

Impact of Pandemic on Women

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MORADABAD**

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(1st Edition)

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Impact of Pandemic on Women and Girls

Introduction :

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease are more likely to develop serious illness in this virus.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the covid-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. One can protect himself and others from infection by washing hands or using an alcohol-based sanitizer frequently and not touching face, nose and eyes. One requires to practice physical distancing wherever possible, avoid unnecessary travel and stay at home, if one feels unwell.

Disease outbreaks affect girls and boys, women and men differently. While children's health appears less impacted by covid-19 than older adults, children's education will be interrupted, protective structures disrupted and their families and communities placed under stress by health and economic burdens. Children are also at risk of psychological distress at times of crisis as well as increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Groups that are already disadvantaged, such as adolescent girls, experience the greatest risks and impacts when their education is interrupted. Governments must take steps to mitigate the effects of school closures on girls, boys and their families by ensuring continuation of education.

Schools should be supported to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, with attention paid to protecting students and staff from discrimination and stigma associated with infection.

Governments must ensure education response plans are gender and age responsive and reflect the lived realities of girls, children with disabilities throughout the life cycle of education.

Evidence across sectors, including economic planning and emergency response, demonstrates unquestioningly that policies that do not consult women or include them in decision-making are simply less effective. Beyond individual women, women's organizations that are often on the front line of response in communities should also be represented and supported.

In the formal economy, care jobs, from teachers to nurses are underpaid in relation to other sectors. In the home, women perform the bulk of care work,

Dr. Rushi Srivastava

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