

# Enlightenment: The COVID-19 Pandemic

Domadala Pramod

## Abstract

*All efforts are for body and soul. All scientific theories and technologies, government policies, infrastructures, and spiritual activities are meant to protect the soul, body, and hunger. If we can protect the lives of all living entities in any eventuality, the country is said to be a developed country.*

*Every incident exposes the system and gives the experience to learn for better operation with minimum fatalities. The sudden outbreak of deadly microscopic Coronavirus had opened the eyes of all walks of people in the world and put all the countries in danger of human losses as well as the financial crisis. The pandemic COVID-19 has taught valuable lessons and exposed many grave areas - Loss of family members, loss of jobs, the closing of industries, offices, and schools, tireless work of emergency service providers, and what could be the severity of spreading of COVID-19 and health care systems after post lockdown.*

*Apart from this pandemic disease, other critical areas for Disastrous Management due to the regular occurring natural calamities are droughts, cyclones, and industrial explosions, etc. pose challenges and need improvement in the areas such as emergency services, agriculture sectors, shelters, sanitation, cleanliness, public parks and playgrounds, beautification of cities, old premises, cremation grounds, market places, slaughterhouses, etc. These essential services need to be investigated with quality assurance for the welfare of the people in terms of health, investments, revenue, and the creation of jobs. These experiential challenges are critically analyzed in detail and presented in this paper for the policymakers to take appropriate steps to avoid any future epidemic diseases and disastrous situations like COVID-19.*

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Emergency services, Amenities for living entities, Swachh Bharat, Rejuvenation of Earth and Agriculture sector, etc.

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Domadala Pramod, Dean, Research and Development, Malla Reddy University, Hyderabad  
Corresponding Author Email: dpramod61@gmail.com

## 1. Introduction

The unanticipated Coronavirus has shattered all of us globally. It has a poignant reminder that human life is fragile. It created panic among people like who is infected, who is uninfected, and who gets infected and how long will it continue, and will there be any vaccine created? Can the country afford to continue the lockdown? Lockdown may reduce the rate of fatalities but this might rise due to hunger. For some, survival is the only agenda at the moment. These are the flickering and confusing thoughts in the minds of people.

This pandemic has been monumental in many ways: the global response to fight, complete lockdowns, emphasis on health facilities, the world coming to a standstill, economy down, no jobs, and uncertainty everywhere, families spending much more time together, work from home concepts, following basic Hindu traditions-cleanliness, social distances, and isolation; vegetarian diet, nature is healing itself, such reactions once considered impossible for any authority to take up, whereas now this crisis has made all of these possible.

A crisis usually happens at a short notice and triggers the feeling of fear and threat which causes a sequence of unexpected events. The regular natural calamities, droughts, floods, and cyclones; fire, environment pollution, water scarcity, and the regular epidemic diseases, industrial explosions, killing of animals and slaughter centers, etc. are consequences of the ruthless activities of humans in the name of civilization and industrialization of a country not complying harmony with nature.

Every event is a learning process. Nevertheless, there are many more things that can be better for the future so that in an eventuality of a global crisis, we as a whole could be seen and taken as a challenge, and citizens as singly are better prepared. All efforts are for the soul (Pramod, 2019). All scientific studies, technological developments, and government policies are meant for body and soul. The health and education sectors play a major role in developing a nation that is highly dependent on Government policies, agriculture, industries, and local employment, etc.

The experience of COVID-19 has taught us that we should be well mentally prepared and well equipped to face such situations. There are a large number of areas that need to be given immediate attention to better health care systems and agriculture products so that farmers will get benefitted financially and get motivated to work intensively. Some of the prominent: government agriculture lands, hospitals, shelters, public parks

and playgrounds, cremation grounds, beautification of cities, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, rejuvenation for the earth, market places, slaughter centers, and ancient Hindu traditions, etc are analyzed systematically and presented in this paper, hoping one day they get implemented so the citizens, as well as animals, will be in a secured place in case of any eventuality.

These are my meticulous observations, but not to criticize or harm any individual or organization. Policymakers should consider the following points for proper implementation in creating a healthy and hygienic society for living entities - humans and animals.

## 2. Analysis

### 2.1 Announcements

A sudden announcement without considerable time to prepare for the crises created a sense of panic. Further announcements of a similar situation should be considered with giving ample time for the citizens to be prepared without creating a panic for staff members and workers.

