IS THE CURE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE?

REFLECTIONS ON COVID GOVERNANCE IN SRI LANKA

EDITED BY
PRADEEP PEIRIS
RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

SOCIO - ECONOMIC INDEX IN THE FACE OF COVID 19

February 2021

CONDUCTED BY SOCIAL INDICATOR
N0: 160g, poorwarama road, kirulapana, colombo 05
Phone no: 011-2826010

Respondent Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R1</th>
<th>Respondent Age:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R2</th>
<th>Respondent Sex:</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>2. Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R3</th>
<th>Respondent First Language:</th>
<th>Sinhala</th>
<th>2. Tamil</th>
<th>3. English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Could you please tell me as to what extent you are aware of the COVID 19 rules and regulations imposed by the government?
   i. Completely aware
   ii. Somewhat aware
   iii. Not aware at all (Go to Q2)

1a. If you are aware, could you please tell me as to how you got to know these?
   RANK the top three.
Source of information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of information</th>
<th>RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media (TV, Radio, Newspapers, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government officials / institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbors, relatives and friends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious leaders/ religious institutions in my area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other .....................................................................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Thinking about the current COVID 19 crisis, could you please tell me as to how satisfied/ dissatisfied you are with the following institutions in relation to their involvement in mitigating it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Completely satisfied</th>
<th>Somewhat satisfied</th>
<th>Somewhat dissatisfied</th>
<th>Completely dissatisfied</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Inspectors (PHI) of my area</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grama Niladhar of my area</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentary representatives of my area</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. What are the precautions or practices that you and your family have taken thus far to avoid contracting the Corona virus? (Multiple answers applicable)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimise going out</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhere to wearing masks/</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>washing hands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining social</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>distancing in public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>places</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid meeting potential</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>risk groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumed Western medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumed Ayurvedic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How is the current financial situation of your household compared to what it was prior to the start of COVID 19?
1. Got a lot better (Go to Q6)
2. Got a little better (Go to Q6)
3. Stayed the same
4. Got a little worse
5. Got a lot worse
99. Don’t Know
Reflections on COVID Governance in Sri Lanka

5. Since the start of COVID 19 have you or anyone in your household had to do any of the following due to the shortage of finances?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Delay paying house rent, mortgage or leasing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cut back on the quality of food you purchased</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reduced the portion of the size of your food/ meals</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Reduced the number of meals eaten per day</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. How satisfied are you with the Government’s performance in addressing the cost of living during COVID 19?
   1. Very Satisfied
   2. Somewhat Satisfied
   3. Somewhat Dissatisfied
   4. Very Dissatisfied
   99. Don’t know

7. Thinking about your current household income in comparison to the time prior to the start of covid 19 could you please tell me as to what extent your household income has either increased or decreased?
   1. Increased (Go to Q10)
   2. Stayed the same (Go to Q10)
   3. Decreased
   4. Completely lost my household income
   99. Don’t Know (Go to Q10)
8. If your household income has either decreased or has been completely lost, could you please let me know your coping strategies you have used thus far?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coping Strategies</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government assistance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received assistance form others (friends, relatives, people known to you etc.)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowed money from lenders / others</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawned jewelers/ obtained loan(s) from Banks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase items for credit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used up the savings</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut down some expenses</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found an alternative way of generating income</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold valued possessions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. How soon do you think your household income will return to its previous income status?
   1. In less than three months
   2. In less than a year
   3. More than a year
   99. Don’t Know
10. Have you or any member of your household had to lose their employment since the start of COVID 19?
   1. Yes
   2. No (Go to Q11)

10a. If yes, have they/ you managed to find any alternative form of employment?
   1. Yes (Go to Q 11)
   2. No
   3. Not Required

10b. If No, how soon do you think he/she will be able to find an alternative form of employment?
   1. In less than three months
   2. In less than a year
   3. More than a year
   4. He/ She will not return to their earlier form of employment
   99. Don’t Know

11. I am going to read out following on the government’s performance in managing the cost of living, healthcare services, education, employment and the COVID 19 pandemic. Thinking about the current situation, could you please tell me as to what extent you are either satisfied or dissatisfied with it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Somewhat Satisfied</th>
<th>Somewhat Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 The government’s management in controlling the prices of essential goods</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The government’s management of healthcare services during COVID 19

3. The government’s management of school education of children, during COVID 19

4. The government’s management in protecting employment safeguards/ opportunities during COVID 19

5. The government’s management in controlling the spread of COVID-19

12. Are there any members in this household who are currently studying? (at a school, university, technical colleges etc.)
   1. Yes
   2. No (Go to Q22)
13. Could you please tell me as to how many members in this household are currently involved in /following some kind of studies/ course? .............................................................

14. Could you please tell me as to how many electronic appliances (computers, smart phones, tabs etc.) are available at your home, which can be used for online studies? (Indicate the number of appliances) .............................................................

15. I am going to read out to you, various educational levels. Thinking about your household, who are currently following studies, could you please tell me their educational level and the methods of learning that they follow since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Studies</th>
<th>In-Person Studies</th>
<th>Combination of online and in person</th>
<th>Completely halted studies</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational training/ Professional courses</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. Apart from the above, is there anyone in this household who follows any other alternative methods of learning as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic?

