



# Impact of COVID19 on Tourism Sector: A Case Study of Kangra District

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## Abstract

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by the virus severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first known case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The disease quickly spread worldwide, resulting in the COVID-19 pandemic. The symptoms of COVID-19 are variable but often include fever, cough, headache, fatigue, breathing difficulties, loss of smell, and loss of taste. Symptoms may begin one to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. At least a third of people who are infected do not develop noticeable symptoms. Of those who develop symptoms noticeable enough to be classified as patients, most (81%) develop mild to moderate symptoms (up to mild pneumonia), while 14% develop severe symptoms (dyspnea, hypoxia, or more than 50% lung involvement on imaging), and 5% develop critical symptoms (respiratory failure, shock, or multiorgan dysfunction). As the world is facing an unprecedented global health, social and economic emergency with the COVID-19 pandemic, travel and tourism is among the most affected sectors with airplanes on the ground, hotels closed and travel restrictions put in place in virtually all countries around the world. Therefore, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has launched a new dashboard on COVID-19 and tourism which shows data on the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector across the world, by regions and by destinations. Himachal Pradesh witnessed the arrival of 1.28 crore tourists, including 28,232 foreigners, between 1 January 1 and 31 October, says data procured from the Tourism department. The hill state witnessed the footfall of 41.03 lakh tourists in the corresponding year-ago period, showed the data, adding that the tourism and allied industry suffered huge losses as tourist inflow dropped 81 per cent year-on-year in 2020 during the pandemic. In 2020, the tourist arrivals plunged to 32.13 lakh from 1.72 crore in 2019, but marginally recovered to 56.37 lakh in 2021. In 2022, the maximum number of tourists 20.63 lakh visited in June, while January recorded the lowest footfall at 7.69 lakh according to the data.

**Key Words:** Coronavirus, pneumonia, dyspnea, hypoxia, dysfunction.

## INTRODUCTION

### COVID19

Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by the virus severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first known case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The disease quickly spread worldwide, resulting in the COVID-19 pandemic.

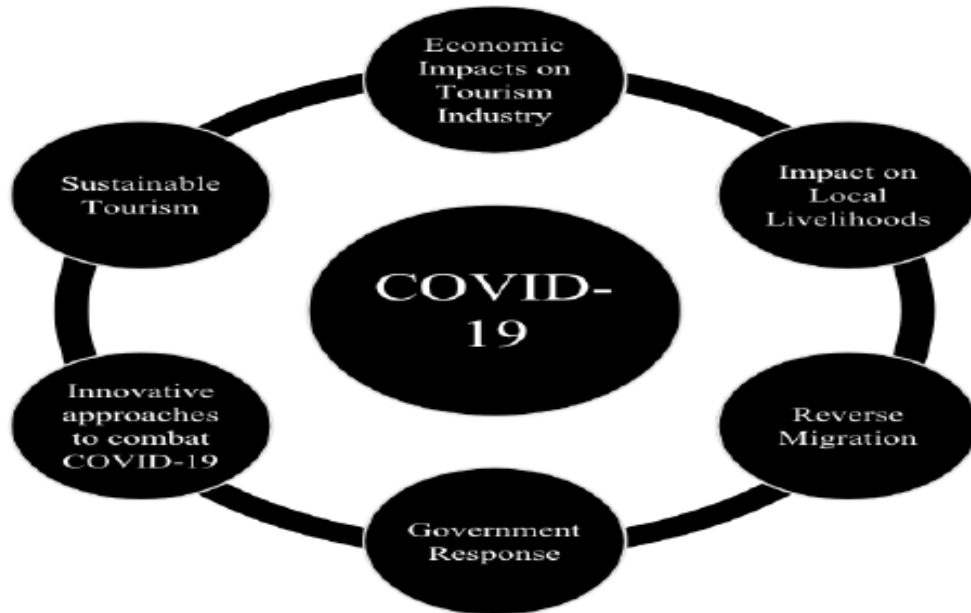
The symptoms of COVID-19 are variable but often include fever, cough, headache, fatigue, breathing difficulties, loss of smell, and loss of taste. Symptoms may begin one to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. At least a third of people who are infected do not develop noticeable symptoms. Of those who develop symptoms noticeable enough to be classified as patients, most (81%) develop mild to moderate symptoms (up to mild pneumonia), while 14% develop severe symptoms (dyspnea, hypoxia, or more than 50% lung involvement on imaging), and 5% develop critical symptoms (respiratory failure, shock, or multiorgan dysfunction). Older people are at a higher risk of developing severe symptoms. Some people continue to experience a range of effects (long COVID) for months after recovery, and damage to organs has been observed. Multi-year studies are underway to further investigate the long-term effects of the disease.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by staying at least 1 metre apart from others, wearing a properly fitted mask, and washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently. Get vaccinated when it's your turn and follow local guidance.

The virus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe. These particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosols. It is important to practice respiratory etiquette, for example by coughing into a flexed elbow, and to stay home and self-isolate until you recover if you feel unwell.

### Tourism in India

Tourism in India is important for the country's economy and is growing rapidly. The World Travel and Tourism Council calculated that tourism generated ₹13.2 lakh crore (US\$170 billion) or 5.8% of India's GDP and supported 32.1 million jobs in 2021. Even though, these numbers were lower than the pre-pandemic figures; the country's economy witnessed a significant growth in 2021 after the massive downturn during 2020. The sector is predicted to grow at an annual rate of 7.8% to ₹33.8 lakh crore (US\$420 billion) by 2031 (7.2% of GDP). In October 2015, India's medical tourism sector was estimated to be worth US\$3 billion, and it is projected to grow to US\$7–8 billion by 2020. In 2014, 184,298 foreign patients travelled to India to seek medical treatment. Over 17.9 million foreign tourists arrived in India in 2019 compared to 17.4 million in 2018, representing a growth of 3.5%. This makes India the 22nd most visited nation in the world and 8th in Asia and Pacific. Domestic tourist visits to all states and union territories numbered 1,036.35 million in 2012, an increase of 16.5% from 2011. In 2012, National Geographic's Traveler magazine named the state Kerala as one of the "ten paradises of the world" and "50 must see destinations of a lifetime". In 2014, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh were the most popular states for tourists. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Agra and Jaipur were the five most visited cities of India by foreign tourists during the year 2015. As of 2017, worldwide, Delhi is ranked 28th by the number of foreign tourist arrivals, while Mumbai is ranked 30th, Chennai 43rd, Agra 45th, Jaipur 52nd and Kolkata 90th.



