



Research Paper

Covid-19 Pandemic and Himachal Pradesh: A Study

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research paper is to study the COVID-19 pandemic and depict the current status of COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh (HP) and also study the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on state. This research article is based on secondary data. It has been collected through published reports of World Health Organization (WHO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) Government of India, previous research papers, annual economic survey of Himachal Pradesh Government & official websites of WHO, MoHFW, MoHA, State Level Banker Committee (SLBC). For statistical description percentage, financial ratios, comparative tables have been used.

The present study highlighted the current status of COVID-19 pandemic and also analysed its impact on Himachal Pradesh. The research study also described the state government efforts to reduce the economic impact of COVID-19 outbreak. This study have certain limitations. First one is, the research study has been restricted to Himachal Pradesh only due to resources and time constraint, second one is; only five months data related to COVID-19 has been taken for research study. This paper provides the information about the current situation of COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh and how it affects the economy of state. This paper can be beneficial for further studies related to the challenges arise from COVID-19 pandemic.

KEYWORDS –Pandemic, COVID-19, Outbreak, Lockdown, WHO, MoHFW, MoHA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Suddenly in China's Hubei province several cases of pneumonia had been seen in the month of December 2019. Nobody had known the exact reason of this disease. The disease was very soon identified as new kind of virus named as coronavirus. It belongs to biggest family of viruses whose infection can cause problems ranging from a cold to breathing problems. According to World Health Organization (WHO), fever, cough, shortness of breath are its main symptoms. The cause of most recently discovered virus is coronavirus disease, due which it is known as COVID-19. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' stands for virus and 'D' stands for disease. Formerly, it was referred as '2019 novel coronavirus'.

The first case of COVID-19 was seen in Wuhan city of China in the month December, 2019. Wuhan city is the capital of Hubei Province and known as major transportation hub of China. COVID-19 is now become a pandemic affecting many countries throughout the world. By the time of writing this research paper, in 216 countries around the world, total 1,01,85,374 peoples have been affected by this disease and 5,03,862 peoples have been lost their life due to this life-threatening illness. So far no vaccine has been made to stop the virus from spreading.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Chinazzi et al. (2020) in their article has stated that many travellers in China infected from a travel ban started travel from Wuhan on 23 January 2020. Due to delay in quarantine arrangement in China this pandemic start spread their feet on global surface. **Sharma (2020)** conducted a study and find that developing nations/economies stunned to the see the spreading speed of COVID-19 among the developed countries having advance health systems. This type of pandemic taught a lesson to all the undeveloped countries that how important is the adequate planning & preparation are necessary for future. This types of situation can be manage through effective planning, coordination and having proper and advance health services. **Ozili (2020)** described the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on African countries and revealed that the outbreak of coronavirus has

affected economic and social well-being of the citizens. Author also explained that the impact of coronavirus pandemic on social and economic activities is still unknown in these countries. **Goodell (2020)** proposed that to examine the impact of COVID-19 on mankind we should correlate the situation with similar type of pandemic spread in past globally. **Ozili & Arun (2020)** investigate that international economy are affected due to lockdown, restrictions on air travel, import and export activities between the countries and gap between demand and supply chain globally. It has also been observed that imposed restrictions for internal movement of people with in specific areas and start the economic activities again had a positive impact on economic activities.

Kraus et al. (2020) indentified new challenges faced by companies during COVID-19. They highlighted that in changing environment how industrial companies adopt new model of business. They further added that COVID-19 pandemic bringing unintentional change in life style and working culture among the people. **Nouhi et al. (2020)** explained that relationship between patient and doctor relationship have governed by the medical ethics. In formulation of health related policy health system play a vital role. **Joiner et al. (2020)** investigated that during the time of COVID-19 cases related to family violence, child abuse, gun sales and alcohol sales has shown increased. These factors motivating the serious incidence of suicide. **Haleem et al. (2020)** expressed in their study that day to day life of human beings and global economy has badly affected by coronavirus outbreak and it also broken the global economy. They explain that the COVID-19 affects the economy by the way of losses in national as well as global business, slow cash flow in the domestic & global market, disruption in celebration of festival, cultural and religious events, closure the entertainment places such as theatres, sports playground, clubs, hotels, restaurants etc. slow moving of essential goods.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the current position of COVID-19.
2. To analyse the impact of COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh and also state government efforts to control it.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

It is a secondary data based study. Published reports of WHO, MoHFW, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) Government of India, previous research papers, annual economic survey of Himachal Pradesh Government & official websites of WHO, MoHFW, MoHA, State Level Banker Committee (SLBC). Present position of COVID-19 has been studied in this research paper and makes attempt to analyse the impact of coronavirus pandemic on different activities in Himachal Pradesh. For statistical description, percentage, financial ratios, comparative tables have been used.

