

A NEED TO SPREAD AWARENESS TO SLUMS IN CHENNAI ABOUT THE PANDEMIC COVID-19 - A REVIEW.

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Abstract- *The Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic is very worrying for global public health. This pandemic fallout highlights how the failure in the urban ruling caused a social impact of threats facing the world. Despite all the threats, the well to do urban settlements manage to get through the difficulties with public benefits, education, and all other necessities of life and despite this progress seen in humanity, slum dwellers lack even the most basic public services i.e access to clean water and sanitation. Such unsanitary conditions due to failure of extension of cleaning sewage in clustered slum areas like in Chennai, the COVID-19 will take a toll and lead to massive community spread. The congestion has currently led to an easy spread and if not controlled by the people themselves with precautionary measures, the disease rate may doubly rise. It is therefore very much necessary to spread awareness regarding the massive pandemic COVID -19 to slums in Chennai as the control of the spread becomes impossible without each and everyone's support.*

Keywords- *COVID-19; slums; awareness; knowledge; significance*

1. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus disease pandemic is indeed very worrying for global public health.[1] With the number of cases around the world rising at a rapid rate, it has become very essential for everyone to isolate themselves and take precautionary measures for better control of the disease.[2]

The coronavirus is mainly seen to cause respiratory tract infections.[3] The infection may be mild or lethal. This pandemic fallout highlights how the urban ruling has caused a social impact of threats faced by the world.[4] The community-level transmission will prove to be fatal [5]. A huge spike in the count is present and many cities have become a hotspot for the same.[6]

Population density is yet another factor for more cases. In congested and unhygienic slum areas, the spread will take place easily.[7] Therefore public support is very much necessary for controlling the spread of the deadly virus.[8]

This ongoing coronavirus pandemic is the fallout for every human irrespective of who they are or how significant they are in society.[9] Personal care is a must because at the end of the day, a healthy you, will contribute towards having a healthy society. The majorly ill ones are fatally affected by the coronavirus but an immunized person getting exposed to

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the virus will not show any symptoms.[10] As this article deals with the awareness of people in slums regarding the massive pandemic, they must take precautionary measures advised by the government and eat enough food to attain immunity.[11]

2. Awareness of COVID-19 among the slum population

The well to do urban settlements manage to get through the difficulties with public benefits, education, and all other necessities of life. [12] But slum dwellers today lack even the most basic public services like access to clean water and proper sanitation. Such unsanitary conditions due to failure of extension of cleaning sewage in clustered slum areas like in Chennai, the possibility of a massive community spread is high.[13]

Currently, the awareness status of people seems less as basic hygiene practices, and precautionary measures are not very much taken into consideration by them. [14]This is due to a lack of proper access to current world affairs. The practice of social distancing almost seems impossible to them as they stay clustered.[15] Poverty in slums has made it impossible for them to stay indoors as they have to look out for daily wages. This sole reason has made it difficult for even the aware ones to stay indoors. [16]

The flow of open drains and sewage should be controlled as it only adds up to the transmission of the virus.[17] Garbage dumps are also seen in slum areas and such areas are a hub for the children in slums as they collect waste/scrap materials for a living.[18] Awareness regarding what should not be done should be instructed to the slum dwellers of all age groups.[19]

3. Effect of COVID-19 in the slums of Chennai

The slums are uniquely vulnerable to the pandemic.[20] The prevalence of anything common in today's world is a wonder to the people of the slums.[21] COVID-19 has drastically affected the slum population from unemployment of the daily wage to quicker spread of the disease. Due to a lack of healthcare facilities, many have pre-existing medical conditions putting them at high risk of dying or developing serious complications if they get sick with the virus.[22]

The social isolation measure is devastating for the many slum dwellers where physical space is scarce and many rely on daily wage labor for survival.[23]

The general hand-to-mouth existence of the people has only become worse with the effect of COVID -19.[24] Inadequate testing is also a problem where high-risk contacts are not being identified or isolated leading to the spread.[25]

The lack of awareness of the people prevents them from seeking medical help and thus the disease pertains and spreads throughout.[26] Domino effect is feared in the slums of Chennai due to the clustered pattern of just staying away at an arm's length from each other.[27]

Though the government has promised distribution of essentials throughout the state, studies show that a part of the slum in Chennai gathered to protest, throwing away the social distancing norms to the wing due to uneven distribution of the relief.[28]

Therefore this pandemic has drastically affected the health, employment, and survival scheme of the slums.[29] The lack of knowledge and awareness has only worsened the situation.

Maintenance of personal hygiene is an important precaution to be followed. [30]

Local authorities should take the necessary precautions to make the area clean by not letting the flow of open drains and sewage.[31] Disinfection is the key to cleanliness and hygiene and if not done properly, the spread can be easy and vast.[32] Slums in Chennai May serve as a massive hub and its prevention is necessary before it's too late.

The knowledge and awareness possessed by people will determine the control of the disease and the rate of its spread to a greater extent. [33] . The isolation of a single person may save millions from the disease and thus these basic practices of cleanliness should be known to them. Waste disposal is another challenge as the slums themselves have an area for garbage collection and this alone serves as a hub for plenty of other diseases.[34] This has caused pre-existing illness among people.[35]and thus, the effect of coronavirus will further complicate the already terminally ill.[36]

4. Essentiality of spreading awareness

As discussed earlier, there is no doubt on whether or not it is essential to spread awareness.[37] If the disease is struck at slums where hygiene is questionable, it's elimination will be difficult and so will the containment.[38]

A very essential part of preventing any outbreak is to follow precautions.[39] Any negligence can cost the lives of not just an individual but also the public. Mortality rates are increasing day by day in Chennai. Slums are in disarray and very prone to illness [40]. Sanitation to be properly followed by people of all age groups. It is necessary to ensure that this is known to everyone and the severity of the disease should also be known. [41]Information let out by the government which is shared in social media platforms and news channels should be somehow made available and accessible and this has to be ensured by the local authorities.[42] From children to people of all age groups should be let known the gravity of the disease and its spread.[43][44]

5. CONCLUSION

It is very much necessary to spread awareness regarding the massive pandemic COVID-19 to slums in Chennai as the control of the spread becomes impossible without public support.]Slums need better sanitation facilities and it is a must to inculcate knowledge regarding personal hygiene and other precautionary measures like the use of mouth masks and sanitizers, practice of social distancing.

Normal routine is in disarray but that should be properly realized and accepted for the well being of the society. Slums in Chennai, May serve as a hub or a common hotspot, but necessary precautions said by the government must be strictly followed.

Essential food items are being distributed by the government for free, so this should be taken advantage of by the people. Immunity plays a major role in how much the coronavirus can affect a person even if he/she gets exposed to the virus. The gravity of the disease should be known to all of them for not just their safety but also for the safety of the community and thus the world.

Therefore, it can be concluded that it is very essential to spread awareness and inculcate knowledge among the people of slums in Chennai.

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