

1. COVID-19 has opened an amazing opportunity to take quantum leap towards the 4th Industrial Revolution & will play a key role in shaping region's future economy.

All over world transition to remote work online mode work & education culture has helped with pandemic which facilitated an increase in the internet penetration even to isolated villages.

Impact of this can be assessed multidimensionally.

1. Economical aspect :-

- Improving e-commerce trade - providing new business opportunities & access to larger market.
- improvement of monetary scheme penetrations.
- digital payments system.

2. Health Sector

- As social distancing & isolation are necessary requirements, such online health care & Telemedicine services developed.

Eg: India - Nat. Digital Health Mission.

- Health assistance thus can be accessed by anyone with basic technology.

3. Political Perspective

- The common market initiative leads to economic integration which enhance global cooperation in political level also.

4. Technological Advancement

- Quickly access services with increased internet penetration.

- Creation of million jobs in IT, CS & other digital sectors & with global exposure.

Concerns:

1. low digital literacy.
2. cybersecurity threats ~~South Asian countries ne~~
3. Transportation constraints due to cross border issues.

• Way Forward:

→ Limitations for attaining the much required Digital vision but trying to attain goal together by south-Asian countries will ~~fast~~ accelerate Digital vision in Region.

* In the ASEAN etc, investment & funding issues can be raised to find a shared soltn.

* e-commerce rules can be set up.

* Cross-border trade barriers shld be negotiated.

* cybersecurity issues must be tackled together.

* Digital literacy programs can be implemented, can seek assistance from other international org.

* Can emulate EU's digital single market proposal

→ Thus vision, wisdom & commitment & cooperation of all nations in region can ~~cut~~ reap long lasting shared benefits.