34</sup> Dalit (Sanskrit: दलित, romanized: dālit), meaning "broken/scattered" in Sanskrit and Hindi, is a name for people belonging to the lowest caste in India characterized as 'untouchable'

<sup>35</sup> Cases of sexual violence during pandemic-New Indian Express; <https://www.shethepeople.tv/home-top-video/rape-cases-india-covid-19-lockdown/>

<sup>36</sup> The National Crime Records Bureau, abbreviated to NCRB, is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws. NCRB is headquartered in New Delhi and is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

<sup>37</sup> The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian constitution as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act

<sup>38</sup> Additional restrictions on the movements of woman during pandemic time- Content accessed from; <https://www.msf.org/women-and-girls-face-greater-dangers-during-covid-19-pandemic>

The gender pay gap between men and women has been documented for decades, putting women at a disadvantage economically and this is due to the fact that women often lack access to credit. Women still endure sexism, discrimination, and the rigidity of gender roles. In addition, Hardy and Gisella Kagy, an assistant professor at Vassar College, demonstrated in their research out of Ghana that women have limited employment options and can therefore congregate in a small set of industries catering to women. 'Think haircuts,' said Kagy, or women's clothing. As a result of overcrowding, earnings are lower due to an oversupply. Moreover, when formally employed women such as in Hawassa are laid off, they are forced into informal employment, which in turn may put other women even further down on the economic ladder. There was also a thicket of rumors and misinformation spread about the new Corona-virus itself that the women and girls had to deal with. There is often a fear of seeking health care, especially in places where authorities are not trusted, and facilities are not deemed safe. The role of trusted sources in providing clear directions is therefore crucial. This is yet another lesson learned from the Ebola crisis in West Africa: avoiding hospitals and health centers or delaying seek care can be more dangerous than the infection itself<sup>39</sup>. And sometimes they drop in patient numbers was scary. Women over the world and especially belonged to developing countries have faced difficulties in getting transportation. Many are likely delivering at home with traditional birth attendants who have had no formal training, in an environment that may not be safe.<sup>40</sup> Caluwaerts warns that there are not nearly enough local clinics to meet the huge demands because of it many of the maternal and neonatal deaths caused by movement restrictions. Especially in the countries where people are facing political unrest and at the time of curfew in those areas many of the drivers were stopped and brutally beaten by police while driving woman in labor to a health center.

### **Review of literature**

Several studies have been done on the issues that the women had faced and are still facing in their economic field during this unending Covid-19 pandemic. So here we would like to mention a few studies in this review based paper;

World Trade Organization (2020) '*The Economic Impact of Covid-19 on Women in Vulnerable Sectors and Economies*' explained that the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is anticipated to be predominantly noteworthy for women in developing and least-developed economies for the cause that lesser number of women than men are employed in these economies in occupations which can be taken on distantly and a larger share of women is working in sectors highly exposed to international tour limitations. The effects of the pandemic are infuriating obtainable vulnerabilities. Many channels from beginning to end which Covid-19 is having a larger impact on women are those at the heart of masculinity dissimilarities, such as subordinate wages for women, less enlightening

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<sup>39</sup>West Africa Ebola crisis accessed from; <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/women->

<sup>40</sup> During pandemic because of the lack of facilities available usually the traditional birth attendants who have had no formal training, in an environment that may not be safe used to treat the pregnant ladies, which also results in the death of the infants as well mothers <https://www.msf.org/women-and-girls-face-greater-dangers-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

opportunity, inadequate access to economics, improved dependence on informal service and social constraints. Inadequate access to digital technologies and subordinate rates of information technology (IT) skills further diminishes women's chance for e-commerce, teleworking and thus for adapting to the present calamity (WTO: 2020).

