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IMPACT OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD ON BUSINESS- A SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

The world's largest lockdown has saved lives but it has affected the business. Due to COVID -19, there is a national wide lockdown so the business is experiencing major impacts. The lockdown has restricted people from stepping out of their houses. Due to the sudden shutdown of factories and the workplace many migrant workers had to suffer because of food shortages , loss of income and uncertainty about the future. The present study is done to assess the status of the business, during the lockdown. A self-designated 10 questions were created and it was circulated among people who were doing the business in Chennai. The results were collected and expressed in a pie chart. There is a serious effect on business due to the lockdown. People face difficulty in managing their expenses. People feel stressed due to work from home. Online sales in sectors such as retail acn provide an alternate channel to some businesses. Within the limits of the study, the condition of business due to lockdown has been evaluated. Upon evaluation, it was found that there is a great loss for business people and mental stress for people working from home, and stress can be overcome by having scheduled breaks.

Keywords: Business; lockdown; COVID-19; stress; work from home

INTRODUCTION Viruses have varying abilities to infect people [1]. For COVID -19, each person with the virus can infect around 2.5 people. COVID -19 is more infectious than other viruses such as SARS or MERS-COV [2]. It is a viral disease. The development of antibody components of viruses is used in staging the diseases [3]. Patients with diabetes are at high risk of COVID-19 [4]. Apigenin which is a common dietary flavonoid, present in many fruits and vegetables affects blood reduction [5]. The case fatality rate or risk of dying from coronavirus is high because thousands of people with either no symptoms or mild symptoms have been spreading the virus, unaware that they were even affected. This means that before health experts were aware of the problem and started to recommend control measures, viruses had spread to multiple countries [6]. Newer pathogens are emerging day by day which is a major threat in treating hospitalized patients [7]. Coronavirus is transmitted orally also. The oral hygiene of patients is compromised [8]. An increase in oral microorganism is the main factor of poor oral condition [9]. Enterococcus, the potent initiator, causes dental caries which is also an important factor of poor oral condition [10]. Intacanal medicaments are useful which prevent

coronal invasion of bacteria [3]. The common symptoms of affected people with COVID -19 include severe body pain, cold, fever, sore throat, dry cough, diarrhoea, headache , chest pain etc. Laura Nobilis has various medicinal properties and is also used to treat gastric problems and body pain [11]. The ability of individuals who are asymptomatic, or have mild symptoms, but still can spread diseases, that is why social distancing is important [12]. Limiting contact with others in addition to other actions such as washing hands, using sanitizer should also be followed. Practitioners should receive immunization against viruses and should use individual protective equipment such as gloves, head caps, masks, etc. [13]. Surveillance on the type of virulence factors is harbored by microorganisms [14]. There is a need for antibiotic surveillance and alternate therapeutic measures [15]. Screening tests are done and if a person is tested positive he is self-isolated. DNA is molecularly screened [16]. Acinetobacter Baumannii assesses druggability, immunogenicity, and toxigenicity [17, 18]. It also improves patient care in the hospital environment [19].

COVID-19 is undoubtedly bad for business. It has become challenging for most businesses to keep their financial wheels turning during the lockdown period due to less revenue churn and great uncertainty in the global finance environment [20]. It is just a matter of a week, India went from do-not-panic state to state of complete lockdown [21]. While people are locked inside their houses for safety concern, the markets have witnessed record fall and business are on a downward spiral [6].

Furthermore, countrywide quarantine, travel restriction, and social distancing measures have led to a sharp fall in consumer and business spending producing a recession [6]. The economic impact of the 2019-2020 coronavirus pandemic in India has been largely disruptive. Due to lockdown, daily wage workers were left with no work [22]. Unfortunately, working from home - be it due to illness, a lockdown, can eventually get lonely and stressful, even when thoroughly prepared. With businesses all over the world taking action to help combat the spread of COVID-19, many organizations are moving towards remote working [23]. A lot of businesses- big and small - are making the switch every day, leading to an increase in the remote workforce. However, this combination of working remotely for the first

time and unsettling news around pandemic is sure to affect the mental health of many who start to work from home [24]. The aim of this study is to assess the condition of business during the lockdown and finding alternatives to overcome this.

