COVID-19 Pandemic, Personality and Geriatric

Population: Proposed Pragmatism

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Abstract. Elderly people are the most sensitive and delicate part of society who must bear the major burn of disruptive social behavior of human being amidst the 2019 coronavirus infectious disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Our aim was (1) to find out the root of disruption of societal integrity and self-centeredness by analyzing spokes of HEXACO; 2) to delineate its possible relationship with the formation of Neuroticism and eventually Psychopathy, and 3) to search for the potential ways to get rid of this darkness. Human civilization is experiencing unique psychosocial problems through emerging COVID 19. Depression, panic buying, herd behavior, yellow journalism, “infodemic” spreading through social media, immense sufferings of marginalized people, children and elderly, a surge of addictive behavior, racism, domestic violence, rape, divorce, financial constraints, and stigmatization, all possibly stem from a constellation of different negative human behaviors which probably originate from negative deflection of components of HEXACO model of personality towards the genesis of the dark triad. COVID-19 and surge of the dark triad in form of Neuroticism, Narcissism and Machiavellianism are causing major mental health threat. Cultivations and practice of positive emotions and triumph of honesty, humility and humanity are utmost desirable to save Earth and its habitants from the cruel claws of this pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19; Pandemic; personality; elderly; HEXACO; dark triad

INTRODUCTION

Human civilization has been threatened badly by the 2019 coronavirus infectious disease (COVID-19) pandemic in various aspects. Keeping aside the severity of the disease and the toll it already claimed, the psychosocial impact of this pandemic is enormous (Torales, O'Higgins, Castaldelli-Maia, & Ventriglio, 2020). Intricate analyses revealed that there are definite seeds of this huge societal burden amidst the nature of human being. Human beings play a pivotal role in maintaining societal integrity and personality traits are the building blocks of humans. So, it is not at all speculative that personality traits are responsible for all the goods and evils related to social behavior, social cognition, and meta-cognition (Goueli, Nasreldin, Madbouly, Dziobek, & Farouk, 2019; Quidé, et al., 2018). Any form of distortion in social behavior and social cognition becomes formidable in the time of pandemic and sometimes costs huge. The elderly and children are the two most sensitive segments of society. It is also imperative to say that disruption in societal integrity affects more on elderly people, as most of them are already suffering from loneliness (Domènech-Abella, et al., 2017). Our aim was (1) to find out the root of disruption of societal integrity and self-centeredness by analyzing spokes of HEXACO; 2) to delineate its possible relationship with the formation of Neuroticism and eventually Psychopathy, which have endangered human civilization the most in this pandemic; and finally, 3) to search for the potential ways to get rid of this darkness.

METHODS

PubMed and Google Scholar were searched with the following key terms: "COVID-19", "SARS-CoV-2", "pandemic", "personality", "dark triad", "elderly population", "Neuroticism", "HEXACO", "sufferings-COVID-19". Few newspaper reports related to COVID-19 were also added.

RESULTS / DISCUSSION

Social cognition and emotion in COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 has taken the world by storm. There have been over 42 million total detected cases and more than one million deaths due to COVID-19 in the world to date ((Live)). In the light of this current cataclysmic event, there has been a radical change in the social aspects of human cognition, especially pertaining to the personality traits of the general population who are the victim of the ongoing pandemic and its allies. Social aspects of human cognition refer to the evidence that an ability to achieve a precise balance between representing the self and representing other people is crucial in social interaction. Imitation, perspective-taking, the theory of mind and empathy are essential components of social cognition (de Guzman, Bird, Banissy, & Catmur, 2016), disruption of which may lead to a myriad of psychological and social consequences, including social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorders, and psychopathy and personality disorders (Patin & Hurlemann, 2015). The prevalence rate of personality disorders is approximately 10% of the population (Sansone & Sansone, 2011). Human beings form the building blocks of society and traits of the human personality form the pillars of social welfare.

