

## GOVERNANCE, CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Dr. Rajinder Singh\***

\*Assistant Professor,  
Department of Political Science,  
University College, Moonak,  
District Sangrur, Punjab, INDIA  
Email id: rajindersingh@pbi.ac.in

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### ABSTRACT:

*At a time when covid-19 continues to impact every aspect (social, political, economic, cultural and religious etc.) of human life, our government has assumed a key role in the fight against this pandemic. In spite of the efforts of central government into federal structure the governments of states as well as local governments are playing a vital role to tackle this situation. These agencies are implementing directives intended to enforce social distancing, stimulate the economy and address medical shortages, among other measures like various declarations of emergency, closure of institutions and public meeting places and other restrictions intended to contain the spread of the virus. However, societies are vulnerable in times of crisis and there is an expectation of clear leadership and authority to respect core social values, such as democratic instant.*

*The World Bank Group is taking broad, fast action to help developing countries strengthen their pandemic response, increase disease surveillance, improve public health interventions, and help the private sector continue to operate and sustain jobs. It is deploying up to \$160 billion in financial support over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery.*

*The [Governance Global Practice](#)'s role consists of ensuring a successful response to COVID-19, providing a stream of work on institutional reforms that support client countries in navigating the increased fragility, extreme pressure on resources, and rapidly evolving largescale service delivery needs.*

*The pandemic has exposed the benefits of a stronger, flexible, and more responsive civil service which can incorporate risk management and has access to contingencies in an emergency. It has also stressed the need for sound [procurement](#) policies, systems and processes. Helping countries procure lifesaving goods and services on an emergency basis is critical to blunt the impact of COVID-19.*

*Emerging lessons from the immediate response to the pandemic point to the need to adapt models of government operations, service delivery, and interactions with citizens, which include [Government Tech](#)nology options for modernization of services to citizens and businesses.*

*The [Governance Global Practice](#) supports client countries build capable, efficient, open, inclusive, and accountable institutions, which are critical for sustainable growth after COVID-19. Sustainable growth and inclusive development are at the heart of the World Bank's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Governance, Role Of Government And Politics, Epidemic, Covid-19, Challenges And Solutions.*

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

During the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic, it is hard to generalize about any country's response. Different countries have applied same patterns of "lockdown" with different levels of enforcement. One thing is common into the strategy of all countries is that, when such a crisis happens, people turn to governments to act, and they often have many expectations. We have seen the significance of big state model take hold across Europe, and in the United States, where government intervention in the economy and industry, has been on an unexpected level. We have certified rescue packages deal not seen since the Marshal Plan, as well as direct state intervention in the whole key infrastructure. This is because when a crisis hits such parts, governments must be graceful enough to disregard old norms and values and move quickly to do everything they can, to save lives of people and support infrastructure and the fabric of society. It is a fight against the clock and unlike any normal type of policymaking. ***According to Lord Weaver Brook: the Government has a duty to strengthen the confidence of people:***

During the threat of covid-19, governments around the world must act quickly and decisively. Economy and healthcare system of mostly countries struggle to cope with Covid-19 pandemic. It is clear that this virus is shaping political agendas across the world. These type of challenges in front of whole nations intended to provide greater security for those affected by the pandemic by limiting the spread of the virus, clash the efforts on business and jobs and providing financial security and transition chances for those who become unemployed at this time. They are also conscious to create the conditions for retrieval after the crisis.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

In his study, he provides us the material to understand different countries adopt different strategies to get out of Covid-19 struggle. Lockdown is common into the strategy of all countries with different level of enforcement. This article also examines the challenges of industrial development, communication, technology and social media during Covid-19. This study also discuss those variables which have been helpful for improving social economic conditions during the time of dangerous epidemic. Similar to this article the present study highlights the issue of proper use of social media, communication and technology etc. (Aziz, Shaukat 2020). In article "The Essential Role of Government during Covid-19", says that governments around the world face the challenge of limited information, emergency management, continuity of operations, care and support of people maintain physical as well as mental health. (IBM Brandvoice April 2020). In a news article, it mentioned that the life has been badly affected by the Covid-19. Common masses had to face many problems like rations and food, loss of jobs, problem of migrant workers, fear and hunger etc. (Garg, Pyara Lal