## Types of Tourism

### Adventure tourism

As a kind of tourism in India, adventure tourism has recently grown in India. This involves exploration of remote areas and exotic locales and engaging in various activities. For adventure tourism in India, tourists prefer to go for trekking to places like Ladakh, Sikkim, and Himalaya. Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are popular for the skiing facilities they offer. Whitewater rafting is also catching on in India and tourists flock to places such as Uttarakhand, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh for this adrenalin-packed activity.

### Beach Tourism

India's vast coastline and islands provides ample opportunities for fun packed tourism. Kerala, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep islands attract tourists in large numbers all around the year

### Cultural tourism

India is known for its rich cultural heritage and an element of mysticism, which is why tourists come to India to experience it for themselves. The various fairs and festivals that tourists can visit in India are the Pushkar fair (Rajasthan), Taj Mahotsav (Uttar Pradesh), and Suraj Kund mela (Haryana). Sites like Ajanta & Ellora caves (Maharashtra), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Hampi (Karnataka), Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh), Hawa Mahal (Rajasthan).

### Eco tourism

Among the types of tourism in India, ecotourism have grown recently. Ecotourism entails the sustainable preservation of a naturally endowed area or region. This is becoming more and more significant for the ecological development of all regions that have tourist value. For Eco tourism in India, tourists can go to places such as Kaziranga National Park (Assam), Gir National Park (Gujarat), and Kanha National Park (Madhya Pradesh).

### Medical tourism

Tourists from all over the world have been thronging India to avail themselves of cost-effective but superior quality healthcare in terms of surgical procedures and general medical attention. There are several medical institutes in the country that cater to foreign patients and impart top quality healthcare at a fraction of what it would have cost in

developed nations such as USA and UK. The city of Chennai (Tamil Nadu) attracts around 45% of medical tourists from foreign countries.

### **Wildlife tourism**

India has a rich forest cover which has some beautiful and exotic species of wildlife – some of which that are even endangered and very rare. This has boosted wildlife tourism in India. The places where a foreign tourist can go for wildlife tourism in India are the Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana National Park (Rajasthan), and Corbett National Park (Uttarkhand)

According to World Travel Tourism Council Direct Contribution of Travel and Tourism to GDP in leading country worldwide 2019 with India Ranking at 8 Position with total contribution of GDP is 9170 US billion dollar in 2019 and with this the economic development also rises and job opportunities also rises many educational courses are also started to involve the young blood in the Tourism industry. But we compare it with the data of 2020 it came down to 4671 US Billion Dollar there is a big decrease in the GDP of (-4498 US Billion Dollar) was seen. This decrease created due to the global pandemic that the country is facing. As jobs are concerned in tourism industry in 2019 it registered that there were 334 million jobs were there and for 1 person at-least 10 jobs are there before COVID the scenario is very promising and very much encouraging. But as the COVID-19 entered in 2020 these jobs were reduced to 272 million jobs and now for 11 people there is only 1 job available. The job percentage decreased to 61.6% as the COVID-19 persist in country. The total contribution to GDP of Travel and Tourism is 6.9% which amounts to INR14,181.9 BN (USD191.3 BN) in the year 2019 and as 2020 is concerned the total contribution dropped down to 4.7% of the total economy which is INR9,039.5 BN (USD121.9 BN) and there is total decrease of -36.3% which indicates change in travel and Tourism GDP vs -7.1% real economy GDP Change. Total contribution to employment by tourism industry in year 2019 is 40,111.9 jobs and this is 8.8% of total employment, which reduced to 31785.2 in 2020 which is 7.3% of total employment. When it comes to total spending habit in Tourism industry is USD160.5BN (94%) in 2019 and it decreased to 105.9 BN in 2020. The international visitors spend almost 2,282.3BN of total exports where as domestic visitors spend 10,384.8BN in 2019 and this has dropped to 890.7BN. In case of international visitors spending and in case of domestic spending 7,201.4BN in 2020. Change in international spending is -61.0% and change in domestic spending is -30.7%. The arrivals registered from rest of the world in India was 73% in 2019 and which came down to 63% in 2020, whereas outbound departures in 2019 is 61% and in 2020 it was registered to 57%. So, it can be said that a drastic change registered in 2020 and sole reason behind this change is COVID-19 which led Tourism industry suffer to unknown period.

### **IMPACT OF COVID19 IN INDIA**

India has one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates in the world with over 2.5 million confirmed cases and the death toll on the rise. The first case of COVID-19 was identified on January 30, 2020 in Kerala in a student who had returned from Wuhan, China. However, since March 2020, there has been an upsurge in the spread of the infection. In response, the Government imposed a nationwide lockdown to prevent community transmission of the infection. Despite some regional differences in the extent of lockdown restrictions, based on total COVID-19 cases in that region, everyone in India has experienced closure of educational and training institutions; hotels and restaurants; malls, cinemas, gyms, sports centers; and places of worship.

GDP in India contracted by 5.5 percent in fiscal 2021 on account of the pandemic and then began to stage recovery when it grew at 9.1 percent during FY22. According to National Statistical Organisation (NSO), the GDP during FY 23 is expected to end up at 7 percent and FY24 may post at 6 percent.

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in India has been largely disruptive. India's growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2020 went down to 3.1% according to the Ministry of Statistics. The Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India said that this drop is mainly due to the coronavirus pandemic effect on the Indian economy.