### 2.2 Elected Members

All the elected members local MPs, MLAs, local body chairmen, and councilors, etc., others should be asked to stay at their constitutions to oversee the proper implementation of decisions taken by the state and central governments. It must be their responsibility to see that all facilities are being provided and no citizen should be suffered during the crisis.

### 2.3 Emergency Services

The emergency service providers always rise to the occasion. In this crisis, health workers, doctors, police authorities, sanitation workers have worked and continue to work tirelessly day and night to heal and protect citizens. In this hard time, they have sacrificed their sleep, time, and staying away from their families just to keep them and everyone safe from the virus.

## 2.4 Citizens

All this hard work would go in vain if citizens themselves don't comply and support. Though a large extent of the population has been duly complying, there has been a rise in selectively targeted attacks on health workers and authorities. Every citizen should understand the fact no matter how hard every authority works, if citizens don't comply then all the efforts go in vain. People should learn and acknowledge the hardships faced by emergency service providers and show gratitude towards them. That should be the basic nature of each every citizen in this crisis. It is the collective effort that matters for a lockdown that has its full effect.

## 2.5 Hospitals

Strong health care systems play a key role that can support the high loads in case of crisis. This pandemic COVID-19 has exposed countries like the USA, Italy, and Spain which are considered to be the best health care facilities in the world that save the lives of many people. As per WHO, 2020, (Madhav, 2013, and Himani Chandana, 2019) recommendations that a country should have one doctor for every 1000 people. Currently, India has one doctor for every 1445 people. Though these numbers might convey that India's condition is not that bad. But seeing its huge population the availability and affordability of health facilities in cities and rural areas, the country certainly needs more hospitals, specialized doctors, and paramedical staff to cope during any crisis.

India currently allocates a meager 1.28% of its total GDP (WHO 2020, Madhav, 2013, and Himani Chandana 2019) to the health care sector. In comparison, the USA currently spends around 17% of its huge GDP on Healthcare. India allocates a very low budget for healthcare, which clearly shows the priorities. This needs to be changed immediately.

If we remember nearly two decades back, people were preferring only Government hospitals because of qualified staff and better facilities at a meager cost. Now, the main concern in the Government hospitals is the lack of basic amenities, such as cleanliness, sanitation, restrooms, and low quality of equipment and quality of service which are contradictory to the private hospitals. Insurance is another factor to visit the panel hospitals that care for them with proper attention. Patients rush to urban areas for the best private hospitals for their good hospitality, facilities hygienic environment, and availability of highly qualified doctors.

Cleanliness, disinfection, hygiene are the main concern in Government hospitals. Many of the hospital wards are in a very dire situation. Some don't even have proper toilet facilities. This is a major concern and needs to be addressed first.

During any health issues, the government depends on its aided hospitals as private-run hospitals may not entertain patients because of cost-effectiveness, the severity of cases and long unnecessary government procedures and formalities, and political interference. Sometimes it is difficult in getting authentic national data from local private hospitals and nursing homes due to the poor maintenance of records in local areas. India needs to improve the medical facilities in government hospitals by procuring types of equipment, hygienic facilities, and recruiting the doctors and paramedical staff in controlling COVID-19 like epidemic diseases, otherwise, it would be a disastrous situation in controlling the huge population.

## 2.6 Medical Achievements During COVID-19

The doctors, paramedical staff members have done a commendable job around the clock treating and providing medical treatments to Covid patients. They have rendered their service to patients as a noble profession irrespective of additional duties and neglecting their family problems. Their untiring services are highly acknowledged by the whole nation as a "Gesture of Gratitude" through ringing bells and clapping for five minutes on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 for the call given by the Indian Prime Minister.

The early imposition of lockdown to fight against the deadly Coronavirus had saved several people from infecting virus and less number of fatality cases than that of western countries.

The Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, during his national telecast on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, said "When the lockdown was imposed, not a single PPE was manufactured in India and a very few quantities of N-95 masks were being manufactured. The crisis has allowed learning a lesson to produce needy surgical items. Indian companies had accepted it as a challenge and now manufacturing 2 Lakh PPE kits and N-95 masks per day within a period of 40 days during this lockdown .

The Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech are two manufacturers that have undertaken the task of Coronavirus vaccine and successfully produced Covaxin and Covishield vaccines. Nearly eight crores of Indians have been successfully given

vaccine and Lakhs of doses are being exported to other countries. Indian medical capabilities have been appreciated worldwide.

This phenomenal accomplishment during this crisis has given us more confidence and encouragement to be self-reliant. It is a time to be vocal for local products and help these local products to become global” (Mini Tejaswi, 2019 and News 18 India, 2019).