According to cognitive-behavioral models, traits, triggering events, cognition, and adverse behaviors play a pivotal role in the development and maintenance of health anxiety (Jungmann & Witthöft, 2020). During a pandemic, anxiety is widespread. The personality traits, health-related anxiety, cyberchondria, and coping in the context of pandemic serve as risk factors. Proper information about the pandemic and adaptive emotion regulation might represent buffering factors for anxiety (Jungmann & Witthöft, 2020). Maladaptive emotion regulation by various personality traits imposes a cascade of adverse and negative psychological responses in the general population (Lau, Griffiths, Choi, & Tsui, 2010). This complex and sometimes confusing interplay between personality traits and the pandemic has dethroned a gross sense of morality and is spawning new facets of mental inflexibility, culminating in various psychological morbidities. Looking back into Ashton and Lee's HEXACO model of personality (K. Lee & Ashton, 2005), interesting observations can be pondered upon such as the transition of selected components of the HEXACO into the Dark triad of Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Depression, stress, anxiety, stockpiling of foods, drugs, misinformation through social media, black marketing, surge of domestic violence, greed, corruptions, addictions (M. J. Dubey, et al., 2020; Elbay, Kurtulmuş, Arpacioğlu, & Karadere, 2020), economic crisis and stagnation in the educational sphere during these times are supposedly stemming from stringent administrative protocols and the resulting maladaptive emotional regulation by various personality traits (Lau, et al., 2010). This imposes a great deal of threat to the very existence of mankind, which can only be modified by restrained emotional regulation, Openness

to Experience, Agreeability, judicious expression of Conscientiousness and lastly by the gentle and healing touch of Honesty and Humanity.

Elderly and Pandemic

Elderly people are most vulnerable to any pandemic due to already existing multiple co-morbidities, need for polypharmacy, frailty, poor mobility, and cognitive dysfunction. COVID-19 pandemic is also not an exception (Shahid, et al., 2020). The scenario is being further complicated by harsh, emotionless, narcissistic, negative posts on older people by several media. Yellow journalism in terms of continuous propaganda that COVID-19 affects hard to elderly with co-morbidities imposes immense threat and forced elderly people to suffer from outmost fear, panic, anxiety, stress and terminal depression all over the world (Andreassen, Pallesen, & Griffiths, 2017).

Sufferings of elderly: Something new in this pandemic or ‘veritate’?

Money-driven society, the ever-evolving concept of the nuclear family and the self-centred approach of human beings over the globe have rendered elderly people lone for long, making the soil fertile to add more to their sufferings in this pandemic (Domènech-Abella, et al., 2017). Emotional blunting, Lack of Empathy, and time constraints to deliver tender care towards the older make them helpless, which became overt during this pandemic. Lack of Honesty, Humility and poor

Conscientiousness level of society put a burden on their financial issues (Doraiswamy, Cheema, & Mamtani, 2020). The aimless wandering of society towards achieving pre-fixed goals (economic, job-related, education, and business) has thrown them into the sea of frustration and despair where they become forced to lock their destiny in the hands of paid caregiver instead of closer ones and blood relatives. This situation became further aggravated by this pandemic, due to lockdown related issues, fear of getting infected by caregivers and financial constraints (Lima, et al., 2020). Elderly people have been left in the sphere of silence, from where they can only perceive the sounds of the graveyard. Intense greed, corruption, black marketing, stockpiling in the time of the pandemic, which possibly stems from lack of Honesty, Humility, poor Conscientiousness, Lack of Empathy (Doraiswamy, et al., 2020), Emotionality, and lack of Openness to Experience, compels elderly people to suffer from difficulties in availing basic amenities for activities of daily living, drugs, non-COVID-19 hospital care, proper ambulance services, and baking services associated with huge financial constraints ("WHO must prioritise the needs of older people in its response to the covid-19 pandemic," 2020). On the other hand, media with all its claws open ringing the death alarm to their ear by repeating, "*Elderly people are at risk in COVID-19*". Societal Neuroticism that elderly people are the source of spreading infection, force them to keep themselves socially isolated with emotional torsion, anxiety, stress, depression and thought rumination regarding the well-being of their near, dear and beloved ones (Ishikawa, 2020; Saltzman, Hansel, & Bordnick, 2020). Difficulty in digital coping is another one, which lengthens the list of sufferings to the elderly, as during this pandemic, everything in activities of daily living is directed rapidly towards

digitalization. What sort of comfort telemedicine brings to the elderly people is a debatable issue, but undoubtedly it gives birth to the wrong diagnosis, over-dependence on investigations and related hazards as most of the elderly people are unable to tell the history of their illness properly either due to cognitive dysfunction, guarding to express or problems due to digital coping (Nicol, Piccirillo, Mulsant, & Lenze, 2020). The authors' intention here is also to find the root of the problems of older people in relation to the HEXACO model of personality and how it changes into Neuroticism and Psychopathy to affect human beings and society as those are the building blocks of society.

