



Cover Page



## PROBLEM FACED BY MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Abhijit Halder**

State Aided College Teacher-I  
Department of Education, Plassey College  
Plassey, Nadia, West Bengal, India

**Abstract:** We know that marginalized usually refers to lower caste or Dalit that means untouchables. Dalit are already backward in our society, so the constitution also provides reservations for them. Though they face various obstacles and then a new problem was added that shooked the whole world that was covid-19. As a result, the whole world became under house arrest. For that reason, the people of the Dalit community also began to lose their livelihood and a new struggle for survival began, and they did not understand how to survive. They faced two kinds of problems; one is the struggle for existence and the other is the struggle for life. After the death of the earning members of many families, there were more crisis in their families and it affected not only the adults but also the younger members. After that the dropout rate started to increase and many students went far away from the mainstream of education.

**Keywords:** Marginalized Community, Education, Covid-19, Dropout.

**1. Introduction:** By marginalized group we mean those who are isolated from our basic social system i.e social, economic, and educational. On 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 was the worst time because lockdown was started in India. In this time many people were infected and death rate were increasing day by day for covid-19. Then the Govt of all countries began to urge every citizen not to go out. The biggest hurdle on such a situation was those who had small savings and their earning was also stopped. As a result, the unemployment rate was increased and they had to face various problems in the perspective of health, education and business.

### 2. Objectives

1. To find out problems faced by marginalized group during covid-19
2. To find out educational status of marginalized group during covid-19
3. To find out employment status of marginalized group during covid-19

### 3. Methodology:

This study is based on qualitative method and data are collected on the basis of few primary and secondary sources.

## MEANING OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

In general, the term ‘marginalization’ describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies, where people who they perceive to undesirable or without useful function, are excluded, i.e., marginalized. These people, who are marginalized, from a GROUP or COMMUNITY for their protection and integration and are known as ‘marginalized groups’. This limits their opportunities and means for survival. Peter Leonard defines marginality as, “. . . being outside the mainstream of productive activity and/or social reproductive activity”.

The Encyclopedia of Public Health defines marginalized groups as, ‘To be marginalized is to be placed in the margins, and thus excluded from the privilege and power found at the center’.

Latin observes that “‘Marginality’ is so thoroughly demeaning, for economic well-being, for human dignity, as well as for physical security. Marginal groups can always be identified by members of dominant society, and will face irrevocable discrimination.”

### Characteristics of marginalized groups

- 1) It suffers from discrimination and subordination.
- 2) They have physical and/or cultural traits that set them apart, and which are disapproved of, by a dominant group.
- 3) They share a sense of collective identity and common burdens.
- 4) They have shared social rules about who belongs, and who does not.
- 5) They have a tendency to marry within the group.



Cover Page



DOI: http://ijmer.in.doi./2023/12.06.43  
www.ijmer.in

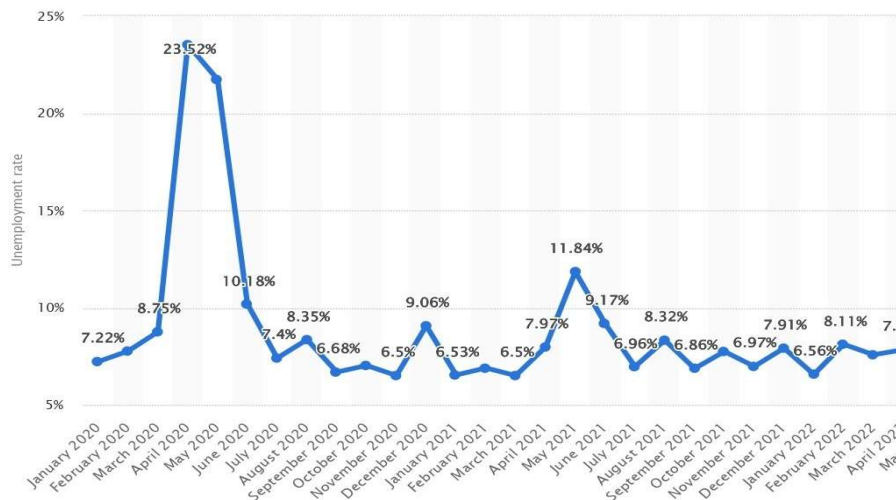
## VARIOUS MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Different marginalized groups are present in our society like-Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe, People with disabilities, Sexual minorities etc.