**Economic Impact on Indian Tourism:**

Out of the G-20 countries India ranked at 7 Position with total contribution to GDP in 2019 is 191.3 US\$BN and it come down to 121.9 US\$BN in 2020 where GDP contribution is concerned. This downfall was due to the contagious COVID-19 that led create a greater economic burden on the country. The visible change in travel tourism sector is -36.3% in GDP in 2020. All the arrivals and reservations got cancelled due to urgent lockdown.

As Travel tourism sector is known for its contribution the whole countries balance is unstable. The total spending in domestic is changed to -30.7% and where international spending is concerned it changed to -61.0%. all this data was published by World Travel Tourism Council (WTTC).

**Impact on Aviation Industry:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought airports to halt and this has reduced the revenue of airlines. India and other Asia-Pacific Countries has stopped flying both domestic and international passengers, all this is done to stop the infectious virus. According to the ACI 12 World the air traffic reduced to 1 billion passengers in COVID-19 and it declined to 64.6% as of global passengers. In 2020 the loss of passengers accounted for loss of 2.15 billion passengers both domestic and international. The impact of COVID-19 is forecasted crisis of -43.6%. Whereas Q4 has shown some improvement as compared to Q3 and Q2.

**Impact on Employment:**

The total jobs available in tourism sector in 2019 is 334 million jobs which was reduced to 272 million in 2020 due to emergence of contagious COVID-19 and some were sent on unpaid leave and never called back on jobs. The scenario of employment is decreased as COVID-19 entered. The change that was registered in employment is - 61.6% in 2020.

**Impact on Hospitality sector:**

The hospitality sector faced reduction in case of cancellation of reservation by tourist both domestic and international. 53% of total leading hotel shutdown and 80% of their inventory got reduced due to lockdown. The challenge that hospitality industry is facing is loss as labor due to COVID-19 crisis. Many of the leading hotels are getting merged in big hotels so solve their financial problems.

**Tourism in Himachal Pradesh**

Tourism in Himachal Pradesh relates to tourism in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. This is popularly renowned for its Himalayan landscapes and popular hill-stations. Many outdoor activities such as rock climbing, mountain biking, paragliding, ice-skating, trekking, rafting, and heli-skiing are popular tourist attractions in Himachal Pradesh. Until the British reign, tourism in Himachal Pradesh was very limited to a few places around the hills and some spiritual destinations. The British developed hill stations during their reign one of them being Shimla which they called The Summer Capital of India. After the British rule, tourism in Himachal Pradesh was on the rise with the highest number of tourists in the mid1980s and 1990s. Shimla, the state capital, is popular among tourists. The Kalka-Shimla Railway is a mountain railway which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Himachal Pradesh, also known as the —The Land of Gods|, —Devbhoomi, is a hill state popular for its picturesque tourist destinations. The beautiful valleys of Himachal Pradesh and its diverse cultures are home to spiritual, medical, and adventure tourism (Rishi and Giridhar, 2007). Known for its topographical and traditional diversity, pleasant surroundings, and holy places of worship, ancient memorials and cordial and welcoming people. The tourism sector is an important economic pillar of this state contributing 7% to the state. The state witnessed an Indian and Foreign tourist influx of 16.83 million and 383,000 respectively, in 2019 .





Shimla is also a famous skiing attraction in India. Other popular hill stations include Manali, Kinnuar, Kasol, Parvati Valley, Chamba Kullu, Kinnar Kailesh, and Kasauli. Dharamshala, home of the Dalai Lama, is known for its Tibetan monasteries and Buddhist temples. Many trekking expeditions also begin here.

The Himalayas are found in Himachal Pradesh. The Shivalik range and mid- Himalayas are found here. The highest peak is Reo Purgyl with a height of 6,816m in Kinnaur. Furthermore, there are some reservoirs and rivers in Himachal Pradesh which are tourist hotspots due to water port activities, sacred importance to Hindus, bird watching and have health centres around them. The four major rivers in the state are Ravi, Chenab, Sutlej and Beas. The Sutlej and Beas river valleys are home to hot springs such as Tattapani, Manikaran and Vashisht Temple.

Himachal Pradesh has 5 National Parks that preserve and protect some of the rarest wildlife and vegetation of the Himalayas. here are the 5 best National Parks in Himachal Pradesh:

- Great Himalayan National Park – Kullu
- Pin Valley National Park – Lahaul and Spiti
- Inderkilla National Park- Kullu
- Khirganga National Park – Kullu
- Simbalbara National Park – Sirmour

There are a variety of festivals celebrated by the locals of Himachal Pradesh who worship gods and goddesses. There are over 2000 villages in Hi machal Pradesh which celebrate festivals such as Kullu Dussehra, Chamba’s Minjar, Renuka ji Fair, Lohri, Halda, Phagli, Lossar and Mandi Shivratri.



## COVID IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic in India was reported on 30 January 2020, originating from China. Slowly, the pandemic spread to various states and union territories including the state of Himachal Pradesh. The first case was recorded in this region on 20 March 2020.

Himachal Pradesh has abundant supply of forest resources that are included in the primary sector i.e. agriculture, forestry and quarrying. The COVID-19 Lockdown had a strong impact on its growth rate. The highest decreasing under primary sectors can be seen in the mining and quarrying (-18.4 per cent) followed by forestry (- 17.5 per cent). This is due to the nationwide lockdown for COVID-19 outbreak which forced everyone to stay at, homes to maintain social distancing. The unavailability of labour to work in forest and logging on the one side, and the decrease in the demand on the other side led to twin shocks to these sectors.

