

## Coping Up with the Pandemic!

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### INTRODUCTION

The smooth sailing life has been brought to halt due to the Novel Corona Virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an unexpected scenario and the world is still trying to cope up with the economic devastation brought down by this. This had a severe impact over the lives of the mankind all over the world. The people of all economic strata were affected by this havoc causing pandemic. The lower economic group was most widely affected as it was difficult for them to survive & meet their daily needs. The upper considered it as a vacation from the routine activities & focussed on brushing up their skills. Also it helped in building up the bonds with the near & dear ones. This idle time nurtured the love, affection & trust within the family members as they stood together as pillars in this hour of grief.

Apart from this, an affirmative effect could be seen over the environment. The Ozone layer hole healed on its own, the pollution levels experienced a severe decline as the human intervention got minimal. The nature coped with the pandemic on its own but for the human race it was quite difficult. High unemployment, layoffs, lower wages were some of the commonly observed scenario. This somewhere had a vast impact over the thinking mindset of the people as this inculcated the seed of fear amongst the established & unestablished section. This had an overall impact on the country's economic growth. The government also made its own policies for the welfare of the citizens. Taking health as the supreme priority, lockdown was announced so that death rates can be controlled. Due to this the strategy of social distancing could be followed effectively. Also, majority of the companies practiced "Work from Home" technique in order the sustain the daily activities thereby ensuring that the lockdown and physical unavailability of manpower doesn't hamper the companies' performance.

This was a countermeasure in order to beat the adverse effects of the deadly virus. Most of the IT companies made this strategy and this worked out pretty well. The manufacturing sector resumed the activities with 33% of minimal manpower as ordered by the government. This was done taking proper safety measures making it mandatory to wear the PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment). This included N-95 masks, sanitizers, hand gloves etc. With these, risks were minimized without compromising the daily activities. This led to control of virus to a great extent & death rates were minimized.

Next subject to be taken care of was the educational institutions as the future of the country lies on the shoulders of our youth and students. It is they who will play a vital role in building the foundation of country's prosperity. So it was equally important to take care of them so that their studies are not compromised. The online education portals were widely used for this purpose. The student-teacher interaction went through online class through various virtual meeting apps. The students were able to experience the school/ college classroom atmosphere in the home itself. They could openly ask questions to their respective teachers and get all their doubts resolved. Some of the students were rejoiced as the exams got cancelled and they were promoted on the basis of their previous

performance. This idea was openly welcomed by all as the health of the children & youth should not be at stake.

The government made various packages for various sections of the society including the primary, secondary & tertiary sector. The agriculture sector also suffered huge losses so policies were made even for them. A total of 10% country's GDP was invested in the package of 20 lakh crores. The government tried its best to cope up with the pandemic but can be controlled completely only if the people follow safety measures on their own. It is we who are our own survivors, if we practice personal hygiene appropriately, we can fight back against any pandemic.

Last but not the least, we should remember that these pandemics are a learning lesson for all of us. We should have robust strategies in order to cope up with the pandemics. Also take in consideration that we should take care of the lower economic sections of the society for it is they who are worst affected. Take care of the surroundings and do not prove as a hindrance in environment as unnecessary human intervention can cause a severe havoc. Do not contribute in ruining the nature as it can have negative repercussions. Rejuvenate in the beauty of nature for it is the harbinger of happiness and prosperity in our lives as we depend on it to meet our day-to-day needs.

Stay Healthy! Stay Safe!!