

COVID-19 and India: A study of the public perception on the measures taken by the government

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Abstract

COVID-19 pandemic has shaken whole world and stopped all the activities, which had affected economy badly. In India there was a lockdown from 25th March 2020 to 30 May 2020. This lockdown has disturbed the circle of economy. Now, it has been adapted the lockdown is not solution, and we all have to learn to live with COVID-19, therefore Indian government announced the Unlock 1 from 8th June 2020. Thus, in the present paper a survey technique has been used to analyse and understand opinion of public about Unlock 1. For collection of data structured questionnaires' method and snowball sampling is used and for analysis Chi square test has been used. The results indicate the respondents are in favour of Unlock 1.

Keywords: COVID-19, Unlock-1, Chi square, snowball sampling, India

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the life of peoples worldwide. It has taught many lessons that, how humans has destroyed the nature and technology is not everything, there is some supreme power which exists beyond everything. In the initial stages, it was very difficult for the humans to accept this pandemic, there was lockdown period going on as imposed by Government. There were many campaigns by the Governments about the safety and precautionary measures related to it. The people supported the government ant every step, but now government has started towards the next phase of it that is from lockdown to unlock. The unlock 1 has been initiated in many cities from 8th June, and people are following the proper guidelines for the phase of Unlock 1 to make it successful. Somewhere, they have realized that COVID-19 will not end soon and they should adapt the situation and make themselves habitual to it. As complete lockdown cannot be continued more, the life and economy both are the sides of the coin and are simultaneously important.

Thus, in the present article an attempt has been made to analyse the public perception on the UNLOCK 1.

Research Methodology

The structured questionnaire method has been used, with help of Google form. The responses were taken by using the snowball sampling technique through electronic media such as phone, mail, social media. Only adult participants were allowed to participate. In total 1780 responses were received. The data was segregated on the basis of males and females' opinion and further Chi square analysis was applied to check whether there is significant difference in thinking attitude/opinions towards unlock 1 between them.

Results and Discussion

In total, 1780 responses were received, out of which 870 were from Male and 910 were from Female. Figure 1-4 shows perceptives about the Unlock 1, opening of religious places, opening of shopping malls and adapting to live with COVID-19 respectively. In context to the favour of Unlock 1, the majority of the respondents were in the favour of Unlock 1. Very few have given the response no to Unlock 1, i.e. 20 Males and 30 Females. In context to opening of religious place, the opinions of males and females matches to some extent, out of 870 males 650 said yes and out of 910 females 760 opted yes. On the contrary, Opening of the Shopping malls is considered the opinions of the males and females differ with each other. 350 males said yes for and 520 no, whereas 500 females said yes and 410 no. The main point to highlight is that people have understood that they have to adapt themselves to live with COVID-19, which is clearly reflecting as 866 males and 902 females supported this.

Further, The Chi square analysis have applied to check the, Is there is any significant difference in the thinking attitude of male and females towards Unlock 1. For this Null and alternate hypothesis have been framed such that

H₀: There is no significant difference in the thinking attitude of male and female towards Unlock 1

H₁: There is significant difference in the thinking attitude of male and female towards Unlock 1

At 5 % level of significance and 3 degrees of freedom, the calculated chi square value is 17.9057 is greater than table value i.e.7.815, hence alternate hypothesis is accepted, thus, there is a significant difference among the males and females related to the perception of Unlock 1

Further, Figure 5-6 demonstrates the views about reopening of schools and colleges/universities respectively. The data related to this opinion was analysed using the Chi square test. The hypothesis framed was

H₀: Opinion about reopening of school and colleges are same

H₁: Opinion about reopening of school and colleges are not same

At 5 % level of significance and 1 degrees of freedom, the calculated chi square value is 3.841 is greater than table value i.e. 0.1249, hence alternate hypothesis is accepted, thus, there are different opinion about reopening of different educational sectors