V. DISCUSSION

Global position of COVID-19

Initially, most of the corona virus cases have been seen in the China. It has also seen among those people who have travelled in the infected areas and also in those people who came to the contact directly to these travellers. The first case of COVID-19 in world was seen in the Wuhan city of China. Thailand was the second country to be affected by this epidemic after China. The virus rapidly spread in the other countries of world. On 11 March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic. Until that time more than 1, 18,000 COVID-19 positive cases had been reported in 114 countries globally. As per WHO, around 10 million people has been reported COVID-19 positive at the time of writing this research paper in the 216 countries of the world including 5, 03,862 deaths. Global position of COVID-19 pandemic can be analyse with the help of figure-1.

Table -1 WHO region wise COVID-19 analysis

Region	COVID-19 positive cases						
	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Grand Total
Africa		2	3831	20880	75897	196680	297290
Americas	11	69	162934	1083176	1515565	2374950	5136705
Eastern Mediterranean	4	726	53004	133822	317445	553054	1058055
Europe	22	1451	427565	1007747	705882	549419	2692086
South-East Asia	22	25	4595	50430	208943	520916	784931
Western Pacific	9788	73162	22117	42676	34784	33039	215566
Other		695	17	0	29	0	741
Grand Total	9847	76130	674063	2338731	2858545	4228058	10185374
Region	Death case due to COVID-19						

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Grand Total
Africa		0	77	861	1616	3456	6010
Americas	0	0	2784	67746	88245	88354	247129
Eastern Mediterranean	0	43	3056	4462	4792	12070	24423
Europe	0	31	27452	109034	41688	19049	197254
South-East Asia	0	0	185	1916	5412	14080	21593
Western Pacific	213	2648	811	2422	941	405	7440
Other		6	5	2	0	0	13
Grand Total	213	2728	34370	186443	142694	137414	503862

Source: World Health Organization report as on 30 June 2020.

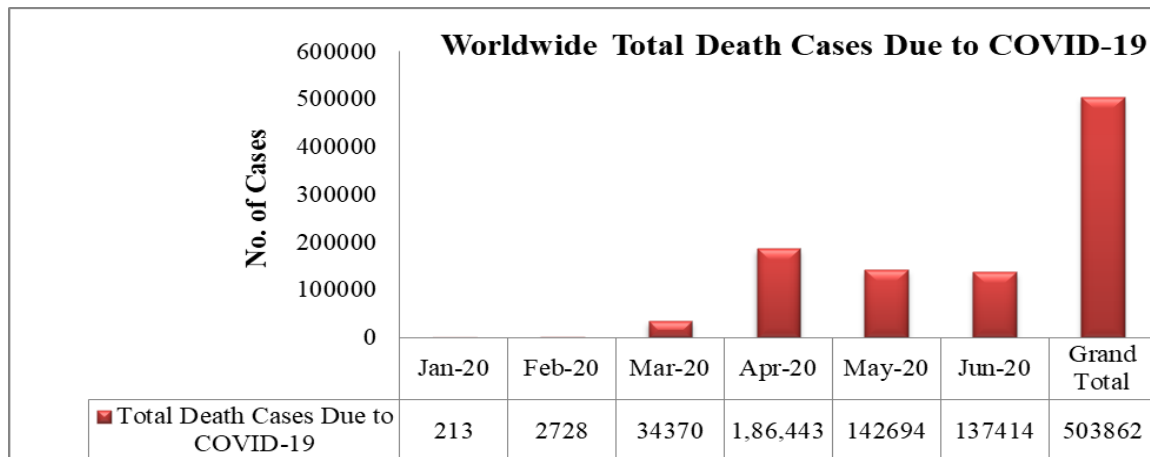
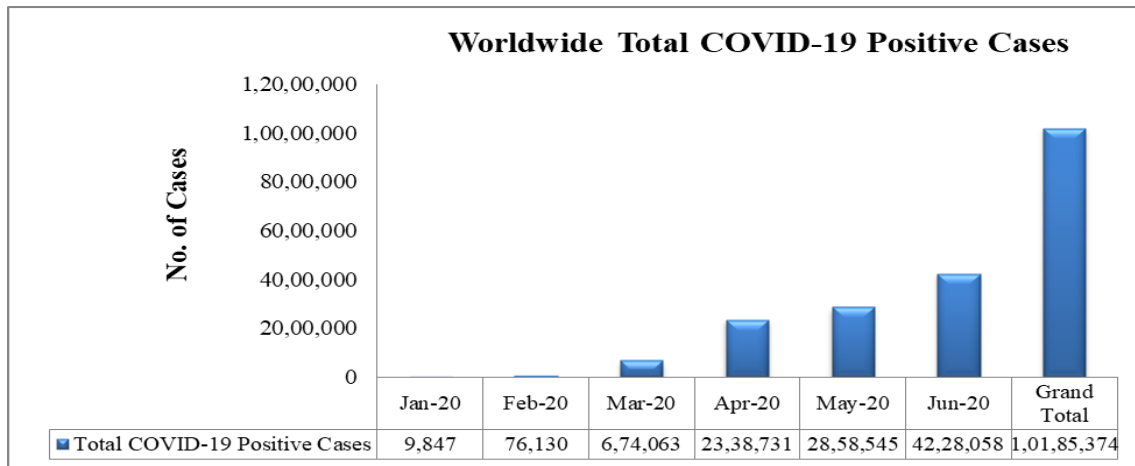


