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# COVID-19: Assumptions, Myths and Economical Lockdown



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#### ABSTRACT

The outbreak of COVID-19 since December 2019 has influenced the global economy. The negative impact of this pandemic disease can be observed both in developed as well as developing nations. The myths and assumptions spread worldwide has further worsened the condition. Social distancing and other methods specified by WHO to prevent the spread of this deadly disease is being hampered by these myths. The present work tries to emphasize the prevailing myths and reality. Moreover, the global impact of Corona on world's economy has also being specified.





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#### INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is one of the disaster pandemic diseases which have affected the world. Initiated from China this pandemic outbreak has enveloped all human races in a very short span. All areas in the world is affected by this disease with over 1,203,099 cases, 64, 744 deaths and 2,46, 893 recovered till 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 <sup>[1]</sup>. The data of the top 10 countries affected by nCOVID-19 is represented in Table 1 <sup>[2-9]</sup>.

Table No. 1: Top Ten nCOVID-19 Affected Nations (till 4th April 2020)

Sr. No.	COUNTRIES	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED CASES
1)	United States	311,616	8,489	14,943
2)	Spain	126,168	11,947	34,219
3)	Italy	124,632	15,362	20,996
4)	Germany	96,108	1,446	23,192
5)	France	89,953	7,560	14,008
6)	China	81,669	3,329	76,964
7)	Iran	55,743	3,452	17,935
8)	United Kingdom	41,903	4,313	_
9)	Turkey	23,934	501	786
10)	Switzerland	20,505	666	6,415

In this situation too there are numbers of assumptions and myths that are prevailing in the world. Among the general population, social media is the main cause of such misleading contents. However, some profit makers are also boosting these superstitions and making the common man to use non-pharmacological ways to prevent and treat corona. Table 2 [10] enlists some of the common myths prevailing in the world regarding COVID-19 which is being discarded by WHO.

Table No. 2: Assumptions and Myths Prevalent for COVID-19

Sr. No.	Myths/Assumptions	Yes/No	Details
1)	Exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25 $^{0}$ C	DOES NOT prevent (COVID-19)	Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19.
2)	Catching the new coronavirus mean you will have it for life.	NO	Most of the people who catch COVID-19 can recover and eliminate the virus from their bodies. If you catch the disease, make sure you treat your symptoms.
3)	Being able to hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort mean you are free from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)	NO	The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are dry cough, tiredness and fever. Some people may develop more severe forms of the disease, such as pneumonia. The best way to confirm if you have the virus producing COVID-19 disease is with a laboratory test. You cannot confirm it with this breathing exercise, which can even be dangerous.
4)	Drinking alcohol protect you against COVID-19 and can be dangerous	NO	Frequent or excessive alcohol consumption can increase your risk of health problems.
5)	COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in areas with hot and humid climates	YES	COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather
6)	Cold weather and snow Cannot kill the new coronavirus.	H YES A	The normal human body temperature remains around 36.5°C to 37°C, regardless of the external temperature or weather.
7)	Taking a hot bath prevent the new coronavirus disease	NO	Taking a hot bath will not prevent you from catching COVID-19. Your normal body temperature remains around 36.5°C to 37°C, regardless of the temperature of your bath or shower.
8)	The new coronavirus be transmitted through mosquito bites.		No Evidence Yet
9)	Hand dryers effective in killing the new coronavirus	NO	Hand dryers are not effective in killing the 2019-nCoV
10)	Ultraviolet disinfection lamp kill the new coronavirus	NO	UV lamps should not be used to sterilize hands or other areas of skin as UV radiation can cause skin irritation.
11)	Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body kill the new coronavirus	NO	Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body
12)	Vaccines against pneumonia protect you against the new coronavirus	NO	No Effect on nCOVID-19

13)	Regularly rinsing your nose with saline help prevent infection with the new coronavirus		No evidence yet
14)	Eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus	NO	Only enhance immunity no effects on COVID-19

## **Economical Prospect:**

The world's top ten countries with strongest currencies are being affected by this Virus. The effect of this is being seen in the values of currencies. In comparison to Indian INR, the top 10 countries affected by COVID virus has being widely hampered. The exchange rates of these countries are enlisted in Table 3 [11].