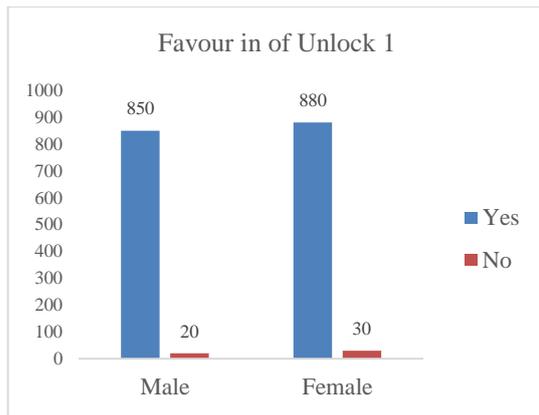


Figure 1 Perceptive of male and Female in context to Unlock 1

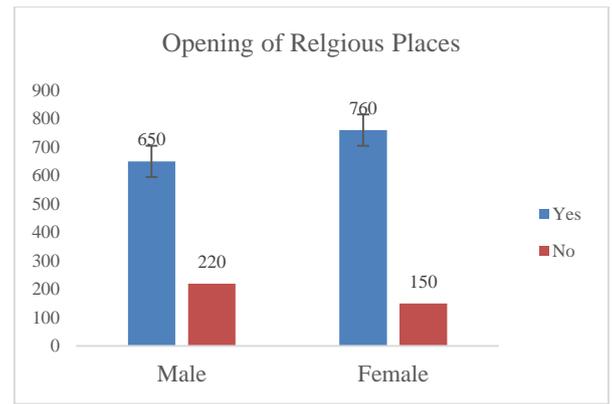


Figure 2 Perceptive of male and Female in context to opening of religious places

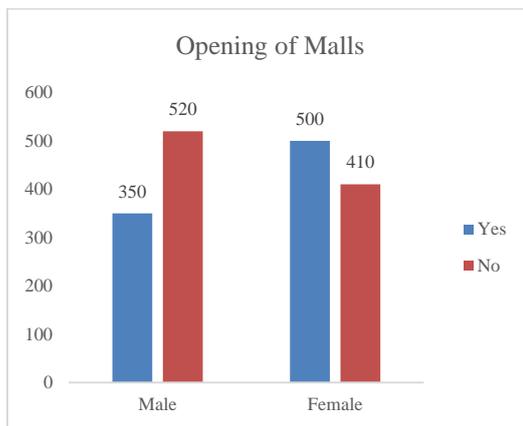


Figure 3 Perceptive of male and Female in context to opening of shopping Malls

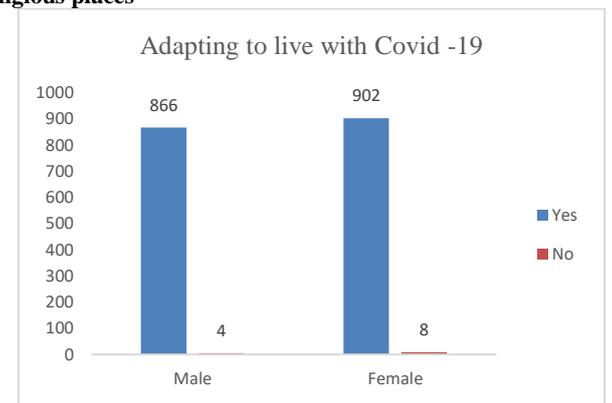


Figure 4 Perceptive of male and Female in context to adaptation of COVID 19.

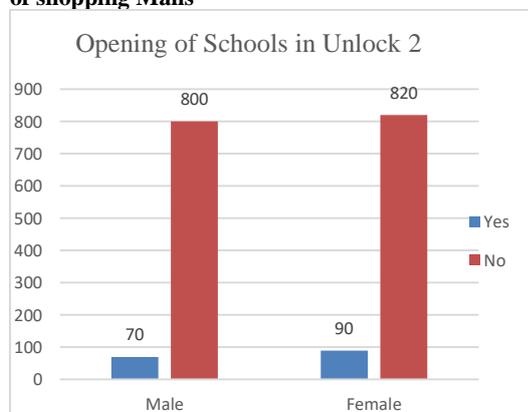


Figure 5 Perceptive of male and Female in context to Reopening of Schools

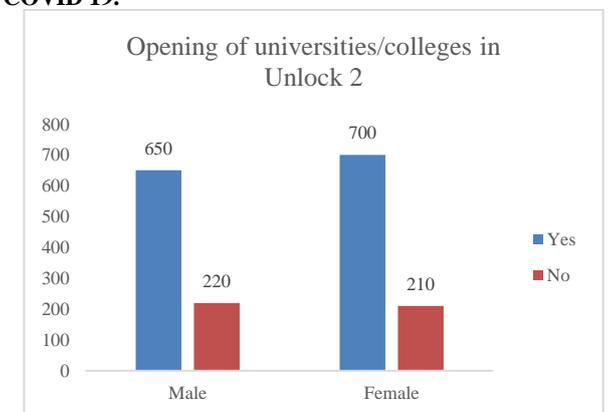


Figure 6 Perceptive of male and Female in context to Reopening of Universities/Colleges

Conclusion

Thus, in the present paper the data has been collected used using survey method and has been analysed with help of inferential statistics to understand the point of view of people towards the Unlock 1 process of pandemic COVID-19. The analysis clearly reflects that public has adapted that they have to learn to live with COVID-19 and there is no solution to this in near future. The present study further attempts to segregates the opinions on the basis of gender and the chi square analysis showed that to some points like opening of shopping mall there is the mismatch between the views of male and females. Further, the views on reopening of

educational sector have been analysed using Chi square analysis. Looking to the maturity and age factor the majority of the respondents are in favour of reopening of colleges/universities but not in the favour of reopening of schools. Henceforth, respondents have clear picture in their mind that lockdown is not the solution and we have to chase the COVID-19 and live with it along with all precautionary measures.

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