Figure-1: Worldwide COVID-19 positive & death cases as on 30 June 2020: WHO reports.

Table -2 Top Fifty most COVID-19 affected countries in the world

SN	Name of Country	Total Positive Cases	Total Death Cases
1	United States of America	2537636	126203
2	Brazil	1344143	57622
3	Russian Federation	647849	9320
4	India	566840	16893
5	The United Kingdom	311969	43575
6	Peru	279419	9317
7	Chile	275999	5575

8	Spain	248970	28346
9	Italy	240436	34744
10	Iran	225205	10670
11	Mexico	216852	26648
12	Pakistan	209337	4304
13	Turkey	198613	5115
14	Germany	194259	8973
15	Saudi Arabia	186436	1599
16	France	156930	29730
17	South Africa	144264	2529
18	Bangladesh	141801	1783
19	Canada	103250	8522
20	Qatar	95106	113
21	Colombia	91769	3106
22	China	85227	4648
23	Sweden	67667	5310
24	Egypt	66754	2872
25	Belarus	61790	387
26	Belgium	61427	9747
27	Argentina	59933	1245
28	Ecuador	55665	4502
29	Indonesia	55092	2805
30	Netherlands	50223	6107
31	United Arab Emirates	48246	314
32	Iraq	47151	1839
33	Kuwait	45524	350
34	Ukraine	44334	1159
35	Singapore	43661	26
36	Portugal	41912	1568
37	Oman	39060	169
38	Philippines	36438	1255
39	Poland	34154	1444
40	Dominican Republic	31816	733
41	Panama	31686	604
42	Switzerland	31569	1681
43	Bolivia	31524	1014
44	Afghanistan	31238	733
45	Romania	26582	1634
46	Bahrain	26239	84
47	Armenia	25542	443
48	Ireland	25462	1735
49	Nigeria	25133	573
50	Israel	23830	319

Source: World Health Organization report as on 30 June 2020.

COVID-19 has very badly impacted global economy and have generated depression, poverty, unemployment, in human life, with also changed their lifestyle. After analyse the characteristics, symptoms and spreading trends of COVID-19 globally, World Health Organization requested South Asian countries to take immediate measures to control the transmission rate of the virus.

COVID-19 position in India

India has also not untouched with COVID-19 global pandemic. In India first case of coronavirus was recorded on 30 January 2020. When a student of Kerala state studying in university situated at Wuhan city of China has come back to their home town and found positive from COVID-19. To control the pandemic through social distancing and break the chain of COVID-19, Prime Minister of India has announced janta curfew on 22 March 2020 and imposed curfew/lockdown-I on 24 March 2020 for 21-days to 1.3 billion people of the country. Which were extended up to 03 may 2020. The aim behind this amazing measure to prevent the community spread of the noval coronavirus through social distancing.

