

# IMPACTS OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ON URBAN POPULATION: EVIDENCE FROM HYDERABAD, PAKISTAN

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**ABSTRACT:** The world health organization (WHO) named the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which was initiated in the last week of December in 2019 in China, a pandemic and a worldwide emergency. The spread out of the Novel Corona Virus Disease has created destruction globally and in all aspects, the life of people created huge uncertainty. The pandemic is also harming society, economies, and human psychology. This study's two goals are to determine how the Covid-19 lockdown affects two variables through public perception: the first is socio-economic, and the second is psychological. Stratified sampling and Judgement (or Purposive) Sampling are the two different sampling approaches employed in this study. The close-ended questionnaire was designed using Likert Scale Method to conduct the survey. Using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Software, the closed-ended survey data was examined. The analytical method has used the Descriptive Statistic (Frequency and Percentage Distribution). Our study of findings revealed that most participants believed that the primary challenge with internet access was either obtaining online education or remotely working while in lockdown. The social, economic, and psychological components of the local population have been severely affected by self-isolation and social privacy brought about by quarantine. This research recommends that long, medium, and short terms policies because it gives practitioners and policymakers the foundational knowledge they need to create such demanding policies. People are not really implementing the standard operating procedure (SOP) due to literacy and unawareness. This study was created to close a knowledge space addressing the socioeconomic and psychological effects on the younger population during the COVID-19 lockdown, particularly in Hyderabad, Pakistan's urban districts.

**Keywords:** Socio-Economic Impacts, Human Psychology, COVID-19 Pandemic, General Population, Lockdown, Urban Inhabitants, Hyderabad, Pakistan

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The unique Coronavirus that created the new type of virus is a threat on a global scale. It originates in a seafood marketplace in WUHAN city, HUBEI Province, China Country in the month of December 2019. The WHO (World Health Organization) nominated on 11 February in 2020 the new Virus SARS-COV2 or Novel Coronavirus (nCov-2019) and confirmed on 11 March 2020 that it is a Pandemic [1]. A global economic crisis has been caused by a health outbreak. The world is currently experiencing extreme insecurity [2]. Despite being officially declared extinct; COVID-19 is still doing destruction in almost every nation in the world. As of October 24, 2020, there have been 1.2 million deaths, 1.2 million hospitalizations, and 42.6 million infections. The impact of the virus varies depending on the environment, including people protection, the health system, administrative regulations, and public perceptions [3]. Changing into large groups in several states, led to global transmission in the end. Separation, isolation at work and at home, and public control were all quickly put into place. Thousands of places where people could get together were shut down, including general workplaces, classrooms, party centers, bats, transit facilities, and mobile restrictions. This put many states on lockdown and many people have felt fear and anxiety. The lockdown hurt not only people who worked for a daily wage but also poor and middle-class people who lost jobs and money [4]. The Coronavirus epidemic has been a disaster worldwide, including in both developed and developing countries for instance U.S., U.K., Italy, China, and India. People's daily routines are pushed off due to the lockdown, which has a lot of social and psychological effects. Some people find it stressful to break off from society during this period of lockdown. Some of the most common mental problems are Depression, Anxiety, and Stress due to the COVID-19 crisis, the researchers found that "higher depression scores were linked to changes in job

status or a lack of employment activity." The crises of COVID-19 are the uncertain economic effects [5]. In the last of week of March in 2020, the first case of Coronavirus was found in Pakistan. Based on what we know so far about the reported cases, this virus will have a big and powerful effect on the urban population. This is because a lot of people move to cities, interact with each other a lot, and live in close quarters. But because it's likely that the virus will spread from one person to another, it will also spread quickly [6]. The experts said that one way to stop COVID-19 from getting worse was to keep people from talking to each other. As of May 10, 2020, Pakistan had 29,465 valid COVID-19 cases. Punjab has been hit the hardest, and Sindh is next. All schools in Pakistan were told to close on March 14, 2020, by the Pakistani government. COVID-19 is a revolutionary virus because it changes the way the world works. Laws like social separation and social distancing make the world stop living. Since COVID-19 began, this is the first time that new laws are being made [7].

