

Coronavirus Highly Hits the Elderly People and the Natality Rate: A Socio-Demographic Appraisal

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Abstract

The unexpected Corona crisis is affecting all ages, but mostly the elderly people of 65 years and over have been infected, hit and dead. The Coronavirus has also highly affected the rate of natality everywhere in the world. Besides that, many marriages have been postponed or suspended. In the United States where the number of Coronavirus affected people is the highest as compared with other parts of the world; 8 out of 10 deaths reported have been in adults 65 years and older [1]. Therefore, the present crisis will lead to the lack of children, optimistically when Coronavirus will be behind us. Even the children during the Corona crisis have not easy access to pediatrics and medical treatments. So, the natality situation is currently a hidden event, not being monitored by the social actors. The aging affected people are observed and talked about, whereas the newborns are not spoken about. Increasing number of developing societies are concerned with the issue. Therefore, natality issue needs more investigation by the sociologists as well as demographers. The method of research used in the present research is of qualitative type, and the whole theme is more sociologically appraised.

Key words: Natality rate. Coronavirus. Corona crisis. Elderly people. Suspended marriages.

Introduction

The unexpected Coronavirus has caused increasing challenges and problems in economic, social, and demographic sectors. Overall shutdowns, sacking employees and work force, staying indoors for all households and the like, have appeared almost in all countries of the world. All such happenings have contributed to a great passivity influencing all the people, industries, economies and the like. In the passivity process, everyone and industry have stopped regular activities.

The pandemic of newly-emerged coronavirus is observed almost everywhere in the world. The new virus has surprised all people in every country from top to bottom. All the means available have been used to control it, but yet increasing number of people are reported dead every day. The virus is changing every norm and value in different countries. All the socio-economic frames are being affected because of its deadly risks. Increasing people are currently vulnerable vs the coronavirus. Many (more elderly) lose lives in every corner of the world. So, corona deaths are changing relations in families; changing the real value of natural death, and surprisingly making many indifferent to the event of death. Increasing number of aging people who really need each other in old age, lose a spouse that is a great loss in the rest of their lives. Many marriage traditions are suspended and do not take place in due time. Coronavirus has also declined many deals and businesses leading to unemployment

for an increasing number of people. The scenario is also leading to stressful deliveries and child bearing. Sociologically speaking, the phenomenon is facing a shortage of medical staff. Such a vacuum has contributed to the call back of many retired doctors and nurses to serve their previous jobs. Similarly, lack of beds in hospitals has entailed not admitting many regular patients in need of treatment. Likewise, many medical staff while highly vulnerable against the corona infection, in some cases, they die by the virus.

Method of Research

The method used in preparing the present article is of qualitative type. In that, various paradigms have been used to find out the necessary facts and figures on coronavirus. Qualitative research as an accepted method of inquiry is well used in sociological investigations. Though coronavirus issue is widely broadcast on different media, and people are objectively involved with that. Data on the issue is ever changing as it a pandemic and constantly diffusing worldwide. In current research, the researcher tried to access the most relevant sources to find the most relevant data to build the literature required. The data fed in the present article is hopefully reliable. The researcher hopes other sociologists will enter the issue, and propose constructive guidelines to calm and improve the present situation. Though literature on the issue not limited, the author tried to investigate many different resources in order to elicit the necessary information to build up the text.

Natural Death vs Covid-19 Death

Increasing number of deaths because of Coronavirus has lowered

the importance and value of natural deaths. In other words, less cares for a natural death is provided even in traditional societies. People only think of themselves and their families not to catch the virus. Also, empathy and sympathy have decreased among the people. The increasing and sudden deaths occurring because of coronavirus have decreased the value weight of natural deaths. People have almost created demotions towards the natural deaths in themselves. The survivors are not much affected and worried after the death of a family member as compared with the past patterns. So, a heavier vehicle has lowered the importance of the natural one. At the time of coronavirus, every individual thinks he/she will soon be infected and die by a sudden contact. So, everything is unstable at this critical time. However, during the non-coronavirus time, people used to take a lesson from the death of the deaths of their nears and dears, but the new type of deaths do not leave behind any such lessons. At the time of pandemic deaths, empathy and sympathy decrease, and many people just think of their very immediate nears. The new current phenomenon is a new experience for many people and nations since 1950 at least. Many of the existing people have not seen even cholera and malaria epidemics. In the past, even at the time of any epidemic outbreak, as there was not any motorized commuting, it only vanished the people of a certain location, and the spread was not as such.