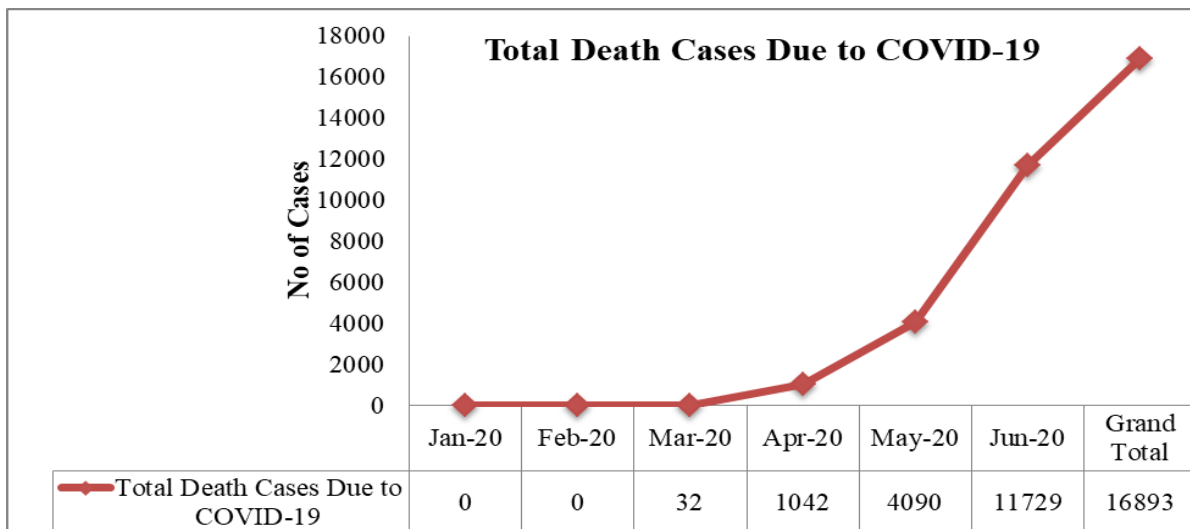
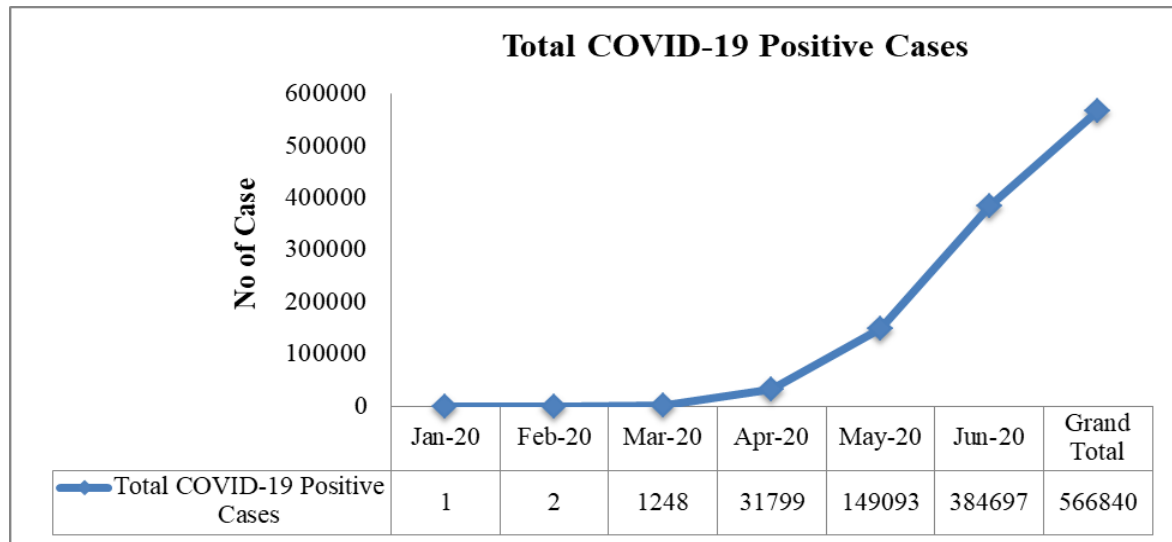


Figure-2: COVID-19 positive & death cases in the India: MoHWF report as on 30 June 2020.

