A critical study of Covid-19 pandemics on crime rates in India

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Abstract

Covid - 19 pandemic has wide ranging repercussions including the direct and massive impact on the employment sector. The sudden outbreak of this virus affected the labor market in immeasurable ways and in order to curb this menace, the need of the hour was a nationwide lockdown. As a result, people ran out of jobs and unemployment rates escalated. People were bogged down into situations of poverty, starvation, and misery. Sadly, many of them indulged in activities like robbery, dacoity, etc. in order to sustain and support their families. Thus, covid aftermath wasn't restricted to rise in unemployment rates, but also led to spike in crime rates in India. Through this paper, we have studied the impact of the pandemic on crime rates. Our paper treats literacy rate, infant mortality rate, per capita income and unemployment rate as factors affecting crime rates, with unemployment rate being a major determinant. Multiple regression model is used to test the hypothesis that the pandemic scaled up unemployment rates, thereby leading to a surge in crime rates.

1. Introduction

Crime has always been a miserable cloud surrounding a country and hampering its growth. Complete freedom from crimes is a fictitious, fabricated goal with special reference to India. India is home to a large population, with people having different opinions and viewpoints. Differences seem to be a prominent reason for arguments, quarrels, fights and ultimate crimes like murders, rape etc. However, discord is just a part of a whole. Surge in crimes have wide-ranging reasons, but what we have underscored through this paper is the fact that unemployment escalates crime rates much significantly when compared with other factors.

 Unemployment refers to a situation where all those who are willing to work, and are looking for work are unable to find jobs. Employment sector is considered to be the backbone of a country. Being unemployed is nothing but a situation of complete misery and despondency because more than just earning a livelihood, people have to look after their families and fulfill their daily needs. In order to escape this grimness people often opt for hard labor which further shoots up disguised unemployment. Thus, an unemployed person is no less than a liability for the country.

 The year 2020 brought with itself numerous casualties. With manifold increase in covid-19 cases, the entire world was shaken up to the core. In India, this unprecedented pandemic started spreading so hastily that the govt. adopted nationwide lockdown in order to restrain the spread. But instead of a positive outcome, lockdown was followed by repercussions and a massive unbalance everywhere. Due to lockdown, all activities and jobs were shut down, with the new labor market enterers not being able to find jobs for themselves. Also, the existing ones were laid off from their work. Thus, the result was unemployment rates surging up. People could not work, could not earn money, and hence were highly stressed out. This stress, anxiety and misery further forced a large chunk