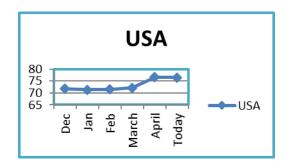
Table No. 3: Exchange rates comparison in last three years of top ten Corona affected nations

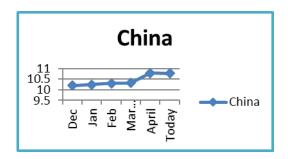
Sr. No.	COUNTRIES	Exchange rates in comparison to INR (2018)	Exchange rates in comparison to INR (2019)	Exchange rates in comparison to INR (2020)
1.	United States	72.04	68.941	76.418
2.	Spain	84.323	78.841	82.572
3.	Italy	84.323	78.841	82.572
4.	Germany	84.323	78.841	82.572
5.	France	84.323	78.841	82.572
6.	China	10.513	9.971	10.77
7.	Iran	0.0017	0.0016	0.0017
8.	United Kingdom	94.762	90.953	93.744
9.	Turkey	11.506	12.447	11.351
10.	Switzerland	74.565	72.264	78.212

Figure 1 represents the fluctuations in the currency of USA, Spain/Italy and China during corona affected phase from December 2019 onwards [12-13].

• According to a report published in world economic forum coronavirus had a significant impact on the global economy. The impact was observed in stocks, jobs and emerging markets in the first quarter of 2020 [14-16].

- Coronavirus pandemic has pushed the world economy into a 12% contraction over January to March.
- There is most brutal global equity collapse because of impact of COVID-19 in Iran, exacerbated by a 60% oil price droop.
- The Indian Economy is also being affected by COVID-19. Even in India, the rates on the small saving schemes have being revived from April 2020 onwards. The new interest rates highlightened the slashed rates. There is no impact on saving rates as 4%. But in other schemes, there is a great collapse which has shown a clear impact of disturbed economy (Figure 2).
- According to economics time report global economy could shrink by up to 1 percent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, a reversal from the previous forecast of 2.5 percent growth.
- The analysis notified in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2020 reported that before the outbreak of the COVID-19, world output was expected to expand at a modest pace of 2.5 percent in 2020.
- Millions of workers in corona affected countries are facing the bleak prospect of losing their jobs because of economic breakdown as an adverse effect of prolonged economic restrictions with collapse in trade and investment channels.





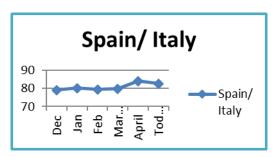


Figure No. 1: Fluctuations of Currency in USA, CHINA, SPAIN/ITALY after Corona Outbreak

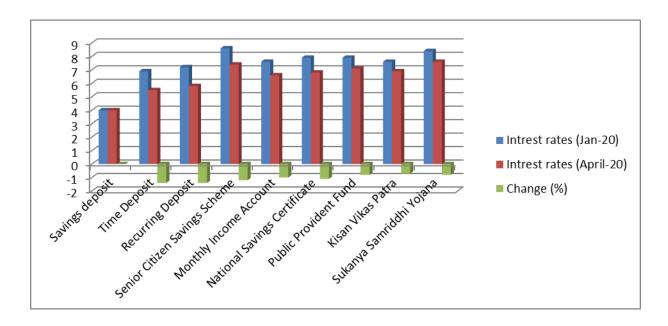


Figure No. 2: Percentage Change in Small Savings Schemes Interest Rates

#### **CONCLUSION**

The present review work suggested that there is a big crumple in the economy of the world. This is because of the restricted trades and investment after the outbreak of COVID-19. The collapsed medical infrastructure because of pandemic disease might take time to recover both health wise and financially. Moreover, the spread of assumptions and myths might be

restricted by blocking/revising the social media. Role of WHO and other Heath organization is much more vital at present to overcome such deadly disease.

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