



Role Of Woman IN Covid-19

DR RISHI JERATH*

MS SONIA MOHIL**

Govt college Nalagarh

ABSTRACT

The worth of a civilization can be judged by the place given to women in the society. One of several factors that justify the greatness of India's ancient culture is the honorable place granted to women. The Muslim influence on India caused considerable deterioration in the status of women. They were deprived of their rights of equality with men. Raja Ram Mohan Roy started a movement against this inequality and subjugation. The contact of Indian culture with that of the British also brought improvement in the status of women. The third factor in the revival of women's position was the influence of Mahatma Gandhi who induced women to participate in the Freedom Movement. An unclear understanding of the differential impact diseases like COVID-19 have on women and a lack of gender-responsive pandemic control policies have put women at the risk of being neglected yet again. At this time of crisis, women now find themselves removed from critical multi-level discussions to find solutions to the socio-economic problems they face, compounding the humanitarian crisis unfolding before us all. Understanding how the pandemic has directly and indirectly exacerbated gender inequities is crucial to dynamiting the current COVID-19 response and the response to future epidemics.

KEYWORDS: Civilization, Ancient, Movement, Dynamiting, Exacerbated, Humanitarian

*Asstt proff Commerce;** Asstt proff Sociology

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is harming health, social and economic well-being worldwide, with women at the centre. First and foremost, women are leading the health response: women make up almost 70% of the health care workforce, exposing them to a greater risk of infection. At the same time, women are also shouldering much of the burden at home, given school and child care facility closures and longstanding gender inequalities in unpaid work. Women also face high risks of job and income loss, and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of crisis and quarantine. Policy responses must be immediate, and they must account for women's concerns. Governments should consider adopting emergency measures to help parents manage work and caring responsibilities, reinforcing and extending income support measures, expanding support for small businesses and the self-employed, and improving measure to help women victims of violence. More fundamentally, all of these economic and social policy measures must be embedded in broader efforts to mainstream gender in governments' responses to the crisis. In the short run, it means, wherever possible, applying a gender lens to emergency policy measures. In the longer run, it means governments having in place a well-functioning system of gender mainstreaming, relying on ready access to gender-disaggregated evidence in all sectors and capacities. The objective of this paper is to make an attempt to aware everyone about the exact efforts and role of women .

Women Responding to COVID-19: More than one year since the first emergence of COVID-19, we still see that women are playing an outsized role responding to the pandemic, including as frontline healthcare workers, caregivers at home, and mobilizers in their communities. The inspiration behind my drawing 'Women Head of the Household' is my mom who is a single parent, taking the role as a mother and the head of family," said Lidya Permata Sari, a fresh

university graduate and the winner among the 15-24 years category. “Women’s important roles at home and in the communities is a topic that is important to me. As a female illustrator, visualizing the reality faced by women is a way to support them as they are playing a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The pandemic situation and school closures have increased an already high burden of care and domestic work for women. These are impacting women’s physical and mental health. Equal share of domestic and care work is especially important during this time,” said Rahmawati Yuyu Ningsih, a freelance illustrator and the winner in the category 25 years old and above.

The pandemic has deepened pre-existing gender inequalities and has disproportionately affected women and girls. Women are losing livelihoods because they are overrepresented in sectors and jobs hardest hit by COVID-19. A recent report by UN Women shows that women’s mental health has suffered a larger setback: 57% of women noting increases in stress and anxiety, compared to 48% of men. Increased unpaid care and domestic workloads, anxiety over income loss, and the impacts of movement restrictions on gender-based violence, are all contributing factors.

The Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Bintang Puspayoga, expressed her highest appreciation to the winners of the “Perempuan dan COVID-19” comic and illustration competition. Minister Bintang hopes that people can reflect on lesson learned during COVID-19 pandemic and reminds everyone to always washing their hands, wearing masks, and maintaining physical distance to get through this pandemic.

"I am happy to see the results of this competition which aims to increase awareness on COVID-19 that affects women, children, and communities throughout Indonesia. I would like to congratulate all the winners and to keep doing your best in achieving a lot of things and improving your creativity in arts or other fields. I would like to also thank the organizers for their hard work and very good collaboration in organizing this competition. It is our wish that this collaboration can continue further in the future, under different themes, especially in ensuring the protection of women and children. When women are empowered, children are protected, Indonesia will grow and develop." said Minister Bintang.

