



Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospitality Students With Regards to Entrepreneurial Initiative.

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Abstract

The pandemic had caused a major loss to every industry especially hospitality industry which got affected majorly. This was an extensive research carried out to study the impact of COVID-19 on the hospitality students and to understand their psychological wellbeing, the skills developed, their mind-set to maintain psychological, physical and emotional wellbeing during lockdown, preferences with regards to any career changes in the future and views about entrepreneurship. There were certain limitations to this research. The research was based on the existing situations of pandemics and the information can change in the future, so more could be understood about this topic in different time frames. In the future, we can also explore how entrepreneurial initiatives helped students and if colleges bring changes in their education by having a subject related to entrepreneurship, how it will affect students. Thus, this topic has a vast scope to research more on it considering different angles related to it and going deep in the topic or sub-topics related to it.

After carrying out the (online) survey a great deal of information with respect to all the central objectives were gathered and based on this the researcher derived on the following conclusion that Participants were quite worried about their career witnessing the situation of the hotel industry during the COVID-19, participants were unsure about their career perspective and considerable number of participants had no intentions to join the hotel industry and they chose to switch to a new career option. Most of them had some or the other plans. Entrepreneurship was one of the option which attracted many students and various business ideas had cropped up in their heads during the pandemic. Institutes should emphasize on a mix of regular subjects with vocational subjects which cover various aspects related to hospitality industry to bring diverse business ideas for students rendering a vast scope for Entrepreneurship Development.

Thus it'll take efforts of students as well as colleges to tackle all the problems that have arisen during this pandemic and there are various new things to learn as well and there are various beneficial changes can be made in the curriculum that can bring academics and entrepreneurial initiatives to the non-conventional skill development leading to overall career growth covering diverse career avenues related to hospitality industry.

Key words: Pandemic, Covid 19, Hospitality, Entrepreneurship.

Introduction

Pandemic, this word by definition goes as an epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread across a large region, for instance multiple continents or worldwide, affecting a substantial number of people. There have been several pandemics in this world for example Plague, Spanish flu, Black Death, etc. Every pandemic has caused a great loss to economy as well as to lives of people. If we take a look at Black Death pandemic which was caused in 1346-53. It is the most fatal pandemic recorded in human history, resulting in the deaths of up to 75–200 million people in Eurasia and North Africa, peaking in Europe from 1347 to 1351. At that time medical field was not that advance so physicians tried to do anything they can to save people's lives history says they use to make a victim of the plague sweat and then applying to buboes a recently killed pigeon was a popular 'cure'. (Trueman, n.d.) It is known that some who caught the plague did survive but the records kept at the time are not at all clear as to whether any 'cures' were applied to these people or whether they were extremely lucky. Other such pandemic was Spanish Flu which was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza a virus. Lasting from February 1918 to April 1920, it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time – in four successive waves. With no cure for the flu, many doctors prescribed medication that they felt would alleviate symptoms... including aspirin. Overall this pandemics brought a great loss in economy, people's lives, businesses and other aspects of life.

Recently the world has faced a new pandemic which is COVID-19 which was caused due to a strain of virus and almost 10.9 million people in India were affected and nearly 109m in world. Amidst the lockdown in Indian society, multiple issues related to social, educational, economic, political, agricultural, psychological levels and many more have been noticed which has created the devastating impact on the lives of the people. There was lockdown in India since 21st march. Everything was closed and due this the GDP of India went in minus. Every sector faced a great deal of loss.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the world's economy was at fall almost overnight. The pandemic has confronted the hospitality industry with an unprecedented challenges. Strategies to flatten the COVID-19 curve such as community lockdowns, social distancing, stay-at-home orders, travel and mobility restrictions have resulted in temporary closure of many hospitality businesses and significantly decreased the demand for businesses that were allowed to continue to operate. Almost all restaurants were asked to limit their operations to only take-outs. Restrictions placed on travel and stay-at-home orders issued by the authorities led to sharp decline in hotel occupancies and revenues. However, the reopening process has slowly begun and authorities have started to ease restrictions, for example, allow dine-in restaurants to reopen at a reduced capacity with strict social distancing guidelines, and gradually reduce restrictions on domestic and international travel.

What are the customers' sentiments about patronizing a restaurant or a hotel in the time of Corona virus? Are they ready to return? If not, what will make them return?