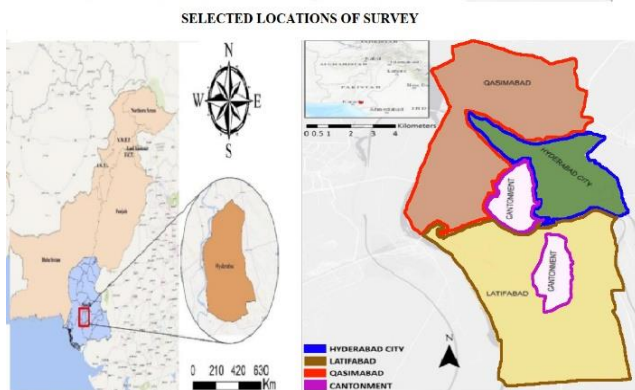
## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The data for this study were gathered and analyzed using a mixed-methods strategy that incorporated qualitative and quantitative approaches. Since they include qualitative and quantitative techniques, mixed-method designs can produce full and detailed data that can be used to meet research goals and offer research questions with answers. The study investigated recently discovered COVID-19 pandemic-related concerns. The published literature was examined to develop a research plan for this study in order to gain a thorough understanding of the subject at hand. The methodologies and methods used to overcome the difficulties were examined in numerous relevant case studies from both industrialized and developing nations. To gather different viewpoints, a variety of data-gathering techniques were used, including interviews and a questionnaire that was

sent out personally as well as via email through Google forms. Three talukas—Hyderabad City, Latifabad, and Qasimabad—were chosen as the study locations for the survey because of their large densities of people and commercial activity. This is the reasoning behind the choice of these populations' target areas. Stratified sampling and judgment (or purposeful) sampling are two distinct sample approaches that were used in this investigation. The population of the chosen study area was taken into consideration when designing the sample size for this study. In this study, the sample size was determined using the table Krejcie & Morgan (1970), but in one case study, the sample size was 400 (Male = 200, Female = 200). According to the theoretical background of this study, a close-ended questionnaire was created and separated into two primary sections. The "Section-A" included questions about demographic and socio-economic factors and "Section-B" contained questions about the research topic. Using SPSS Software, the closed-ended survey's data was examined (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Descriptive Statistics was used as the analytical method (Frequency and Percentage Distribution). The raw data were summarized using this method.

**2.1 Study Area**

Pakistan is a developing nation with numerous physical and social issues that have an impact on the study. Among these difficulties include the enormous number of unemployed people (about 170 million), a lack of efficient transportation plans, a higher incidence of rural-urban migration, a lack of services and basic amenities, poor infrastructure, and poverty. In terms of population, Sindh is the second-most populated of the four provinces [8]. Hyderabad, the former capital of Sindh province, served as the site of this investigation. Geographically speaking, it is located 150 kilometers east of Karachi. In the state of Sindh, the city of Hyderabad is the second-largest human settlement [9]. The city maintains extensive contacts with other areas in the region in regard to a variety of activities, including links to the economic, and cultural aspects, among others [10]. The four Talukas that comprise the city of Hyderabad are Hyderabad City, Latifabad, Qasimabad, and Hyderabad Rural. The district has 2,199,463 populations and is made up of four Talukas [11]. These three areas of Hyderabad were chosen as the study location to evaluate the effects of the COVID-19 Lockdown and identify the psychological issues because of their socioeconomic, cultural, historical, and political empowerment. The district map of Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan can be seen in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Boundaries Map of Urban Talukas District Hyderabad, Pakistan.**