Table - 3 State wise COVID-19 position in India

State/UTs	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Active Cases	Total Recovered Cases	Recovery Rate %	Total Death Cases	Death Rate %
Maharashtra	176879	80337	88931	50.28	7611	4.30
Tamil Nadu	86224	37334	47749	55.38	1141	1.32
Delhi	85161	26246	56235	66.03	2680	3.15
Gujarat	31938	6871	23240	72.77	1827	5.72
Uttar Pradesh	22828	6650	15506	67.93	672	2.94
West Bengal	17907	5535	11719	65.44	653	3.65
Rajasthan	17660	3637	13618	77.11	405	2.29
Telangana	15394	9559	5582	36.26	253	1.64
Karnataka	14295	6386	7683	53.75	226	1.58
Haryana	14210	4476	9502	66.87	232	1.63
Andhra Pradesh	13891	7479	6232	44.86	180	1.30
Madhya Pradesh	13370	2607	10199	76.28	564	4.22
Bihar	9640	2188	7390	76.66	62	0.64
Assam	7752	2408	5333	68.80	11	0.14
Jammu and Kashmir	7237	2557	4585	63.35	95	1.31
Odisha	6859	1890	4946	72.11	23	0.34
Punjab	5418	1516	3764	69.47	138	2.55
Kerala	4189	2015	2152	51.37	22	0.53
Uttarakhand	2831	681	2111	74.57	39	1.38
Chhattisgarh	2761	575	2173	78.70	13	0.47
Jharkhand	2426	566	1845	76.05	15	0.62
Tripura	1380	294	1085	78.62	1	0.07
Manipur	1227	733	494	40.26	0	0.00
Goa	1198	717	478	39.90	3	0.25
Ladakh	964	347	616	63.90	1	0.10
Himachal Pradesh	950	357	585	61.58	8	0.84
Puducherry	619	388	221	35.70	10	1.62
Chandigarh	435	80	349	80.23	6	1.38
Nagaland	434	266	168	38.71	0	0.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	203	126	77	37.93	0	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	187	125	61	32.62	1	0.53
Mizoram	148	93	55	37.16	0	0.00
Andaman and Nicobar	90	44	46	51.11	0	0.00
Sikkim	88	38	50	56.82	0	0.00
Meghalaya	47	4	42	89.36	1	2.13
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	566840	215125	334822	59.07	16893	2.98

Source: MoHFW report as on 30 June 2020.

COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is situated in the Western Himalayas and northern part of India. It makes boundary with J & K, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Tibet. Acharya **Diwakar Dutt Sharma** is the founder of the state. Prior to the India's independence, Himachal comprised the hilly region of Punjab province of British India. After independence many of the hilly territories were organised and it became the Chief Commissioner's province on 15 April 1948. On 26 January 1950, it became a part C state. On 1st July 1954 some part of lower Himachal get combined and transform into a single entity i.e. Bilaspur. On 1st November 1956 the state get the status of U.T. After the partition of Punjab & Haryana some part of the Punjab amalgamated with H.P. on 1st November, 1966. After the long battle to become a state, the Parliament of India has passed the state of Himachal Pradesh Act on 18th December, 1970 and we get new state on 25th January, 1971 with the area of 55,673 square km (www.himachal.nic.in).The Himachal Pradesh becoming arising economy in the country due to hardworking people of the state and progressive policies of Government. The economy of state has recorded the growth rate of 7.3 % in the financial year 2018-19.

Himachal Pradesh has also not remained untouched with this global pandemic. First of all, two cases namely Sarla Devi (63 year old woman) and Divesh Kumar (32 year old man) had been identified as COVID-19 positive in district Kangra on 20 March 2020. There are 950 COVID-19 positive and 8 death cases has been so far confirmed in the state according to the report of National Health Mission Himachal Pradesh. The current status of COVID-19 in the State is shown in table 4.