The amount of people in this industry that lost their jobs is hard to fathom and just sad. Irrespective of being at a high position or a staff, their jobs were halted for unknown period of time, internships were dropped midway. In regards to that context we ought to understand the mentality of hospitality students, as they were confused and were in doubt about their field of Career. There was a ambiguity within students regarding the situation and were worried about their jobs and opportunity. As final year student's joining/interview dates

were delayed/cancelled until further notice, as we faced potential future lockdowns, this emphasizes the importance of supporting individuals in the time that lead-up to lockdown to try to reduce distress; yet data also suggest that individuals might be able to adapt relatively fast to the new psychological demands of life in lockdown. But because inequalities in mental health have persisted, it is key to find ways of supporting vulnerable groups during this pandemic. So students tried to adapt different hobbies that later made them realize that, it can be perused as career opportunity, such as Being a fitness coach, Being a vlogger, Family business, Gardening or horticulture, Photography, Travelling consultancy, Image consultancy, Social influencer and many other activities.

According to The Economic Times- The pandemic took a massive toll on the start-up ecosystem in the country which saw numerous layoffs, pay-outs and shutting down of operations. From the months of March to June 2020, around 40% of start-ups were negatively impacted, and 15% of Indian start-up were forced to discontinue operations due to COVID-19, as per a report. The report highlighted that 2019 was an all-time high for start-ups with India becoming the 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world. The country had a total of 26 unicorns (In business, a unicorn is a privately held start-up company valued at over \$1 billion. The term was coined in 2013 by venture capitalist Aileen Lee, choosing the mythical animal Unicorn to represent the statistical rarity of such successful ventures.) Till January 1, 2020, and Indian start-ups received \$14.5 billion funding. The report- COVID 19 and Antifragility of Indian Start-up Ecosystem' by TIE(The IndUS Entrepreneurs) Delhi-NCR and Zinnov (Zinnov is a research, consulting & advisory company with core expertise in Product Engineering and Digital Transformation.), revealed that there was a dip in overall funding by 50% during the lockdown as compared to pre-COVID levels. (Bora, n.d.)

The report stated that 75% of start-ups are gradually recovering post lockdown. Nearly 30% of start-ups have pivoted to newer markets for alternative revenue streams, while over 55% of start-ups are focusing on profitability and reducing cash burn. (Mathur, n.d.) However, the industry saw gradual recovery from the month of September and most segments appear to have recovered to pre-COVID levels. Both in terms of total investments and the number of unique funded start-ups – has recovered to pre-COVID levels, during the quarter that ended in September 2020. Interestingly, four Indian start-ups gained the unicorn status amidst the pandemic and the country is expected to have 8 unicorns in 2020. Highlighting the factors that helped to reflect the ecosystem's resurrection, the report showed a pickup in activity and seed as well as late-stage funding. The Indian start-up ecosystem showed positive signs of recovery – funding reverting to 98% of pre-COVID levels, investor sentiments becoming positive, ticket sizes increasing, and a number of start-ups raising their first investment round also reverting to pre-COVID levels. Giving hope for students to explore entrepreneurial side of the industry.

The research as well as questionnaire prepared helped us to understand student's mentality and the psychological issues that they faced during these tough times and what measures were taken to overcome these problems. As we can get in depth perspective of what students were dealing with, what were their thoughts regarding working in the hospitality industry or being an entrepreneur and how in future they choose to be either of their choices?

Review Of Literature

ELLEN SHENG [2020], expressed that few industries have been as hard hit as the hospitality sector, which experienced mass layoffs and furloughs across the globe. Facing a bleak job market, recent graduates are now looking for ways to use their skills in other industries, while educators are using the pandemic as an opportunity to give a real-life lesson to current students in crisis management. It wasn't so long ago that hospitality was one of the most promising fields to

pursue. A degree in hospitality management could set you up for a successful career. Hospitality students expecting to start internships this summer were suddenly empty-handed, while graduates with job offers saw start dates pushed to September from May and June or rescinded altogether.

Shynakalra[2020] ,said that as the world came to a virtual standstill and public at large is being confined to their homes to fight the corona virus pandemic, one sector which was affected the most is 'travel'. A recent report states that the hotel, travel and airline sector has seen a negative hiring trend of 91 per cent, highest across industries in April. The national average, as per the report stands at a dip of 62 percent. This has left students and job-seekers in the hospitality and travel industry anxious. Placements were midway for most institutes when the pandemic hit India. Resulting in delayed joining dates for some while others still at a job searcher. To compensate for the gap, professional institutes in the sector have started offering certificate courses or bridge courses online to train the final year students or fresh graduates in the trends that are expected to weigh heavily post COVID-19.

