

Covid-19 Pandemic And How It Affects Human Dignity After Death

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INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus 2019, also known by the name COVID-19, is an infectious disease caused by a novel virus known as SARS-CoV-2, first known in December 2019. This virus is from a family of viruses known to cause respiratory infections. World Health Organization (WHO) announced an outbreak of this deadly virus on March 11, 2020. The World Health Organization appealed to the government to take immediate and effective action to prevent the spread of the virus. As of now, no country other than Russia has claimed to have developed a vaccine to completely prevent the spread of the virus, and there is no specific treatment for it other than symptom management.

The magnitude and severity of this pandemic virus are increasing to a threat to public health, which may legitimize restrictions on certain rights, such as restrictions caused by isolation or quarantine that restrict freedom of movement and travel. At the same time, taking into account human rights such as non-discrimination and human rights principles such as non-discrimination and respect for human dignity can promote an effective response to shocks and concerns that inevitably lead to a crisis that may be caused due to the introduction of several measures that do not meet the necessary human rights criteria.

Lockdowns, isolations (quarantines) and other similar measures to limit and combat the spread of COVID-19 must be consistently implemented following human rights standards and in a manner necessary and proportional to the risks assessed. However, there have been many human rights violations during the COVID-19 pandemic, significantly affecting the right to dignity. It may not be out of place to state here that dignity and human rights must be at the core and the front of this effort. Unfortunately, the dignity of the people is being violated unjustly by the police under the guise of imposition of lockdown. In many cases, the civil servants and other citizens have been found violating the rights and dignity of people, especially the dead, and it raises so many questions. In this paper, the authors have discussed the legal consequences of such violations under Indian law and assert the right to dignity which is being violated by such acts.

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