The tourism industry braved any external shocks blown to them, but the aftermath and resurgence from the ongoing pandemic will be prodigious. The ongoing pandemic has perpetrated economic and health shocks on an unprecedented scale. In an unfamiliar jolt dealt by coronavirus aftermath, it may drive 3.8 crore people unemployed translating to 70% of the entire workforce from the Indian tourism and hospitality sector (Economic Times, 2020). Amidst the initial stages of the pandemic, Vice President K.B. Kachru of Hotel Association of India's (HAI) stressed with no instantaneous initiatives employed to aid the industry, roughly 3.5 - 4 crore workforce from India's hospitality industry may become unemployed with a drop in earnings of around Rs 5 lakh crores in the financial year 2020-21 (IANS, 2020). Till December 2019, 3,679 registered hotels were having a bed capacity of approximately 1 Lakh and 2,189 homestays with a bed capacity of 12,181 in the state (Himachal Tourism, 2019). However, the absolute figures are likely to be higher. Roughly, there are over 8,000 hotels and over 4,000 homestay facilities in Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Dharamshala, Dalhousie, and Kasauli-reckoning a considerable size of the population dependent on this sector. Tourists mostly visit Himachal Pradesh during summers, which specifically is a peak season for the hoteliers however, the pandemic shut doors for all the tourists. The unemployment number in the state is now close to 11 lakhs. Based on a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the travel and tourism chain in the country is estimated to incur a shortfall of around INR 5 lakh crore in 2020 due to the pandemic. The first instance of COVID-19 in India was recorded in January last week and a full national lockdown was ordered on March 24th, 2020 limiting movement of the entire population, extending until the last week of May 2020. However, with the lifting of lockdown restrictions, certain relaxations were permitted in different COVID zones. The services were resumed



in a phased manner and a series of unlocks started from 1st June 2020 (Unlock 1) for a month duration till November 2020 (Unlock 6). Private and public transport restrictions affected the domestic travel and tourism sector the most. Moreover, the hotel industry which was already facing losses had to spend additional costs on COVID-19 cleaning protocols causing an additional financial burden.



Manufacturing and construction is the backbone of any economy. These are main components of the secondary sector which accounts for the second highest percentage share in GSDP. The unavailability of manpower due to lockdown is the main reason being the fall in the growth rate of manufacturing and construction sector in the State.

Transportation is part of the tertiary sector and has important role in the economy of the State. Absence of other means of transportation through airways and railways makes road transportation play an important role in the hilly terrain. Transportation by other means has the highest dip of (-) 28 per cent whereas, Transportation, Storage and

Communication has -16.2 per cent fall in 2020-21 due to COVID-19. Tourism remains the main source of revenue generation and employment in the State. COVID-19 forced lockdown which caused the worst hit to the tourism sector in the State.



### Growth Rate of the Himachal Pradesh Economy Under Tourism and Hospitality

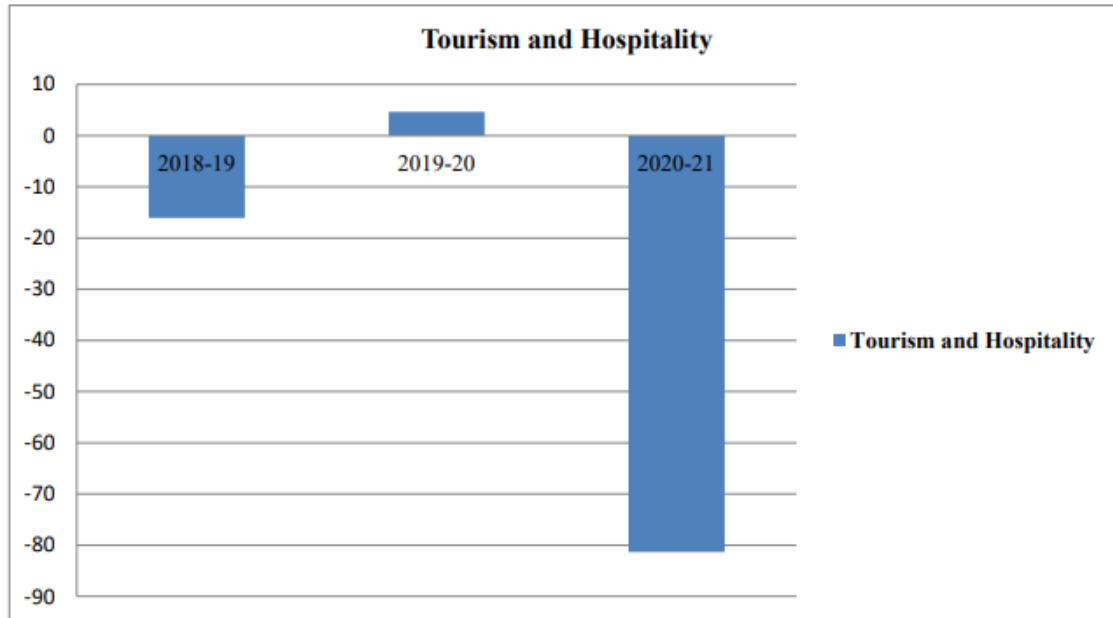


Table -4 District wise COVID-19 position in Himachal Pradesh

Name of District	Total COVID-19 Test	Total Negative Cases	Total Positive Cases	Active Cases	Cured Cases	Deaths Case	Migrated out Cases
Bilaspur	4080	4036	44	16	28	0	0
Chamba	7260	7208	52	7	45	0	0
Hamirpur	10204	9959	245	104	139	2	0
Kangra	16081	15812	269	112	155	2	0
Kinnaur	2023	2015	8	5	3	0	0
Kullu	2594	2589	5	0	5	0	0
Lahual & Spiti	451	449	2	2	0	0	0
Mandi	7000	6970	30	7	21	2	0
Shimla	6752	6712	40	16	22	2	0
Sirmour	5288	5250	38	8	23	0	7
Solan	12746	12637	109	50	55	0	4
Una	8002	7894	108	30	78	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82481</b>	<b>81531</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: National Health Mission Himachal Pradesh Report as on 30 June 2020.

The pandemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 (SARs-CoV-2) with origins from Wuhan had traversed exhaustive terrains and was inevitably knocking at doors of the state of Himachal Pradesh (HP), India, also. HP is a hilly state of India, almost 3000 kms far away from Kerala, inhabited by 6,864,602 residents.[3] HP had always remained a favorite destination state for tourists and travelers from across the world, with influx of more than 17 million in the year 2018.[4] The state of HP with wide geographical disparities, extreme terrains, harsh weather conditions ensuing winter, and massive tourist influx had enormous challenge on its hand, warranting extraordinary vision from the state authorities for effective containment and control of the novel pandemic threat of COVID-19.