Pritha Roy Choudhury [2020], explained Lockdown and travel restrictions imposed across countries to control the spread of coronavirus has impacted most businesses but the travel, tourism and hospitality industry is among the worst hit. Some students have had their job offers rescinded or deferred; many have been simply unable to join and are now anxious about their futures.E.g. NEW DELHI: In November 2019, Ritesh Bisht, a final-year student of Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Dehradun, received two joboffers in the campus placements -- one with a five-star resort in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, and another with a restaurant chain in Delhi. He had picked the first. Now, he has no offer at all. But at the same time some students are also utilizing there time to learn something new and beneficial and are also polishing their skills for e.g. Rohan Mishra's training at a top-tier resort in Goa was cut short by the pandemic. He had already delayed his training due to medical reasons and missed the campus placements at IHM Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He has been unable to find employment in hospitality but has put the skills he picked up in the course to use on a website listing rental properties. When free, he polishes his animation skills. "One can easily be sad, but I felt I should make myself happy and decided to devote this time working on things I love to do," he said.

Gunther Eysenbach, Guy Fagherazzi, and John Torous[2020], stated Student mental health in higher education has been an increasing concern. The COVID-19 pandemic situation has brought this vulnerable population into renewed focus. Due to the long-lasting pandemic situation and onerous measures such as lockdown and stay-at-home orders, the COVID-19 pandemic brings negative impacts on higher education. The findings of our study highlight the urgent need to develop interventions and preventive strategies to address the mental health of college students.

Andrea Petersen [2020], emphasized that nearly 41% of college students reported symptoms of depression in a survey of 18,764 students from the end of March through May by the American College Health Association and the Healthy Minds Network, a research project based at the University of Michigan, Boston University and the University of California, Los Angeles. The grinding unemployment that has hit young people especially hard is likely to have other harmful effects. "Studies have shown a relationship between unemployment and suicide and unemployment and illicit drug use and unemployment and alcohol use. This teenage and young-adult population is particularly susceptible to those influences," Dr.Nemeroff says. Also, suicide risk measured in the spring ticked up to 27.2%, from 25% measured last fall in a survey by the college health association, which is a research and advocacy group promoting student health.

Alexander Muacevic and John R Adler [2020], explained The COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted the lives of many people across the world. The worldwide rapid increase of infected cases has created a sense of uncertainty and anxiety about what is going to happen. It has also caused a tremendous level of stress among the university fraternity, inclusive of students. This stress may lead to unfavourable effects on the learning and psychological health of students. International students staying far from home are not only worried about their health, safety, and education but they also have a huge number of concerns for the wellbeing of their families .The COVID-19 pandemic may have a serious impact on the careers of this years' university graduates. They are experiencing major interruptions in teaching and assessment in the final part of their studies. They may likely graduate late due to the postponement of the final examination. Further, the graduates are going to face the severe challenges of the global recession caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

P Krishna Kumar [2020], explained that with hotels being closed down and there is no certainty as far as revival of full-fledged operations are concerned, the hotel management institutes and the students are also worried about the fate of the campus recruitments and the job offer letters they have received from the leading hotel groups. Whether the hotel companies honour their commitments in the present market conditions? Nobody is sure. "Students are in panic mode. We have asked our faculties to start counselling for the students," informs one of the Principals of a leading Catering college in the capital city, Delhi.

PedenDomaBhutia [2020], revealed Kamal Kant Pant has a very tough job on his hands. As the Principal of IHM, Catering & Nutrition (IHM), Pusa, New Delhi, one of the premier hospitality institutes of the country, Pant has been faced with a barrage of queries from graduating students about their future. With classes suspended since March 16, he says, the students were initially in shock as none of them had witnessed anything remotely of the magnitude of the Covid-19 crisis. Some younger students were even wondering if they had joined the wrong profession at the wrong time and some others were contemplating a course correction.

Savita Sharma [2020], revealed It has forced companies to change the way businesses are operated and managed; the impact is visible across sectors, right from manufacturing to goods, from products to services. In the scenario where industry is going through radical changes, educators also need to "change with change" to make students ready as per the industry requirement. It will also have an impact on the hospitality education; institutions have to make modifications in the course curriculum. The development of curriculum needs to be around the sense of responsibility while preparing the students for industry to work under crises. It's the time when educators need to prepare the students to stand firm against the epidemic situations and move forward with the same confident and mental stability.

Sakshisingh[2020] said, There will be more attention paid to creative pursuits, arts, humanities and other, 'less traditional' subjects than there was previously. This new expansion of educational horizons will certainly help give students more soft skills, innovative thinking and creative flair that is important for hospitality education," said DilipPuri while commenting on the New Education Policy (NEP) announced on July 29, 2020

KunalVasudeva [2020] stated that this means that the industry is still functional and will require even more manpower to support the recovery process. Furthermore, the introduction of technology to the hotel operations will play a huge factor in creating many new dynamic positions for those who are willing to join the industry and contribute to the new normal. Hospitality graduates are not – and will not- be limited to working in just hotels. As the world is recovering, there will be even more work opportunities in food services, arts, entertainment, recreation, banking & finance, travel & tourism, beauty & wellness, consulting, private equity, automobiles, aviation, luxury & retail, restaurants, and even entrepreneurship. The industry has always had a lot to offer to those who wish to pursue services, and as rebuilding efforts get well underway, graduates will find more opportunities and potential for career growth than ever before. Currently, a hospitality graduate is embedded with learning to adapt new scenarios, active planning, and contingencies with crisis and disaster management as a crucial part of their curriculum.