Table 1
Selected Countries by Total Cases and Total Deaths
March 28 and May 28, 2020

Country	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Cases	Total Deaths
	28-Mar-2020	28-Mar2020	28-May2020	28-May2020
World	621.592	28.791	5.841.820	359.22
USA	105.161	1.722	1.752.091	102.525
Italy	86.498	9.134	231.732	33.142
China	81.394	3.295	82.995	4.634
Spain	72.248	5.812	283.849	27.118
Germany	53.340	399	182.202	8.552
France	32.964	1.995	182.913	28.596
UK	17.089	1.019	269.127	37.837
Switzerland	13.377	242	30.796	1.919
Netherlands	9.762	639	45.950	5.903
Canada	4.757	55	88.476	6.873
Australia	3.635	14	7.150	103
Japan	1.499	17	16.651	858
South Africa	1.170	01	25.937	552
India	933	20	164.936	4.673

(WHO Source: World meter Coronavirus, Population [2]. Novel Coronavirus (2019-n CoV) Situation Reports, World Health Organization).

Appearance of Lonely Men and Women

Coronavirus easily killing aging people, that usually kills the older men or women, and the accident leaves one of the spouses alone which is hurting for the remaining one. It would be even harder for the aged women who cannot usually marry at high ages. In developing countries where social security system is usually poor, a husband is a good support column for the wife, and the loss of which is a bad pain for the wife. Coronavirus while killing one partner, the other remaining party feels lonely and isolated. He/she has to support the family later in terms of economy, finance, emotions etc. In the post-Corona era, the countries would be able to have survivors under their supportive umbrella. As it mostly happens to elder people, those who remain alive have a large number of problems including income, care, food preparation, sympathy, feeling of isolation, shortage of family integration etc. Such a situation would be more difficult for women than men who are Corona-hit. While men can usually marry after losing spouse, women usually do not get such an opportunity. Such a poverty would be there more in traditional developing countries rather than the modern developed countries where there are fewer stigmas and socio-cultural taboos. In developing countries where not many elder people are insured, and do not often receive regular pensions, Coronavirus has the worse impacts on the families of the Corona-infected people.

Those infected by dementia or Alzheimer's disease will be in harder situation at the time of Coronavirus. They won't be able to keep aside, or remain at home like other people. Moreover, if a spouse of one of them dies by Coronavirus, there will not be a close care-giver to provide help and services to the one survived. So, such patients will not have any close family member to monitor them. People with Alzheimer's disease may forget to wash their hands, or take other recommended precautions to prevent the illness/Coronavirus. Similarly, COVID-19 may worsen cognitive impairment due to dementia.

Suspension of Marriages

Another passivity of Coronavirus is reflected in suspension of marriages with special reference to the developing countries. Many marriages are postponed in such countries; creating problems especially for the girls who are more limited. So, the emerging passive market of marriage contributes to many socio-cultural problems in the society and for both families of the bride side, and the groom side. Coronavirus is even currently annulling many arranged marriages.

Coronavirus risks have caused many marriages to be postponed, and in many cases downsized. Developing countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. with large populations and rich traditions, usually have increasing marriage ceremonies and parties for many days. But, many of them have been deferred to control and prevent the immediate disease. Such a postponement creates problems and losses for the families and the people concerned. In many cases the would-be marriages are annulled. However, despite the Western world where cohabitation is a social norm, marriage industry must actively take place in time in developing countries.

