

“Covid-19 And Lockdown: A Challenge To Corona Survivors From Social Standpoint”

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Covid-19 has caused unprecedented crisis in advancement of ongoing **Human Civilization**. Such as the outcome of increasing number of infected cases from novel Coronavirus creates severe health hazard and death in plenty, severe economic losses in terms of Agricultural and Industrial production, resulting in unemployment, losses of income and rising poverty.

World renowned British Historian Arnold J. Toynbee said - ‘Response to Challenge is Civilization.’

So, in such terrible situation we cannot sit idle rather we should think of means to bring back the pre pandemic work culture and find favourable situation to go ahead. Certainly we must respond to the **challenge**.

To overcome the crisis there is need for **National Plan** for may be 3 years or 5 years duration as the respective country requires.

Numerous problems cropped up due to Covid-19 so priority should be need based. **National Plan** should have two broad Goals

1. To ensure **Healthy** lives

2. To ensure livelihood by bringing the **economy** back to its pre-pandemic level. Before framing the National Plan in this very important issue Government must convene a **National Conference** of the leaders of all political party of the respective country to formulate guidelines for their own country. Then experts and resource persons will sit to prepare the plan as required.

Following are some important areas relating to **Health** and **Economy** -

First : The crisis caused by the Pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of **Health care system** of many country. So it needs to be considerably strengthened by ensuring –

1. Adequate number of testing facilities ;
2. Adequate number of treatment centers equipped with properly functioning ICU units including Ventilators ;
3. Frontline workers be properly equipped with PPEs, gloves and masks etc. Needed to ensure greater involvement of development partners NGO and private sector ;

4. Medical scientists and researchers are working to achieve vaccine to combat Coronavirus. National Plan should give emphasis on it and ensure to Patronize the research work.

Second : To give importance to the **Agriculture** sector the National Plan should ensure that-

- 1) Farmers receive loans ;
- 2) Supply of agricultural inputs at the field level is maintained ;
- 3) Farmers receive fair price for their products to encourage them .

Third : Due to Covid-19 the number of unemployment is rising and gradual loss of income especially among the workers in low-wage sector, the self employed and huge number returnee migrant workers, therefore poverty has increased.

So National Plan should ensure that –

1. Food security for them by distributing food items at the local level ;
2. Make provisions of job creation for them ;
3. Make provisions of required Training for them (IT, Electronics, Vocational, Nursing, Paramedic etc).

Fourth: Proper attention should be given to the Cottage ,Micro, Small and Medium enterprises in terms of generating employment. The ministry of Industry should come forward with implementable strategies to take the sector to its pre- Pandemic level within the plan period.

Fifth : For reinforcement of the **Economic** condition, due importance should be given to the large number of returnee migrant workers as substantial declines in remittances during Pandemic period. So the plan should identify their training needs such as IT, Electronics, Vocational, Technical, Nursing, Paramedic etc. and keep provisions to impart Training to make them world standard skilled. The trained person can get jobs overseas as well in respective home country.

Sixth : Another very essential field is **Environment**. In planning there should have provision to create social awareness regarding **Health Rational**. The Health conscious people will take care of Environment. **Tree Plantation** program should be given Top most priority in order to create Green & Clean **village**, Green & Clean **City**, Green & Clean **Country** and Green & Clean **Universe**.

To implement the National plan it will require substantial Funding. Now the question is from where such fund will come ? It is obvious that internal resources mobilization will be lower and insufficient ,due to Covid-19. Then, what would be needed to meet the challenge is :

1. For internal resources- Revisit existing projects and cut costs whatever feasible and stop unimportant projects for the time being.
2. In this critical moment affluent and resourceful person will have to contribute fund for implementing the National Plan.
3. Most vital point in this context is to reduce at least 50% expenditure in Defence.

As for example the Defence budget of **USA for the year 2020 is 721.5 Billion Dollar.** Thus **China, Russia, India, Iran, countries of Europe & Middle- East and rest of the other Countries** of the World spend huge amount of money in Defence Budget.

In this circumstances,as this is a **Global Problem** the **UNO** is to take initiative to arrange an Eye opening World Conference with the agenda to reduce defence budget by at least 50% so that a substantial Amount will be available for the implementation of National Plan.

Certainly, only peace can save our civilization, so we must not go for **war** by any reason. Therefore, there is no need to spend money for war Weapon, Arms, Nuclear Bombs, Missile etc. My appeal to World conscience is for the cause of Humanity we shall have to forgo all types of **Ego**. Work for love and peace is greater than competing to be supper power by making Nuclear weapon . Then we can achieve

Hunger- free, Disease- free, Homeless-free, Illiteracy-free, Pollution-free World.

Let us raise the voice –**No more War- devastation.**

Love & Peace can save the Seven& half Billion People of present World and Human Civilization.

Lastly remember - Love to people is Love to God.

This lecture was delivered at the International Webinar organized by departments of Philosophy, Psychology, Psychological Counselling Cell, Sociology and Women's Study of Basanti Devi College on 21st JULY,2020.