

## **Indian response to Corona virus is based on fear and not on wisdom!**

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There are indications that COVID-19 or Corona [virus was accidentally released from Wuhan Chinese lab](#). Such deadly viruses have been [researched in these labs for quite some time](#). The secretive and authoritarian Chinese regime did not alert the world about it, and delayed the response with deadly results for the world. Then they showed the world that with total lockdown (which only a dictatorial regime like the Chinese one can do) they were able to contain it - or at least that is how it appeared to the outside world.

Never in the history of mankind have such a lockdown across the globe been practiced for any disease outbreak. However the lockdown and other dictatorial responses to it have shown an underlying human nature which is based on fear and unsure of itself and above all want to control and are in charge. In India the responses have mostly come out of the fear syndrome.

When we create a corrupt society most of the people who are part of the power structure are also corrupt and have guilty conscience and thus are beset with constant fear.

This fear then allows only one way to respond to such a situation and that is take the ultimate harsh step since nobody wants to own up the mistakes later on. A maxim of dictatorship is “When in doubt – clamp down”!

When we have fear as the driving force then the *vivek* or wisdom of taking a decision for the benefit of all vanishes and the only way we feel safe is to save our skin which means take the harshest step and that too collectively. In case of India it has been done more or less unilaterally.

Thus the lockdown comes as an easy way out since it allows most of the things to be stopped. Then one does not have to utilize one's judgment and brain and if questioned the general refrain is given that consequences will be observed and dealt with accordingly. This is a lazy person's response.

And such steps also lead to confusion since things are not thought through. Thus one day one decision is announced and next day it is replaced with a new one. This confusion also helps in creating uncertainty which is again exacerbated by harsher and sometimes ad-hoc decisions.

This lockdown has created catastrophic situation for the Indian economy and untold hardships to small farmers and daily wage workers. Both these segments have hardly any political voice and yet are the most important component of India's economy. They would have been protected and helped if the lockdown had been planned properly.

For example in the rural Maharashtra where I live the small fruit and vegetable growers are harassed by police and are allowed only few hours to sell their produce. Normally they would sit the whole day to sell them. So most of them have stopped picking their agricultural produce from the fields thereby causing shortage of vegetables and fruits and huge financial losses to them.

Anytime when a murmur of dissent against such harsh measures is voiced that person is immediately called antinational. Also a common refrain is given that some of the best brains are advising the leadership. So what is being done is in the best interest of the country.

However when a system of totally controlling and know-all leadership is created then [it creates filters by which it hears only that advice that it wants to hear.](#)

We should have questioned where the idea of lockdown came from and [whether it had really succeeded where it was practiced](#). In the heat of moment most of the times one forgets to question the basic fundamental premises. As the American saying goes “When you are up your ass with alligators in a pond, it is very difficult to think why you came in the pond in the first place”!

And finally the lockdown has created [conditions and scenario where dictatorship can easily flourish](#). This could have very serious consequences for the future of democracy in India.

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