

# Forgetness Of Basic Ethics During Covid- 19

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## Abstract:

This article aims to explore the new normal of Covid-19 in a Pakistani society. How people has 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 has 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.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, ethics, forgetfulness, new normal, pandemic, Pakistan, natives, people.

## 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 mankind 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 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 order their natives' strict-home style rule and some countries order lock-down and some limited precautionary measures. Secondary source of qualitative approach is adopted as methodology for data analysis. The responses are taken from survey done by Gallop International Survey (Pakistan). Corona Attitude tracker wave 7 and wave 8 multiple responses are gathered from all provinces, 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.

### **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?

### **Literature Review:**

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. Hoisington and Crystal 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 Barsky (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 Barsky (2017), investigated again the genre 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 et. al (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:**

It is a qualitative research in which data is gathered from a secondary source. The secondary source which is used is Gallop Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude tracker Survey of wave 7 and wave 8. Survey is conducted by the Pakistani government with a large sample size representing the whole

population of Pakistan including Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, KPK , both males and females belong to young, middle and old aged natives of Pakistan. Data is taken from wave 7 (June -July) & 8 (August-September) which are two different waves of COVID-19. We have chosen specific characteristics and have observed and analyzed it by comparing and contrasting 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 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 Gallop survey, 45% 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. According to the data collected by gallop survey in September is 45% Pakistani's consider this virus a conspiracy as shown in graph below.

Is Corona a laboratory made virus and spread on purpose	Agree	disagree	No response
	45%	35%	20%

People under 30 of age believe that COVID is a foreign conspiracy. Most of the significant part of Pakistan's population 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, provinces based, age wise and urban and rural as shown in graph below.

Most problematic situation is the lack of awareness and basic ethics. People are infecting themselves and loved ones after not paying much attention to this worst condition. Pakistani's claimed that there is no corona and it's 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 can be backwardness and lack of education. Old population of Pakistan is 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 don't trust media and don't care to follow the instruction given by government against coronavirus which is ethically not appropriate. People belong to other ages in society are also adopting carelessness in taking precautionary measures 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 December 28, 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 9,992 till December 29, 2020. 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. 54% of Pakistani's taking precautions despite they are unsure about the coronavirus is real or not.

<p>Nearly 1 in 2 Pakistani believe although they take precautions but are not sure about the existence of corona</p>	Agree	disagree	No response
	<b>54%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>11%</b>

Government also started a ringtone message of coronavirus and only 78% people heard about it. And 22% of population 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's our duty to follow the SOP's against COVID-19 which essential portion of ethics.

<b>Response of Pakistani when asked about corona ring tone when called someone</b>	Agree	disagree	No response
	<b>78%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>0%</b>

### 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 condition which is present all over the world. When coronavirus is at peak then parents are also against the closure of school but when they look at the attitude of children then they wanted sent 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.

Gallop survey has gathered the data from parents either they will send their children back to their institutes or not. Gallop Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Survey, Wave 7, 88% of Pakistani parents are in favor of reopening of educational institutes and which is ethically supportive point. Because students behavior is getting worst with passing time. Responses are collected from urban and rural areas, provincial, gender and age breakdown as shown in tables.

<b>Response of parents in rural/ urban areas, when asked about if they will send their children to schools if re-opened</b>	Agree		disagree		No response	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
	<b>83%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>

<b>Response of parents at provincial level, when asked about if they will send their children to</b>		Agree	disagree	no response
	<b>Punjab:</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2%</b>
	<b>Sindh:</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>KPK:</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>Baluchistan</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>0%</b>

schools if re-opened				
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Response of parents according to gender, when asked about if they will send their children to schools if re-opened	Agree		disagree		No response	
	male	female	male	female	male	Female
	<b>87%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>

Response of people according to age, when asked about if they will send their children to schools if re-opened		agree	disagree	no response
	Under 30:	<b>87%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	30 to 50:	<b>91%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	50+:	<b>87%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1%</b>

### Conclusion:

COVID-19 and ethics is a debatable topic now-a-days. In the present scenario of Pakistan, society and natives attitude towards coronavirus is being analyzed in this article. As time passes by, people of Pakistan are getting far from basic ethics. They are forgetting ethics during lockdown. People are bound to stay in home and they are not willing to do it, which affected ethics badly. They forget how to respect elders, teachers. This situation is making Pakistani's psychologically and physically ill and they have forbidden ethics during COVID-19 pandemic. Almost half of the population is considering coronavirus a threat or conspiracy of foreign countries. Half population considering it a lie or fake news and half believe that it is laboratory made virus and following the SOP's which consists of social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing hands again and again etc. Social attitude of Pakistani's are strange 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 lockdown. All these situations are making whole community in forgetting or adopting the basic ethics during pandemic. Qualitative method is adopted and data is gathered and analyzed using secondary source, Gallop International Survey collected responses from huge sample Covid-19 pandemic related and to check the attitude of Pakistani's about coronavirus pandemic.

We can't grip past but can make sure to have a better future. Although vaccines are prepared by different companies in different countries but no one can say that when corona is going to end. We have to normalize ourselves to the new normal. Danger is not over yet, social distancing is the only key to survival. We can't stay safe if we avoid precautions and social distancing. Keeping cleanliness is not only a social duty but a moral as well as religious obligation too. We Muslims are directed by our religion to keep ourselves keep clean and it is the utmost need of this time. We should keep ourselves physically as well as internally healthy by having a better life style, good eating habits, doing exercises , better sleep, positive thinking and keeping ourselves sanitized and covered. Government should take measures to spread awareness in the public through different platforms, so that everyone can realize the danger that would aid in competing in a better manner. Realization then planning should be the strategy to decrease the spread of this pandemic. There is no escape from it but prevention is better than cure.

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