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FORGETFULNESS OF ETHIC DURING COVID-19 IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract:

This article aims to explore the new normal of COVID-19 in a Pakistani society. The way in which people have responded to it under grim circumstances. Pakistan; an under developed country with poor health and medical situation has suffered a lot due to this pandemic. This COVID-19 situation disturbed all at individual as well as collective stage. Responses of Pakistani's as well as some suggestions are also discussed by the researchers in it to fight against this battle with unseen enemy that has kneeled the whole world in front of it. Therefore, this present scenario affected native's behavior in many ways and ethically so week unable to believe in corona virus existence. Mixed method approach is selected which is considered to be more effective for this type of research. People reaction towards corona virus: is it real or fake news, is it laboratory made virus or something else, does it really affected not only education of children but also economy of Pakistan along with whole world. To what extend old, middle aged and youth behavior, attitude and aloofness to basic ethics which they practiced in daily life but in lockdown they forgot everything with the passing time in which high morals were needed.

Introduction:

Ethics are set of rules followed or adopted by humans in order to live a good life. In 2020, pandemic of COVID-19 changed not only thinking perspective of humans but also weakened humans morally, pragmatically invaluable and socially aloof from each other. COVID-19 changed the whole scenario of world and humans style of living and thinking within a year. From children to adults, middle-aged to old people many positive and negative changes occurs. The pandemic effected the lives and livelihood of whole world. As people are becoming worse

with the passage of time due to COVID-19 as well as due to psychologically weak. COVID-19 badly influenced not only a house, society or a country but the whole world and experienced unexpected relatives of life. Pandemic badly affect economy, politics, communities, rights, duties of almost all countries of world. Pandemic make human's forgetfulness of ethics especially in Pakistan. In this article, we will find to what extent Pakistani's become worse in forgetting basic ethics which has lower the level of living in Pakistani societies.

Ethics helps to build a perfect character of people but Pakistani's have forgotten the basic ethics in this era. Precautions for COVID-19 made humans selfish, morally ill and khedive. Different countries ordered their natives' strict-home style rule and some countries order lock-down and some limited precautionary measures. This quantitative research output contains responses from both genders and from youth, middle and old aged Pakistani's. Through research it is found that 'Many old people of Pakistan's do not believe in the existence of COVID-19. They consider it a fake-news or something foolish. And youth and middle-aged natives believe on the existence of virus but ethically they are not ready to help poor and needy people living hard life around them. They forget how to behave well with people of all ages.

Pakistani's forget how to give respect to the people of all ages, how they can help needy people living miserly around them; family abuse, drug addiction, suicide ideation, psychological problems, domestic violence, and loss of support. Socially they are not maintaining social distances among each other, not wearing masks for their and others safety. And middle aged from 21 to 30's believe that it is a laboratory made virus or consider it a fake news. Aloof from these all type of educational activities highly effected and which make students forgetful of basic ethics. In this present scenario, corona virus results lockdown due to this pandemic make people ethically ill and lower the standards of living.

The main motive behind conducting this research was to identify that in this present scenario to what extend people of Pakistan believe in the existence of corona virus. And ethically, how it affected the lives of Pakistanis. Mixed method approach was adopted for this research paper in which data is gathered from natives. COVID-19 brought many social, individual, psychological and behavioral changes among people. Data related to this research was collected from both males and females belong to different ages and areas.

Research Questions:

- What is social attitude of Pakistani's toward COVID-19?
- Is COVID-19; a threat or lie according to Pakistani's?
- To what extent educational activities are affected according to public during lockdown due to coronavirus?

Review of Literature:

Ethics not a rigid term and is context bounded. The new normal COVID-19 context has changed the scenario of whole world. Isolation along with connectivity is the key to fight through this pandemic. This stance is supported by Denise, M.Dudzinski, Benjamix Y.Hoisingto and Cristle E. Brown (2020). They claimed that the world is facing a tragic pathogen. This pathogen as pushed us a part as well as pulled us close to clinicians from all over the world have communicated and tried to build a set of guidelines. To them social distancing is the key of survival.

