

***Social and Religious Impact of Covid-19 in a Quarantined Zones of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan (Case Study of Ziarat Talash Lower Dir)***

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***Abstract***

*The outbreak of coronavirus named COVID-19 has disrupted the Chinese economy along with social life of human being throughout the world and spreading globally. The evolution of the disease and its impact on social life is highly uncertain, which makes it difficult for policymakers to formulate an appropriate sociological policy response. In order to better understand possible socio-religious outcomes, this paper explores that how covid-19 creates religious disintegration and sociological diseases in society. It examines the impacts of both scenarios of social and religious on the daily life of human being in a society. The scenarios in this paper demonstrate that even a contained outbreak could significantly impact the religious and social aspects of society. The study was carried out with the paradigm of qualitative based inquiry. This preliminary study investigates that how the pandemic of Covid-19 effect the social and religious life and what kinds of strategies should be required for people to compete with dilemma.*

**Keywords;** Covid-19, Quarantined Zones, Mosques, social interaction, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, social Distance.

## Introduction

COVID-19 pandemic, which arose from Wuhan city of Peoples Republic of Chinese in December, 2019. First case of respiratory infection due to corona happened in Wuhan, China. This case was emerged due to zoonotic transmission of virus. After frequently transmission gave rise the cases to hundreds, then into thousands in china and then spread all over the world. That virus directly and indirectly affected every sphere of life<sup>1</sup>. The novel corona virus, which is to know as COVID19, and this name has been named in 2019 before that its name was acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-COV2). On eleventh of March 2020 world wellbeing association WHO pronounced it as a pandemic with 118,330 confirmed cases reported in 114 countries. The pandemic since then spread widely and on 18th of May 2020 cases raised to 4,628,903 and 3, 120, 09 fatalities were recorded among 216 countries, areas and territories. WHO includes leading policymakers with medical practitioners through the globe trying to overcome the rapid spread of virus? On 18th of May 2020 the spread of virus in developed countries USA, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Russia and France increased between 1788 to 5959 cases per million populations. In the absence of any effective medicine or therapy continues spread of virus lead to loss of lives and increase the economic burden and limited social action throughout the world<sup>2</sup>.

## Covid-19 Status in Pakistan

The first case of novel covid19 was diagnosed in Karachi where the student from the University of Karachi reported positive after that in the federal capital of Pakistan has reported positive both was a history to travel from Iran. During March Pakistan has imposed screen test on the entire airport on every arrival. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Sindh and Baluchistan was observed first lockdown until 7<sup>th</sup> of April, while Azad Kashmir Government imposed

lockdown until 13 April separately<sup>3</sup>. The complete number affirmed cases arrived at 1,865 while all out improvements was 58 with 25 fatalities during the month of March<sup>4</sup>. The government imposed second lockdown from 14 April 2020, which is for two weeks till 30<sup>th</sup> of April (Express turbine 2020). On May, 9 the authorities finished lockdown In Pakistan because of the more awful financial state of Pakistan. On 21st May 2020, all the positive cases was reached at 48, 000, 2,193 more cases were reported and 32 new fatalities were recorded. The loss of life arrived at 1,017, as the quantity of recuperations arrived at 14, 1555<sup>5</sup>. On June 01, 2020, it was accounted for that CM Punjab, Usman Buzdar, had been told in a synopsis that there were an expected 670,000 cases of COVID-19, the vast majority of them asymptomatic, in Lahore<sup>6</sup>. The organization of the government capital has indicated forcing lockdown in more zones if individuals keep on dismissing the prudent conventions for checking the spread of coronavirus. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in a joint effort with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is making strides on crisis premise to improve the limit of open area emergency clinics to the most extreme conceivable level so as to viably manage the Corona pandemic<sup>7</sup>. Strict customs have been limited everywhere throughout the world. In all the Muslim nations there is worry that the infection might be difficult to control during the movement and social events around Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr. Congregations for Tarawih petitions during Ramadan was dropped in a few nations. Mosques overall were closed down by council of Senior Scholars from Saudi Arabia. They encouraged the Muslim world to get ready for Ramadan while withstanding to prudent and preventive wellbeing measures in regard to demonstrations of love. This incorporates maintaining a strategic distance from get-togethers, for example, common Iftar and Sahri ritual. The individuals who have observed high level of religious ceremonies

were increase the practicing levels of preventing measures<sup>8</sup>. Thus, religion provides an extensive living style to the individuals. Furthermore, in most of the ethnicity's pandemics are considered as the anger of God. A study was conducted in America in which they interviewed 5,550 couples via email survey the results indicate pandemic strengthen the faith.

In the scenery of COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan and restricting weights of clinical clique of Pakistan and traditionalist standpoint of church and masses; in middle of analysis from levelheaded logical voices communicating their interests over how far individuals will keep arranged rundown of rule focuses by and by and may prompt duration of COVID-19 pandemic; President of Pakistan interceded an agreement (Ijma) comprising of 20-point detail prudent steps with Ulema (ministry) of Pakistan to be followed during merry Islamic strict social occasions during lock down period. During April, a meeting of senior authorities from Pakistan and abroad decided to keep space of 3 feet's while offering the prayers. In Pakistan 80% of people from age group 60-70 went Mosque on daily basis and they are more vulnerable toward pandemic<sup>9</sup>.

