

## **Anthropologists Answer Few Questions About the Pandemic**

### **Introduction**

In the wake of Covid 19, Indian Anthropologist sent an Interview Schedule to many Indian anthropologists to elicit their response on how they coped with Covid 19 pandemic and as anthropologists how they analysed the situation. We are presenting here a few responses that reveal regional and social ways of dealing with Pandemic between 2020-21.

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Brief bio-sketch: Rajanikant Pandey is M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from University of Delhi. Since 2010, he teaches Indigenous/Tribal Studies, Anthropology, and Rural Development at Central University of Jharkhand, India. His research interest lies at the interface of Environmental anthropology of mining, Corporate Sustainability and Science Technology Studies. He has field understanding of iron mining areas of Jharkhand and experience of working with Mundari speaking Ho, Scheduled Tribes. He has published several articles, chapters and e-contents related with his teaching and research domain and working on a collaborative research project on the socio-economic conditions of Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Jharkhand. He is Joint Secretary of Indian Anthropological Association (IAA), New Delhi.

Question 1. Where were you located during Pandemic? How was the situation in your area? How did you handle the challenges you encountered in your area/locality/neighborhood during this period?

When pandemic started, I was in Ranchi Jharkhand. My University shut down for students on 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. A week later, we were asked to work from home and suddenly in no time a nationwide shutdown was imposed. My Hometown Gorakhpur is 700 km away from Ranchi and I felt like returning to my hometown. University, however, asked us to stay in station. Situation in initial month of March and April 2020 was far better in Ranchi and what I was reading in news and television about other states was really distressing. Though I was concerned about my parents and family back home but till May 2020, the situation in my hometown was better as well. I did not face any difficulty in my locality (Lalit Gram, a semi urban type of township at outskirts of Ranchi City) since not a single Covid case was detected until May 2020. The grocery shops next to my rented apartment was able to provide with essentials and some vendors were delivering vegetable on weekly basis. I was house bound mostly and not experiencing any difficulty as such. The problems which I faced were on other fronts like I was consuming excessive Covid news, analyzing virus related data trends most of time, keeping track of cases in Ranchi etc. Initially I felt that I could devote this time to learning and writing but all I was doing was mentally exhaustive routine of analyzing covid trend. I started calling my family members three to four times in a day to keep them informed.