Srinath Achar[2020] stated Changing hospitality trends is giving way to a lot of new entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship is a trend among young millennia's. Young entrepreneurs are inspired by the success of companies such as OYO Rooms, Clear trip, Zomato, etc. as well as some internationally successful companies which have raised impressive earnings and they see themselves following this trend and creating new fast-growing businesses. Despite international uncertainties and security concerns, the global travel and tourism industry continues to grow at an impressive rate: More than one billion tourists travel to an international destination every year, while tourism contributes 10% of global GDP and 6% of the world's total exports, according to the UNWTO 2015 Report. To equip young entrepreneurs with the relevant skills, Jindal School of Hotel Management nurtures its students to develop an understanding of strategic market opportunities, financial values and returns, and project management as well as organizational effectiveness.

Iuliana, Ciochină Carmen Maria, Iordache Alexandrina, Sirbu[2020] stated, Tourism and hospitality industry is a complex sector, a distinct field of activity, a component of economic and social life that offers multiple opportunities for small business development, but also capital intensive and highly competitive. In this context, its connection with entrepreneurship takes into account the economic development of tourist areas, aims to create new sustainable

businesses by increasing the capacity and willingness of enterprises to develop, organize a business, to manage risk and profit. This paper, through recognizing micro factors influencing the development of local entrepreneurship, tourism and hospitality industry, aimed to analyse the behaviour of entrepreneurs consistent with the existence of constraints regarding business, a limitation of entrepreneurship, growth and behaviour. Romanian entrepreneurship in tourism and hospitality industry must boost competitiveness, leading to increased productivity and economic development.

Methodology:

This research was done to understand the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospitality students with regards to Entrepreneurial Initiatives. The information was gathered by floating a questionnaire and the feedback collected based on the survey. The questionnaire would be filled by various students and then the same observation will be noted. This survey will be specifically carried out to evaluate the information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospitality students with regards to Entrepreneurial Initiatives.

The research started by considering three broad topics i.e. 1-Safety and Security, 2-Delivery Boys, 3-Hospitality students, and COVID, then further we narrowed down each topic and did analyse them and finally dropped two topics due to information shortage and other obstacles, choosing the 'Hospitality students and COVID' as final Broad Topic.

After finalizing the broad topic, it was narrowed down and prospects added with regards to hospitality students point, with two sub-points namely Entrepreneurship and Psychological impact and the topic "Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospitality students with regards to Entrepreneurial Initiative's" was finalized. After the topic was finalized we moved forward with a review of the literature concerning our topic from different sources like Google, existing research's, etc. so that the validity of our topic and research gathered through this data will confirm and support our research. After the ROL (Review of Literature), four objectives were formulated finalized. Data Collection was done with the help of Google forms, so a Questioner was prepared and circulated to the targeted audience.

After all this was done, the data was collected, analyzed, a set of findings was noted down and a report was made for the same, followed by Suggestions, Bibliography, Appendix, and also the Conclusion of the Research.

As the researchers were working on the topic "Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospitality students with regards to Entrepreneurial Initiative's" they came across several problems. And these obstacles were going to turn into their objectives for further research. Moving forward the researchers wanted to know what student's mentality was during lockdown, what was their condition after seeing the Pandemic effect on the hospitality industry, any skills they developed during the free time they got due to lock down and plans if any to change their career option or planning some entrepreneurial activities & showing interest in business.

Based on all these questions the following 4 objectives for the research formulated.

- 1) To understand the factors influencing the Emotional distress and psychological wellbeing of the students during the lockdown period.
- 2) To analyze the psychological well-being of students after seeing the changes in industry after COVID 19.
- 3) To identify the skill set acquired by the hospitality students during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 4) To identify and Study various Entrepreneurial Initiative's available for hospitality students.

The sample chosen was Hotel Management Students. Around 250 respondents were surveyed by sending them E – questionnaire.

Students who were pursuing Hospitality management were included for this research.

Students from different educational streams were excluded.

The questionnaire was pre tested on sample of 30 hospitality students from different hospitality institutions. Minor changes were made such as new questions were added and the order of questions was changed and more options were added and the questionnaire schedule finalized.