## IMPACT OF COVID IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

To fulfil the needs of population of the state, Himachal Pradesh buys those products from other states, which could not be produced in the state and sells those products to other states, which are largely manufactured in the state. In this situation, where all the states in India are depend upon each other in some way, Himachal Pradesh

has also not remained untouched with COVID-19 global pandemic, as COVID-19 spreads through contact with each other.

According to a report, state economy has incurred a loss of ₹ 17 to 18 thousands crore so far due to COVID-19 outbreak. The COVID-19 has also affected the Himachal Pradesh economy and current running development schemes adversely.



#### **Effect on apple farming:-**

Among the apple growing regions in India, Himachal Pradesh is on second position with the share of 21.5 per cent after Jammu & Kashmir who have leading in this market with a 70 per cent market share. Other apple growing states i.e. Uttarakhand (6 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (1.6 per cent), Sikkim, Nagaland have also entered in this market. Himachal Pradesh's apple economy is worth of nearly ₹ 4,000 crore. This year production of apple hit very hard by colder weather at growing stage of apple. The ideal temperature required at growing stage is 16 to 24 degree Celsius, but this year Shimla and adjoining region recorded the temperature of 11 to 13 degree Celsius, which is not good for apple production. Apart from this, the growing trend of COVID-19 pandemic all over the country has also increase the tension of apple farmers. Those farmers who are live at low height area of the state and are produce the early-season varieties of apples are worried that how the apples crops will reach the market and find bulk buyers. Beside these, government rules of 14 days institutional quarantine for those who coming from containment zone or buffer zones and also 14 days home quarantine for rest the people coming from other parts of the country are also becoming the hindrance. Another major problem during this time is acute shortage of labour. Workers from Nepal, who are expert in handling apple operations could not returned from their country due to COVID-19. Other workers who were already in the state for other jobs have left the state during the lockdown.

#### **Effect on tourism industry: -**

The revenue of the state has been declined 87 per cent in the month of April 2020, only 116 crore receipts has been collected as compare to 883 crore receipts was collected in the month of April 2019. Tourism industry in the state has been badly affected from three face of lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak. According to the economic survey of Himachal Pradesh about seven lakh people depend on tourism industry and this sector contribute 6.6 per cent in GDP of the state. To control the corona virus state government has banned the entry of tourists in the boundaries of state on 18 March 2020. About 7,918 agencies including 2,912 travel agencies, 3,350 hotels and 1,656 homestays are so for registered with the tourism department of Himachal Pradesh. During the COVID-19 pandemic they all are struggling to meet out their fixed expenses due to not entering tourists in the state. Besides the hotels agencies, adventurers, guides & taxi drivers have also been affected adversely. According to a report about 168.29 lakh domestic & 3.82 lakh foreign tourists arrived in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2019, but due to lockdown & travelling restrictions no tourists has been entered into the state till now.

## Effect on education:-

The COVID-19 outbreak mostly effected to the education system all over the world. Schools, colleges, universities all are closed from its beginning stage. According to a report about 1.7 billion learners are currently affected from COVID-19 globally. As per the UNICEF report about 134 countries all around the world are currently implementing the nationwide closures. In Himachal Pradesh there are about 10480 primary schools, 1055 middle schools, 1,870 high/senior secondary schools and 138 colleges are currently functional. But due to COVID-19 pandemic these all are closed from last four months. State government have continuously following the guidelines of the ministry of human resource department government of India.

Due to COVID-19 there was delayed in declaration of results of matriculation and ten-plus two classes, examination of undergraduate and post-graduation are delayed. In this phase of pandemic, students in the state has going through the mental stress due to non-completion of annual examination on time and also worried about the admission in further higher studies. Apart from this, some private educational institutes are demanding school fee from the parents of students without any teaching from last four months.

COVID-19 pandemic have created the new era of education in the state. Some educational institutions have started provide online education through various online platforms such as google meet, zoom applications. They are trying to reduce the mental stress of the students by providing them online platform of teaching.

## Effect on financial schemes:-

Government of India has started various financial schemes i.e. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana [PMJDY], Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana [PMMY], Atal Pension Yojana [APY Pradhan Mantri Surksha Bima Yojana [PMSBY], Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana [PMJJBY] for the upliftment of poor rural people of the state during last five years. During the time of COVID-19, central government financial schemes in the state have facing a lot of obstacles in the path of its implementations i.e. geographical, health, educational barriers, appropriate delivery model and products, less females enrolments under these schemes as compare to male

The impact of the second wave was mild in comparison to the first wave in the study areas as the businesses switched to digital services. However, the second wave has taken a toll on the health care infrastructure of the country, the record number of infections in the past few days has led to the imposition of stricter restrictions around the country. This has again led to the derailing of the already slowing hospitality and tourism industry. It is facing a replica of a similar situation in 2020. This time business has been allowed to deliver food in the areas where lockdowns have been announced, additionally, the areas with milder restrictions have seen the number of tourists reduce drastically instead of the COVID-19 crisis. The economic blows dealt by the pandemic could last several quarters leaving businesses with no choice to shut businesses permanently if the same situation continues for a while. Since the pandemic began it has been the worst three quarters experienced until now over a hundred years and it is anticipated the situation would remain the same until the next few quarters till vaccination drives are completed across the countries. —Revenge Travell is poised to help the sector get back on its foot once the situation becomes comparatively much safer for travel. The need arises in the current situation for retorting to Sustainable tourism to prevent pollution of water and soil.

## State Government initiatives to control the COVID-19

The state government had started precautionary efforts to control COVID-19 from beginning of this pandemic. Chief Minister along with senior officers of the state government are continuously watching the situation very closely and issued directions on daily basis to general public to escape from the COVID-19 life-threatening disease. At this time Himachal Pradesh government have in position to fight COVID-19 life-threatening disease with the available health facilities.

### Interest-Free Loan from Govt. of India

During COVID-19 pandemic the Government of India has provided interest free loan amounting to Rs. 450.00 crore and out of which first installment of Rs. 225.00 crore has been released. The Central Government has extended repayment period of loan for 50 years. In order to promote infrastructural facilities the Central Government has released Rs. 73.33, 41.49 and 11.18 crore to improve roads, railway network, water supply, management and others facilities.



