Pandemic Effect in Satara District, Maharashtra

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Introduction

On 31 December 2019, China informed the World Health Organization mentioning few patients have been admitted with pneumonia affected with unknown cause in Hubei province of Wuhan city. On 9 January 2020, WHO issued a statement saying Chinese researchers have made "preliminary determination" of the virus as a novel coronavirus. Since then, more than 6,000 deaths have been reported due to COVID-19 across the world till 20 March 2020. Cases have been reported from more than 180 countries, including India. Lockdowns, curfews, massive airport screenings, quarantines, and social distancing have become the norm across the globe. In these critical times, access to authentic information is of paramount importance.

Coronaviruses:

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses with some causing less severe common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). The SARS-CoV-2 is a coronavirus very similar to the one that caused SARS. Many coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted from animals to humans. While the SARS coronavirus is thought to be an animal virus from an as-yet-uncertain animal reservoir, perhaps bats, that spread to other animals (civet cats) and first infected humans in the Guangdong province of southern China in 2002, the MERS coronavirus was passed on from dromedary camels to humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012. There is evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 has also been transmitted from bats.

There are many different coronaviruses. Most of them cause illness in animals. However, seven types of coronaviruses are known to cause illness in humans. Four of these seven human coronavirus infections involve mild upper respiratory tract illness that causes symptoms of the common cold. However, three of the seven human coronavirus infections can be much more severe and have recently caused major outbreaks of deadly pneumonia:

- SARS-CoV2 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified in Wuhan, China in late 2019 as the cause of COVID-19 and spread worldwide.
- MERS-CoV was identified in 2012 as the cause of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
- SARS-CoV was identified in 2002 as the cause of an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

All these coronaviruses cause severe respiratory infections are transmitted from animals to humans (zoonotic pathogens).

COVID-19 is an acute respiratory illness that can be severe and is caused by a newly identified coronavirus officially named SARS-CoV2. COVID-19 was first reported in late 2019 in Wuhan, China and has since spread extensively in China and worldwide. Early COVID-19 infections were linked to a live animal market in Wuhan, China, suggesting that the virus was transmitted from animals being sold as exotic food to humans. COVID-19 is mainly spread from

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person to person through airborne droplets that are coughed or sneezed out by an infected person. People may also get a COVID-19 infection by touching something that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. The newly identified coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has been called SARS-CoV2 although it is slightly different from the coronavirus that causes SARS.

Symptoms and Diagnosis.

Most people infected with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, but some become severely ill and die especially old people and people with past history of ailments. Symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; incubation period ranging from 5 days to 14 day.

Doctors suspect COVID-19 in people who have flu-like symptoms and have been travelled to or live in an area where they could have been exposed to the virus or who have had close contact with someone who may have had COVID-19. Tests, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, can be done on upper and lower respiratory secretions to identify the virus.

Spread and Prevention

Corona virus has been spreading rapidly among the communities, human being the carrier. Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggest that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious. To help prevent transmission, people are being quarantined (isolated) when they have come in contact with people tested positive. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus, which is rather difficult since the some of the infected people are being asymptomatic or else exhibits symptoms after five days. Hence the best and only possible way is staying put and safe at home and ensuring social distancing and masks and washing hands for at least 20 seconds with alcohol based sanitizer and most important avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.

Treatment

Drugs to relieve fever and muscle aches are being employed in treating the patients at the facility centres. There is no vaccine, antiviral drug, or specific treatment for COVID-19. Acetaminophen or a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), such as ibuprofen, is given to relieve fever and muscle aches. Some people become so severely ill that they need to be treated with mechanical ventilation to assist their breathing.

Status of COVID-19 in Maharashtra and Satara district

Particulars	Maharashtra state	Satara district
Total confirmed	423	3
Cured/ Discharged/ Migrated	42	0
Death	19	0

Source: District wise details of Positive cases of Covid19

Protecting yourself against COVID-19

In Satara district, most of the people aware about the corona virus and they are stand against to virus with the using few of prevention tacts. To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:

- Washing with soap
- Alcohol-based hand sanitisers
- Using a mask
- Social distancing
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Practise respiratory hygiene

Effect of Corona:

Major livelihood activity in Satara district is agriculture. Apart from agriculture people are employed as daily wage labourers. Due to lockdown, without having any secondary source of income, people are solely depended on government entitlements and the merge savings they have (if any). Whereas farmers on the other hand are in need of reviving the transportation as the vegetables and fruits are getting damaged and rotten due to lack of transportation.

Conclusion

Initial days of lockdown, people in the villages in the Satara district aren't serious about the rules and regulations with the presumption that corona virus spread couldn't come at their village level. Nevertheless, three positive cases have been recorded in the district signifying the intensity of the risk involved in roaming and not following the rules and regulations. Pandemic necessitates not only just administrative effectiveness but also community participation, involvement and cooperation to the utmost extend by following the rules posed by the government for the safety of the people.

Reference

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