

How Lockdowns Due To Covid-19 Changed The Life Order Of People In Different

Countries

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Covid -19 originated from Wuhan, a city in China at the end of December 2019 and continued spreading to other countries since then resulting in the World Health Organization declaring it a pandemic in March 2020.

Many people in the world got infected with the virus and a huge number succumbed to deaths resulting in a major concern by governments. This led to governments coming up with stringent measures in order to curb the spread of the virus and protect its citizens. They went ahead and introduced a nationwide lockdown that restricted the movement of people in different countries. According to Sault (2020), the imposed lockdown is aimed at flattening the covid-19 infection curve. Meaning it is aimed at reducing the number of infection cases by forcing a mandatory social distancing between individuals.

Countries like New Zealand, France, Kenya, Italy, and Spain introduced a countrywide lockdown that aimed at controlling the rapid spread of the virus among their people. A country like Italy had a nationwide lockdown that lasted for almost 6 weeks which ran from mid-March 2020 to mid-May 2020. Gualano et al (2020) state that the lockdown imposed on Italy impacted the mental health of a number of people in the country. Many fell into depression, post-traumatic stress disorders, sleep disturbances, and anxiety among other psychological illnesses. Italy being the first country in Europe to go to a nationwide lockdown became a huge concern for the majority of the people.

Anxiety disorders were more prominent in females and older people as most of them were afraid of moving out of their houses for the sole purpose of acquiring their basic day-to-day needs like going grocery shopping or even a simple activity like taking a walk outside. Depression came about as a result of little to no interaction on the part of individuals. The Italians showed a generally high pervasiveness in mental health issues.

The lockdown forced students worldwide to study from home and access their classes online. This proved to be quite a challenge in some countries especially developing nations. Countries like Kenya had to suspend school since most of its counties do not have developed internet infrastructure thus many individuals from poverty-stricken areas do not have access to the internet. Kathula (2020) affirms that the Kenyan government together with the Ministry of education introduced ways that the students could get basic education such as broadcasting on TV and FM stations for access to people in rural areas.

Ghose (2020) states that the forced lockdown has resulted in many people losing their jobs in India as others were forced to work from home. India is quite known for very poor employment conditions regardless of the country's rapid economic growth. The Covid – 19 lockdown has made the situation worse for its citizens. The cessation of movement has affected all kinds of industries particularly the transport industry as people can no longer offer transportation services to and from different places in the country. The food and health industries continue to thrive despite the lockdown although the transportation of perishable goods has proved to be difficult due to the travel bans. The lockdown imposed on India by its Prime Minister was set to last for 21 days restricting all its people.

Desai (2021) affirms that the lockdown imposed on France has resulted in a decline in the country's tourism industry by almost 41 percent. The tourism industry accounts for 8 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. It has created employment for millions of individuals including the hospitality and food industries. Therefore foreign tourists not coming to the country means there are no employment opportunities for a huge number of people depending on the tourism sector. However, it is expected to get back at its feet by focusing on domestic tourism in the country.

Socrates (2021) cites that international trade restrictions in developing countries have impeded trade in that there has been an increase in taxes, trading costs, and border clearances.

This highly affects the supply of products especially perishable goods like fruits, food products, and flowers. This leads to losses on the part of traders and a negative rapport between the traders and their customers is established. The lockdown has also created a high demand for food and medicinal products as the majority are purchasing goods out of fear of lacking in case the situation becomes dire. In most developing countries the imports were mostly affected than the exports. In a situation whereby an industry is dependent on imported goods then the particular industry suffers adverse losses.

The crime rates have reduced significantly since the lockdown was put in place in various regions such as in England. According to Casciani et al (2021), this is because very few people are moving out of their homes into the streets thus robbery or pickpocketing incidences have reduced. However, there has been an increase in drug crime as many are depressed and turn to drugs for comfort. There has also been a rise in the number of suicide cases due to the Covid -19 lockdown. Cases of domestic violence have had a surge as victims of abuse are forced to stay at home with their abusers.

The reproduction of animals is greatly affected by human activities such as pollution from industrial effluents. These cause air pollution and water pollution thus directly affecting the animals. Manenti et al (2021) affirm that the chemicals present in the pollutants affect the animals' genetic makeup when consumed therefore altering their reproductive systems. When the lockdown was introduced, it resulted in the shutting down of some industries and the reduction in production for some industries. This leads to a decrease in pollution and great health benefits to the said animals.

Airplanes, cars, and industries have caused so much carbon emissions to the environment lowering the quality of air that we breathe. Bartley (2020) suggests that the coronavirus crisis has brought about a safer world as it is much less polluted by human activities. Although the virus has resulted in thousands of deaths globally, it has also

improved the environmental situation slightly and individuals should aim at keeping the environment safer for everyone else including all living creatures. It is therefore the government's role to come up with measures that will keep the environment safe even when the pandemic is over and done with.

Despite the Covid – 19 lockdown affecting peoples' financial status, mental and physical health, the economy at large, and education, it has proved to reduce the number of infections thus lowering the number of Covid -19 infected individuals. This stringent measure put in place by governments has proved to have the safety of the citizens as a priority.

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