“The power of illustration. It can be sometimes much stronger than the power of words. As communication and awareness raising are one of the keys to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, comic and illustration can serve as strong tools,” said Tamura Masami, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia.

“I am very pleased to see so many great artworks and exceptional talent. Reviewing all the comic and illustrations gave us a glimpse of how women’s lives in Indonesia have changed during the pandemic, the challenges they faced, and the important contribution they continue to make in preventing the spread of COVID-19. It is heartening to see that some of the illustrations also captures the positive gender and social norm changes to promote a more equitable sharing of care and domestic work,” said Valerie Julliard, UN Resident Coordinator. “My appreciation on the collaboration of UN Women, WHO, and the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection in finding creative ways to spark a meaningful conversation on gender equality and COVID-19.”

Amplified women's voices of all generations can set the pathway towards Generation Equality where women's leadership is no longer an exception but the norm. This is why we call on the local, regional, national, and international institutions to:

- Step forward to ensure that we take decisive steps to protect and empower women and girls everywhere from gender-based violence, in particular in relation to domestic violence risk situations.

- Promote new governance models that allow for co-creation with all stakeholders and in particular

women's leadership in all sectors of society. Women must be involved in leading the recovery after

COVID and the response to future emergencies.

- Improve the working conditions of women, in particular in the care-related jobs which need to guarantee inclusion and hold our society together.

- Involve women in COVID-19 specialized groups or task forces, as well as in legislative, policy, and

budgetary decision-making processes.

- Foster gender-sensitive universal health care, research, and local service provision to overcome this pandemic and support women and children beyond the outbreak.

- Provide support for out-of-school children and for children without access to care facilities and their parents, who are combining home working and childcare—a nearly impossible task that falls disproportionately on women.

- Push for gender-segregated data to help visualize women and girls in our societies and territories,

and guide public policies.

- Promote women's and girls' access to information, knowledge and technologies, ensuring the fulfilment of their digital rights.

- Put gender equality policies at the forefront of the recovery plans by reinforcing mainstreaming and

existing gender-sensitive policies.

- Facilitate a pathway towards a Generation Equality where women's leadership is no longer an exception but the new normal.

We further call men, in particular colleagues in local and regional governments all over the world to join us in making the above call a reality and share our quest for gender equality. Our equality-driven movement is committed to working with the UN System, national governments, the international community, women groups and grassroots organizations, civil society and all stakeholders in taking decisive steps towards Generation Equality and building back better.

Conclusion: Recovery efforts must reach women

“Despite the clear gendered implications of crises, response and recovery efforts tend to ignore the needs of women and girls until it’s too late. We need to do better,” urges UN Women’s Chief Statistician, Papa Seck. “But most countries are either not collecting or not making available data broken down by sex, age and other characteristics – such as class, race, location, disability and migrant status. These acute data gaps make it extremely difficult to predict the pandemic’s full impact in countries and communities. They also raise the concern that COVID-19 policy response will ignore the priorities of the most vulnerable women and girls.”

Here are five steps that governments and businesses can take to mitigate the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on women.

Direct income support to women

Introduce economic support packages, including direct cash-transfers, expanded unemployment benefits, tax breaks, and expanded family and child benefits for vulnerable women and their families. Direct cash-transfers, which would mean giving cash directly to women who are poor or lack 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.

Support for women-owned and -led businesses

Businesses owned and led by women should receive specific grants and stimulus funding, as well as subsidized and state-backed loans. Tax burdens should be eased and where possible, governments should source food, personal protection equipment, and other essential supplies from women-led businesses. Economic relief should similarly target sectors and industries where women are a large proportion of workers.

Support for women workers

Implement gender-responsive social protection systems to support income security for women. For instance, expanded access to affordable and quality childcare services will enable more women to be in the labour force. Bridging the gender pay gap is urgent, and it begins by enacting laws and policies that guarantee equal pay for work of equal value and stop undervaluing the work done by women.

Support for informal workers

Provide social protection and benefits to informal workers. For informal workers left unemployed, cash transfers or unemployment compensation can help ease the financial burden, as can deferring or exempting taxes and social security payments for workers in the informal sector.

Reconciliation of paid and unpaid work

Provide all primary caregivers with paid leave and reduced or flexible working arrangements. Provide essential workers with childcare services. Unprecedented measures to address the economic fallout have already been taken, but comparatively few measures have been directed at supporting families grappling with paid and unpaid work, including care needs. More efforts are also needed to engage citizens and workers in public campaigns that promote equitable distribution of care and domestic work between men and women.