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2020). The author found some unexplained points which deals with migrant workers like problem of unorganised sector, non-permanent jobs and due to lack of skills changing occupations. This study also highlight the problem of changing occupations also change their living standard, affect the education of the children, language problem and there is a call for uncertainty. (Shina April 2020). It was also posited in order to deal with such an epidemic, false propaganda must be avoided. On the other hand, along with this, the media should also play its due positive role. (Singh, Kulbir May 2020). In his study, health facilities are seriously discussed. At the same time it is emphasized that the government should pay special attention to health facilities while formulating its policies and budget. Governments should keep health facilities away from their political agendas. (Pantanacce 2020). In another study highlights that how and why good health and good education are essential for our overall development. But since 1990, there has been a steady declination. How did these two sectors come to be privatised? Fees skyrocket as they go into private hands to get good health and a good education. The real picture of the private hospitals due to the Covid-19 comes to our notice. In his study, discussed in detail the fact that due to clumsy tricks and bad policies of the government, good education and health facilities have become inaccessible to the common man and the poor. (Karfew 2019).

## **Objective of the study:**

The main object of the seminar covered many aspects of the ongoing pandemic and various governmental responses in the present context. To access various challenges faced by people during Covid-19.

## **Research design:**

The topic of the present study is “role of government and politics towards covid-19”. Therefore, secondary data has been used in the research work. In order to collect secondary data, some of the resources were resorted to like ordinary Articles, Articles published in journals, magazines, newspapers, book by Yadwinder Karfew, internet and websites etc.

## **Role of Indian Government during Covid-19:**

The government of India had on March 23, on a few hours’ notice, ordered the closer of the whole of India, which was frozen wherever it was, and a curfew-like condition was imposed. Without declaring an emergency, the disaster management act created a worse situation than the emergency and all the powers were taken over by the centre government. Life has been badly affected by the long lockdown during the corona epidemic. During this time people had to face major problems of rations and food due to being confined to their homes. Million losses of jobs as industries shut down during lockdown. Similarly, the hardships faced by migrant workers in getting to their homes are not hidden from anyone. Most people died of other diseases because they did not leave their homes. Many committed suicide out of fear and hunger. During this time we saw the administration through social media to be stricter with the people than necessary. On the other hand, there was a constant demand for testing kits, masks and ventilators by the medical staff. Social media is like a double edged word. Many of its fake news also served to intimidate people during the epidemic. Controversy has erupted over the issue of Bihar elections, whether election should be held in

Covid-19 or not. The central government has given the green signal to the election commission. At the same time, we hear a lot of noise about digital campaigning.

**Healthcare and educational challenges:**

Healthcare challenges already top of mind of every individual. This type of system in many countries has very limited ability to absorb massive shocks like the one being caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. Even in developed nation's economies, the lack of emergency healthcare facilities has forced an economic shutdown which could have been less severe if adequate treatment facilities had been available. The policy regarding to this issue becoming the central theme of voters. Covid-19 also raises the more basic question of whether healthcare should be primarily a public good or a personal choice of politicians. For the most section, infectious virus that acts as a collective threat such as cholera, smallpox and the plague has dissolved from the collective memories and are, rather, frightening tales of an ancient time. According to data, today 71 % of global deaths annually (more in developed countries) are from non-communicable diseases such as, cancer and heart disease. These diseases arguably often claim personal instead of collectively healthcare choices. But when faced with a pandemic like Covid-19 collective response is necessary to tackle the health of entire population. In this stage rich or poor country becomes interdependent. So, personal risks and costs become secondary to the systematic and collective efforts needed to tackle the outbreak. This virus has also intensified the focus on healthcare policy on the world level. Governments face raising fiscal constraints on their ability to provide such type of benefits. In different countries, including in Europe where universal healthcare system is already part of the social contract but has faced fiscal hurdles budgets priorities could be reassessed in the wake of this disease. Emmanuel Marcon president of French has cited the crisis as witness that healthcare must remain a public good and be prioritised.

It is believed that intellectual and physical capital is helpful for the progress of nations. That is why education and health facilities are considered the foundation of every society. This is the primary duty of the government to provide these facilities in the cheapest possible way. Education brings awareness in human beings and health facilities keep the society healthy and wholesome. Good governments around the world are laying the most important agendas in providing these facilities. Society has to move forward only through good education and good health so the governments has a special budget for them.

