

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Housemaids: A Case Study of Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India)

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Abstract

Except for the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008 domestic 'employment' in India is inadequately regulated and sometimes covered by labour laws (Ghosh, 2013). Because of informality in contracts and ignorance of social security regulations, most of the benefits of such activities do not reach the workers (Sumalatha et al, 2021). The Covid-19 crisis has raised mounting concerns over the pre-existing vulnerabilities of informal workers, who number more than 1.6 billion worldwide (World Bank, 2020; ILO 2020 a and b).

Several studies have emphasized the vulnerability and abuse those domestic workers encountered during the epidemic in several Indian cities. COVID-19 hurts the housemaid's mental health (Mazza et al., 2020). In the present study, four aspects of housemaid life covered income, loan and debt, social and psychological problems. Based on the sample study, the results were analyzed with the help of various statistical tools. The results of the study are very pessimistic and show very serious long-term impacts on housemaids.

Keywords: Housemaids, Covid- 19, Psychological impacts, Loan and Debt, Income

Introduction

Covid -19 pandemic and resultant lockdowns almost affected all the world. The economies are slowing down, it can be said that we are a decade slower now. The weaker sections are suffering more, even they are dying less due to covid but more due to hunger. The whole world is in trauma. Many people are suffering from depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Housemaids add a significant amount to their family income. To stop infection, to break the chain and to follow covid guidelines, domestic workers remain unemployed not only in lockdown period but also almost all this time of Covid -19.

This report is written to analyze the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on housemaids in terms of Income, loan and debt, social problems and behavioural aspects and psychological changes. It is done so that the actual impact can be shown and analyzed so that it can be helpful for the government to set the relief goals and policies for these domestic workers.

Objectives

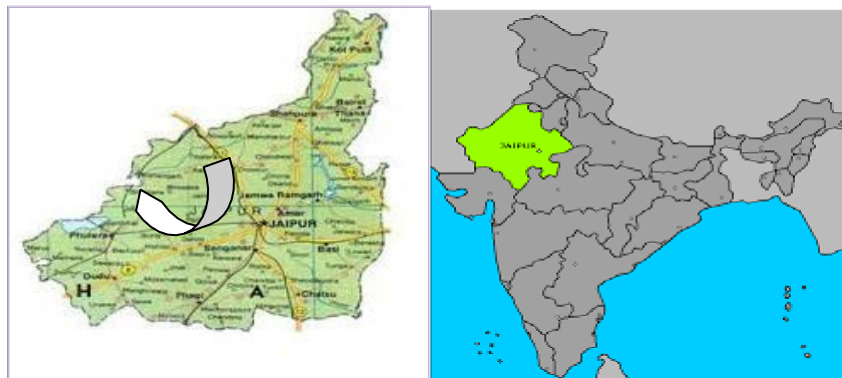
1. To analyze the impact on the income of housemaids.
2. To analyze the impact on the status of loans and debt of housemaids
3. To show the social problems housemaids are facing.
4. To analyze the psychological impacts on housemaids

Methodology

This study is conducted using Survey interviews and telephonic interviews. The duration of the survey is the month of May 2021. The purposive **sampling** method is used for sampling. Standardized test on selected samples of income comparisons, loan and debt assessment, social changes and psychological changes is administered.

Study Area

Jaipur is the capital city of Rajasthan state of India. It is located on 26° 55' north latitude and 75° 49' east longitude. The city is surrounded by the Nahargarh hills in the north and Jhalana in the east, to the south and the west of the city are also prevailing hillocks but they are isolated. Its' Climate is Semi-Arid; it has Rainfall-about 60 cm from the southwest monsoon.



Results and interpretations

A: Impact of Lockdown on the Income of Housemaids

Data: The average daily Income of a housemaid and her family was 1000/- last year, due to covid situation the average daily income in the last 15 days (month of March 2020) is found to be Rs. 450/- with a standard deviation of 46.8. Test whether the average daily profit decreased.