Method of Data Collection:-

Primary Data: It was taken from Hotel Management Students. It was designed in such a way that the people can fill it online and even feedback can be taken by getting the questionnaire printed.

Secondary Data:

The information was taken through internet, newspaper, etc.

Results & discussion

The data was collected and analyzed using basic and advanced analytical tools which include the detailed analysis of data which was conducted with the set purpose of attaining the objectives of research. Mentioned below is the analysis which are presented graphically through the help of collected data by drawing inference from the collected facts and after analyzing the responses received from the study. This research was carried out to see the impact of COVID19 on hospitality students. It was concerned about finding out the mental health of students, their career choices, their perspective towards industry, and are there any entrepreneurial ideas in their mind to which they will accept as their career choice. After conducting the research we got the following findings.

Year of study	Percentage	Frequency
FINAL YEAR	24.80%	62.00
FY	28.80%	72.00
SY	23.60%	59.00
TY	22.00%	55.00
(blank)	0.80%	2.00
Total	100%	250

Table 5.1.1.1 Count of year Currently studying in

Specialization	Percentage
Accommodation Operation	15.20%
F & B	36.40%
Culinary	28%
Not Applicable	16.40%
others	4.00%
Total	100%

Table 5.1.1.2 Subject Of Specialization

5.1.1 We had a total of 250 respondents for our research of which around 62(24.80%) were studying in the final year. 72(28.80%) were the fresher's (First-year students). The students studying in the second year were 59(23.60%) and 55(22%) students were in the third year of their course. When asked about their specialization, it was observed that out of all responses 36.40% students took F&B as their specialization which also includes alcoholic beverages and bartending, 28% students took Culinary which includes kitchen and food production as well. For 16.20% of students this question was not valid as they did not have any specialization moreover because they were fresher's. 15.20% of students took Accommodation Operations as their specialization in college with 4% students with other specializations like interior design, event management, etc.

Mental State during lockdown	Frequency	Percentage
Anxious and Worried	64	25.60%
Depressed	37	14.80%
Normal	83	33.20%
Restless	31	12.40%
Tensed	34	13.60%
Blank	1	0.40%
Total	250	100%

Table 5.1.2.1 Count of mental state during lock down period

Any past experience of such emotions	Frequency	Percentage
Maybe	50	20.0
No	108	43.2
Yes	91	36.4
(blank)	1	0.4
Grand Total	250	100

Table 5.1.2.2 Emotional state of mind before COVID-19

Changes in lifestyles due to mental state	Percentage
Maybe	23.60%
No	25.20%
Yes	50.00%
(blank)	1.20%
Grand Total	100.00%

Table 5.1.2.3 Psychological state of mind affecting lifestyle during pandemic

5.1.2As we researched the mental health of students, we found that almost 33.2% of students were normal (stable) and are facing no issues. But 14.8% of students were facing depression. Some of them were tensed and restless and some were worried due to the situation. But a large number went unaffected and were completely normal. Most of them never faced such a state of mind (43.2%), but some have faced it earlier and thus they might be more efficient in handling it.

Effects by viewing the conditions of hotel industry	Percentage
Maybe	31.60%
No	17.20%
Yes	50.00%
(blank)	1.20%
Grand Total	100.00%

Table 5.1.3.1 Current scenario of hotel industry during pandemic, causing emotional distress

Views about Hotel Industry	Frequency	Percentage
Extensive Competition	47	18.80%
Plenty of Opportunities	36	14.40%
Scarcity of Jobs	83	33.20%
Unexpected Trends in Future	78	31.20%
(blank)	6	2.40%
Total	250	100%

Table 5.1.3.2 Views about the industry post COVID-19

5.1.3When asked about the industry a large portion of students said they were facing distress by seeing all the situations of the hotel industry. They were worried about their career. Some of them were not affected, most of them being fresher's. But the ones who were in training, last year or were on the way to get a job were much tensed about their

future. There were many views about the industry, some said there will be extensive completion, some said there will be plenty of opportunities, and one answer was a scarcity of jobs. But in all these mixed answers the majority was pointing out that there will be unexpected trends in the future.

Time utilization	Percentage
Maybe	22.40%
No	10.40%
Yes	66.40%
(blank)	0.80%
Grand Total	100.00%

Table 5.1.4.Views on a bright future with the industry in the coming year

A large number of students said that unfortunately, they don't see a bright future for themselves in the industry anymore. Most of them were final year students, pass out students, or on job trainees. Some of them were very confused.