### **Social Impacts of Covid-19**

As mid of March 19, 2020, the Government of Pakistan has implemented extensive measures of social distancing. These measures incorporate restricting of open social affairs. Which include complete closure of eateries, bistros, clubs, malls, sports and wellness focuses, galleries, films, theaters, stylists, salons and all the services where social contact can be predictable?

Individuals have been requested to remain at home except if driving to work is fundamental, and nobody can leave the Country<sup>10</sup>. Everybody is segregated in homes and this badly affects the public activity of the individual. Individual has need social help by remaining at home and no

gatherings with social groups and companions. Individuals abstain from having any huge social occasion like relationships and so forth and request that they observe standard working frameworks to maintain a strategic distance from COVID19. Administration of Pakistan has put serious limitations on trip and not wearing face mask and to wear face mask has mandatory in all over the country. What are the SOPs?

Notice underneath the SOP'S given by Government of Pakistan to stay away from infection and request that everybody adhere to SOP's by law. Police and Rangers are on the job of business sectors to maintain a strategic distance from get-togethers for keeping away from transmission of infection.

Previous literature has revealed the extreme respiratory sickness, which was emerged in Guangdong, Southern China, in late 2002. It burst upon worldwide consideration through a touchy episode in Hong Kong of what was destined to be characterized as extreme intense respiratory disorder (SARS) in March 2003<sup>11</sup>. Some countries venture out admonitions confining travel to affected territories was given by the WHO. They have also maintained screening tests for travelers from these zones<sup>12</sup>. Even though the incubation time of the sickness is short Donnelly<sup>13</sup> and transmission is just accepted to happen after the beginning of indications, the viability of such measures is yet to be resolved.

### **Research Methodology**

The selected locales for the study was the valley of Ziarat Talash in district Lower Dir of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, encompassing the area declared quarantine by the district government. According to the data conducting in Census survey (2018) there are 729 household in the village of Ziarat Talash of district lower Dir. The specialists utilized purposive examining methods to gather pertinent data from focused respondents<sup>14</sup>. The semi-organized

meeting guide was utilized as an apparatus for collecting point by point data from respondents. Top to bottom meeting is ordinarily utilized a subjective research whereby interviewees are examined seriously, and their number is regularly little. Bryman<sup>15</sup> has referred to the very structure of in-depth interview and held the view that a semi-structured interview provides an opportunity to both the interviewers and interviewees to supplement additional knowledge which could give a new direction. The researchers were composing notes (jottings) with full fixation and concentrated on the mentality, reactions and on their feelings when the scientist was meeting the members. The scientist gave full opportunity to the members in their noting time; the specialist didn't meddle in any of their answers. The information was broke down through translating the information and distinguishing proof of topics for understanding, the topical investigation offers accentuation to inspecting, pinpointing and designs from the information<sup>16</sup>. These examples or themes in the information were noteworthy to the clarification of the reality associated with the research questions. Individual perception and past writing were additionally remembered for the subjective information investigation to comprehend the perspectives on the respondents.

## **Discussion**

As the researcher stated that overall society is effect by this burning issue. The issue is not confined to any aspect of society but, the social life which is keys for the dynamism and progress of society is highly affected. One of the respondents expressed that.

*“Our social life is very disturbed from this pandemic and we are unable to participate in the funeral prayers of our relatives. It means the life in quarantine village is full of hurdles and difficulties”*

Around 96 %population of Pakistan is Muslims and they firmly believe upon the teaching of Islam. Participation in the funeral prayers is associated with religious practices in the society of Pakistan. People usually participate and perform this religious practice with the aim of virtues and deeds<sup>17</sup>. So we can say that these kind of religious practices are highly affected due to this pandemic. Another respondents also stated the same views and added

*“The smoothly life is badly effected from the burning issue of corona attack. The routine of daily basis labour and daily wagers are suffered and they cannot go outside to earn livelihood for their children and other dependent members of their family”.*

Earning the livelihood is very important for the smoothly running of life of every human being. The people of developing and under develop country depend upon their daily basis income<sup>18</sup>. The people living in the village of quarantine and neighbouring can confronted difficulties while in searching of food stuffs. The people of other area also feel hazard form the people who belong to quarantine or the people living in the surrounding area. Such a way one of the respondents revealed that,

*“We are even not allowed to perform the prayers at Musque (Masjid) where Muslims offers five time prayer in daily routine. We are restricted to our home and not allowed to go outside for our need. Our life is really an intense trouble because we are not allowed to go outside from our home”.*

Religious worship is considered in the fundamental doctrines of Islam and people take part with deep interest. Muslims usually performs five time prayers in Masjid (mosque) in daily basis. The places of worship were closed due to this pandemic which highly unbearable in a society where majority of people associated with religion, religiosity, and religious teachings. According to Nisar and Rashid<sup>19</sup> worship in mosque create

solidarity and social cohesion among the people of society. So, we can say here that it's directly affect the social life of human being in respect of to produce distance and aloof people from each other.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Despite that the measures of social distancing are necessary in pandemic, canceling out all religious gatherings might have negative impact on mental health especially at Easter time, and not only for religious people, because these gatherings contribute to the healthy sense of community, tradition and national identity. We must be aware that COVID-19 pandemic has negative impact on global economy. the findings revealed that the places of worship should be open for religious followers but, they must follows the pre-cautionary measures to control its widespread outbreaks. Also, the study recommended that awareness among the public and people is absolutely necessary in respect of physical distance in religious practices and worship.

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