Kavitha Chalakal, in her study *'Increase in Domestic Violence against Women and Children during Covid-19'* acknowledged that familial brutality is a widespread apprehension in all societies and the negotiations on the subject of this practice is allied with the qualms and taboo. Domestic aggression refers to close relationships or flanked by partners and typically female are the victims in these instances. There are lots of women that in their close relations and instantaneous social setting experiences emotional and corporeal aggression that afterwards becomes serious health trouble for them. A prototype of the coercive move toward corporeal, emotional, sexual, financial, and psychological maltreatment that one person perpetrates in opposition to another close person with the aim to ascertain and uphold authority and control is familial brutality (Chalakal: 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns have had a particularly detrimental impact on women's jobs and livelihoods (McKinsey: 2020), with women's jobs 1.8 times more vulnerable than men's globally, accounting for some 54 percent of overall job losses (ibid). Unpaid care work has disproportionately been borne by women, with school closures leaving families in need of additional childcare, which has often fallen to women due to social norms and expectations that women take on this work. Women's over-representation in employment sectors impacted hardest by lockdowns, including the food industry, retail and entertainment (UN Women: 2020), has only increased the expectation that they take on this additional childcare. Directorate-General for Internal Policies (2021) *'Policy Department for Citizens Rights and Constitutional Affairs'* found that even if, overall, women encounter a higher likelihood of poverty throughout their life courses, the pandemic has increased such likelihood as women have been disproportionately and negatively affected by the Covid-19 crisis *vis-à-vis* their male counterparts<sup>41</sup> (DGIP: 2021).

## **Research Method**

The entire study is based on reviewing of primary data sources (observations) as well as secondary sources of data such as; news papers, official reports, previous articles as well as book chapters by keeping an objective that places the interest on major impacts of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on different issues and especially on economic toll through which the women are facing many more difficulties to survive.

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<sup>41</sup> Women faced several issues during the pandemic especially of economic ones. Content retrieved from; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses/>

## **Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study enquires the interest on major impacts of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on different issues souring from economic toll through which the women are facing many more difficulties in social milieu.

## **An Analytical Discussion**

This study has sketch-out diverse social impacts of Covid-19 on different aspects of women's life. Wages as well as limited access to economy, a greater proportion of women in informal employment and social constraints, all tend to make women more susceptible to economic recessions<sup>42</sup>. From leisure to hospitality to retail, entire industries in which women make up a greater share of the workforce have been brought to a cut short. Women are also more likely to hold temporary and part-time positions, in these types of jobs; employers are most likely to cut first in a recession. And not only this but domestic duties, things like childcare, preparing food for the extra youngsters who would normally be at school, and looking after sick family members, these responsibilities fall disproportionately on women', said Wenham. The pandemic has further aggravated women's predicament in other ways as well. Children home from school place a disproportionate amount of responsibility on women. Most of them work in fields that are not likely to bounce back quickly, such as hospitality and travel. A World Bank Report July had showed in the same month the previous year, the women-owned business in Ethiopia, had made 80 percent less than they had. In the intervening time, the same report also said that 57 percent of workers laid off in June were women, even though they made up 42 percent of the labor force. So the social policy with respect to Covid-19 needs to encompass the most vulnerable sections of the population, i.e. women and children who face abuse, mistreatment, domestic violence, decreased financial stability and who face double discrimination during these times. The objective of the study enquires the interest on major impacts of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on different issues souring from economic toll through which the women are facing many more difficulties in social milieu. The Covid-19 pandemic reveals the need for serious attention for policymakers with regard to public health service provision, mental health support for the vulnerable and economic management.

## **Conclusion and Suggestions**

In order to end-up the research and coming to a closure that women is always becoming the victims of several injustice against her whether it is, gender discrimination, employment inequalities, her status inside (family relationship) as well as outside world, this pandemic has added or increased

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<sup>42</sup> Greater proportion of women in informal employment and social constraints all, tend to make women more vulnerable to economic recessions- [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/info\\_note\\_covid\\_05aug20\\_e.pdf/](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/info_note_covid_05aug20_e.pdf/)

challenges in the various social spheres of life. As Bucher argues that as nations across the world transition from immediate recovery measures to more long-term solutions, they must use this opportunity to build more equitable and inclusive economies for everyone. Through strong social safety nets and vibrant care infrastructures, women's employment and unpaid care work can be supported in a fair and sustainable economic recovery as well as formalizing grassroots efforts that sprang up during the pandemic; the government has an opportunity to formalize its own efforts. During the pandemic, women's groups began making masks and initial obstacles included difficulty obtaining raw materials, working capital, and payment to these groups. However, with experience, these strategies can be expanded into other areas, such as supplemental nutrition schemes and community health initiatives, kitchens etc, in-order benefit women in a broader sense.

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