Indian doctors and medical companies do possess technical skills in manufacturing high international standard equipment, provided Government policies are free and fair.

## 2.7 Police

It was a very tough task for police authorities to control people in the lockdown period to maintain the social distance and to convince the deadly contagious diseases and their remedies to stop spreading. People should also note their importance and help themselves in such an awkward situation. The members of society and rural people should be trained to face such calamities. The community people in rural areas should protect their village by themselves in the shifting system.

## 2.8 Agriculture - Storage Places

The agriculture sector is the backbone of the Indian economy and provides food grains, vegetables, and fruits, etc. for millions of people. Indian agriculture is a huge and extensive sector involving a large number of stakeholders. Farmers purely depend on agriculture income. With a lockdown situation prevailing throughout the country, storing, transporting, selling and export of crops have been hit. This has led to farmers not being able to sell their goods and sustain losses. And on the other hand, the scarcity of vegetables in the cities has led to an increase in prices. This unequal distribution has affected the farmers the most. Due to control in the movement of people, there has been a scarcity of daily wage laborers who were hired for farm work causing difficulty to both parties.

There are many factors like improper rains, cost of daily labors, fertilizers, and seeds, bore wells, storage facilities, export, and transport facilities, that ensure proper returns to a farmer. To safeguard the crop, proper storage facilities should be made available to all villages in rural areas, and at some places, cold storage centers are provided so that farmers can participate well in rainy seasons as well as in these lockdown situations so that their crops don't get affected. This would avoid the farmers to go to cities. The

Government or private parties should make sure that no crop goes wasted. If it is done perfectly, this will have a very good impact on the economy and everyone.

## 2.9 Educational Institutions

Academic activities are essential; and classes, examinations need to be conducted under any circumstances by implementing any mode of teaching and examination pattern. One must ensure it should not be a zero year. After all, students are the future of a country, their curriculum shouldn't be hampered. Without letting the development of the last two decades go in vain, the shift to online classes has been quick. Though its effectiveness still needs to be analyzed.

The method of online classes through Microsoft team, Google Meet, and Zoom, etc for teaching, examinations, assignments, oral or written tests, and telephonic and individual interviews are well established. Educational institutions should find an effective way to teach and conduct examinations in such a way as not to misuse technology. If not fully online, at least some regular face-to-face interaction classes and practicals for science courses may be considered next semester. The curriculum should have the option of a quick shift of classes from online to offline. Conducting examinations online from homes will be a difficult task to avoid cheating. Hence, the method of evaluation needs a restructure too. All institutions should have an alternate online portal for every work so that things can survive without getting completely shut.

The proper seating plans, dividing into more number of sections, avoiding mass lunch or making in two shifts, reducing the period of examination to adhere social distance concept. Schools are the best social media to pass information to parents and the community, through students.

To avoid commuting in such lockdown situations and to complete minimum basic work, 10 to 15% of staff may be recruited to reside in residential quarters, otherwise, institutions should make alternative arrangements within the campus.

## 2.10 Offices, Companies and Industries

To run the offices, companies and manufacturing units must recruit at least 10 to 15% of staff members; they would stay in the residential quarters. Other members may be asked to work from home online. The campus staff members should not be allowed to go outside except one person who is in charge may be asked to procure essential items. It must be the responsibility of management to implement during any crisis. This would

not hamper completely the office work and manufacturing tools so that at least work would be continual.

## 2.11 Shelters for Street People

India is a developing country with a 135 crores population, most of them are below the poverty line, mainly farmers and laborers, that too migrating daily labors from one state to another for the sake of employment. People living in slum areas and staying on roads in peak summer and winter are called street people. Some say it is their life we cannot help them. But during such crisis pandemic diseases, natural calamities, are nowhere to go. It will be a chaotic and pathetic situation for them. To avoid and save the lives of street people, the government or private parties may go for construction of at least one shelter at every 5 to 6 km distance with basic amenities in cities, and at least one or two in the district, taluka, and village levels on nominal rental and renewal basis for every two years. This compassion for such people will be great a boon for them.

Such type of temporary rental accommodation will facilitate them in many ways - i) they get shelter and basic amenities (electricity, water, toilets, etc), ii) they will be hygienic as they go as maidservants and labors to houses and offices, iii) children will be safe, especially girls, iv) we can provide education to them, and v) they will have unity among themselves.