HEXACO model of personality: Can it open the knot of bizarre understanding regarding pandemic?

The HEXACO model of personality if expanded constitutes (H) Honesty, Humility, (E) Emotionality, (X) Extraversion, (A) Agreeableness, (C) Conscientiousness and (O) Openness to Experience. Honesty, Humility and Agreeableness are essentially related to altruism, philanthropy versus antagonistic behavior forming two sides of the same coin effectively termed as 'Reciprocal Altruism' (Kibeom Lee, Ashton, Morrison, Cordery, & Dunlop, 2008; Trivers, 1971). On humanitarian scales, a person scoring low on Honesty-Humility is more prone to materialism, unethical business practices and deviant sexual behavior. A high degree of Agreeableness on the other hand has more proclivities towards kindness, forgiveness, and a general empathy towards the sanctity of life and nature. The

objective endpoint of Agreeableness is mental flexibility. Extraversion is formed on the pillars of assertiveness, cheerfulness, communication, optimism, leadership, and liveliness. It essentially characterizes decision-making ability, planning, and sequencing of ideas into effective developmental strategies and maintaining an educated optimism through every step of execution. Extraversion is the key to develop pro-social behavior (Eisenberg & Fabes, 1990). Emotionality can be fragmented into the facets of fearfulness, anxiety, dependence, and sentimentality (Veselka, et al., 2012). On one arm, an emotionally labile person exhibit oversensitivity to external stimuli brought forward by electronic and print media, express fearfulness, and anxiety in unprecedented environmental circumstances. On the other side, emotionally stable individuals show self-assurance, boldness, and courage in almost every dire consequence. Self-esteem, self-consciousness, and self-regulation are imperative in maintaining a proper emotional outlook, which is both resilient in the time of crisis and confident in moderating ways to tackle the same. Conscientiousness essentially means the essence of the individual conscience, which can either make them disciplined, diligent, cautious and constantly aiming towards perfectionism and pragmatism (Espinoza, Daljeet, & Meyer, 2020). On the downside, it makes them lazy, reckless, absent-minded and often irresponsible. Lastly, Openness to Experience is a measure of personal innovation, creativity, and esthetic appreciation (Gaughan, Miller, & Lynam, 2012). It brings about intellectualism, scientific and artistic innovation. Whereas lack of Openness makes abstract thinking unappealing, makes people unimaginative and grossly conventional. Other than an optimum amount of extraversion, Openness to Experience, high levels of Conscientiousness and Agreeableness and Humility

constructs an effective pro-social personality in human beings. Grossly fragmented, pro-social personality is mainly constituted by egalitarianism, generosity, and reciprocity in economic events. Pro-social personalities are sharing, helping, and contributing to social welfare, which aims towards a just and equal world even in the time of evident or imminent crises (Zhao, Ferguson, & Smillie, 2016). Honesty with empathy from Emotionality domain, communication, optimism and leadership from Extraversion domain, integrity, generosity and collaboration from Agreeableness domain, organization, persistence and planning from Conscientiousness domain, growth mindset and global awareness from Openness to Experience domain are quite essential in effective formulation of strategies to fight against this pandemic and to save elderly people, children and society at large.

The Dark Triad: Has anything left beyond its captivity? Can it unmask the basis of human sufferings?

The ongoing pandemic inflicted by the SARS-CoV-2 with its deadly toll on the country's healthcare system and economy has surprisingly not spared its infusion into the deepest crevices of the human psyche. It can be hypothesized that honesty, humility, and empathy has altered their path into Neuroticism, which is a prequel to the famous Dark Triad having Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy as its components. Neuroticism is a harbinger for complex negative emotions such as lack of empathy, hostile interpersonal relationships, offensive and rash attitude (Sosnowska, De Fruyt, & Hofmans, 2019). It often leads to social vices in the form