Activities	Percentage
Cooking	24.80%
Netflix series and movies	20.80%
Workout	17.20%
Trying a fitness challenge	6.00%
Reading	4.80%
Watching Television	4.00%
Gardening	3.20%
Artist	5.60%
Miscellaneous	1.60%
Others	12%
Total	100%

Table 5.1.4.2 Activities carried out by participants during lock down

Acquired Skills	Percentage
Baking	11.24%
Carving of Vegetables and Fruits	2.41%
Cocktail Making	4.82%
Cooking	22.89%
Flower Arrangement	1.20%
Innovation and Entrepreneurship skills	0.40%
Interpersonal Skills	15.26%
Maintaining peace of mind and carrying forward. Even i hit a jackpot	0.40%
Menu Planning	5.62%
Napkin Folding	1.61%
Poster Making	2.41%
Pubg	0.40%

Revenue management	0.40%
There are few more but it's bot related to this industry	0.40%
Time Management	26.91%
(blank)	3.61%
Total	250

Table 5.1.4.3 Up gradation of skills during lock down

Did you acquire any new skills that will help you in future in industry?	Percentage
Maybe	22.00%
No	7.60%
Yes	68.80%
(blank)	1.60%
Grand Total	100.00%

Table 5.1.4.4 New Skills acquired during lock down

5.1.4 Everyone got a great amount of free time in lockdown. A lot of them utilized it for learning something new. It was found that almost 166 out of 250 students utilized their time to upgrade their skills. 56 were confused and 26 students did nothing regarding their skills. Students were carrying out different activities to divert their minds. Some were up to work out, others were busy cooking and most were enjoying movies and series over Netflix. Other activities also included farming, gaming, watching T.V, swimming, trying a fitness challenge, gardening, photography, etc. we further researched that, do students were involved in something related to the industry. The majority of them acquired new skills that will help them in the future in the industry (around 172 out of 250). Different skills acquired were time management (mostly), 57 were involved in flower arrangement, 38 were busy with interpersonal skills, while 28 did craving of vegetables and fruits, other skills were baking, cocktail making, cooking, menu planning, poster making, napkin folding, etc.

Future View in accordance with industry	Percentage
Maybe	33.20%
No	7.60%
Yes	59.20%
Total	100.00%

Table 5.1.5.1 Future in the industry

Change in Career Perspective	Frequency	Percentage
Maybe	46	18.4%
No	103	41.2%
Yes	101	40.4%
Grand Total	250	100.0%

Table 5.1.5.2 Perspective on change in career choices

Interest in being entrepreneur	Frequency
Maybe	24.00%
No	20.40%
Yes	55.20%
(blank)	0.40%
Grand Total	100.00%

Table 5.1.5.3 views on being an entrepreneur

Career Choice	Percentage
Event Manager	17.60%
Consultancy	17.20%
Artist	16%
Entrepreneurship	16.40%
Food outlet	15.20%
Others	5.20%
Recipe Developer	4.40%
Miscellaneous	4%
Deictic and Nutritionist	3.60%
Total	100%

Table 5.1.5.4 Profession preference other than Hospitality Industry

5.1.5 Due to the downfall of industry students have changed their career perspectives. But this was not the case with the majority. Around 41.2% of students were firm on their decision and didn't change their career options. Unfortunately, 40.4% of students said yes a changing career perspective, and a small 18.4% were confused. Most of them (around 138 out of 250) wanted to be an entrepreneur and were interested in business. And some (51/250) said no to this. The students whose career perspectives have changed have chosen different professions outside hospitality like vlogger(12), event manager(44), family business(20), food outlet(38), photography(19), etc. other professions were academican, hotel owner, farmer, musician, menu consultant, recipe developer, sommelier, etc.

Suggestions & Recommendations

1. Students should seek counseling if disturbed mentally
2. Students should talk to their teachers, parents, guide, friends, etc. about their issues and they should try to find solutions.
3. Students should learn how to deal with any situation by keeping the mind calm and stable.
4. There should be a different subject or department in colleges related to entrepreneurship
5. Colleges should club entrepreneurship and other subject's to teach business ideas to students related to the hospitality industry
6. Students should be aware of the ground reality of the hospitality industry (how it works, what affects it, what benefits it, etc.)
7. Students should be interested in learning new skills related to the industry

8. Students should also learn other skills or do other courses side by side
9. Students should utilize their free time very carefully to make it productive
10. Colleges should provide students optional subjects or workshops that'll help them in jobs or business in future

Recommendations:

1. Research can be done to address unanswered aspects of this research.
2. More observation, findings can be derived if this topic is researched on a wide scale.
3. Researchers can add more objectives and increase sampling size.
4. Same research can be done in different location, field and with a different targeted respondents.