Such type of rental accommodation will avoid the clumsy environment on pedestrians or two sides of roads in the main cities. One needs to understand that the above-mentioned facilities should even arise in a perfect country where every citizen has his shelter and the state is doing a great job looking after every one of its citizens. The main fight is against poverty. The Government must make policies to eliminate pathetic conditions to bring them up to the basic level that would help them to get some shelter houses. If this is done, then they don't even have to think about the homeless when they aren't any. It is a long battle and it is to be won. If it is successful, then India will be free from poverty.

The government authorities must make policies to construct shelters and be given to private authorities on a lease basis so that it generates business, employment and leads to revenue-generating centers.

## 2.12 Public Parks and Libraries

People need recreation in the open air. The multi-storeyed buildings, residential complexes, densely populated houses have abolished the concept of parks and libraries in the cities and district level also. There is no proper place or public parks for people to spend some leisure time in the open air, for physical exercise, yoga, and even to play outside. This is the major concern for family members and children. The lack of facilities would compel children to play on the main roads. That leads to complications with neighbors and also prone to accidents.

These parks may also be essential in emergencies like natural calamities, earthquakes, and in any eventuality, the public may be asked to shift and labor class people may be shifted for a few days. The parks may also be used for school children. The local Government authorities may go for the creation of parks and libraries, then they may be handed over to private authorities or welfare associations for maintenance on a lease basis by charging a nominal amount from users. That would generate a healthy and knowledgeable society and also generate employment and revenue for the government.

## 2.13 Play Grounds

Playgrounds are as important as schools. The school educates the mind whereas the playground energizes the body. An intelligent mind with a distorted body is useless and the converse is also true. Thus, the way mind and body exist together, the school and playgrounds are necessary to be together, they both are equally important for the physical development of children. It improves their flexibility and balancing skills, the function of the heart and lungs, the children become stronger. Playgrounds are safe places for children to play and learn freely, rather than practicing on the streets. It provides a platform or places for all ages of players, students and employees to come regularly and participate in sports and games such as running race, jumping, football, cricket, bad maintain, etc.

Play grounds create a healthy environment and certainly improves the health conditions, otherwise, the people become lazy, dull, inactive, and becoming obese and fixed to four walls of flats, spending most of the time before television sets or now on mobile sets in the pretext of online classes. Thus more unhealthy and inactive people also cause a threat to the country and one day the country may consist of unhealthy citizens. And this will force authorities to have more and more health care systems in the country.

In the present scenario of the real estate business, because of the high cost of land, we rarely find any playgrounds or parks, or recreation centers for children and adults. However at the interest of the citizens, concerning health issues and motivate and develop the students to become more number sports personalities in the country, each village, taluka levels, and district levels, playground be earmarked for residents, and multi-complex sports centers be constructed in every district and apart from that, every two or three neighboring districts in a state should have at least one sports college. This generates competition among students starting from rural areas to national levels. Thus public and private sectors should come together for business in constructing sports centers and sports colleges. India's richest sports body BCCI may come forward to provide playgrounds and sports centers in all the states in India.

## 2.14 Market Places

The market places are another nuisance in our country. They are highly uncleaned, unhygienic, and densely packed shops with huge crowds. They are neither properly planned and nor well maintained. The commercial activities should not be performed in residential areas, which may be economically beneficial to some individual parties but highly inconvenient to others such as children, ladies, and senior citizens. The individual houses may not be allowed to convert into business centers and shops. In almost all the places in India, the roadside buildings were initially granted permission for house construction but they are slowly converted into commercial activities by modifying front building portion structures into shops and offices. This can be easily seen in all most all the major cities in India.

The department of town planning and municipality/state government authorities must implement strict rulers and impose heavy fines. That should not lead them to pay property taxes of category II of commercial activities.

Another awkward business is liquor, wine, and bars shops – restaurants in residential areas and in the vicinity of educational institutions. What type of moral values do we expect from the teacher in teaching students? Three factors - good parents, good schools, neat and hygienic societies are equally important to make a healthy and educated child, which leads to being good citizens of country, otherwise uneducated and unhealthy population cause induce effects to others and it would be a burden to the country.

## 2.15 Sanitation and Public Toilets

India being a huge country, cleanliness and sanitation have always been a major concern. That concern adds up the problem of a lack of toilet facilities. The toilets in Bus and Railway stations; and government hospitals are in very awful and unhygienic conditions. This shows the negligence of municipality and government authorities. This situation is different in five-star hotels and developed countries. The present ruling party was quick on realizing this and they have made building toilets and proper sanitation their primary work, through the program “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”. This was so massive, it led to a cleanliness revolution all over the country. Even though the condition had improved a lot, still there is a long road to go. Lack of public toilets especially in urban areas is a major concern. The density of toilets on the main roads needs to be increased and the existing ones need to be maintained well. At all petrol pumps and supermarkets public toilets be made available, the signboards showing the directions with distance may be erected on the roadside. A fine of Rs. 500/- (or any amount as per the committee decision) be imposed if anyone is found urinating at public places. In developed countries, we do not see anyone urinating on the roadsides. Why cannot we impose strict rules and regulations in society similar to the imposition of masks in the COVID-19 period?