MATERIALS AND METHODS The purpose of this study is to assess the status of business during the lockdown period. A survey of 10 questions was created and circulated among people who are doing business in Chennai. The purpose of this study was explained and confidentiality was maintained in the collection and assessment of data. The sample size of 300 members, especially business people, were requested to answer. The questionnaire included the kind of business they are doing, how stressed they are during lockdown and condition of their business. The questionnaire was then updated in Google forms and circulated as an online survey among 300 people. The data were analyzed using SPSS software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There were ten questions in the survey and the data collected are described here. In this study 42.8% of people are doing sales, 19.8% of people are doing finance, 19.5% of people are manufacturing and the remaining 17.9% of people are doing IT [Figure 1]. Lockdown has affected business very badly [25]. In this

study, people feel that 43.1% of the manufacturing business has been affected and 56.9% of people feel that sales have been affected more [Figure 3]. Coronavirus - lockdown has affected sales. In the present study, 26.2% people feel that lockdown has affected their business moderately, 35.5% people feel that it has low effect wherein 38.3% people feel that it has a high effect on sales [Figure 2]. It has also been stated that 9.3% of people say IT is most affected during this lockdown, 24.6% people believe that is trading, 30% people believe that production has been most affected, and the remaining 36.1% people believe that sales have been most affected [Figure 9].

Because of the prevailing lockdown, imposed by various states, the Ministry of Labour and Employment issued an advisory appealing to all employer's associations, of the public or private establishment not to terminate their employees or cut off wages because of lockdown. In this study, 35.1% of people don't feel any difficulty paying salaries to their employees during the lockdown, whereas the remaining 64.9% of people feel difficult to pay salaries [Figure 4].

The world is witnessing the impact of COVID-19 in all facts of life, in all countries and all industries [1]. No one is certain about how much and how long the impact of the

pandemic will last on the global economy. So, many industries have started "Work from home" as per the government's mandate [25]. In this study, 50.2% of people continue business during the lockdown. Whereas the remaining 49.8% of people are not doing anything [Figure 5]. Work from home jobs can be challenging for mental health. It can turn normally optimistic, unmotivated, irritable loads [23]. The most common challenge of work from home is isolation, work set up, boundary issues. In this study 37.4%, people feel good by working from home, 37.4% people feel better and 25.2% of people feel worse [Figure 8]. However mental stress can be reduced by taking scheduled breaks, managing work, and personal life [23].

The ongoing all India lockdown has worsened the condition for the economy and firms may have to shut shop. This crisis has left employees feeling anxious and worried about their future [22]. There is high stress that the current crisis has brought upon employees as well as organizations. The lockdown is not looking to end soon. The emotional challenges of employees are increasing manifold. In the present study, 36.7% people believe that coronavirus has not much effect on business whereas 63.3% people believe that coronavirus

lockdown will affect business in upcoming months [Figure 6]. It is also stated that it will affect 15% of their total business, some said that it will affect 45%, others said it will affect 60% of their business and remaining people believed that it will affect 90% of their business [Figure 7].

Though many things or ideas have been done to maintain the economy level, there will be some adverse effects [21]. There are various concerns due to lockdown like job security, managing finance etc. There are various disadvantages by working from home and it includes a lack of teamwork, difficulty with home and work-life separation, which harms the economy too [25]. In this study, 18.8% people believe that it may take less than 1 month to bring back economy-level stable, 29.7% people need two months, others i.e., 30.4% people need 6 months whereas 21.1% people believe that they need more than six months to bring back their economy level stable [Figure 10].

There are various limitations due to work from home and it includes decreased social life, difficulty with motivation, lack of

teamwork. Surely, the lockdown has affected business in a worse manner [26]. There is mental stress for people who work from home. N-6 Adenosine methylation can be used as a tool in stress related problems [27]. The other limitations of this study include less sample size and the unwillingness of people to answer. There was unexpected lockdown, sudden decline in the economy, limited cash, no work, etc.