**Resource Mobilization by the State Government during COVID-19**

Sr. No.	Particular	Amount in Crore
1	Interest free Loan	450.00
2	Amount Released to Roads and Rails	72.33
3	Amount Released to Water Supply	41.49
4	Amount Released to other facilities	11.18

Source : Government of Himachal Pradesh, *Statistical Abstract of Himachal Pradesh 2020-21*, Department of Economics and Statistics, Shimla, 2021, pp 31.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh was among the first ones in the country to take the precautionary step of implementing a strict curfew, not just a lockdown, to control the spread of coronavirus .

Subsequently, the State Government scaled up COVID-19 testing rapidly, so much so, that between 28 March 2020 and 29 April 2020, a jump of 3500% in the number of people tested for coronavirus was witnessed. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in a video conference with the Chief Ministers of all states, appreciated the Government of Himachal Pradesh for effectively implementing the Active Case Finding (ACF) campaign. Under ACF, ~16,000 ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) and Anganwadi workers, went door-to-door to collect health information of every individual residing in the state (~70,00,000) after the state-wide curfew was implemented and shared it with Department of Health. The individuals who showed Influenza-like-symptoms were then tested for coronavirus. Today, the number of positive cases in the state is only 10, among the lowest in the country!

While the battle to contain the spread of coronavirus rages on, the Government of Himachal Pradesh is now focusing its energy on the revival of economic activity in the state. In this regard, a high-level task force, headed by Shri Ram Subhag Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Power) and comprising 11 other senior officers, has been constituted. This task force has been entrusted with the challenge of preparing the lockdown exit strategy for industries like tourism, industry, transport, agriculture and horticulture, that are not only some of the sectors worst-hit by COVID 19, but also form the very core of the GDP of Himachal Pradesh.

In the short-term, concessions such as rebate of 1% (up to INR 10,000) to those who pay their electricity bill on/before the due date and deferred billing for others, has been announced to benefit industrial units, commercial units including tourism sector, agriculture and other electricity consumers in the state. Sector-specific Industry Associations that are active in the state, have submitted their representations to Shri Jai Ram Thakur, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and the government is now mulling over the larger set of relief-measures to be announced.

HP Government has also expanded the ambit of activities under the 'Himachal Pradesh Rural Livelihood Mission', to cushion the impact of the pandemic on rural dwellers. All arms of the State Government's machinery have come together to brainstorm ideas and announce initiatives for the benefit of the rural economy. These will be rolled-out in coordination with the Department of Rural Development. Some examples are given below:

☐ **Supporting the COVID warriors-** 500,000 masks, 1000 PPEs, 1250 Litres of sanitizer produced by those enrolled in the State Rural Livelihood Mission Training to 'Mahila Kisaans' to develop Backyard Kitchen Garden-Seasonal vegetable seed kits and fruits tree sapling to be provided by Agriculture and Horticulture Department for 1 bigha of land.

☐ **One-Cow-Scheme for 'Mahila Kisaans'**- In coordination with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Indian breed cows would be provided to poor Mahila Kisaans of SHG women at highly subsidies rates Training to teach tailoring to women Self Help Group – SHGs to be trained to stitch school uniforms for

children studying in Government schools, by trained tailoring teachers, as suggested by Department of Education

☐ **Encouraging Apiculture activities among 'Self Help Groups'**- Trained women SHGs to be provided with 10 boxes of beehives for undertaking 'apiculture'. The finished product would be sold through Him Ira shops.

☐ **Skill enhancement under UNNATI project:** At least one member from the families of such persons who have completed 100 days employment under MGNREGS would be provided necessary training to upscale their skill.

□ **HP Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board:** State Government had also started paying INR 2,000 to ~1,00,000 workers in March and April for their wage loss registered.

Additionally, taking a cue from the measures announced under some of the schemes/ programs of the Union Government, Government of Himachal Pradesh has announced the following:

□ **Insurance cover for COVID warriors-** State Government to give ex-gratia of INR 50,00,000 to all the frontline workers of departments (besides Health Dept. workers who have already been given INR 50 lakh insurance cover by GoI)

□ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana-** INR 500 ex-gratia to be deposited in the bank accounts of women account holders

□ **Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana-** All beneficiaries are being given one gas cylinder free of cost, each month, for the next three months

□ **MNREGA-** Daily wage increased by INR 20 w.e.f 1 April 2020

□ **Collateral Security-free loan for women Self Help Groups-** Limit doubled from INR 10 lakh to INR 20 lakh  
Lastly, the State Government, quick to recognize the relevance of ‘Digital India’ in this scenario, announced a range of digital measures to ease the burden on physical healthcare infrastructure in the state.

□ **e-OPD hubs** built in IGMC Shimla, Tanda and SLBS Medical College in Mandi

□ **e-Sanjeevani** portal launched to enable people to seek medical consultation virtually

□ CM essential medicine helpline launched, and telemedicine facility incorporated in 500 health centres: 1,500 home deliveries have been made in the district since 1 April 2020  
Diagnosis and treatment of COVID 19 also brought under ‘Himicare’ scheme.

Himachal guidelines for tourist by the Revenue Department- Disaster Management Cell and Health And Family Welfare Department which are as follows:

□ Domestic travel is open in Himachal Pradesh from all states of India.

□ The state has issued directions to all DCs to stop tourists going to places prone to landslides and other natural calamities

□ One needs a negative report while returning to their respective states as well.

□ Installing Aarogya Setu app on your smartphones is a must for all travelers.

Himachal travel guidelines issued by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India which are:

□ Hotels have been advised to train all staff and form a ‘Rapid Response Team’ to prevent incidents, effectively manage crises and mitigate impact among guests, staff and other involved parties.

□ This special team will be responsible for promoting key messages for guests and staff, such as washing hands frequently, respiratory hygiene, basic hygiene practices and more.

□ Hotel staff and guests have been advised to install the AarogyaSetu app for survey and check-in purposes.