Conclusion

This was an extensive research carried out to study the impact of COVID-19 on the hospitality students and to understand their psychological wellbeing, the skills developed, their mind-set to maintain psychological, physical and emotional wellbeing in lockdown, preferences with regards to any career changes in the future and views about entrepreneurship. After carrying out the (online survey a great deal of information with respect to all the central objectives were gathered and based on this the researcher derived on the following conclusion.

Many students were worried about their career by looking at the situation of the Hospitality Industry during the pandemic and causing anxiety which in turn affected their psychological wellbeing, in such a situation they could consult any hospitality industry individual/personnel. But at the same time, most of the students (almost 33.2%) comparatively stable as compared to their apprehensive counterparts. Due to a great deal of time available during the lockdown, many of the students utilized their time to learn something new and to upgrade their skills. Some of them just did entertaining things to divert their mind but some of them learned skills that would help them in the near future. Many also learned skills that were not related to the industry but would help them in their Career if they decide to switch their career option. Participants were quite worried about their career witnessing the situation of the hotel industry during the COVID-19, participants were unsure about their career perspective and considerable number of participants had no intentions to join the hotel industry and they chose to switch to a new career option. Most of them had some or the other plans .Entrepreneurship was one of the option which attracted many students and various business ideas had cropped up in their heads during the pandemic. Institutes should emphasize on a mix of regular subjects with vocational subjects which cover various aspects related to hospitality industry to bring diverse business ideas for students rendering a vast scope for EDP.

The research was based on the existing situations of pandemics and the information can change in the future, so more could be understood about this topic in different time frames. We had limited access to data and were unable to connect with respondents personally due to lockdown, but in the future, there are chances to use different data collection tools like an interview to understand the ground reality and to get a more genuine response. In the future, we can explore how entrepreneurial initiatives helped students. Hospitality institutes can bring changes in their curriculums by incorporating vocational subject related to the industry and study how it will help students to become independent and self-reliant (Atmanirbhar).Researchers can also explore what students did after their career perspective changed and left the industry or if they were planning to do a start-up related to the industry.

Thus, an empirical research can be carried out on this topic as it has a vast scope for research considering different aspects, going deep in the topic or sub-topics related to it and leading to more fruitful results to help the hospitality students. It will take efforts of students as well as colleges to tackle all the problems that have arisen during this

pandemic and there are various new things to learn as well and there are various beneficial changes can be made in the curriculum that can bring academics and entrepreneurial initiatives to the non-conventional skill development leading to overall career growth covering diverse career avenues related to hospitality industry.

ANNEXURE 1– QUESTIONNAIRE

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospitality students with regards to Entrepreneurial Initiative's

1. Name

2. Age

- 16-19
- 19-23
- 23-30

3. Name of the college

4. Currently studying in

- FY
- SY
- TY
- FINAL YEAR

5. What is your subject of specialization in college?

- Culinary
- Accommodation Operation
- Food and Beverage Services
- Not Applicable
- Other:

6. What was your mental state during lock down period?

- Anxious and Worried
- Restless
- Tensed
- Depressed
- Normal

7. Have you experienced the above mentioned emotional state of mind before COVID-19?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

8. Did your psychological state of mind affected your lifestyle during lock down?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

9. Is the current scenario of hotel industry in pandemic causing you emotional distress?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