Table -4 District wise COVID-19 position in Himachal Pradesh

Name of District	Total COVID-19 Test	Total Negative Cases	Total Positive Cases	Active Cases	Cured Cases	Deaths Case	Migrated out Cases
Bilaspur	4080	4036	44	16	28	0	0
Chamba	7260	7208	52	7	45	0	0
Hamirpur	10204	9959	245	104	139	2	0
Kangra	16081	15812	269	112	155	2	0
Kinnaur	2023	2015	8	5	3	0	0
Kullu	2594	2589	5	0	5	0	0
Lahual & Spiti	451	449	2	2	0	0	0
Mandi	7000	6970	30	7	21	2	0
Shimla	6752	6712	40	16	22	2	0
Sirmour	5288	5250	38	8	23	0	7
Solan	12746	12637	109	50	55	0	4
Una	8002	7894	108	30	78	0	0
Total	82481	81531	950	357	574	8	11

Source: National Health Mission Himachal Pradesh Report as on 30 June 2020.

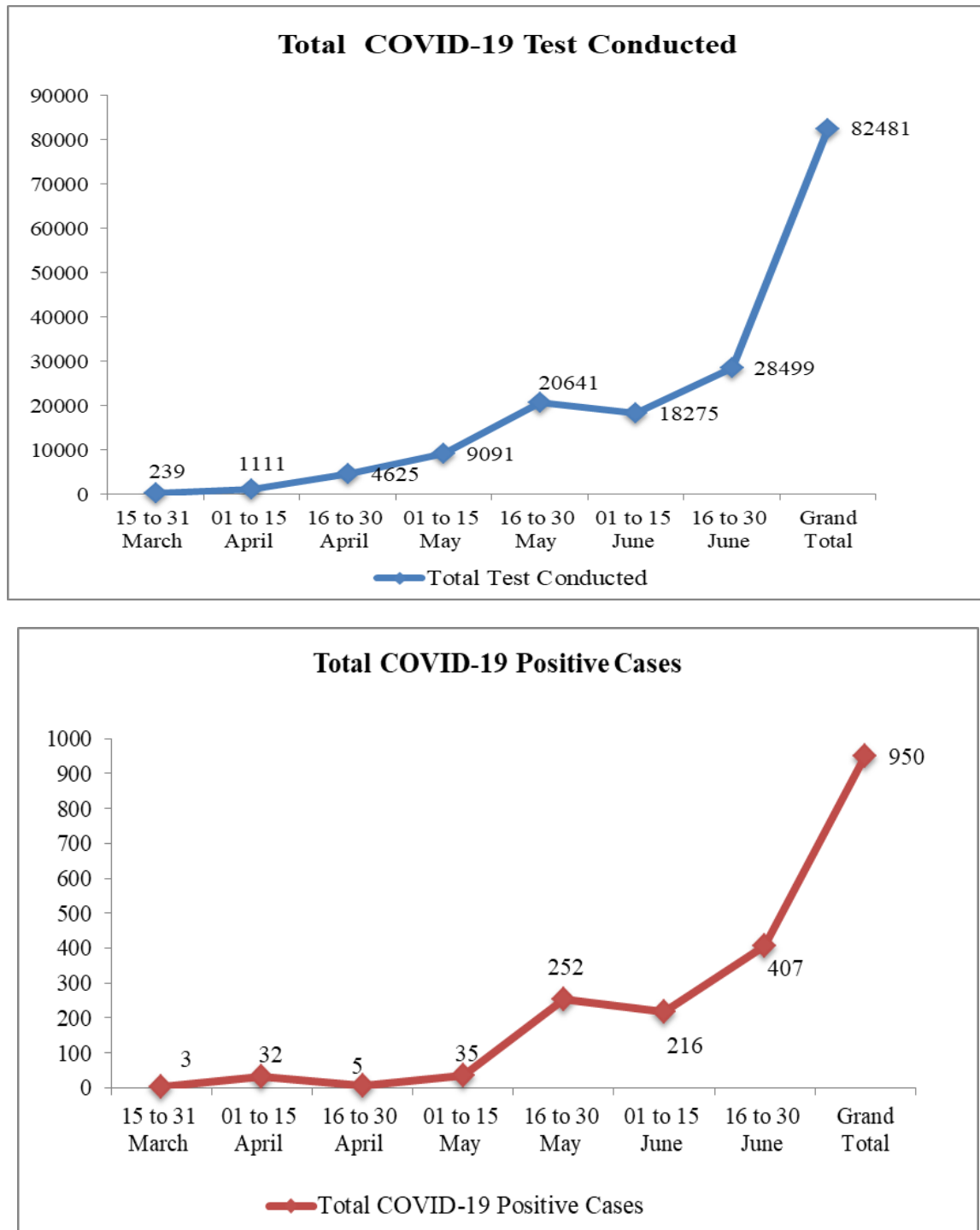


Figure-3: COVID-19 testing & positive cases trend in Himachal Pradesh: NHM report as on 30 June 2020.