Ethics were necessary to follow in past, needed now and will be needed always as one author Allan Barsley (2015) discuss the term “Ethics Aline” and “practice error” in his research. He claimed that social workers are not perfect humans. They also lack in some professional practice. He worked on ethical issues, problems and gave suggestion to the special workers that what is needed and have to maintain that place of determination. Social workers should come up together to deal with any misfortune same stances is supported by Gutheil and Brodsky (2008). He claimed at when any ethical problem is to be faced rather than suffering alone, one should call for help.

As world definition of ethics has transformed throughout years. Allan Barsley (2017), investigated again thegenre of ethics to see that “what’s now?” He noticed that over a shift of time period a term disability is replaced by ability. He further added that this term has shifted the concern from the negative to positive turn. Focusing more on different people with different abilities rather than lacking abilities to peruse. Every social worker on work in his or her on fashion to serve the community.

Pakistan is considered among those countries which are terribly effected with COVID-19. Saeed Meo (2020) studied the challenges faced during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. He found that COVID-19 effect country socially and economically, politically and educationally. The overall GDP fall down. Poverty and unemployment rate increase. Government take crucial measure to enhanced the morbidity rate by follow standard operating procedure to stop the spread of virus by use of hand sanitizer, wearing face mask, maintain a safe distance of 2m. All policy measures especially smart lockdown help in controlling COVID-19 spread.

COVID-19 poses new ethical challenges for professional accountants. ACCA (Association of chartered certified accountants) has promotes the highest ethical standards. ACCA has launched its white paper “ethics in a COVID-19 world” exploring the role of ethics during pandemic. This paper reveals the five respondents where ethics were at higher risk during COVID-19. Narayanan Vaidya Nathan says “for accountancy and finance professionals ethics has always been at the core of the profession but in the time of pressure, it is more important.” Ethics is not a new agenda of accountants, but COVID-19 certainly has created new challenges, which can create the risk of compromise to ethical behavior.

The situation is getting grim day by day. Waris at el (2020), discussed the alarming situation of Pakistan by informing that COVID- 19 has spread to 208 countries including Pakistan too. Pakistan is a country with rich population but poor medical and health facilities. Shortage of medical equipment is a major source of such grim situation. It can only be controlled by practicing social distancing, improvement in medical facilities as well as the training of staff.

Methodology:

To achieve solid results, mixed method approach is used in which data is gathered through snowball sampling. The sample size chosen is of 80. Sample size cannot be kept large due to COVID-19 restrictions. Questionnaire is designed in English. In the questionnaire other than responses of questions, age, rural/ urban and gender of the participant is also asked from every individual. Questionnaire contains 9 questions which are simple and related to current life in the phase of COVID-19. Questionnaire is asked to be filled by both genders involving young, middle aged and old people. We have chosen specific characteristics and have observed and analyzed by using software under 3 scales that are agree, disagree and neutral to get result in the form of

percentage and then we further analyzed through discussion by comparing and contrasting and by keeping in mind the sociological and psychological constraints of a Pakistani society. Analysis lead us to findings and conclusion of our research.

Analysis:

COVID-19 and Ethics:

Now a day's forgetfulness of ethics during this pandemic situation is main focus in different field of study. The new normal COVID-19 situation has put the whole world into the hot waters. Everyone, everywhere is facing this situation whether individually or collectively. This post-modern era of scientific evolution is unable to overcome this pandemic and all are yet trying to get out of it COVID-19 is spreading through a virus and much problem is due to mutations arising in it, in different countries having different people with different social and psychological states.

COVID-19 has changed the version of ethics as everything has molded itself into new normal. There was a time when it was ethically true to get close to each other. Showing warmth in relations but this situation demands to stay away from each other, no physical contact, isolation, staying inside to stay safe. Now the key of survival is to learn to stay isolated yet connected. Patients having more chances of survival should be given priority and all the patients should be treated at equal basis rather than denying merit over merit.

COVID-19, a threat or lie:

According to the results revealed through responses of questionnaire,40% people think that corona virus is not an automated disease but it is a biological war and that corona virus is specially made in laboratories to achieve some political gains and to control the whole world lay this pandemic.50% people disagree from this question and 10% results were neutral. According to the data collected by Pakistani people revealed that this virus is a conspiracy. Results are shown in the graph below.