**3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

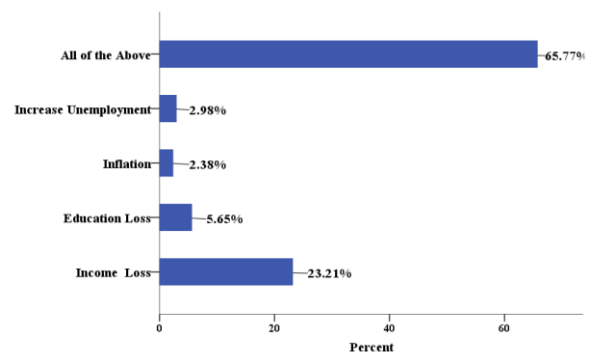
The respondent's profile is based on gender, age, education level, occupation, marital status, family income, family structure, and residential area were among the demographic factors examined. The frequency analyses for the demographic characteristics that were gathered are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Demographic Profile and Opinion of the Respondents.**

Variables	Description	Frequency	%
Gender	Male	200	50
	Female	200	50
Age (Years)	< 18	27	6.8
	18-30	307	76.8
	31-40	52	13.0
	41-50	12	3.0
	> 50	2	0.5
Education Status	No Education	6	1.5
	Primary	2	0.5
	Matriculation	2	0.5
	Intermediate	27	6.8
	Undergraduate	233	58.3
	Graduate	66	16.5
	Postgraduate Ph.D.	39	9.8
Occupation Status	Students	275	68.8
	Service	51	12.8
	Business	11	2.8
	Professional	29	7.2
	Unemployed	34	8.5
Marital Status	Married	94	23.5
	Unmarried	306	76.5
Family Income	< 20K	45	11.3
	20K – 40K	88	22.0
	41K – 60K	100	25.0
	> 60K	167	41.8
Family System	Single	173	43.3
	Joint	227	56.8
Residential Area	Latifabad	118	29.5
	Qasimabad	102	25.5
	Hyderabad City	180	45.0

**3.1 Socio-Economic Impacts**

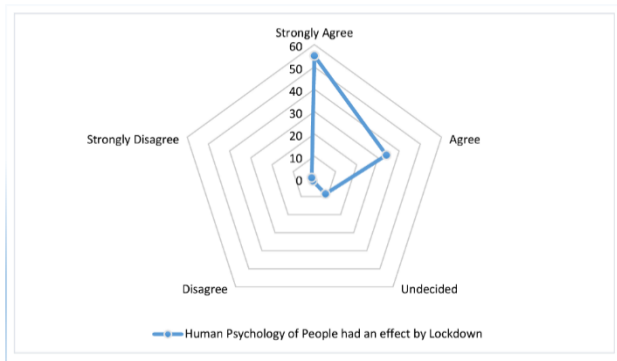
The main Socio-Economic factors and effects of the COVID-19 Lockdown are shown in the figure 2.



**Figure 2: Lockdown effects on particular factors regarding Socio-Economic**

**3.2 Impacts on Mental Health**

The participants noted the pandemic impacted their mental health in regard to their emotions, actions and their attitude. The Psychological problems of participants shows in figure 3.



**Figure 3: Mental Health of people had an effect by Lockdown**

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The current study both confirmed the conclusions of earlier studies and added new information to the social science literature, particularly in relation to the social, economic, and psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis of previous literature reveals that the family economy and human psychology have both been substantially impacted by the COVID-19 Lockdown. The emergence of COVID-19 and its effects on the human body have completely stopped the wheel of life. This study's aim was to determine how the epidemic affected people's daily lives. The socio-economic and psychological effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on communities in urban Hyderabad were examined using qualitative and quantitative methods. The impact on mental health, education, and the economy is the most significant. Based on its findings, the study came to the conclusion that the pandemic had a detrimental impact on Hyderabad's various levels of economic activity and psychosocial wellness. According to the study, Covid-19's lockout is causing psychological suffering in both men and women. The medium and long term planning is essential to rebalance and reactivate the economy after this disaster. The COVID-19 pandemic is a lesson not only for Pakistan but also the rest of the world. It is essential to draw conclusions from the situation and take practical steps to enhance future preparedness for any infectious disease outbreaks.

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