Many planned weddings for a year are suspended or even cancelled/divorced as happened in some Chinese cases. It is even worrying for the Western world too, to cancel many decided plans, cancel or defer any marriage occasions. Because of Coronavirus risk, almost all marriage halls have remained closed in countries like India and Pakistan. According to the details, a nine-member family attending a marriage ceremony were infected by the deadly Virus (Web Desk, Mar 21, 2020). So, through the appearance of Coronavirus threat, increasing trips are halted and cancelled.

Deals and Businesses

Coronavirus has closed down increasing number of businesses--laying off the workers and staff, and leading to the bankruptcy of such businesses especially in developing countries. In such countries governments are usually unable to help the emerging bankrupt businesses. Such businesses have given hard time to the employees of the relevant companies and their subordinate family members. Many businesses are in this way under serious financial pressures. Coronavirus cause many businesses to decline or lock down. Cinemas, restaurants, halls for ceremonies, increasing shops and stores are among the major businesses closed. Such closures have contributed to the unemployment of a large number of workers, So, such an increasing unemployed people affect a large number of families; their access to food items, basic needs, para-educational means etc. Many dealers and small business men and women too, have lost, or may lose their jobs. Such hard times severely impact their careers, their spiritual norms and values.

Similarly, closure of educational institutions and universities has kept backward students and the scientific development in different areas. Though many educational institutions have switched on online system of educational transfer, yet it is not successful for many lecturers and students in many fields of education. However, thousands of educational institutions across the world are currently remaining closed [3]. In countries like China pupils are learning through intimate live video chats, while others are tapping into the "broadcast of primary school lessons on public television". China has also created a "cloud learning program" that teaches its national curriculum. Because of closures, many disadvantaged students are being deprived to get the free school meals. Similarly, under such circumstances, many children in certain nations can also be at the risk of "child marriage" and "child labor".

Stressful Child Birth

Coronavirus has caused hard times and difficulties with regard to many cases of child birth, and while referring to hospitals for delivery. So, such issues are widely observed in developing countries where hospitals are engaged by the Coronavirus patients. Such approaches are usually known as passive consequences of Coronavirus. However, there will be more reports of such cases later. Coronavirus patients engaging increasing hospital beds has negatively impacted the would-be mothers across the world. Medical facilities which are widely used by the Corona patients have weakened the chance of those who want to urgently use the hospital facilities.

Coronavirus impact is wide and multi-dimensional, and the result of which will be declared later.

Child birth process is usually a complicated processing birth to a baby Preterm, Premature, Labor that does not progress, Abnormal heart rate of the baby, Perineal tears, Excessive bleeding and many more are the problems needing proper and in place hospitalization. Similarly, some women have herpes after delivery which really needs hospital attention for both; the mother and the newborn infant [4]. All such complications need nursing and hospital services. During the Coronavirus emergency many such medical urgencies are denied. During pregnancy, some common cold or a skin infection may appear. Though they may not cause serious problems, yet it needs medical attention, care, and treatment. Preterm births sometimes lead to low birth weight that needs immediate and proper protection and treatment. So, shortage of hospital arrangements would endanger the life of the newborn infant, followed by psychological problem/inconvenience for the mother.

Shortage of Hospital Beds

Though hospital beds are fully engaged by the Corona patients very actively, normal and regular patients remain passive and unadmitted. This situation is observed in almost all countries of the world. Moreover, the medical staff being actively and highly engaged, some of them are infected and die in duty. So, activity and passivity are simultaneously observable during the Coronavirus in hospitals. The outbreak of Coronavirus has shortened the hospital beds for the ordinary patients. Hospital-beds shortages are there even in developed countries in these days. Many non-Coronavirus patients cannot be admitted into hospitals for ordinary treatments. For poor countries, ICU beds are difficult expenses. Hospitals can manage their own hospital bed capacity. Shortage of capacity in care units is well felt with special reference to the developing countries. Lack of bed availability, drug shortages and many more is well faced vs the Coronavirus appearance in all countries. People in-doors for protection and precautions also lead to psychological difficulties for many of the families concerned. Around the world, every health care system is struggling with rising costs and. These pressures are mainly focused on the arriving patients. Therefore, families must take care not to lose their health and well-being [5]. Countries like Italy with a widespread Coronavirus patients, and one-in-five being a cigarette smoker, the scenario has created complicated problems. Overall, the shortage of hospital beds is well realized. Unfortunately, many developing countries are in lack of budget to increase their strategic plans for health service provisions. Priority is given according to a cluster of factors including need, emergencies, and patient volume. In addition, capacity building and strengthening is quite vital for the improvement of hospital services and treatment of Coronavirus [6].

