Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

A chaotic and stressed environment for 2019-nCoV suspected, infected and other people in India: Fear of mass destruction and causality

The Corona-virus (2019-nCoV) is a kind of zoonotic virus that has been first proclaimed in Wuhan (China) (Munster et al., 2020). More than three lakh (339,181) persons have been globally infected with pandemic virus and counting. To date, no precise and dedicated vaccination has been found. There is a global fear of 2019-nCoV and most of the people are distressed from this epidemic (COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, 2020). The growth rate of infection, causality, and recovery is completely uncertain for this pandemic. **Uncertainty and unpredictability are creating a more stressed environment which may increase the number of psychological disordered patients (Zandifar and Atefeh, 2020).**

In the last couple of weeks, exponential growth in the number of infected cases has been seen for China, Italy, USA, Spain, and Germany. As per the current stats released on 23rd march 2020 total of 415 infected cases of 2019-nCoV have been recorded in India. Out of 415 cases, 84 % of the cases are of Indian nationals and 9.8 % of the total positive cases belong to foreign nationals. Fortunately, to date, the rate of causality is only 1.68 % (Ministry of health and family welfare, 2020).

Nowadays, India is suffering from the critical stage therefore; there is a fear of mass destruction and casualties. To date, most of the infection is restricted to the upper-class society where the victims have a direct or indirect connection with the infected counties (China, USA, Italy, and London). A great disaster may occur in case the virus is entered into the person who lives in dilapidated houses. These people are normally not aware of the real consequences of this pandemic and even do not have enough resources to cope with this infectious disease. Additionally, the late or undiagnosed cases may create an immense chain of an infected person. The government is taking all kinds of preventive measures to stop mass destruction and casualties from 2019-nCoV. Consequently, most of the schools, colleges, organizations, and offices have been already shut down for the safety of the nation. Several cities and states have been temporarily locked down. All the national and international meetings and conferences have been aborted or postponed until further notice. The examinations of the students have been postponed. The use of public transportation has been restricted. Curfews have been imposed in some areas. However, still, there is chaos and stress in all cities and states of India. The lifestyles, as well as the lives of the Indians, have been significantly affected by this stressed and chaotic environment. These shut-downs and the curfews have momentarily affected the small and large scale businesses. There is a hard time for daily wages and labourers. The parents feel worried with respect to the health and loss of study of their children. The pangs of this pandemic have also closed several pilgrimages as well as the holy places in India. The consequences of this pandemic have also shattered the Indian stock market well. A couple of lower circuit has been faced in a span of just two weeks. Most of the Indian stocks (cement, banks, and textiles) have been shambled (Sensex, 2020).

The suspected and infected 2019-nCoV persons are going through a very critical phase of their life. They have been temporarily isolated

from the family as well as from society. This segregation causes a state of fear both for victims and their families. In spite of the good global recovery rate, the 2019-nCoV suspected/infected victims have a fear of their lives. Even their families are stressed in fear of the loss of their members. **One of the 2019-nCoV victims who mistakenly correlated his viral illness to the 2019-nCoV has committed suicide under the depression of this pandemic. The influx of panic messages transmitted over social networks was found to be the main cause of this loss (Goyal et al., 2020).** This kind of tragedies can be abridged by sharing and directing the nation to follow the authenticated information only. Moreover, the psychiatrist can act as a significant supporter of this pandemic. They can provide the guidelines for the nation to avoid the adverse consequences of these catastrophic events. Above all, people need to be aware of all government advisories/guidelines and do follow the same for their safety and well being (Banerjee, 2020). Furthermore, the long-prevailing of this pandemic may significantly increase the number of stress, depression and anxiety patients and it will ultimately knock down the doors of other fatal human disorders (Kaur and Sharma, 2019).

Healthcare professionals are doing a meticulous job in protecting the nation from this catastrophic event. However, for the better safety and the effective treatment of 2019-nCoV suspected/infected victims the complete activities and their mental state need to be regularly monitored. The hybrid use of Artificial Intelligence, Social Internet of Things (SIoT), Fog Computing, and Soft Computing (Fuzzy Logic, Nature-inspired Computing, and Deep Learning) techniques can assist in accessing the consequences and input on human survival during this pandemic period.

Financial disclosure

None

Declaration of Competing Interest

None.

Acknowledgement

None.

References

- Banerjee, Debanjan, 2020. The COVID-19 outbreak: crucial role the psychiatrists can play. *Asian J. Psychiatr.*, 102014.
- COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> (Accessed in 23rd March 2020).
- Goyal, Kapil, et al., 2020. Fear of COVID 2019: first suicidal case in India. *Asian J. Psychiatr.* 49 e101989-e101989.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2020.102049>

Received 23 March 2020

1876-2018/ © 2020 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

- Kaur, Prableen, Sharma, Manik, 2019. Diagnosis of human psychological disorders using supervised learning and nature-inspired computing techniques: a meta-analysis. *J. Med. Syst.* 43 (7), 204.
- Ministry of health and family welfare. <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/> (Accessed in 23rd March 2020).
- Munster, Vincent J., et al., 2020. A novel coronavirus emerging in China—key questions for impact assessment. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 382 (8), 692–694.
- Sensex hits 10% lower circuit limit; market-wide trading halted. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/rs-8-lakh-crore-gone-in-15-mins-sensex-crashes-2700-points-nifty-tests-8000/articleshow/74767612.cms> (Accessed in 23rd March 2020).
- Zandifar, Atefeh, Badrfam, Rahim, 2020. Iranian mental health during the COVID-19 epidemic. *Asian J. Psychiatr.* 51, 101990.

Samriti Sharma
Deptt. of Computer Science, GNDU, India

Manik Sharma*
Deptt. of CSA, DAV University, India
E-mail address: manik_sharma25@yahoo.com.

Gurvinder Singh
Deptt. of Computer Science, GNDU, India

* Corresponding author.