## 2.16 Spitting

Spitting has always been a great concern for the authorities. People in India have a very bad habit of spitting everywhere without noticing the location. It is a big nuisance especially in government buildings, on roads, and at every corner, spitting spots are generally noticed. The COVID-19 has made people aware of the dangerous spitting; it has been a great concern, the spitting has a virus that spreads through droplets. This change needs to come in from within the people themselves. The government should impose a fine and put them in jail for a certain period on spitting and make sure it is implemented well. The government should make use of this pandemic crisis to make the population aware of not spitting everywhere.

While I was deputed in Bhutan (1995-1998) from government of India, it was noticed that littering at public places was prohibited and if found, a fine of Rs. 100/- was imposed. We do not find spitting anywhere in the developed countries, but these are common practices in our country, India. The time has come to cultivate good and

healthy habits in the minds of people through strict rules, otherwise, the places may become hub for insects and germs which spread any diseases or viruses, which are harmful to the people.

## 2.17 Swachh Bharat

We are fortunate to have an honorable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, who had a great vision and touched the Indian critical issues that no one had imagined them that he would speak from Red Fort. They are Swachh Bharat and public toilets issues. The Swachh Bharat concept may be strictly implemented at all places. It should not be only on paper. The municipality authorities must take responsibility for collecting the garbage of all the places and be dumped at proper distant places and may be reused in consultation with the departments of Waste Management. The house and shop owners should also be made responsible to maintain the area neat and clean.

Some of the proposals are drafted, one can implement them

- a) The collection of garbage must be the duty of the municipality and private parties. It is carried out strictly by the private authorities in some places in Telangana state. However, it needs to be further improved to make hygienic places.
- b) The Municipality should also employ their staff members.
- c) The tender may be floated for the private parties in the area wise to remove the garbage and maintain the area hygienically.
- d) It will be good business and generates a lot of jobs for class IV employees.
- e) They should collect garbage from every house and can also collect garbage collecting charges on monthly basis.
- f) House & shop owners, residential complexes must be fined as per the norms if any garbage is found around two meters distance of building or complex.
- g) If any unwanted materials or junk or waste materials are found the local municipality be responsible.
- h) The public may approach the office or court if any type of garbage is noticed beyond two meters of the house and complex.
- i) The owners of unconstructed plots in residential areas must be warned to construct the houses or at least boundary, if not, the plots may be maintained neat and clean and they should also pay the cleaning charges for their respective plots.

- j) Implementation of such strict policies would certainly improve the area and people will enjoy clean and fresh air and free from infectious diseases.

## 2.18 Agricultural Lands and Food Crisis

Neither anyone wants to work in fields nor is interested to do agriculture business, but everyone wants uncontaminated agricultural products and hygienic food. In most places, it is noticed that farmers are averting agriculture due to many reasons. Some of them are: i) non-profitable business, ii) not getting at least the initial investment, iii) farmers are committing suicides, iv) shortage of laborers, v) high cost of fertilizers and seeds, vi) water crisis, vii) shifting to cities for employment and better facilities, viii) nuclear families, ix) dependent on children at old age, staying with them wherever they are employed, x) selling the lands for real estate people and shifting to cities, and xi) any other reason.

If the private agriculturalists fail to perform cultivation, it may arise another huge crisis of food shortage. If raw materials are not produced, whole industries and manufacturing companies have to be closed down or they may have to import raw material and food grains.

If this is not taken seriously, one day the situation may arise that private owners may convert the land into residential plots for the construction of houses or sell their lands for real estate builders for making housing or commercial complexes; as the land rates are very high and it is a lucrative business to sell the land rather than doing agriculture. It is already prevailing in most of the places. By and large, all roadside lands are sold at a high rate for commercial activities.

Keeping in view of this vision, the government must and should possess, some fixed land for agriculture purposes only. At least 10% or minimum 1000 acres of village land must be allocated as government land for purely agricultural purpose with a note, it should not be sold for any private parties, and not used for any type of constructions such as offices or storage, industries or any type of religious structures temples, mosque, and churches, etc. If any crisis arises in near future, the government may recruit the laborers as permanent staff members for the cultivation of lands for producing food grains and vegetables, etc.