Overwork of the Medical Staff

While medical sectors are highly active during the Coronavirus, other departments are usually passive. During the crisis of Coronavirus, medical staff have become very worn out because of the

round the clock services and activities. They are over-active in these days. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, medical doctors, nurses, and other staff have round-the-clock been busy with checking and treatment of virus patients. They have not had leave, holidays and the like. They tirelessly work, and some of them even die because of contacts and infections. In China, while 3400 healthcare workers got Coronavirus, 13 healthcare workers died because of that [7]. Other countries face such problems and deaths too. Medical staff are really exposed to death threats. Some of such staff had postponed weddings to treat the Corona patients. Similarly, 93 healthcare workers in California who came into contact with one patient, before the patient was diagnosed, were put under quarantine or isolation for 14 days.

The United States being the epicenter of global pandemic, reportedly on 26-Mar-2020 had more than 82000 positive infected patients of, and surprisingly China, Spain and Italy are the hardest-hit countries vs the Coronavirus [8]. Similarly, as reported on 28-Mar-2020, Italy had the toll of more than a death every 2 minutes [9]. Spain's death toll while tops China's, the number of Coronavirus infected has been reported people there is reported 57,521 patients/cases on 26-Mar-2020. Also, the number of death toll in Italy has been reported 9,134 on 26-Mar-2020 [10]. During the crisis of Coronavirus, many hardworking doctors are facing shortage of equipment, proper masks and protective body suits. In China, because of shortages, some doctors had to wear diapers to avoid having to take off the equipment and make it last longer in Wuhan, China [11]. Socio-demographically speaking, Coronavirus mostly killing older people, much of the high-experienced and skilled labor capital evacuates. Such pandemic challenges could not be easily compensated for (IUSSP, 2020).

Conclusion

The complicated situation of the Coronavirus has contributed to some sort of passivity. Many people facing barriers of Coronavirus, become passive. Due to allover closures, many people have been de-activated. Sociologically speaking, Coronavirus has widely changed people's ways of life--leading them to deep state of passivity. Coronavirus as a never-thought-before phenomenon has surrounded all countries of the world, and the hot pot of which is taking sacrifices at global level; poor and rich, high ranking, low ranking, educated and uneducated, but more the elderly people. The mercy-less virus is targeting all the countries, causing closures, recessions, poverty, and increasing challenges of all sorts in quality and quantity. Coronavirus is paralyzing tourism, economies, productions, scientific development etc. Coronavirus has also impacted natural death patterns too in many countries. The new phenomenon has led to the appearance of loneliness of many men and women across the world after the death of one spouse. Increasing labor force has been laid off in many countries. Similarly, many marriages and weddings have been postponed or cancelled especially in developing countries such as Bangladesh and India. Due to Coronavirus, increasing number of businesses and trade deals have ceased or slowed. Families also at home and in confinement get disturbed and psychologically impaired. Coronavirus has also

created difficulties and challenges for child birth. The operation has become highly stressful, with a great shortage of arrangements in many cases. Another problem well sensed is the lack of hospital beds; the difficulty to get into hospitals with the threats involved. Another difficulty emerged because of the Virus diffusion and outbreak, is the overwork of the medical staff, and the burden they should tolerate. Similarly, Coronavirus is affecting birth rate and natality in large number of countries. Many girls also at their late thirties cannot marry, and will possibility lose their fertility potentials [12, 13].

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