But the bitter and naked truths of these sectors have emerged due to the coronavirus disease. In fact, the background to this whole process begins with large scale privatisation into 1990 under the new economic policies. Since then, public sector institutions have begun to fall ill and private hospitals, universities and colleges have sprung up like roadside pillars. After the 1990's government has been withdrawing its hands from these institutions. The poorest of the poor are paying the price. Some new and big words like new economic policies, new economics and globalization are constantly eating away at the little ones. With good education and health facilities out of the reach of the common man, neither the poor are getting a good education nor can they get treatment in case of trouble. But on the contrary, if we look at our state of Punjab, it is clear that except for a few conscious sections, how the government has withdrawn its hand from these institutions under the guise of illiterate and gullible people. For example, according to the statistics, the budget for education in Punjab continues to decline

33.97% in 1970-71, 25.5% in 1980-81, 20.24% in 1990-91, 16.48 % in 2000-2001 and 10.86% in 2019-20. In the same way, the budget for health care has also been steadily declining. For example 11.10% in 1970-71, 8.90% in 1980-81, 7.75% in 1990-91, 5.83% in 2000-2001 only 3.69% in 2019-2020. These figures show that the population has increased dramatically since the 1970s, but public hospitals and educational institutions have continued to decline. The national sample survey figures show a shocking revelation. There were 4400 doctors in Punjab government hospitals in 1980s. The posts are the same today but a thousand posts are vacant at present. At the national level, the governments have five specialist doctors in the communist health centers and there is not a single specialist doctor in any chemist canter in Punjab. The fee for MBBS in medical colleges was Rs. 65000 in 2002 and it reached 1.3 million in 2013. Punjab has the highest cost of medical education in all of India. This means that this education is beyond the reach of the poor man's child. The corona virus not only gave people the fear of being infected, but also the fear that if they were infected they would have no choice but to die because the governments lack facilities. The real purpose of these sectors is far from being fruitful and the service sector has turned into a fair with the grace of the governments. In terms of numbers, these institutions have expanded a lot, but in terms of quality, they have been steadily declined.

## **Problem of migrant workers and the role of the Government:**

The problems faced by the migrant workers under Covid-19 have shaken the thinking of policy makers across the country. That is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an economic package of Rs.20 lakh crore. Under this announcement, on May 14, another day Mrs. Sitharaman also announced free rations for migrant workers. Although this food is not enough to meet the needs of the family, it indicates that attention needs to be paid to their well-being and their plight. The corona's pandemic brings to light some of the unexplained points of concern for migrant workers. The population of some 150 countries is less than 80 million. While the number of migrants from India to different countries of the world is less than one and a half crore. Most of the migrant workers in India belong to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. These states lagged behind the five year planned development after the development of agriculture into 1950s. Where cities developed more than villages, some states grew more and some less. Growth in some states increases and declines in others. Then, these migrant workers came to industrially developed states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. There are about 40 lakh migrant workers in Gujarat alone. While in a small states like Punjab there are more than 1.5 million migrants. Most of them work in industries of big cities like Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Amritsar and especially in the villages of Punjab. The big problem is that 93% of India's total industrial workers work in the unorganized sector. They are always in uncertainty because they do not have a permanent job. Most of these large number of immigrants change their occupations from time to time due to lack of skills in their profession. Such as construction work, sometimes driving a rickshaw and sometimes farming. Changing occupations also change their living conditions. So it also affects the education of the children and from generation to generation there is a call of uncertainty. Due to this cycle, the language of different states also emerges as an obstacle. Due to the uncertainty, the governments repeated appeals to pay them and keep the workers safe in their place did not change their will to back home.



**The administrative contribution to the epidemic in relationships:**

There has been some embarrassing incidents during the corona epidemic. Like an innocent child at railway station trying to wake up his dead mother. He was totally unaware that his mother was starving and thirsty, had fallen victim to the country's administration. Beyond these examples, there are those who have been killed by corona or are afraid to approach their family members as if they were not afraid of illness. The first precaution to deal with epidemic is to keep a distance to each other. But why not increasing the distance, the blood relationship will go away. There have been some good examples during this epidemic that the doctors present the good face of the administration and the government. For example, a family in Ludhiana refused to bury their corona virus patient, which was later done by administrative officials. Similar incidents were reported in Ropar, Amritsar and Akola in Maharashtra. Ordinances on agriculture introduced by the government of India under the guise of corona virus:

Although it is not un-constitutional to legislate through ordinances, it is against the sovereignty of democracy to make important decisions in important areas without any emergency. The union government has done just that by issuing three ordinances relating to the agriculture sector and farmers declaring 5 June 2020 as a historic day. Now the question arises as to what were the emergencies facing the country due to which the central government had to issue three ordinances due to a terrible disease like corona. On the contrary, farmer's organisations across the country are protesting against it. These three ordinances whose gazette notifications 5 June 2020 are as under