Is Corona a laboratory made virus and spread on purpose	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	40%	50%	10%

People under age of 30 believe that COVID-19 is a foreign conspiracy. Most of the significant part of participants consist of young people. People under 30 of age 52% population claims that it is a laboratory made virus. Data is collected from both genders and age wise from different areas of Pakistan.

Most problematic situation is due to the lack of awareness and aloofness from basic ethics. People are infecting themselves and loved ones after not paying much attention to this worst condition. Mostly Pakistani's claimed that there is no corona and it is a fake propaganda and people are dying just due to other illnesses or doctors are injecting them with poison in order to spread the harassment of so called corona-virus.

Social Behavior towards COVID-19:

Most of the old people of Pakistan don't believe in the existence of coronavirus. They consider it a fake news or some kind of government's propaganda to pressurize their people. The main reason behind this thinking is the result of backwardness and lack of education. Old population of Pakistan are not much educated people who lived in villages are ill-literate. And they can easily believe in any spread rumors which may be about coronavirus or anything else. They are aloof from the critical conditions the whole world is facing. They do not trust media and do not care to follow the instruction given by government against coronavirus which is ethically not appropriate. People belong to other ages in society are also showing carelessness in taking precautionary measures in order to fight with COVID-19. By not following the SOP's the rate of positive cases are increasing day by day.

Total confirmed cases of coronavirus are 490,741 out of 6,619,983 tests till January 25, 2020. They are not aware of their forgetful and unmoral attitude which is pushing their country into a dark pit. Natives of Pakistan have become morally very low they don't care about others. Smart lockdown made them mentally and physically bounded and upset. Life has stopped for a while. There are only few people who have high morals and helping the poor and struggling class of Pakistani society. Deaths are 11,376 till January 2021. Just because of morally and ethically weak people of Pakistan are playing vital role in causing damaging to their country as well as to their native fellows. It is ethically not good and acceptable to not pay attention to the SOP's and taking care of other people who are living around them. 52% of Pakistani people involved as participants of this research are taking precautions despite they are unsure about the coronavirus is real or not.

Nearly 1 in 2 Pakistani believe although they take precautions but are not sure about the existence of corona.	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	52%	40%	8%

Government also started a ringtone message of coronavirus and only 80% people heard about it. And 20% of population has not heard about it. But still after listening they are not ready to follow the instructions given by government which is against ethics. Being natives of this country it is our duty to follow the SOP's against COVID-19 which essential portion of ethics.

Response of Pakistani when asked about corona ring tone when called someone.	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	80%	20%	0%

Educational Activities in Pakistan during COVID-19:

As economy, social and political activities are badly affected during lockdown due to coronavirus and educational activities are also highly effected. UNESCO (2020) was also in favor

of closure of schools because this virus is also harmful for children and they themselves are not capable of maintaining social distance among each other, they are not aware of the worst conditions which are present all over the world. When coronavirus was at peak then parents were also against the closure of school but when they look at the attitude of children then they wanted to send them back to schools, colleges and universities.

Students not paying much attention to basic ethics as a student; how to give proper time to studies, how to respect teachers, lying with teachers etc. In this passage of time, not only students but also teachers are facing so many problems in learning and teaching. Increment in positive cases of coronavirus have frightened the parents of students and not in the favor to send their children in schools, colleges and university. Many families are not ready to send their children if schools, colleges and universities will reopen.

Researchers gathered the data from parents either they will send their children back to their institutes or not, 80% of Urban and 91% rural parents are in favor of reopening of educational institutes and which is ethically supportive point. Because students behavior is getting worst with passage of time. Responses are collected from urban and rural areas, on the basis of gender and age breakdown as shown in tables.