There are various other ways to survive this lockdown caused by the impact of COVID-19 [2]. Plan policies for the next 3 or 9 months [22]. However, if this continues, entrepreneurs will have to reconfigure the business strategy. New schemes, new ideas can be developed. Maintain communication with customers, keeping the team engaged, managing the employees are other steps that can be done. There is no point in sitting simply, we can find alternative jobs, online jobs, or services. Some of the best initiatives are built-in trying times [22]. Like all difficult times, this will also pass. In these circumstances, loyalty and retention take the second stand, ensuring the sustenance of business [25].

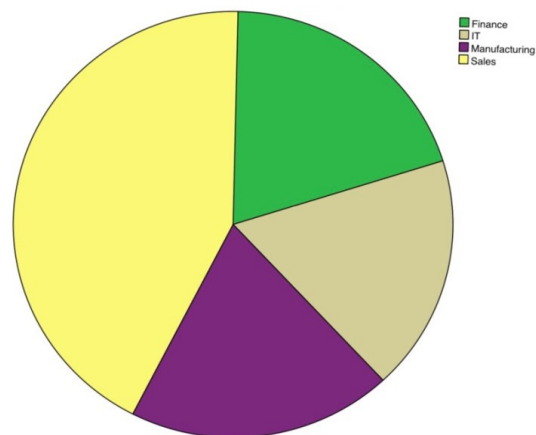


Fig 1: The pie chart representing the kind of business done by the people. 42.8% people are doing sales followed by 19.8% who are doing finance , 19.5% people are doing manufacturing business and 17.9% people are doing IT.

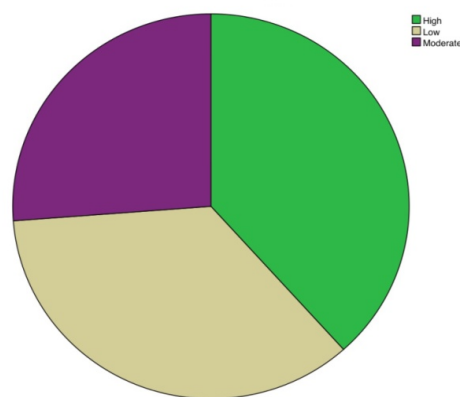


Fig 2: The pie chart representing the effect of sales due to coronavirus. The coronavirus has high effect on 38.3% people , moderate effect on 26.2% people and low effect on 35.5% people

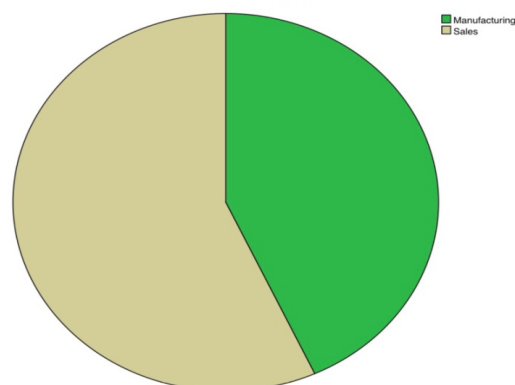


Fig 3: The pie chart representing the highly affected business due to lockdown. 43.1% people say that manufacturing is most affected and 56.9% people say sales is most affected.

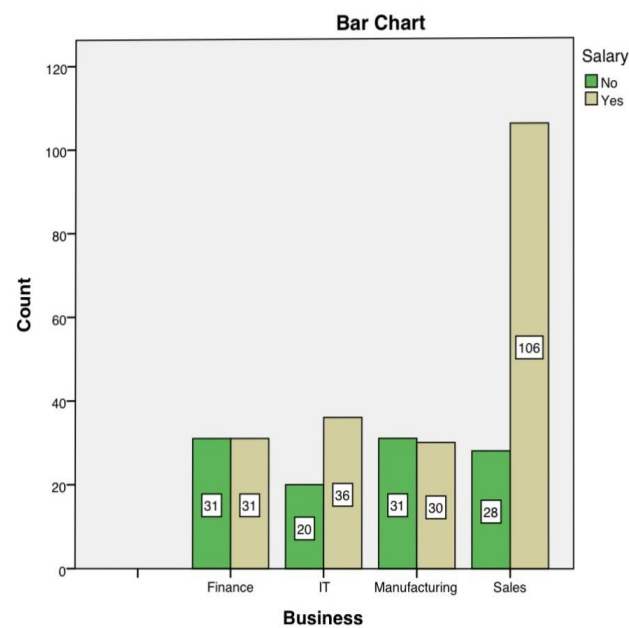


Fig 4: The bar graph showing the comparison between the type of business and the difficulty faced in paying salary to the employees. Chi square test $p=0.00$ (<0.05 - indicating statistically significant). X axis represents the type of business and Y axis represents the no of employers facing difficulty to pay the salary for the employees.