□ To minimize contact, guests cannot go up to the staff if they need anything, all contact has to be through intercoms or mobile phones.

□ It is mandatory for the hotel staff to maintain a minimum 2m (6ft) distance with guests and other staff members.

□ Staff as well as guests are advised to wear masks at all times

## Effect on tourism industry:-

The revenue of the state has been declined 87 per cent in the month of April 2020, only 116 crore receipts has been collected as compare to 883 crore receipts was collected in the month of April 2019. Tourism industry in the state has been badly affected from three face of lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak. According to the economic survey of Himachal Pradesh about seven lakh people depend on tourism industry and this sector contribute 6.6 per cent in GDP of the state.

The tourism sector is an important economic pillar of this state contributing 7% to the state GDP (ATTRI and KAUSHAL, 2019). The state witnessed an Indian and Foreign tourist influx of 16.83 million and 383,000 respectively, in 2019 (IBEF, 2020). The tourism industry braved any external shocks blown to them, but the

aftermath and resurgence from the ongoing pandemic will be prodigious. The ongoing pandemic has perpetrated economic and health shocks on an unprecedented scale.

To control the corona virus state government has banned the entry of tourists in the boundaries of state on 18 March 2020. About 7,918 agencies including 2,912 travel agencies, 3,350 hotels and 1,656 homestays are so far registered with the tourism department of Himachal Pradesh. During the COVID-19 pandemic they all are struggling to meet out their fixed expenses due to not entering tourists in the state. Besides the hotels agencies, adventurers, guides & taxi drivers have also been affected adversely. According to a report about 168.29 lakh domestic & 3.82 lakh foreign tourists arrived in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2019, but due to lockdown & travelling restrictions no tourists has been entered into the state till now.

In an unfamiliar jolt dealt by coronavirus aftermath, it may drive 3.8 crore people unemployed translating to 70% of the entire workforce from the Indian tourism and hospitality sector (Economic Times, 2020). Amidst the initial stages of the pandemic, Vice President K.B. Kachru of Hotel Association of India's (HAI) stressed with no instantaneous initiatives employed to aid the industry, roughly 3.5 – 4 crore workforce from India's hospitality industry may become unemployed with a drop in earnings of around Rs 5 lakh crores in the financial year 2020-21 (IANS, 2020). Till December 2019, 3,679 registered hotels were having a bed capacity of approximately 1 Lakh and 2,189 homestays with a bed capacity of 12,181 in the state (Himachal Tourism, 2019). However, the absolute figures are likely to be higher.

Roughly, there are over 8,000 hotels and over 4,000 homestay facilities in Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Dharamshala, Dalhousie, and Kasauli- reckoning a considerable size of the population dependent on this sector.

Tourists mostly visit Himachal Pradesh during summers, which specifically is a peak season for the hoteliers however, the pandemic shut doors for all the tourists. The unemployment number in the state is now close to 11 lakhs. Based on a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the travel and tourism chain in the country is estimated to incur a shortfall of around INR 5 lakh crore in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The first instance of COVID-19 in India was recorded in January last week and a full national lockdown was ordered on March 24th, 2020 limiting movement of the entire population, extending until the last week of May 2020. However, with the lifting of lockdown restrictions, certain relaxations were permitted in different COVID zones. The services were resumed in a phased manner and a series of unlocks started from 1st June 2020 (Unlock 1) for a month duration till November 2020 (Unlock 6). Private and public transport restrictions affected the domestic travel and tourism sector the most. Moreover, the hotel industry which was already facing losses had to spend additional costs on COVID19 cleaning protocols causing an additional financial burden.

The impact of the second wave was mild in comparison to the first wave in the study areas as the businesses switched to digital services. However, the second wave has taken a toll on the health care infrastructure of the country, the record number of infections in the past few days has led to the imposition of stricter restrictions around the country. This has again led to the derailing of the already slowing hospitality and tourism industry. It is facing a replica of a similar situation in 2020. This time business has been allowed to deliver food in the areas where lockdowns have been announced, additionally, the areas with milder restrictions have seen the number of tourists reduce drastically instead of the COVID-19 crisis. The economic blows dealt by the pandemic could last several quarters leaving businesses with no choice to shut businesses permanently if the same situation continues for a while. Since the pandemic began it has been the worst three quarters experienced until now over a hundred years and it is anticipated the situation would remain the same until the next few quarters till vaccination drives are completed across the countries. —Revenge Travell is poised to help the sector get back on its foot once the situation becomes comparatively much safer for travel. The need arises in the current situation for retorting to Sustainable tourism to prevent pollution of water and soil.

## **Kangra District:-**

Kangra district is the most populous district of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Dharamshala is the administrative headquarters of the district.

Kangra is known for having the oldest serving Royal Dynasty in the world, the Katoch. According to the 2011 census Kangra district had population of 1,510,075. The district has a population density of 263 inhabitants per square kilometre (680/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 12.77%. Kangra district is also known for its attractive tourist destinations. Dharamsala, Kangra, Palampur, Baijnath, Jawalamukhi and Masroor are the famous places of tourist interest in the district. McLeodganj in Dharamsala is a seat of the Dalai Lama has become a place of international fame since 1966.





## **During Covid pandemic**

Kangra is the worst-hit district with 58,263 cases reported since the pandemic outbreak in March 2020, followed by Mandi with 35,469 cases and Shimla with 32,803 cases

From 20 March 2020 to 30 June 2021, a total of 45,871 cases and 1037 deaths (2.2%) were reported in Kangra district-33.8% of 3463 deaths that occurred in the entire state. The death rate per million population in Kangra was 64 compared to 47 for Himachal Pradesh and 30 for India as a whole. The mean age was 62.5 years (range 01 to 102 years); males 62.7 years and female 62.2 years.

