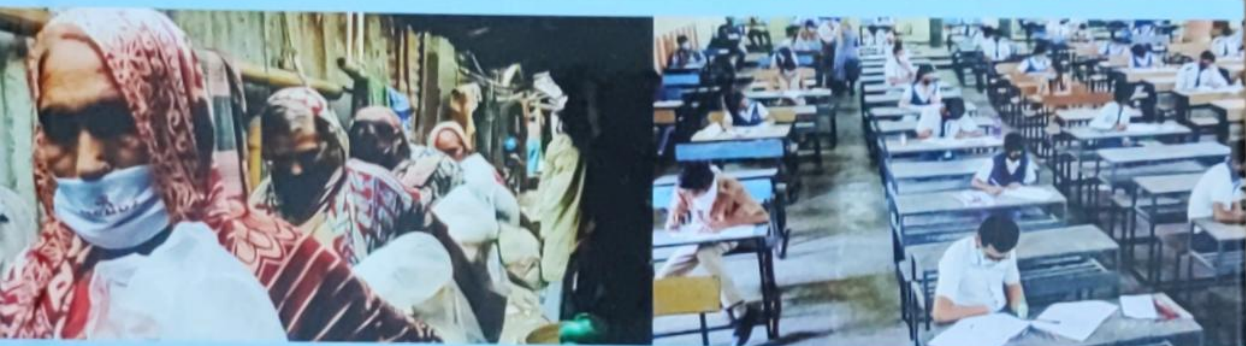


# MULTIDIMENSIONAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA



Editors  
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Dr. Abu Siddik

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## PREFACE

**“True education must correspond to the surrounding circumstances or it is not a healthy growth.”**

*—Gandhi, Father of the Nation*

India is one of the most affected countries from Covid-19 pandemic. The government imposed nationwide lockdown in late March, 2020 to curb the spread of the novel disease. After six months of closure India has the second highest cases with more than 5.73 positive cases in the world. The government lifted lockdown restrictions in a phased manner while the shutdown took a toll on the country's economy. The lockdown restrictions halted the most economic activities and led to job loss of millions of people and revenue streams. The government took precautionary measures to arrest the virus spread by restricting people's movement. But Covid-19 wreaked havoc in India. The virus killed many, including those who were fighting the battle against it. Covid-19 badly affected almost all the sectors. It wreaked havoc on India's fragile health system. It wreaked havoc on the job landscape—21 million salaried employees lost their job during April-August. The lockdown has severely impacted the marginalized groups with a greater magnitude. According to an analysis by Scroll, during the first two months of lockdown, India's vulnerable section lost incomes amounting to 4 lakh crores. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected people's mental health. According to a group of researchers at Jindal Global School of Law, suicide was the leading cause of over 300 non-coronavirus deaths. India's travel and tourism industry has also been badly impacted during

## CONTENTS

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- 1 Covid-19 and Its Impact on Higher Education  
in India 1  
*Basant Kumar Pradhan*
- 2 Impact of Covid-19 on Higher Education  
Institutions of Raichur District, Karnataka:  
A Survey Study 16  
*Naziya Khanum*
- 3 Covid – 19 and the Rising Violence  
Against Women 31  
*Chandrabali Das*
- 4 Impact of Covid-19 on  
Students' Mental Health 42  
*Aniruddha Saha and Ratna Garai*
- 5 Life Skill Education: The Way to Mitigate  
the Crisis Faced by Learner During  
Covid-19 Pandemic 52  
*Santu Biswas*
- 6 Covid-19 and Its Impact on Women 62  
*Nayanika Roy and Dr. Priyankar Singha*
- 7 Job and Employment Scenario  
During Pandemic 74  
*Eshita Das and Priyankar Singha*

8	A Study on the Effect of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Mental Health of Students at the College Level <i>Kanai Sarkar and Sudipta Kundu</i>	84
9	Covid-19 and the Criminalisation of Indian Muslims <i>Abu Siddik</i>	97
10	Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Mental Health of Students <i>Tanviara Mohammad</i>	108

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## 9

# Covid-19 and the Criminalisation of Indian Muslims

*Abu Siddik*

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### INTRODUCTION

Before coming to the introduction of my topic “Covid-19 and the Criminalisation of Indian Muslims” let me give an example of conspiracy staunchly working among the sophisticated hate mongers against the religious minorities, especially Muslims. Some of the breaking headlines of June 12 because of the Prophet row run as “Blasphemy row: Islamist mob vandalise railway station, pelt stones at local train in Nadia district in West Bengal (opindia.com),” “Bengal Protests: Mob Damages Train in Nadia, 100 Arrested Across State (the Wire),” “Trains vandalised, shops looted in Bengal during protests over Prophet remarks (India Today),” and so on and forth. And June 18 headlines run as “Govt offers measures for Agniveers as protesters torch trains, vandalise stations (India Today),” “Agnipath Protestors Burn Trains In Bihar, Pelt Stones On BJP MLAs Agitation Spreads Across India (Outlook),” “Burning Trains, Kids Crying in Stuck School Bus: 10 Scary Pics of Rampage in Name of ‘Agnipath’ Protests (News 18),” etc. Both the days witness hate and violence, and in rage, range and intensity violence of ‘Agnipath’ protests are much virulent than that of the Bethudahari pelting.

Now look at the ramifications of both the violent events among my Hindu colleagues and friends from ground reality. This angle of