VI. FINDINGS

Coronavirus has a very disruptive effect on the Indian economy. In fourth quarter of financial year 2019-2020 growth rate of the country went down to 3.1 per cent according to the Ministry of Statistics and programme implementation. The different credit rating agencies and World Bank has initially revised the growth rate of Indian economy, and shown lowest in last three decades. Growth Domestic Product (GDP) of India has estimated downgrad even more too negative figures after the announcement of the economic package in middle of May 2020 by Government of India. According to a report fourteen crore people in India has lost their employment during the period of lockdown. It has been observed that the economy of India has lost ₹ 32

thousand crore every day in first twenty one days of lockdown. Near about 53 percent of the business in India has been significantly affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

Effect of COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh

In today's scenario no one can live alone, everyone is dependent on one or other for fulfil their everyday needs. To fulfil the needs of population of the state, Himachal Pradesh buys those products from other states, which could not be produced in the state and sells those products to other states, which are largely manufactured in the state. In this situation, where all the states in India are depend upon each other in some way, Himachal Pradesh has also not remained untouched with COVID-19 global pandemic, as COVID-19 spreads through contact with each other. According to a report, state economy has incurred a loss of ₹ 17 to 18 thousands crore so far due to COVID-19 outbreak. The COVID-19 has also affected the Himachal Pradesh economy and current running development schemes adversely.

Effect on apple farming

Among the apple growing regions in India, Himachal Pradesh is on second position with the share of 21.5 per cent after Jammu & Kashmir who have leading in this market with a 70 per cent market share. Other apple growing states i.e. Uttarakhand (6 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (1.6 per cent), Sikkim, Nagaland have also entered in this market. Himachal Pradesh's apple economy is worth of nearly ₹ 4,000 crore. This year production of apple hit very hard by colder weather at growing stage of apple. The ideal temperature required at growing stage is 16 to 24 degree Celsius, but this year Shimla and adjoining region recorded the temperature of 11 to 13 degree Celsius, which is not good for apple production.

Apart from this, the growing trend of COVID-19 pandemic all over the country has also increase the tension of apple farmers. Those farmers who are live at low height area of the state and are produce the early-season varieties of apples are worried that how the apples crops will reach the market and find bulk buyers. Beside these, government rules of 14 days institutional quarantine for those who coming from containment zone or buffer zones and also 14 days home quarantine for rest the people coming from other parts of the country are also becoming the hindrance. Another major problem during this time is acute shortage of labour. Workers from Nepal, who are expert in handling apple operations could not returned from their country due to COVID-19. Other workers who were already in the state for other jobs have left the state during the lockdown.

Effect on tourism industry

The revenue of the state has been declined 87 per cent in the month of April 2020, only 116 crore receipts has been collected as compare to 883 crore receipts was collected in the month of April 2019. Tourism industry in the state has been badly affected from three face of lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak. According to the economic survey of Himachal Pradesh about seven lakh people depend on tourism industry and this sector contribute 6.6 per cent in GDP of the state. To control the corona virus state government has banned the entry of tourists in the boundaries of state on 18 March 2020. About 7,918 agencies including 2,912 travel agencies, 3,350 hotels and 1,656 homestays are so far registered with the tourism department of Himachal Pradesh. During the COVID-19 pandemic they all are struggling to meet out their fixed expenses due to not entering tourists in the state. Besides the hotels agencies, adventurers, guides & taxi drivers have also been affected adversely. According to a report about 168.29 lakh domestic & 3.82 lakh foreign tourists arrived in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2019, but due to lockdown & travelling restrictions no tourists has been entered into the state till now.