of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, elder abuse, and criminal activity. Social media has a monumental role in the rapid downhill transition as most of the times it showcases false and baseless news uploaded and shared by random users imbibing panic, phobia and anxiety thus attributing to the aforementioned behavioral alterations (Smit, Buijs, van Woudenberg, Bevelander, & Buijzen, 2019). The imposition of a countrywide lockdown leads to the cessation of daily activity. This has in turn increased the volume of populations who are forced to either stay back home or work from home thus increasing their access to the poisonous fangs of the electronic media. Although social media has its fair share of benefits wherein people can stay in constant contact with their family and loved ones (Stieger & Reips, 2019). However, excess uses of social media platforms stem from low Conscientiousness, Emotional lability, low Agreeableness, and exaggerated Extraversion. Social media in the current COVID-19 pandemic have become a platform for flaunting images of lavish home-cooked meals, expensive stocked up liquor, fancy clothes, accessories and electronics, as well as a platform to spread baseless, unscientific reports and information on COVID-19 and to highlight negative health aspects of elderly people. Such narcissistic and exhibitionistic mentality, in constant need of admiration and a sense of entitlement, causes unnecessary bullying and belittling of certain groups of people thus creating jealousy and a sense of vengeance in them. It also affects the people who are unable to afford such a luxurious lifestyle. It ultimately leads to a strange inexplicable restlessness, anxiety, and resultant depression in certain groups of people. It has been observed that histrionic, borderline, and narcissistic personality traits are the ones who succumb to the Lazarus pit of social media. Such barbaric and vandalistic nature stems from greed for appreciations, pride and a

factitious sense of dissatisfaction brought by a virtual and imaginary world. Narcissism, labile emotion with resultant anxiety and helplessness, gives rise to a world devoid of kindness and acceptance. It creates an image stripped of moral and human values, which are essential to formulate a flexible and pragmatic community. Obsessive-compulsive personality traits are generally the forerunners of hoarding, which gives rise to stockpiling of basic and essential amenities of activities of daily living, depriving a larger part of the community with resultant black marketing and pseudo crisis. A lack of Openness to Experience is a prerequisite for the development of superstitions, which are further enhanced probably by typical schizotypal personality traits with eccentric magical thinking. It falsely promotes methods and cures of COVID-19 by ridiculous and peculiarly primitive techniques, which are effectively backed up by the political influence cooked in the broth of low education and garnished by illogical assumptions. The attitude of certain governments towards migrant workers, slum dwellers and daily wagers is a brilliant model to study the intricacies of deviation from the HEXACO model. The arrangements of benefits offered to the said population may be high levels of Honesty, Humility, and Agreeableness, but the execution of these arrangements in the last hour when death and desperation have ensued essentially shows low Conscientiousness, a lack of education, planning, pragmatism, organization, and sequencing. Advertisement of such philanthropy in social media and by corrupt electronic media exposes such acts as the antagonistic arm of reciprocal altruism. Machiavellianism simply portrays a selfish, skeptical, and manipulative personality trait. This component of the Dark Triad has pushed a dagger into the heart of the medical community in particular (Al Aïn, Carré, Fantini-Hauwel, Baudouin, & Besche-

Richard, 2013). Relatives of patients having strong suspicion for COVID-19 often hide their symptoms, shamelessly deny any recent travel or contact history and often refuse to be swab tested for the screening of COVID-19. As a result, the doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers are unnecessarily exposed to the deadly virus. It often goes to the extent that the family of patients do not hold back on the physical assault of healthcare workers and using paid predatory media and yellow journalism to spread hatred against doctors and health care workers. Such insensitive acts not only hamper the employments of the healthcare providers, but many succumb to the disease and even breathe their last fighting in the line of defense. Machiavellianism, just like a vicious cycle, leads to the shutting down of small to large healthcare facilities and the price is paid by the general population who fail to get quality medical care, invasive ventilators support and even beds in COVID-19 observation wards. The moral incentive and enthusiasm of the doctors and healthcare workers are shattered as collateral damage of this extreme communal disharmony and negative media coverage. Another very striking example of Machiavellianism is propagated by a fraction of the community wherein they lure the law enforcers with bribes and sometimes use of political influence in their venture of procuring alcohol, cannabis and other euphoriant drugs amidst lockdown (M. J. Dubey, et al., 2020). They easily pay excess money to the local drug peddlers who are generally poor and are always eager to sell drugs even to children for their daily quota of rice. Hence, there is a magnanimous impact of addiction and addiction-related catastrophes in the community such as domestic violence, financial loss, further lockdown violation and pervasive sexual attitude. A general downward skew of all components of the HEXACO are contributors to addiction. Patients with

antisocial personality disorder, impulse control disorders and patients with various psychiatric ailments are more prone to get addicted and to suffer from addiction-related behavioral problems.