### 4. Problem faced by marginalized community during covid-19

- ❖ **Challenges of Safety:** The biggest challenge since the beginning of covid-19 has been the need of safety for everyone because of the increasing rate of infected and death.
- ❖ **Challenges of Education:** Due to the pandemic the schools were closed therefore the tribal learners moved backward far from the main stream of education although the central govt has set up EMRS schools and arranged various scholarships and fellowships for them.
- ❖ **Challenges of Physical Health:** Another major problem for the marginalized community at that time was to keep fit and to keep themselves away from infection as the number of infected people was increasing day by day.
- ❖ **Challenges of social relation:** We are introduced to a new term of social distance because of Covid-19. This social distance created a special problem in human relationship. Staying at home, they began to maintain a distance from each other. As a result distance was increased gradually between the people.
- ❖ **Challenges of Employment:** If we look at the overall unemployment rate in the country, we can see how much the country's unemployment rate has risen since covid-19. It had an impact on the Dalit community because already they had low incomes and could not afford to support their families.

Impact on unemployment rate due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown in India from January 2020 to May 2022



Source-Statista-2022

- ❖ **Challenges of Mental Health:** Not only this covid-19 affected our physical health but it had also a significant impact on our mental health. That's why we can see that a lot of people, especially tribal community has a bad mental health due to loneliness, stress, phobia, depression etc.

### 5. Educational Status of Marginalized Community during Covid-19

The impact of Covid-19 is much on education sector because after lockdown schools are closed. Tribal learners engaged to small industry and small business during Covid period. After that when school was reopened we saw that dropout rate was much increased and they were not interested to continue their education. In August, 2021 Educational Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that around 15 crore children were out of education system then. The Unified District Information System reported the similar dropout numbers. The figure of dropouts at the secondary level was 17% higher, and then there were some other children who had never been enrolled. These challenges amplified with the impact of temporary school closures due to Covid-19.



Cover Page



**6. Conclusion:** We have seen that the Covid-19 had a huge impact on health, education, economy, social status, social relations, of the marginalized community. These impacts we are still carrying, and we do not know how many more years we have to continue. Gradually we will back to the mainstream by adopting different ways.

## References

1. Benach, J., Vives A., Tarafa G., Delclos C., Muntaner C. (2020). What should we know about precarious employment and health in 2025? Framing the agenda for the next decade of research. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 2016; 45:232–238.
2. Bhattarai, A. (2020). It feels like a war zone': As more of them die, grocery workers increasingly fear showing up at work. 2020, April. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/04/12/grocery-worker-fear-death-coronavirus/> The Washington Post.
3. Flores L.Y., Martinez L.D., McGillen G.G., Milord J. (2020). Something old and something new: Future directions in vocational research with people of color in the United States. *Journal of Career Assessment*. 2019; 27:187–208.
4. Mongey S., Pilossoph L., Weinberg A. (2020). Which Workers Bear the Burden of Social Distancing Policies (BFI Working Paper No. 2020-51). [https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/BFI\\_WP\\_202051.pdf](https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/BFI_WP_202051.pdf)
5. Nohe C., Meier L.L., Sonntag K., Michel A. (2020). The chicken or the egg? A meta-analysis of panel studies of the relationship between work-family conflict and strain. *Journal of Applied Psychology*. 2015; 100:522–536.
6. Saksena, D. (2014). The problems of marginalized groups in India.
7. *Journal of Academike*.
8. Vavra, J. (2020). Frieman Institute for Economics at the University of Chicago; Shutdown sectors represent large share of all US employment. <https://bfi.uchicago.edu/insight/blog/key-economic-facts-about-covid-19/#shutdown-sectors>.