Effect on education

The COVID-19 outbreak mostly effected to the education system all over the world. Schools, colleges, universities all are closed from its beginning stage. According to a report about 1.7 billion learners are currently affected from COVID-19 globally. As per the UNICEF report about 134 countries all around the world are currently implementing the nationwide closures. In Himachal Pradesh there are about 10480 primary schools, 1055 middle schools, 1,870 high/senior secondary schools and 138 colleges are currently functional. But due to COVID-19 pandemic these all are closed from last four months. State government have continuously following the guidelines of the ministry of human resource department government of India. Due to COVID-19 there was delayed in declaration of results of matriculation and ten-plus two classes, examination of undergraduate and post-graduation are delayed. In this phase of pandemic, students in the state has going through the mental stress due to non-completion of annual examination on time and also worried about the admission in further higher studies. Apart from this, some private educational institutes are demanding school fee from the parents of students without any teaching from last four months.

COVID-19 pandemic have created the new era of education in the state. Some educational institutions have started provide online education through various online platforms such as google meet, zoom applications. They are trying to reduce the mental stress of the students by providing them online platform of teaching.

Effect on financial schemes

Government of India has started various financial schemes i.e. Pardhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana [PMJDY], Pardhan Mantri Mudra Yojana [PMMY], Atal Pension Yojana [APY Pradhan Mantri Surksha Bima Yojana [PMSBY], Pradhan Mantri Jeewan Jyoti Bima Yojana [PMJJBY] for the upliftment of poor rural people of the state during last five years. During the time of COVID-19, central government financial schemes in the state have facing a lot of obstacles in the path of its implementations i.e. geographical, health, educational barriers, appropriate delivery model and products, less females enrolments under these schemes as compare to male.

State Government initiatives to control the COVID-19

The state government had started precautionary efforts to control COVID-19 from beginning of this pandemic. Chief Minister along with senior officers of the state government are continuously watching the situation very closely and issued directions on daily basis to general public to escape from the COVID-19 life-threatening disease. At this time Himachal Pradesh government have in position to fight COVID-19 life-threatening disease with the available health facilities. Present status of COVID-19 medical facilities in the state is given in the table 5.

Table -5 COVID-19 medical facilities in Himachal Pradesh

Category	Total Isolation beds	Beds for Confirmed cases	Beds for Suspected cases	O2 Supported beds	Total ICU beds	No. of Ventilators	Available PPE Kits	Available n95 Mask	Compatible Biomedical Waste Management System
Cat. I - Dedicated COVID Hospitals	373	288	85	270	75	42	3047	5269	6
Cat. II - Dedicated COVID Health Center	475	389	86	171	8	19	1646	2553	11
Cat. III - Dedicated COVID Center	1381	1120	261	NA	NA	NA	1021	2414	27
Grand Total	2229	1797	432	441	83	61	5714	10236	44

Source: National Health Mission Himachal Pradesh Report as on 30 June 2020.

As per the report of MoHFW, government of India is providing 500 more ventilators to the state. Besides these, state government also focusing to reduce the economic impact of corona- virus pandemic and removed the travelling restrictions within the state. The economic activities in the state have been started in some areas, about 3000 MSME's and large units have start functional in the month of May 2020. State government continuously trying to provide employment to those people of Himachal Pradesh, who have left their jobs during the COVID-19 and come back to the state.

VII. CONCLUSION

COVID-19 epidemic are growing very high speed from last six months all over the world. It has stunned those countries also which is very advanced in health medical facilities. In India, centre and state governments are trying to control it at their own level. Government of India has regularly followed the guidelines issued by the WHO time to time and also trying to increase the health medical facilities all over the country. Himachal Pradesh government has also followed the guidelines issued by the MoHFW and MoHA government of India regularly to control this critical situation. As per a report state government had issued about 150 notifications during first two months of this epidemic to aware the general public of the state. Due to which Himachal Pradesh is in better position as compared to the other states of the country. Recovery rate of the COVID-19 affected patients in the state is 61 per cent which is higher the national level recovery rate of 59 per

cent. So far 8 people has been lost their lives due to this pandemic which less than 1 per cent of total positive cases.

This epidemic has taught every human being about the importance of proper future planning and preparation. This type of situation can be best managed through effective coordination among government and general public. Government of Himachal Pradesh have so far successful to control this pandemic up to some extent. But right now this disease cannot be taken lightly. State government should still require focus on public awareness and also need to increase medical facilities in the state.

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