The claw of manipulation does not spare some infamous elected leaders also. Self-proclaiming them as experts of medicine, they misuse their position to give a comic representation to the pandemic and start prescribing trash therapeutic escapades to the same people who elected them. Completely dismissing the economic setbacks and need for protective equipment for healthcare workers, they never back off from chanting false and demeaning propaganda putting their people at the doorstep of the graveyard. Even the health organizations created to fortify public health become fickle and juggle with the merits and demerits of one or more drugs, which may help in controlling or containing the disease. Self-contradictory statements in quick succession by leading health organizations leading to misinterpretation of the disease dynamics of COVID-19 and create a ghastly image of the misadventures in the therapeutic dimensions of COVID-19. Forged scientific articles in this time of pandemic also suggestive of absolute lack of empathy and poor Conscientiousness of so-called scientific-minded people towards the ailing patients. Seeing their rendition to public health, the population finds itself in a state of utter dilemma and helplessness. The anticipation of an ever-extending lockdown once imbued into the minds of the common person creates the stage for the development of black marketing where the costs of products of daily utility rise exuberantly. The helplessness of the suffering population is manipulated by the black marketers, which presumably have surprisingly low levels of

Conscientiousness and extreme greed. Again, tracing our steps back into the HEXACO model and trying to predict the final common pathway, it can be prophesized that extremely low Conscientiousness and lack of Openness to experience cultivated on the soil of paranoid personality trait causes rejuvenation of an already existent ethical mismatch of political ideologies. Ultimately, there is the development of international conspiracy theories, which when boosted by social and electronic media, make the convalescent world finds itself at the brink of war, devastation, and utter catastrophe. Phobia, panic, and outrage ensue, hopes are lost and hence the third of the Dark Triad commences in the blink of an eye. The most malevolent of the Dark Triad called Psychopathy can be heralded as the emperor of all maladies (Heym, et al., 2019). A transient transgression of moral insight, unexplained obsessions and compulsions lead to absolute abolition of sanity, patience, and fruitfulness of human existence. A constant need for escapism and instant gratification in the form of playing violent video games aimless scrolling and viewing of pornographic content on the web, creating and spreading mindless and substance-less video clippings in displaying applications, are all soft markers of a latent and dormant Psychopathy. Once the curtains unveil, what is seen is almost irreversible putrefaction of a once nurtured and constructed human mind. Not only has it caused the enactment of violence at home but has also led to pervasive sexual behavior and the promotion of communal disharmony. Thus, humanity traces back its steps of Darwinian evolution back to instinctually, idiosyncrasy and self-mutilation. The slow but holistic progress that humanity travelled towards self-improvement and appreciation is turned spastic and quadriplegic when Racism and Stigmatization resurface like hounds of hell. Extremely low sociability component of the Emotionality

domain, an almost vanishing global awareness component of the Openness to Experience domain and gross dilapidation of Agreeableness all are the factors that promote one of the cruelest of human vices called Racism. Paranoid, narcissistic, and antisocial personalities who do not value the existence of equality and fraternity practice racism to vent out their pent-up frustration in a locked-up world where death and disease are the routine daily news. SARS-CoV-2 related illness is associated with stigmatization, which targets patients, their caregivers, and healthcare workers. Frontline COVID-19 warriors face social discrimination and stigmatization more than fear of contracting the infection itself. They are driven out of their co-operative housings and rented apartments and constantly harassed by the public, particularly those harboring obsessive-compulsive, paranoid, narcissistic traits with trace amounts of Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Humility and Openness to Experience. Belligerent propaganda by world leaders, confusing representations by health organizations, yellow journalism together with “infodemic” promulgated by the social media, makes the platform for brewing Neuroticism. Thus, humanity is further immersed into the sea of the Dark triad. The social burden is therefore formed by the dependent, obsessive-compulsive, avoidant and paranoid personality traits, showing a downward skew of every component of the HEXACO model. There is a fundamental difference between the needs to leave confinement to avail daily necessities, emergency medical services and unapparent thrill-seeking. This simple pragmatism seems lacking among law enforces in the scenario of lockdown. Uninhibited atrocities and prohibitions were imposed irrespective of true necessities and absurd frivolities. Inappropriate sudden unplanned declaration of nationwide lockdown with stringent administrative protocol rendered millions of people helpless,