Analysis and Interpretation

In this the Mpop is 1000 and Ms is 450, N= 15 and SD is 46.8. our H0 is "There is no change in average daily income. so $H_0: \mu = 1000$, $t = \frac{M - \mu}{\text{SEM}} = \frac{450 - 1000}{46.8/\sqrt{15}} = -12.09$, so the value of t will be 45.49. now we will test whether due to covid the average income of the housemaid and her family decreased, the degree of freedom in this question is $15 - 1 = 14$ and level of significance is .01 so from the table values we find, t value is 2.62. This is much greater than the calculated value of 45.49 so H0 is rejected and we can interpret that the average daily income of the housemaid and her family decreased due to covid 19 and lockdowns.

B: Impact of Lockdown on the status of Loan and Debts of Housemaids

Data: In a telephonic interview survey of 40 housemaids the mean loan and debt was 36 % of their annual income with a standard deviation of 3.4% and after the lockdown in a survey of 50 housemaids the mean loan and debt status is 38% of their annual income, with a standard deviation of 4.6%. can we say that covid -19 burdened the housemaids with an increase in loan and debt? at .01 Level of significance.

Analysis and Interpretation

In the above survey the SED=.084, and z value is $Z = \frac{D - \mu}{\text{SED}} = \frac{38 - 36}{0.84} = 2.38$ so Z value is equal to 2.38, in one tail test critical value of z at .01 level of significance is 2.33 which is less than the calculated value so we can say that after lockdowns the loan and debt ratio to income is significantly increased.

C: Impact of Covid -19 and Lockdowns on the stress level of Housemaids

Data: In an investigation of stress level (from a scale of 0-100) of 500 housemaids the mean stress level was 74.8 and SD was 7.8 assuming normality of the levels find how many housemaids are suffering from higher levels of stress (more than 80) and between(60-80).

Analysis and Interpretation

From the above sample, we will calculate no of housemaids showing a high and very high level of stress. In High level of stress category (60-80) level of 60 is $= (60-74.8)/7.8 = -1.89$ sigma and level 80 $= (80-74.8)/7.8 = 0.66$ sigma , so 60 is 1.89 sigma less than mean and 80 is 0.66 sigma more than the mean. Between Mean and -1.89 sigma 47.06% cases lies and between mean and 0.66 sigmas 25.54 % cases lies, thus the total percentage of housemaids who has stress level in the high category is $47.06\% + 25.54\% = 72.6\%$, therefore no of housemaids is 72.06 percentage of 500= 363. in very high-stress level category standard level of 80.5 is between mean and 0.73 sigmas, so there are 26.73 cases lie so % of cases above 0.73 sigmas is $50 - 26.73 = 23.27$ so the no. of housemaids facing a very high level of stress is 23.27 percentage of 500=116. we can say that housemaids are very stressed.

D: Impact of Covid -19 on social aspects and housemaids

Data: In a survey of 200 housemaids in 2021 in Jaipur city a score of 0-100 was prepared according to the behaviour of their employers with them mean of the scores was 58 and SD was 9.8 What inference can be drawn about all the housemaids of Jaipur city?

Analysis and Interpretation

In the above question, we can draw the inference that $SEM = SD/\sqrt{n}$, the value is 0.69 so we can say that sample mean will lie between $M_{pop} \pm 3SEM$ so M_{pop} will lie between $M \pm 3SEMM$ so the range is 55.93 to 60.07. so we can say that the score lies between 55.93 to 60.07 which shows a very pessimistic picture of the behaviour of employers with houses maids.


Discussion

The results show a significant impact of Covid-19 and lockdowns on the housemaids. They remained unemployed for almost a whole year. In conclusion, the survey results show that due to covid -19 and resultant lockdowns severely impacting housemaids, their income has decreased their loans and debts increased, they are facing ill-mannered behaviours and suffering from stress so this is very urgent and essential to provide relief to housemaids and their families.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this report show a very true but dreadful picture of the impacts of covid-19 and lockdowns on housemaids. This is the need of the hour to release the relief funds and schemes to minimize the impacts by govt agencies. Counselling is also needed to overcome anxiety and stress. Some policies also should be made to aware to the housemaids for their rights.

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