1. The essential commodities (Amendment) ordinance 2020 (No. 8 of 2020)
2. The farmers' produce, trade and commerce (Promotion and facilitation) ordinance 2020 (No. 10 of 2020)
3. The farmers (empowered and assurance and farm services ordinance 2020 (No. 11 of 2020)

It is clear from the persistent by farmer's organisations across the country that these ordinances are by no means pro-farmer and the government enforced them under the guise of Covid-19 pandemic.

**Governance & Institutions COVID-19 Response Resources:**

The Governance GP is providing a stream of work in support of institutional reforms for a successful response to COVID-19. This includes the creation of database of country actions, two umbrella papers, and a series of subsidiary papers on various aspects of the response (e.g. treasury management; anti-corruption measures). These are getting posted as they become available.

**Governance and Institutional Issues in COVID-19 Vaccination**

Success in the roll out of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination program requires that large numbers of people get the vaccine, quickly, equitably, and effectively. Importantly, this involves both the willing participation of the population and well-functioning government administration of the program. In this environment, the overall government vaccine program efficiency and effectiveness will depend on citizens' trust in the vaccine efficacy as well as in government's

approach to vaccination. The purpose of this note is to summarize some of the key governance and institutional issues surrounding rapid universal vaccination.

**Governance and Institutions Emergency Measures for State Continuity during COVID-19 Pandemic:**

This policy note from the Governance GP identifies emergency measures for public sector continuity at national and sub national levels of government during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The note focuses on institutional and governance measures the central government can take that will make possible and complement initiatives in sectors, agencies and lower levels of government. The focus of the note is not on specific policy responses such as approaches to testing, quarantining or fiscal stimulus, but on actions that can be taken by adjusting institutions and governance arrangements in support of such policies.

**Agile Treasury Operations During COVID-19**

Agile treasury operations are critical and essential to support responses to the spread and treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In many cases, this approach requires open and new ways of thinking ranging from making cash available to pay for public services, to processing and disbursing payments with minimum bureaucratic layers, to reporting in a timely and accurate manner to ensure transparency. Organized around three core areas of treasury operations, this note provides suggestions and guidance in three action areas: Ensure business continuity for treasury operations. Operationalize emergency arrangements. Manage the post-pandemic environment – recovery, reconstruction, and resilience.

**Ensuring Integrity in Government's Response to COVID-19**

Governments around the world are designing and implementing rapid responses to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. In this effort, they are faced with three extraordinary challenges: (1) a public health emergency to contain the virus including identifying and treating infected populations; (2) widespread food and livelihood insecurity due to mandated stoppage of economic activity and the resulting disruption of food supplies; and (3) adoption of emergency powers to address the crises and maintain public safety. Corruption risks, present in government responses to all these challenges and heightened by the scale and speed of the emergency, undermine the effectiveness of responses. The note identifies the broad areas of government response where corruption risks are present and heightened in the context of a pandemic emergency, describes the types of risks that are likely to arise, and provides recommendations for addressing and mitigating them.

**COVID-19 Role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in Governments' Response to COVID-19 : Emergency and Post Emergency Phases:**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an unprecedented public health emergency, with associated significant economic impact, affecting all developing and developed countries. As it unfolds and countries respond, the role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) is being recognized as crucial to supporting the government response mechanisms through maintaining public financial management discipline and ensuring transparency and accountability. Past experience from SAIs' engagement in government responses to natural and human-made disasters, including health emergencies like Ebola, provides good lessons for SAIs confronted with the COVID-19

pandemic. This note seeks to propose ideas on how SAIs can respond to the crisis now and during the recovery phase. During the emergency stage, the primary focus of governments is on safeguarding livelihoods and public health. Auditors are themselves constrained both by their physical access limitations and the imperative to avoid impeding government's speedy responses to the pandemic. Under these circumstances, crucial oversight and key controls may suffer, especially as public financial management systems are adapted to be responsive and flexible.

***Ensuring state continuity during the coronavirus pandemic:***

In this blog post, Ed Olowo-Okere, Director of the Governance GP, highlights that the COVID-19 pandemic calls for effective, inclusive, and accountable governments. To drive the response, governments will need to be fast, creative, flexible, effective, transparent and accountable.