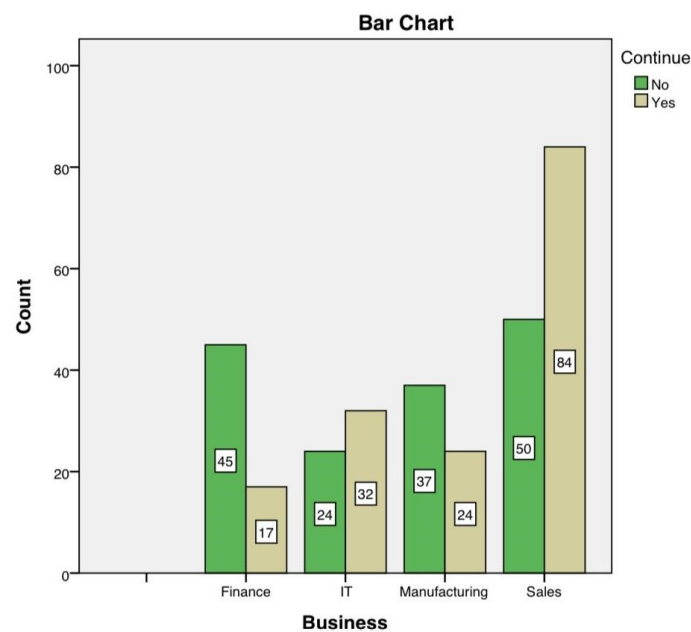


Fig 5: The bar graph showing the comparison between the type of business and their status during lockdown. Chi square test $p=0.00$ (<0.05 - indicating statistically significant). X axis represents the kind of business and Y axis represents the number of people who still continue their business during lockdown.

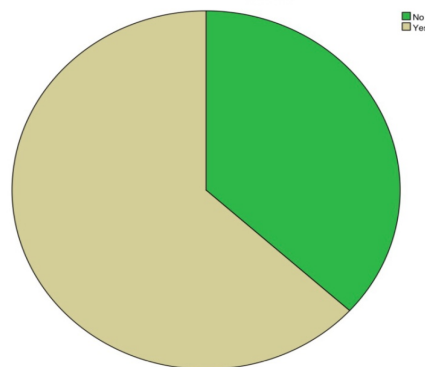


Fig 6: The pie chart describing people's view on future status of business due to coronavirus. 63.3% people say that it will affect business in upcoming years and 36.7% people say that it has no effect on business.

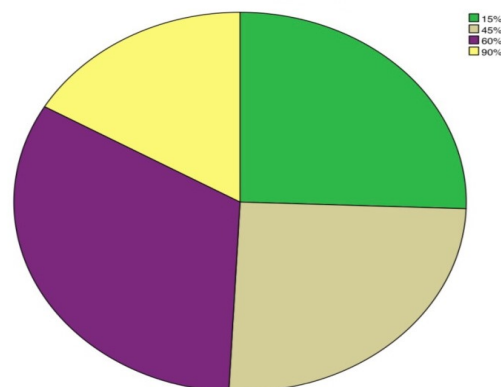


Fig 7: The pie chart representing the future condition of business due to lockdown. 25.6% people say that 15 percent of the business will be affected followed by 25.2% people who believe it has 45 percent effect, 32.6% believe it has 60 percent effect and 16.6% people say that it has 90 percent effect on the business in future.

