

# Challenges Before Rural Women During Lockdown

Surekha.K.Kamble  
Research Scholar  
Department of Political Science,  
Rani Channamma University, Belgavi.

## Abstract:

The concept of lockdown is fast taking the form of a movement. Every human being facing challenges during this lockdown. Economic, Education, and as well as Political challenges at Global level, National level, and more at rural level areas. More than half of the population in India lives in rural areas. This paper examines, what are the challenges before rural women in India during lockdown. Data collected here are secondary sources. Some key points of this paper: Economic, Education, and Political conditions of rural women are analyzed.

Specially in rural areas women can face problems of food essentials, poor women faces low income problem and health situation puts them at an increased risk of contacting COVID-19. An analysis of 104 countries revealed that women form 70% of workers in the health and social sectors, and 50% of unpaid carers. Here we can just observe how poorer people both economic and health implications of the coronavirus outbreak are far more serious with survival at stake for many.

Here we can also examine how behavioural and social impacts on rural society. It has emerged from rural locations that there is a general lack of awareness about this disease. Rural India is not free from rumours that float about on social media. They also consume the news just as much as urban India. They are well aware of incidents such as the Tablighi Jamaat Incident, and Muslims have been targeted in rural and in urban areas. One more challenge before rural women that is education, some rural women were illiterate , and also from poor situation. In this situation their must be lack of awareness about new schemes and programmes implemented by government during this lockdown. And also many rural women specially educated women were facing problem, Because lack of internet connection at the time of online study and also problem to take benefit of E-learning process. Internet access requires some technical skill, as well as resources to purchase internet subscription services. If

we examine political conditions here rights are violating. During lockdown period people were in the control of the government. As the women representative, as leader of rural area she can face problem. Work completed during this lockdown she has to send to government through mobile or computer. But lot of technical problem arise. In this paper tried to examine how rural women going through problems of economic, educational and political conditions.

**Introduction:**

The concept of Lockdown is fast taking the form of a movement. Everyone is facing lot of problems at global, national, as well as more in rural level people. Especially at the rural areas people may not be knowing of what are government service and information to the public. More than half of the population in India lives in rural areas. Because of lockdown many people facing economic, political, educational problems. In this paper analyze the conditions of rural women and some challenges in front of women, low income, food essentials, unemployment, domestic violence, problems in E-learning process, and lack of awareness about government programmes during lockdown period.

**Objective:**

The main objective of the study is to analyze the educational condition in rural areas. And challenges in front of rural women in economic field. And also analyze how much they aware of government programs and schemes during lockdown. And political conditions of Rural women have to find out.

**Methodology:**

The paper used descriptive method in collection of information and analyzing the information.

**Meaning of Lockdown:**

A situation in which people are not allowed to enter or leave a building or area freely because of an emergency.

One third of the global population is on lockdown. We are already bearing witness to how lockdown is panning out across India. Some people who have money to stock up, paying jobs that are mostly secure. For poorer people, both economic and health implications of the coronavirus outbreak are far more serious with survival at stake for many.

**Conditions of rural women during lockdown:****Economic Conditions:**

During the lockdown period rural women facing problems of food essentials. Women are often the main caregivers in their homes, communities, and health facilities, which puts them at an increased risk of contacting COVID-19. An analysis of 104 countries revealed that women form 70% of workers in the health and social sectors, and 50% of unpaid carers. At the same time, over 70% of board chairs in global health are men. The rural women from poor family working as tailor, in agriculture land, daily wages, etc some of the examples of working women and also migrants from villages across India who had moved to big cities in search of jobs and better lives lost their jobs. Faced with the difficult decision of staying put and starving, or walking back home to their villages, many migrants choose to walk home, often going without food and water.

Some challenges like Behavioural and Social impacts on rural society, it has emerged from rural locations that there is a general lack of awareness about the seriousness of this disease. Rural India is not free of the rumours that float about on social media; they also consume the news just as much as urban India. They are well aware of incidents such as the Tablighi Jamaat Incident, and Muslims have been targeted in rural and in urban areas.

Now is the time to increase state support for welfare schemes and safety net measures to relieve widespread economic stress. Specially for women MGNREGA spending should be substantially increased as we know women participate in it in higher number than men and wage inequality between men and women's wages in MGNREGA is far lower than in other jobs. Nearly one-quarter of India's population lives below the poverty line and up to a half a billion people are employed in the informal sector, getting by on daily and weekly earning. These include neighbourhood grocery stores, our grassroots micro-entrepreneurs and our farmers, who go out of their way to serve our many needs. They are central to our lives and to the healthy of our economy. Millions are hungry for lack of work.

**Educational conditions:**

If we observe total population of students enrolled in education globally, UNESCO estimates 89% are currently out of school because of COVID-19 situation. And nearly 743 million girls were there. Over 111 million girls are living in the worlds least developed countries were getting an education is already a struggle. As this is in case of global level, here we can find how much in our rural areas women category facing problems for education during lockdown period. Because lack of internet connection at the time of online study and also how to take benefit of e-learning process. Internet access requires some technical skill, as well as the resources to purchase internet subscription services. And some rural women and also girls face the problem of mobile, computer sources may not be their with them because the situation of poor. Women are more likely to be employed in non-mobile sectors.

**Political conditions:**

Impact of lockdown on women could lead to development as well as implementation of effective policy measures. As the incidences of violence against women within the household have risen. Unemployment rose from 6.7% on 15<sup>th</sup> March to 26<sup>th</sup> on April. During the lockdown 14 crore people lost employment while salaries were cut for many others. Upto 53% of Business in the country were significantly affected. A large number of farmers around the country also faced uncertainty. And people of rural areas some women working as unorganized sector like daily wages faced lot of problem. They were not be aware of schemes of the government and they also don't know how to utilize the situation of lockdown. Some women also depends on agriculture they got lots of losses. So here totally rural women facing lot of tough situation during lockdown.

Some of the Challenges like, most villages report that their borders (entry and exit points) have been sealed. One of the consequences of this has been that returning migrants are stopped at the village borders. In this situations Panchayat officials have also been reported to be involved in coordinating with the health department and district administration for relief work and protocol implementation in multiple rural locations. Here we can just observe one of the example: A Sarpanch from Rajasthan reportedly contributed his own savings

towards providing rations to vulnerable families in his village. In many cases panchayat officials have implemented sanitization of the village by using different sources of funding.

As we know Panchayat raj is increasing number of women members through reservation and allow the women in rural areas to develop themselves and also develop society. Now lockdown is a new challenge before elected representatives need to enhance their ability and confidence to handle such kind of (Lockdown) responsibilities.

### **Conclusion:**

As lockdown eased, creating information portals on job availability which will help to both men and women. The governments highest priority should be saving as many lives as possible even if it means the economy will recover slowly. Loss in income of sectors (agricultural labour, daily wagers, small service providers). Awareness about COVID-19 is still problematic in rural areas. It is important to empower village level institutions and rural women also.

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