***COVID-19 Challenges and Response: How procurement underpins the World Bank's response to the pandemic***

Vinay Sharma, Global Director of Solutions and Innovations in Procurement, Governance GP, writes how the World Bank's procurement practice is adapting and responding to the global demand for goods and services to combat COVID-19.

***Coming Together While Staying Apart : Facilitating Collective Action through Trust and Social Connection in the Age of COVID-19:***

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic requires an unprecedented degree of cooperation between governments and citizens and across all facets of society to implement spatial distancing and other policy measures. This paper proposes to think about handling the pandemic as a collective action problem that can be alleviated by policies that foster trust and social connection. Policy and institutional recommendations are presented according to a three-layered pandemic response generally corresponding to short-, medium-, and long-term needs. This paper focuses on building connection and cooperation as means to bring about better health and socioeconomic outcomes. Many factors outside the paper's scope, such as health policy choices, will greatly affect the outcomes. As such, the paper explores the role of trust, communication, and collaboration conditional on sound health and economic policy choices.

***Managing the Public Sector Wage Bill during COVID-19:***

The Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) crisis is unique and requires tough policy choices for managing the public sector wage bill to best achieve the difficult balance between fiscal consolidation, protection of lives and livelihoods, service delivery, and job restoration. In the emergency phase, the priority should be on protecting lives and livelihoods. Short-term measures will likely increase the wage bill. As a result, in the recovery and resilience phase, priority must be given to fiscal consolidation, the reduction of labor market distortions that may hurt private sector job creation, and an increase in the productivity of the public sector so that more outputs are produced per worker. To these ends, the note provides suggestions that countries can adapt based on their circumstances.

***Driving the COVID-19 Response from the Center: Institutional Mechanisms to Ensure Whole-of-Government Coordination:***

Facing the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, governments around the world have set up various coordination mechanisms at the center of government (COG) to facilitate pandemic



response. The broader COG literature provides some important lessons for the coordination during COVID-19 pandemic. This working paper is part of the Governance and Institutions COVID-19 Rapid Response series spearheaded by the Governance Global Practice, World Bank. The paper presents initial thinking and uses immediately available data, as it aims to document the emerging knowledge, provide the grounds for just-in-time policy and institutional advice to governments, and suggest avenues for further research

### **FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Highlighting the aspect of balanced development giving priority to industrial development in every state should be a major part of future policies. Emphasis should be placed on small scale units as most of the workers work in them. In the economic package which has been announced by the government for economic relief of 3.7 lakh crore for 45 lakh domestic small and medium scale industrial units, entrepreneurs should be encouraged to develop industrial units based on the raw materials available in each country. A concrete policy should be formulated to provide organised labour facilities to these workers. In which the central and state governments are partners. Only then can it be possible to use labour, the country's most important productive resource.
  2. Covid-19 victims should not be despised. Support them by taking precautions while maintaining the importance of the relationship.
  3. The needs of the neediest must be met during this time.
  4. Communication is a key of the whole process. So, it is not only to help in deciding a policy. It enables us to communicate properly at the lowest level.
  5. Technology can be seen as a game changer. In this way the communication can be expanded on a large scale in a short period of time. But it is important to use it properly during this time.
1. The army as well as civil society, should be depended on to support with distribution and helping public services. Many charities will fight during this crisis and need their on levels of support to support them stay self-sufficient and provide vital support where government cannot.
  2. The use of social media should be done properly and its misuse must not create an atmosphere of fear and panic among the people.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The lockout has led to a number of bitter experiences in the last months. Such as the migration of migrant workers on their way home, unemployment, the loss of entire economy, families harassments and problem of daily basic needs etc. hope for life now seems to hang in despair. However, with the increasing in activity, the workload will also increase. The result is that despite the pain, it is important to get on with life, and gradually it becomes ever more important. People will take their own course. Under which a ray of hope shines out of despair. Precautions must be taken to protect oneself until the cure for this epidemic is ready. Such a consciousness is emerging in a large section of society today. It has also taught governments and society a great lesson about these days of suffering. Non-operation of factories, non-operations of vehicles on roads and all other activities together have a great impact on the environment. Air and water pollution have dropped dramatically. As life picks up speed, it is

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worth thinking about how and to what extent the environment needs to be kept clean in the future. Governments now need to plan for -the future. All countries must try to make strategy ahead to have the sufficient equipment and the expertise. They should also be specifically trained to deliver emergency aid.

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