## 2.19 Maintenance of Old Houses and Old Shops

A cultured family is known for their behavior, purity, and orderliness of one's own house. The impression of a colony or city depends on well-designed houses or complexes and on proper planning cleanliness of roads. The neatness has to be the moral accountability of residents and local municipality authorities.

The old houses as well as unused shops, and sick industries cause ugliness to the city as well as a nuisance to neighbors. If they are not maintained properly, the houses, the empty plots are treated as dump yards and garbage centers, the houses may turn to ghost places. If such houses and shops exist in the cities and rural areas, the local or neighbor people should bring them to the notice of the municipality or local authorities as causing inconvenience to the residents. The owners should be reminded to repair their structures or if there are any disputes in their properties, it should be shorted out and they should be turned to the livable condition, otherwise, the owners are liable to pay a heavy penalty at Rs. 5000/- per month or any amount of fine as per the decision of government authorities.

## 2.20 Painting - Bank Loans

Cleanliness determines beauty. The environmentally clean and hygienic cities give the choice for domestic and foreign investors to start new business ventures. To beautify the city and areas, the houses, shops, and complexes be painted at least once in seven to eight years. The date should be written on the compound wall of the building and municipality authorities may be asked to verify the dates regularly. If their premises or complexes are not whitewashed, they should be liable to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- per year or any amount of fine as per the decision of government authorities.

The banks may be requested to provide loans for whitewashing or painting (not for the renovation) for houses or flats and the complexes at a maximum amount of Rs. 50000/- (fifty thousand) at a nominal interest rate. Thus by and large the needy people may avail loans that beautify the houses and cities. The prime advantage is that, the house, complex, or factory would be free from insects and diseases, and lead to a healthy and hygienic environment for residents.

## 2.21 Cremation Grounds

Birth and Death are continuous processes in life. A person who takes birth also takes death. The birth of a child attracts few relatives and guests whereas the death of a person attracts more visitors. When birthday parties are arranged so elegantly, why can not the cremation grounds be arranged properly ?

It is noticed, in the number of districts and rural areas proper cremation centers are not available. Even if they exist, they are like deserted land, badly managed and lack of basic amenities like water, wood, electricity and sitting places, toilets, and bathrooms. These are pathetic conditions.

Local Municipal authorities must construct proper cremation grounds with modern facilities such as electricity and firewood, with basic facilities. They can be handed over to the private parties on a lease basis for five years. The procedure of the allotment is done through the open tenders. It is observed in some places, by and large, every day five to six dead bodies are brought for cremation. This would generate revenue for the government and also it would be a small business for the leasing party which gives employment for about 8 to 10 members – in charge, caretakers, wood and electric suppliers, a shop for cremation items, priests, etc. Rural areas can have one whereas urban areas can have 5 or 6 cremation grounds at different places in the outskirts.

These centers will also beautify the city and enable them to perform regular rituals of deceased persons in open areas for the gathering of many people, whom they cannot be entertained in small houses and flats. Thus proper cremation grounds are essentially required to depart a soul with great satisfaction who spent the whole life with family members and rendered his/her services as well as knowledge to children and society, otherwise, such a soul is burnt in a dirty or garbage place where Vedic rituals have no sanctity.

## 2.22 Beatification of City

Cleanliness determines beauty. The beautification of cities, natural and artificial sites; hygienic environments play a major role in attracting tourists and investors to start new business ventures. India has incredible and innumerable natural sightseeing places, waterfalls, temples, and monuments that are culturally very rich. It is a unique place for foreign tourists. Every year they eagerly visit India to know and adopt the culture. If the cities and villages are made as attraction centers, with a neat and clean environment,

and with high-quality Indian food and proper hospitality, then India would be a natural tourist center in the world.

The side roads i.e. both sides of main roads, pedestrian places, need to be maintained properly for advertisement purposes. Such long stretch areas in piecewise (5 to 10 km distance) can be given to rent on lease basis for a period of 5 to 6 years to private parties for commercial advertisements with proper scintillating lights, neat posters of Indian culture and traditions, well-known scientists, freedom fighter, arts, and photographs and to maintain the area neat and clean.

That would certainly generate revenue for the state, and the area gets cleaned, the city will be automatically beautified and turn to be tourist attraction centers. These things are well decorated and well managed in Gulf and Western countries. Why cannot we do it in India? This practice should come from schools and colleges. It should be mandatory to the students to participate in Campus Beautification Committees (CBC) which would improve their knowledge and change their behaviour. This was followed in Sherubtse College, Kanglung, Bhutan.

