

LOKDOWN

WHAT IS LOCKDOWN?

It is a method employed to restrict movements of people, common places, vehicles and other venues when such conditions arise in a contagious disease perspective that restriction will reduce the spread of such diseases.

Lockdown can be of different types in different countries or by different versions.

1] Containment

This means complete stay inside houses and no going out, even with universal protection. This is followed in areas with very high number of reported cases.

This will be strictly enforced in demarcated areas and policing will be strict to enforce it.

2] Ordinary lockdowns

In areas where cases are reported but not in very high proportions.

This means that during a particular time schedule, shops, banks, malls, halls may be kept open and people may be allowed to go out for necessity with strict universal protection. Public conveyance, like Govt. buses, will ply but under laid down rules during certain areas. Certain public vehicles will be restricted like rickshaws, Auto rickshaws will not be allowed. Local trains only for special duty officers and not for general people are allowed. Flights with regulations for crew, who will have prior training and in special dresses and passenger spacing will be allowed. This will allow interaction of movement of the corona virus among people and yet maintain economy of a country to run.

3] Restricted lockdowns.

This is almost similar to ordinary lockdowns except that educational institutions will remain totally closed. Education may continue online, however students needing laboratory facilities will be victims of this as institutions will remain closed. This will have a strong psychological impact in students, especially children, as they will be secluded from friends, games and other entertainments they enjoy if they go to schools or colleges. Many countries have started

schools in scientific ways, eg, thrice a week, or special sitting arrangements with proper spacing, at times which means instead of 40 kids per class 20 will attend three days and remaining twenty on next three days. At least this hasn't shown any significant rise in corona and at the same time helped children come back gradually to normal life.

But completely isolating them at home, in long term can have a profound mental effect on their nature and make them more introvert or even aggressive. *Lack of movement can have effect on their health as well as they can gain weight, poor concentration, poor memory, even executive decision making capacity and effect on vision for continuous online education exposing them to laptops and smart phones. Even though their fixed intelligence may improve through online education, their fluid intelligence, that is application of knowledge may get restricted bringing down at times their God gifted skills.*

In order to combat this pandemic, nations around the world are urging people to stay at home, so as to not expose themselves to the disease. In the United States, many states have enacted lockdowns, closing “non-essential businesses” and laying off millions of workers.

Please note that I'm not against the actions that our India government at all levels is taking. They're trying to flatten the curve, so as to increase the chances for the medical community to save as many lives as possible. If they are successful, the computer models say that the death toll will be 100,000 to 200,000, rather than over 2 million if we just let things go, without taking such drastic action. While 100,000 deaths is still a tragedy, it's much better than the alternative.

Through any type of lockdowns, the actions being taken to mitigate the effects of the pandemic aren't going to have their own impact on society. The loss of so many jobs, as well as the loss of so much revenue to businesses, is probably going to have a much longer impact on society than the disease itself.

There are those who would say that “Those businesses can afford it,” as if businesses have an unlimited pool of money that they don't need. While I'm sure there are some major corporations out there who have enough financial “float” that they can weather this storm without a problem, However there are lots of small businesses that can't.

They live from month to month, or day to day earning just like many families do. As e.g. that includes almost all restaurants, construction trades, daily labourers, hair salons, as well as a whole lot of stores and small manufacturing companies. We have the potential to lose all of those businesses over the next couple of months if the current emergency lasts that long.

These businesses are being offered loans as part of the stimulus package, but loans aren't income. Somehow those small businesses are going to have to pay those loans back, which means that the business owner will have even less profit from their business.

On top of that, the oil business is in serious trouble, due to the pricing wars between Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Most importantly, lockdowns are preventing normal vaccination (universal immunization program – (BCG, DPT, Measles, Polio, MMR etc.) especially being the basic immunization program, given free to children born during this period, in Govt hospitals, because of the fear of spacing due to crowding of mother and kids, which seem ridiculous, as this can easily be controlled by day to day specific numbers of children being vaccinated and under policing. Hence even if covid settles these unvaccinated children in next 2-3 years can flare up with almost eradicated diseases like Polio, Diphtheria etc.

If police can so well control the lines around off-shops, to continue revenue from alcohol sale, isn't it more important to save these babies being exposed to almost eradicated diseases like Diphtheria or polio?

The White House has embraced a declaration by a group of scientists arguing that authorities should allow the corona virus to spread among young healthy people, (maintaining strict spacing and other universal protection rules of Covid) while protecting the elderly and the vulnerable, an approach that would rely on arriving at “herd immunity” through infections rather than a vaccine, as vaccination of at least 70% people in any country will bring herd immunity.

Many experts say “herd immunity”, the point at which a disease stops spreading because nearly everyone in a population has contracted it, is still very far-off. Leading experts have concluded, using different scientific methods, that about 85 to 90 percent of the American population is still susceptible to the corona virus.

“Current lockdown policies are producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health,” as an American declaration states, adding,

“The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this” Focused Protection.” As well as maintaining the country’s economy to run smoothly.

This is the idea behind restricted lockdown. However strong policing is required to maintain this which falls under the respective legislative authorities.

The declaration has more than 9,000 signatories from all over the world, its website says, though most of the names are not public. The document grew out of a meeting hosted by the American Institute for Economic Research, a libertarian-leading research organization.

Its lead authors include Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, an economist at Stanford University, the academic home of Dr. Scott Atlas, the then President Trump’s science adviser.

Dr. Atlas has also espoused herd immunity. The declaration’s signatories include Sunetra Gupta and Gabriela Gomes, two scientists who have proposed that societies may achieve herd immunity when 10 to 20 percent of their populations have been infected with the virus, a position most epidemiologists disagree with.

Other report suggests development of herd immunity by a bigger proportion of infection spread (not affection), which is the easiest natural way of vaccination that is restricted lockdowns.

However, lockdowns, even the restricted ones discussed above, are in no way an alternative to jet speed immunization and if both are simultaneously done, Covid control can be dreamt of by end of 2021.