10. What is your emotional state of mind looking at the current situation of the hotel industry?

- Tensed
- Stressed
- Worried
- Anxious
- Frustrated
- Depressed

11. Did you utilised your time during lock down to upgrade your skills?

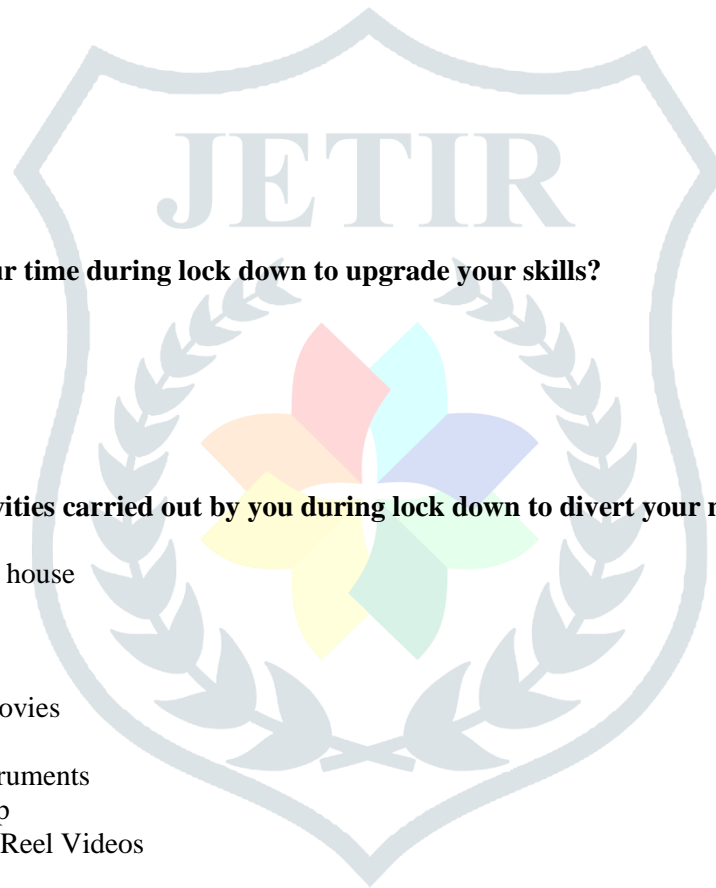
- Yes
- No
- Maybe

12. What were the activities carried out by you during lock down to divert your mind?(If any other activity please mention.)

- Spring cleaning your house
- Cooking
- Watching Television
- Workout
- Netflix Series and Movies
- Reading
- Playing Musical Instruments
- Dress up and Makeup
- Preparing dance and Reel Videos
- Gardening
- Swimming
- Trying a fitness challenge
- Learning a Language
- Start a Blog
- Other:

13. Did you acquire any new skills that will help you in future in industry?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe



14. If yes what skills set you have acquired from the below given options

- Interpersonal Skills
- Time Management
- Napkin Folding
- Carving of Vegetables and Fruits
- Poster Making
- Baking
- Menu Planning
- Flower Arrangement
- Cocktail Making
- Cooking
- Other:

15. Do you see a bright future for yourself in the industry in the coming year?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

16. Have your career prospective changed during the pandemic situation?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

17. What are your views about the industry post COVID-19?

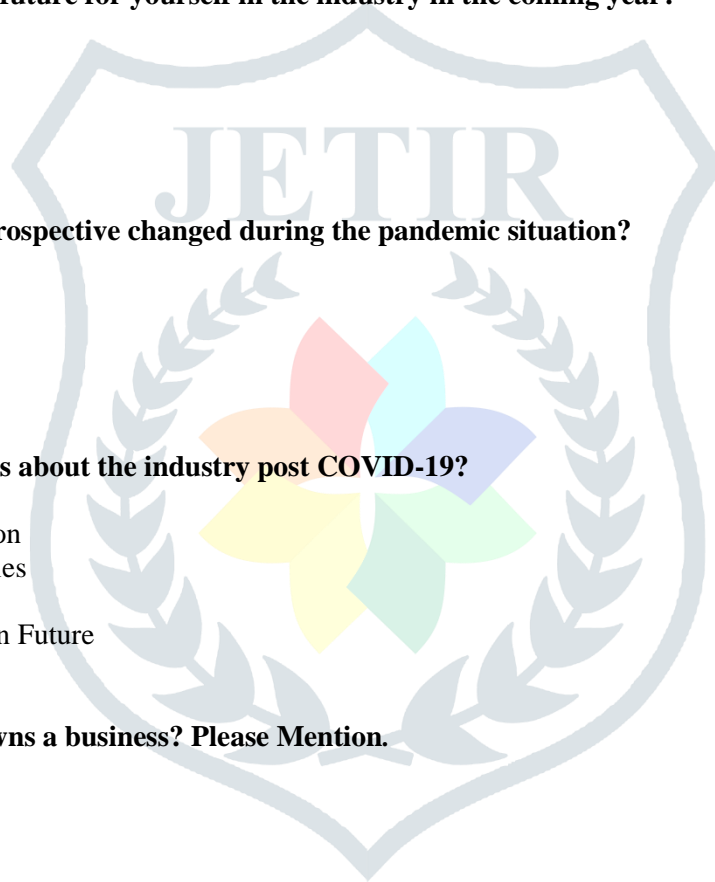
- Extensive Competition
- Plenty of Opportunities
- Scarcity of Jobs
- Unexpected Trends in Future

18. Does your family owns a business? Please Mention.

- Yes
- No
- Other:

19. Would you like to be an entrepreneur rather than a hotel employee in future?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe



20. Which profession do you feel confident about it, that you can make up a living if not Hospitality Industry? If other please mention.

- Being a vlogger
- Traveling Consultant
- Social Influencer
- Gardening and horticulture
- Housekeeping Consultant
- Event Manager
- Sommelier
- Menu Consultant
- Food Outlet
- Dietic and Nutritionist
- Food Processing Industry
- Image Consultant
- Recipe Developer
- Photography
- Academician
- Security Consultant
- Family Business
- Other

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