## 2.23 Slaughter Houses

It is believed that this COVID-19 is originated from the Wet market, Wuhan, China. The Wet market is a slaughter place where all types of animal meat such as bats, snakes, covets, goats, and hen, etc are sold for human consumption. They are stored in racks and in unhygienic rooms, where there is a high possibility of germs, insects, and bacteria. The infections are spread out from animal to animal and then it became Zoonotic virus animal to humans. These diseases are mostly originated from slaughter centers and unhygienic places from different parts of the world.

The history reminds us that all epidemic diseases such as (mentioned few here) Ebola virus, Zika virus, Chikungunya, Plague, H1N1, Swine Flu, and the present Coronavirus were caused due to the merciless activities of killing animals for consumption of animal meat, beef, pork and chicken, etc. (Mathew Brown, 2020). These rampant viruses have claimed millions of deaths of innocent people in pandemic disease.

These deadly diseases remind us

- a) Cannot humans survive without the consumption of meat?
- b) Cannot we monitor these slaughter centers periodically?
- c) What type of meat they are selling to innocent people?

Once they are butchered, it is difficult to find out the type of disease or infection the animals had, whether they were healthy or sick animals. There is an urgent need to monitor these slaughter centers and it should be under the vigilance of government authorities. All these rampant effects such as leakage of gas from industries, electric short circuits, leakage of water from storage units and spreading epidemic diseases, etc are due to the negligence or corruptive nature of employees, shortage of technical skills, or installing faulty equipments.

If things are not properly implemented, find the unhygienic filthy environment and unhealthy people in the respective constitutions of elected members (MPs, MLAs, and Councilors, etc.), their allocated funds for the developments of their respective places must be frozen.

## 2.24 Bio-diversity, Zoo Parks and Goshals

The Hindu traditions believe that care towards to animals and nature lead to a blissful human life and the world would be in peace. Protecting animals mean looking after dumb children in our house. The conservation of a variety of animals and the number of species of plants, fungi, microorganisms give the concept of bio-diversity and zoo parks. They play a crucial role in the development of a nation such as the protection of water resources, soil formation and protection for crops, nutrient storage, climate stability, medicinal plants, recovery from unpredictable events, research and educational programs, etc. (Shah Anup, 2014). To have a proper and balanced ecosystem, bio-diversity, and zoo parks, goshals (cow shelters) are essential for all living bodies. Cow protection is considered to be a divine service that can achieve extraordinary strength in producing cow milk products. The literature says most of the diseases can be cured by consuming cow products and using them in Yagans which remove infections from the environment.

If proper habitant centers are not provided to animals, they cause innumerable loss and nuisance to human society. The animals, cows, monkeys, and stray dogs move freely in residential areas and main highway roads, create a lot of hazardous to the people and accidents do take place with fast moving vehicles on the main roads.

It is the duty and responsibility of highly intellectual human society to show proper shelter and feed proper food to them. These animals and creatures are part and parcel of the ecosystem. India is an agricultural-based country, it's necessary to make at least

one proper bio-diversity park for every two or three districts and animal parks for every 10 to 15 km distance in rural areas. These parks may be given to local private authorities on a lease basis for every five years. The concerned in-charges should feed them properly, and local people and visitors may also be intimated through notices or announcements through loudspeakers to provide eatables. These simple feeding methods to animals develop proper moral and ethical values and culture, sympathy, affection, and attachments towards animals. Thus the blessings of animals would be innumerable benefits to the people as well as to the nation, which directly leads to proper balancing of the ecosystem.

## 2.25 Rejuvenation for the Earth

The ruthless activities of killing animals, the detonation of mountains, deforestation of trees and plants for inhabitants and industrialization, construction of multi-storeyed buildings, drilling mines for minerals, bore wells for water, oil wells for petrol, throwing garbage and industrial wastages into the rivers, nuclear wastages and testing nuclear weapons in oceans, polluting the environment, water crises and densely populated cities, etc. are causing major threats to the ecology of the planet Earth.

Any mechanical engine needs a break at a regular interval of time to attain initial normal conditions. Similarly, the earth also needs a break for a healing period for a few days. It is being continuously tortured for many centuries. If the break or healing period is not given it retaliates in any form to release energy for stabilization. To avoid unethical activities, regular epidemic diseases such as the present outbreak of COVID-19, and the positive results due to lockdown indicate that “Need for the Earth Healing Period or Resting Time for at least two weeks in a year, preferably during the peak summer season in the 3rd and 4th week of May (from 15th to 30th May) every year”.