1. Yes
2. No
99. Don’t Know
17. Does this household possess enough electronic appliances (computers, smart phones, tabs etc.) for those who follow online learning?
   1. We have enough electronic appliances
   2. We don’t have enough, but we can share with the other members in the household
   3. We don’t have enough, we borrow from somebody/somewhere
   4. We don’t have, we are completely left out of the online learning process
   5. There is no one engaged in online learning (Go to Q21)

18. Does this household have access to internet?
   1. Yes, very good connectivity
   2. Yes, but very weak connectivity
   3. No, as we cannot afford to get connectivity
   4. No, as I have no connectivity in my area

19. How financially comfortable is it for your household to spend for internet connectivity (data), in order to continue with online learning?
   1. We don’t have any problem
   2. It is somewhat difficult
   3. It is very difficult

19a. Thinking about the costs you spent for online DATA last month, could you please tell me as to roughly how much you incurred for data / internet connectivity? ................................

20. How satisfied are you with the quality of learning received by your household members via online learning?
   1. Very Satisfied
   2. Somewhat satisfied
   3. Somewhat dissatisfied
   4. Very dissatisfied
   99. Don’t know
21. Do any members of your household attend tuition classes (who are engaged in studies)?
   1. Yes
   2. No (Go to Q22)

21a. If yes, does that currently continue?
   1. Yes
   2. No

22. Please indicate whether your current interaction with the following has either increased or decreased in comparison to the time prior to the start of COVID 19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interaction</th>
<th>Increased</th>
<th>Remained the Same</th>
<th>Decreased</th>
<th>No Interaction</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interactions with my friends</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactions with my relatives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactions with my neighbours</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23. In relation to the following list of events / activities, could you please tell me as to how much your involvement in these has either increased or decreased, in comparison to the time prior to the start of the COVID 19 pandemic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Increased</th>
<th>Remained the Same</th>
<th>Decreased</th>
<th>Not participated at all</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engaged in religious ceremonies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24. Please indicate as to how much you agree or disagree with the below statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. COVID 19 could be highly prevalent among low-income dwellers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cultural/religious practices of some religious groups can cause higher possibility of spreading COVID 19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Prevalence of COVID 19 is less among people from my ethnic community</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. In your opinion how fairly have COVID 19 rules (guidelines) of the government been implemented among all income groups?

1. Fairly
2. Unfairly
99. Don’t Know

26. In your opinion how fairly have COVID 19 rules (guidelines) of the government been implemented among all ethnic groups?
1. Fairly
2. Unfairly
99. Don’t Know

27. During the COVID 19 crisis if you or any member in your household had to visit a hospital/ doctor, could you please tell me as to what type of hospital you last visited?
1. Government Hospital (National, Teaching, Divisional, Provisional etc.)
2. Government Dispensaries
3. Private Hospitals
4. Private Dispensaries
5. I had the need to visit a hospital/ doctor, but I didn’t (Go to Q28)
6. Did have a need to visit a hospital (Go to Q28)

27a. If you did visit the hospital/ doctor, could you please tell me if it was for a regular or emergency medical need?
1. Regular medical needs
2. Emergency medical needs
3. To obtain pre-prescribed medication etc.

27b. If you visited the hospital/ Doctor, how easy was it for you to get the relevant services from the hospital/ Doctor?
1. Extremely easy
2. Somewhat easy
3. Somewhat difficult
4. Extremely difficult
5. Did not receive any medical assistance (Go to Q28)
99. No opinion
27c. If you visited the hospital/doctor, could you please tell me as to how satisfied you were with the quality of service you received?
1. Very satisfied
2. Somewhat satisfied
3. Somewhat dissatisfied
4. Very dissatisfied
99. Don’t know

28. If you were given the opportunity to obtain the COVID 19 vaccine which of the following best reflects your opinion?
1. I will get it without any further delay
2. I will get it, but will wait to see how it affects others before I get it
3. I will not get it soon, but will do so in the future
4. I will never get the vaccine
99. Don’t know/ Not sure

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. Religion
1. Buddhism
2. Hinduism
3. Islam
4. Christianity (Roman Catholic)
5. Christianity (Non-RC)
6. Other Specify: ............

D2. Ethnicity
1. Sinhala
2. Tamil
3. Up Country Tamil
4. Muslim
5. Burgher
6. Other: ..................
D3. Educational Qualifications
1. Cannot Read or Write
2. Literate but no formal education
3. Up to Grade 5
4. Grade 6 – 9
5. Up to O/L
6. O/L
7. Up to A/L
8. A/L
9. Vocationally trained
10. Technically trained
11. Professional
12. Graduate
13. Graduate and above

D4. Respondents Current Occupation Sector
1. Government Sector
2. Privet Sector
3. Semi-Government
4. NGO
5. Other ............

D5. Total Monthly Income of Household
1. Less than Rs. 10,000/-
2. Rs. 10,001 – Rs. 15,000
3. Rs. 15,001 – Rs. 20,000
4. Rs. 20,001 – Rs. 25,000
5. Rs. 25,001 – Rs 50,000
6. Rs. 50,001 – Rs 100,000
7. Over Rs 100,000
99. Don’t know

D6. Local Government Body
1. Municipal Council
2. Urban Council
3. Pradeshiya Sabha

D7. District: - ..........................