Response of parents in rural/ urban areas, when asked about if they will send their children to schools if re-opened	Agree		Disagree		Neutral	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
	80%	91%	19%	7%	1%	2%

Response of parents according to gender, when asked about if they will send their children to schools if re-opened	Agree		Disagree		Neutral	
	male	Female	Male	female	male	female
	85%	92%	14%	8%	1%	0%

Response of people according to age, when asked about if they will send their children to schools if re-opened		Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	Under 30:	75%	20%	5%
	30 to 50:	93%	5%	2%
	50+:	70%	27%	3%

Fear of getting ill with Covid-19:

Fear and terror of getting ill due to this virus and death rate and positive cases rate was being increasing day by day when its vaccine was not prepared yet but now the grim situation is not the

same as before because at that time nothing was known about this unseen virus and the fear was basically not of getting ill but in fact it was the fear of alienation. When someone knows about something, it is easy to understand it and get out of it but the feeling of nothingness in front of an unseen semi alive object spread a sense of fear among all. The fear was so dramatic that even family members started to avoid each other, no family sittings, no hustle and bustle in streets, empty mosques, and vacant shopping malls, in short it was a pause to everything around. It was known that this disease gets transfer from one family member who suffers from this disease can shift this virus to other family members unconsciously, this fear pull everyone apart. With the passage of time, research results gave hope to the people and the rate of fear has gradually dropped. Fear rate among the people is now 40% people who agree that they have fear of getting ill from corona virus and majority of people that counts for 60% are not afraid of this pandemic spread in Pakistan.

Do you feel frightened to get Covid- 19 disease?	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	40%	60%	0%

COVID- 19 and Economic instability:

Along with educational, political, social instability, economy instability is the most important point and solid factor to be discussed. Economy is backbone of every country and during new normal economy is badly affected not only in Pakistan but all over the world. During lockdown not only low class, low-middle class but middle and high-middle class also suffered from many economical disasters which changed the whole meaning of life for people who were all set in their lives but this unseen enemy challenged and failed almost everyone. Laborers who works on daily wages were unable to make money and suffered from starving for so many days. They were not having enough money and all savings were used too but nothing was in hand. Not only Government of Pakistan but everyone else who has the potential from which they can buy groceries or can help physically and psychologically helped in providing food among needy and tried to help them by giving some groceries. Crime rate also got increased during that time period because everywhere in the world where there is good, bad is also there, so was the case with this very situation where some bad people tried to take advantage of the situation. It was not just the poverty which caused increase in crime rate but the unawareness to the basic ethics and a distance from religious teachings too. Majority of the people that count for 70% agreed to the asked response regarding this scenario and very less that counts for 20% of the participants disagreed and only a few people whose repose was neutral.

Was 2020 a tough year to manage your household expenses?	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	70%	20%	10%

Availability of masks and sanitizer:

When there was peak time of corona virus, masks and sanitizers were not available or were available with very high rates. Due to fear and panic, everyone stocked a handsome variety and it

was available to few and majority were in need but without access to these necessities of time. In the need of time, government took an initiative and provided masks and sanitizers not only to the medical stores but also allowed many brands to make these necessary accessories for virus prevention. During lockdown both accessories were short and due to this shortage those sellers who have masks and sanitizers sold them in double price which reflect the forgetfulness of ethics as they tried to take advantage of the situation. Although they should have sold them in real or half price but unfortunately situation was different. According to the data, 64% people agreed when asked this question and 33% disagreed and 3% neutral responses were collected from the participants involved in the research.

Were masks and sanitizer easily and cost-effectively available in your area?	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	64%	33%	3%

COVID- 19 and vaccine:

Vaccine preparation took a lot of time because it is a novel form of disease and no vaccine was present before. It took a lot of time to identify the root cause and then to understand the symptoms and effects of it. Alarming thing was that the virus used to adapt itself among different people with different climates and different living styles. The danger is not over yet because mutations are seen everywhere but somehow Russians are the first who have succeeded to have a vaccine of this virus. It is not just the production of vaccine but the situation is of different nature as many people who do not trust in the existence of corona virus, how they can believe in the successful production of vaccine. And on the other hand, those who believe in its existence are not ready to accept validity of this vaccine which shows the mentality, backwardness and ill-literacy of people. Through this investigation, it is analyzed that people are morally and ethically so weak. 45% of the population sample agreed that they consider vaccine safe and will have one when got chance but majority that counts for 48% disagreed and some among them believe that there is no need of vaccine because there is no such disease while others think it to be unsafe similar to the thinking related to polio vaccine by many people. 7% gave neutral response as they were confused to choose from agree or disagree. Figures are mentioned in the table:

Do u consider vaccine safe and want to have one?	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	45%	48%	7%

COVID- 19 and social distancing:

Due to corona virus government mentioned some SOP's which all the Pakistanis were supposed to follow for their own and their loved ones safety and health. In these SOP's, social distancing is one of them which is mandatory to be followed. At start, when there was more fear among people, a trend was seen to follow SOP's but as the time passed and fear went down people start behaving carelessly and on many occasions like family get together, parties and marriages, it is observed that social distancing is getting neglected badly which gave rise to the second wave of Covid-19 in the whole country along with Pakistan too. 2m distance was obligatory to be

maintained but in rural and urban areas, by males and females of old, middle and youth age it was observed to sometime followed but most of the times it is seen to be neglected. From this analysis, it is clear that 45% people agreed that they followed these SOP's and 50% agreed that they disagreed to instructions given to them and they ignored it and 5% people said that they maintained it few times and few times ignored it by staying neutral when giving response, that gives the reflection that ethically they did so deliberately by not taking much precautionary measures for their own and others safety.

	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
Did u followed the instructions regarding social distancing?	45%	50%	5%

Recommendations:

Being a part of Pakistani society, we should make every possible fruitful effort to overcome this pandemic. Although social distancing is a need of time but we can spread awareness through social media platforms. Digital way of transferring information is effective and takes less time involving maximum people virtually. Living in a global village, in the era of Information Technology, we should get benefit from it. Almost everyone from every gender, every age and every area of Pakistan has access to electronic gadgets and social media. It is the responsibility of educated and civilized citizens of Pakistan to spread awareness relating this disease and it is the high time to boost and recall all those beautiful manners and norms that were cherished once just till few years back. Covid-19 has given a chance to sit and think about our living styles and priorities of our lives. Pakistani people should now believe in this quote "unity is strength". Pakistan is an Islamic country and Islamic teachings has the solution to such diseases by giving us clear instructions regarding cleanliness and how to deal with such diseases.

Conclusion:

COVID-19 and ethics is a debatable topic now-a-days. In the present scenario of Pakistani society, the mostly observed attitude towards coronavirus is being analyzed in this article. As time goes on people of Pakistan are getting far from basic ethics not only related to Covid-19 scenario but as a whole in general too. They forgot ethics during lockdown and doing the same now when the danger is not over yet. People were bound to stay in home which affected ethics badly. They forgot how to respect elders and teachers. This situation is making Pakistani people psychologically and physically ill and as they have forbidden ethics during COVID-19 pandemic. Almost half of the population is considering coronavirus a threat or conspiracy of foreign countries whereas half population is considering it a lie or fake news and half believes that it is a laboratory made virus to stir up a biological war and few are following the SOP's which consists of social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing hands again and again etc. Social attitude of Pakistani people needs to be changed, old natives are not ready to accept the existence of virus and not acting upon the messages delivered by WHO world-wide and further then by government of Pakistan. Parents wish about opening or not reopening of educational institutes during school closure phase as some fear regarding the health of their children while others think of it as harm to the academic career of students. All these situations are making whole community in forgetting or adopting the basic ethics during pandemic. Mix method

approach is adopted and data is gathered and analyzed through software using collected responses from the designed sample size during Covid-19 pandemic to find out the views regarding the attitude of Pakistani people about coronavirus pandemic.

Questionnaire:

Gender: ----- Age: -----

Rural/ Urban: -----

- **Choose one answer for each response.**

Questions	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
1. Is corona virus unreal and spread on purpose?			
2. Are you sure about existence of corona virus along with taking precautions?			
3. Have you heard corona ring tone when you called someone?			
4. Will you send your children when schools will be re-opened?			
5. Do you feel frightened to get Covid-19 disease?			

6. Was 2020 a tough year to manage your household expenses?			
7. Were masks and sanitizers easily and cost-effectively available to you?			
8. Do you consider vaccine safe and want to have one?			
9. Did you followed the instructions regarding social distancing?			

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