This period is termed as Rohini Karte (Prokerala, 2019), Nava Tapa (Hindi), Njattuvela (Malayalam). The Sun transits through Rohini Nakshatra (one of the 27 constellations), during this passage, Sun occupies each of the Nakshatras for approximately 13.5 days. Rohini Karte falls during two weeks period 3rd and 4th week of May every year. This summer period shall always be very hot and humid. It is said during this period even roads and stones get cracked due to the extreme temperature of nearly 45° C and the radiation of heatwaves. During these extreme climatic conditions, all educational

institutions are closed for summer vacation and people are generally availing leaves to remain in the houses.

This period may be considered for the Healing period for the earth. It is necessary for the planet Earth to be stabilized for its resources as well as to remove all the unwanted pollutants from the environment. Thus this healing period of two weeks is used as a complete lockdown for rejuvenation for the planet Earth and nature to serve the people for one year. To compensate for the two weeks, it is proposed that “Every First or Second Saturday” may be considered as a working day for all government offices, private companies, and industries. This type of yearly EHP or lockdown may not be a major loss for manufacturing units and the economy of the country but it yields a lot of positive consequences to the citizens in the long run. These are analyzed in detail and presented in another paper titled “Rejuvenation for the Earth” (Pramod & Prateek, 2020).

## 2.26 Ancient Hindu Culture

India is considered to be the source of spirituality in the world. Hindus are strong followers of traditions and culture which are based on Vedic Scriptures. They are framed accurately for the welfare of all living sources on this planet. The manifestation is every living entity is unique and parts and parcel of the Supreme Lord, have equal rights to exist, and they are independent but they are interdependent for survival. People respect and worship all, as they see the soul and super soul in every living entity.

They adhere to several rituals and customs which are directly or indirectly related to the benefit of the people and the development of satwic (mode of goodness) societies in the country. The customs and procedures mentioned in the Vedic scriptures are unique in the world, concerning the health and prosperity of humans. They produce a hygienic, clean environment, and curb infections and bacteria if any, at the place of working. Such as namaste, cleanliness, vegetarian diet, keeping holy tulsi (basil) plants, using cow dung and cow urine, prayers and healing mantras, yoga, yagnas, and cremation grounds, etc.

For the past many decades these are given the least importance or neglected due to many reasons, but pandemic COVID-19 had exposed and enlightened the people in the world to follow the ancient Indian tradition and culture. These are analyzed in detail in another paper titled “Hindu Traditions and Customs to curb Infections”. (Pramod, 2020)

### 3. Conclusion

All our efforts are to protect and safeguard all living entities. One must work with nature, if any action or activity goes against, it follows and one day it takes retaliation as per the law of karma. The meticulous analysis shows that these are essentials and vital for the welfare of humans – hospitals, parks, playgrounds and sports centers, and cleanliness, sanitation centers, agricultural lands, hygienic hospitals, market places, slaughter centers, maintenance of old houses and complexes, rejuvenation of earth, bio-diversity, and animal parks have directly pertained to health issues of citizens and the ecosystem of planet earth. These sectors appeared to be insignificant, but if they are unplanned, unsolved, and if they are degraded further in the society, one day they might explore similar to pandemic Coronavirus.

The impact of COVID-19 is so vulnerable that people have no choice, except to face and adhere to the new challenges in life which would be free animal and free environmental effects and work in harmony with nature. The lockdown has compelled them to realize the Hindu traditions and practices such as cleanliness, isolation in and outside houses, social habits, whereas fast-food diets with animal products, ruthless killing of animals were to account for this epidemic diseases, which are treated as prohibited traditions and customs in Indian Vedic scriptures.<sup>12</sup> The cultural and hygienic values need to be understood and cultivate in daily life in a modern way without distorting their main objectives. The planet earth also needs regular rejuvenation once a year so that earth gets healed and other living entities birds, animals, and reptiles would be in harmony with the ecosystem and with people.

The above issues are the topic of discussion in the minds of many citizens and are said to be unsolved issues. They need to be undertaken and be improved. They can be developed as public and private projects. The fulfilling of the above basic projects in a modern style not only generate employment but beautify the areas and cities; and produce revenue and attract investors to set up business in rural and urban areas. They are protectors, safeguard places, employment generate centers, and the most prime factor is, citizens will always be healthy and free from diseases.

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