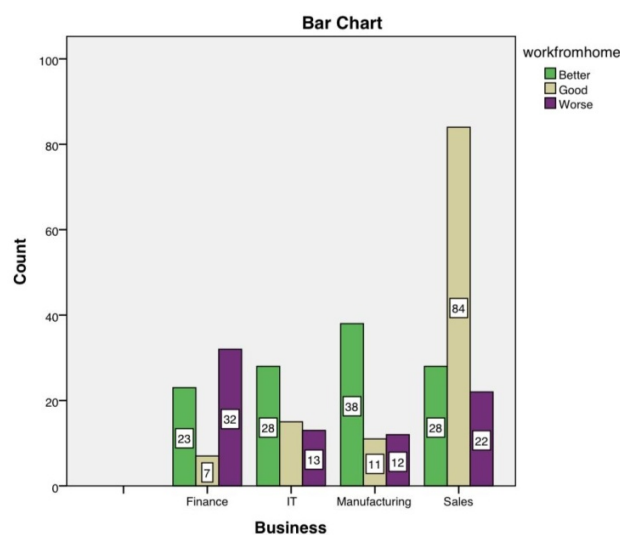


Fig 8: The bar graph showing the comparison between type of business and the condition of people due to work from home. Chi square test $p=0.00$ (<0.05 - indicating statistically significant). X axis represents the type of business and Y axis represents how people feel due to work from home.

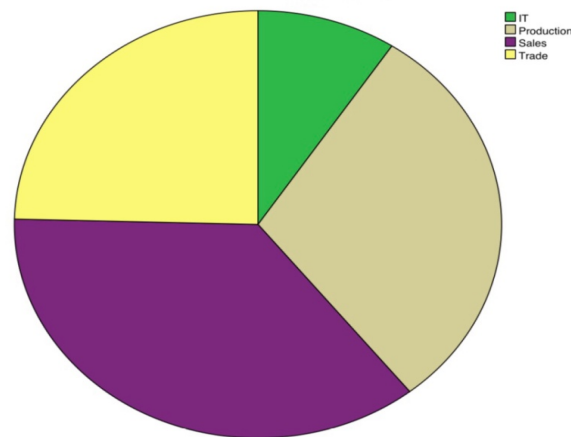


Fig 9: The pie chart representing the most affected industry due to lockdown. 36.1% people say that sales is most affected followed by 30% of production, 24.6% of trade and 9.3 % of IT.

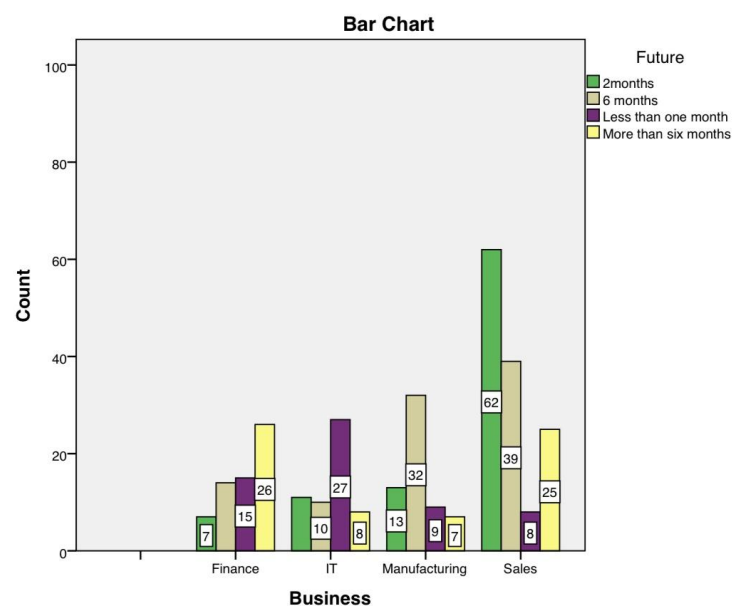


Fig 10: The bar graph showing comparison between the type of business and the time required to bring back their economy level stability. Chi square test $p=0.00$ (<0.05 - indicating statistically significant). X axis represents the type of business and Y axis represents the time required by the business people to bring their economy level stable.

CONCLUSION

Within the limitations of the study, it can be concluded that the sales and manufacturing has been most affected during lockdown. This lockdown will have a severe effect on

business in the upcoming years. Work from home is a better idea but it is not suitable for all kinds of business. It will definitely take six months or more than that to bring the economy back to a stable level. New

schemes, plans and policies should be developed by the government to bring back the economy to a stable level.

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