McLeodganj, abode of the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, has never been as deserted as it is now. Also known as ‘Little Lhasa’ and a gateway to Buddhist tourism in the Himalayan region, it has always been the most happening place around the year, but the second wave of Covid has turned it into a ghost town of sorts—with closed markets and restaurants, idle taxis and tourist vehicles, and people confined to their homes. Dalai Lama has been in complete home isolation since February 2020, and is unlikely to step out in the near future. With even Tibetan monks inside the monasteries testing positive for Covid and no footfall of international tourists, Himachal’s tourism industry is almost on the brink of collapse.

The sprawling foothill town of Dharamshala, another popular tourist destination, also bears a deserted look, as do nearby Dharamkot, Naddi, Bhagsunath, Palampur and Kangra. From Shimla to Kullu-Manali and from Kinnaur to Lahaul-Spiti, the tourism and hospitality sectors are facing their worst time. At stake are the livelihoods of nearly 11 lakh people.



During covid pandemic hotels, restaurant's, cafes, temples, cab services around kangra district have suffered loss due lockdown and might have layoff their employees or deducted their salaries.

## Objective of Study

The travel business in India is the most affected, as guests are not permitted to enter the nation. Hotels, planes, and cruise companies were all shut down. As a result of the virus's unabated spread, these having a negative influence on India's GDP. The Objective of this study are:-



- To study the negative effect of Covid19 on the tourism sector.
- To find how they cope up with the challenges during Covid19.
- To study the changes in employment due to the pandemic.
- To suggest possible solution to the challenges faced by the Hospitality & Tourism Industry

## Research Design

- The report is both, descriptive as well as explanatory in nature.
- The report includes extracts from the secondary data collected through news articles, web articles, journals, and government statistics.
- The report includes primary data collected from Hotel and Restaurants, Malls and Shops, Café, Tour and travel company Dharamshala, Kangra, Palampur etc.

## Data Collection:

Data Collection is a term used to describe a process of preparing and collecting data, for example, as part of a process improvement or similar project. The purpose of Data Collection is to obtain information to keep on record, to make decisions about important issues, to pass information on to others, primarily; data are collected to provide information regarding a specific topic.

### 1. Primary Data:

For this research primary source of data collection was done by survey method. The survey was conducted through Structured Questionnaire which was asked to the respondents. The questionnaire was prepared keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The questions asked to the respondents were close end so that the respondents could answer quickly without any problem. The questionnaire was prepared with the help of Google forms.

### 2. Secondary Data:

A secondary source of data means the data that is already available on various platforms. Secondary data can be obtained by various publications by the central or the state government or by any organizations, journals, books, magazines and even newspapers, reports published by various organizations, schools, universities etc.

This type of Data Collection is used to gain more knowledge of the topic of our research by collecting articulated by authors who have previously researched on the topic that we have selected. In this study secondary data was collected through various websites, online journals, which helped in completing the review of literature. Secondary sources of Data Collection were useful to understand the research topic more accurately.

## Sampling Design

Sampling design is a mathematical function that gives you the probability of any given sample being drawn. Since sampling is the foundation of nearly every research project, the study of sampling design is a crucial part of statistics and is often a statistics other course. It involves not only learning how to drive the probability functions which describe a given sampling method but also understanding how to design a best-fit sampling method for area life situation.

### Sampling Unit.

There are involves Hotel and Restaurants, Malls and Shops, Café, Tour and travel company Dharamshala, Kangra, Palampur and the sample size around 50 respondents.

### Sampling Area.

The research would be done at Dharamshala. Kangra , Palampur H.P

## Data Collection Tool

- Questionnaires.
- Personal Interview.

## Instrument Used

### 1. Questionnaires



The interview guide was used specially to make the study complete and objective. The information gathered in the personal interview methods, are questions that are answered in objective type.

### **Limitations of the Study:**

- Present study Dharamshala, Kangra, Palampur Baijnath town only.
- The sample size is 100 hence finding cannot be generalized.
- It was difficult to know whether the respondents are truly given the exact information.
- Customer preferences and opinions are supposed to change from time to time

## **CONCLUSION & FINDINGS**

Present Covid-19 pandemic is the disease of 2019, which is affecting public health, the present disaster has become a downside economic crisis to the entire world and therefore the tourism and hospitality sectors.

- The improvement has to be moderate and equal to the other sectors tackling with this pandemic outbreak and recovering and economic performances.
- The lockdown disrupted the life of billions and created the scenario of economic collapse. In a half-year period, the companies earn only 24.80% revenue in comparison to the preceding half year.
- Thousands of persons who work with small and unorganized sector had severely affected, and still, they all are not in the condition to earn their living.
- The whole chain of tourism- hotels, restaurants, tour operators, travel agents, venues of family entertainment, and air, land, and sea transport will get into a slump.

### **After Post COVID 19 2020**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed the way of live. Now that the reduction at the state borders have been uplifted tourism may observe some growth. Many companies have acknowledged their staff to work from home, others are providing a change of place in the form of working from home stays.
- Many big tourism and hospitality brands such as Airbnb, Vista are jumping in with the aptitude of homestays as an alternative universe during the pandemic.
- As the homestays are becoming popular workstations during the pandemic, the usual guidelines conjunction with accurate sanitization and face cover are being followed for homestays as well. The Hotels are potentially assured with the safety of the guests is definite.
- At almost every hotel standard such as sterilization, use of personal protective apparatus by the staff in both F&B and housekeeping department.
- Social distancing has become a new normal for the present generation. The restaurants are also making sure of the safety measures such as keyless entry, online check-in, and check-out, contact – less valet for parking to ensure minimal proximity with people from the time they visit, and till the time they leave the place.

### **Findings**

- As per the report, all the sectors of our economy suffered a lot during the COVID-19 pandemic with the loss.
- The major affected sector among all was the tourism sector because of the lockdown.
- As we know that Himachal Pradesh GDP has a huge share of the tourism sector and during Covid, due to the lockdown it suffered a lot.
- The majority of tourism businesses have recorded their lowest turnover during these years.

- One of the significant changes that have been seen during this was online booking and online transaction has been increased by a good number.
- More than 60% of businesses have laid off their employee because there is less work and low income generated.
- During all this Govt. have supported the business with different schemes.
- The majority of the Respondents have said that they incur the loss within a year.

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