homeless (e.g. migrant workers), and foodless (e.g. daily wagers). This also took basic non-COVID-19 healthcare facilities far away from their reach in many countries, which claimed a toll in silence. This in turn has led to social anxiety (Atalan, 2020; Siqueira, et al., 2020; Zheng, et al., 2020). Lockdown, though essential to stop the spread of COVID-19, should have been weighted against appropriate timing, anticipated inconvenience, and huge social, psychological, and economic impact. The inappropriately harsh and fruitless decision of lockdown, as evidenced by an increasing number of cases during unlocking in many countries, reflects a lack of emotional attachment, empathy towards countrymen and probable down skew of Conscientiousness and lack of Openness to Experience of decision-makers. The basic responsibility of containing the pandemic, which should have ideally been practiced by raising awareness about the disease dynamics by unbiased media on issues of social distancing and home isolation, went astray of its actual purpose. As a resultant, the mass was exposed to the barrel of the gun of law enforcers. The practice of violence on daily wagers and sellers of necessary amenities did not serve any fruitful purpose but was exhibited as video clippings in social media and sharing applications. This added up to the density of phobia in a fear-stricken community already threatened by the anticipation of contracting the viral illness. The police driven way to control the pandemic like demarcation of containment zones and patients' transit to healthcare institution brings stigmatization and fear of ostracization. Coupled with joblessness, boredom anxiety, phobia, panic and the freshly brewed Psychopathy, the anticipation of an again disease-free and healthy world burns out and what remains is refractory depression, borderline and schizotypal personality traits, dysphoric mania all of which join their hands together

and finally lead human civilization on the verge of extinction. Basic human education coupled with mental flexibility is the raw products, which once amalgamated create openness and creativity. Openness and creativity once enforced by facts, planning, and most importantly, judgment, formulates the theory of mind (Meinhardt-Injac, Daum, Meinhardt, & Persike, 2018). Honesty-Humility, Conscientiousness, Agreeability and Openness to Experience are supplemented into the self-awareness for effective formulation of empathy. A misdirected self-esteem with loss of empathy towards the patients affected by SARS-CoV-2 and the healthcare providers combating it is imprinted in the human mind and expressed as selfishness. Overemphasized selfish demands and a covert grandiosity denuded of fellow feeling can be a probable trigger for unmasked Psychopathy. Elderly people being the most vulnerable and at the same time most sensitive part of society are affected worst by the ways of social disruption stemming from misdirected spokes of HEXACO, which eventually leads to enormous sufferings.

CONCLUSIONS

This beautiful blue planet with its inhabitants has been cursed with a cruel and gruesome challenge in the form of a deadly virus. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the foundations of humanity. The complex interplay between limbic cortex (especially amygdala) and neocortical substrates like the cingulate gyrus, orbito-frontal cortex, ventromedial prefrontal cortex, dorsolateral prefrontal cortex along with parahippocampal gyrus form intricate loops to sub-serve action, blended with emotion and cognitive excursion (Rolls, 2019). Since long, the frontal lobes have

been implicated in the neural mediation of both normal and abnormal moral conduct and social behavior (MCSB). MCSB is chiefly orchestrated by the prefrontal cortices and their dense connections with the temporal poles, anterior insular cortices, related subcortical structures, and pathways (thalamic dorsomedial nucleus and the anterior thalamic radiation). This designates that MCSB is shaped by the dynamic interplay amidst subordinate psychological domains, such as moral sensitivity, judgment, and their neural correlates (de Oliveira-Souza & Moll, 2019; Yao, Chen, & Xu, 2020). Sensitivity, judgment, morality, and empathy are necessary of the hour to save older people as well as human civilization. Treatment of aged people, according to expert committee guidelines, with tender care, can save them from both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 ailments. Pragmatic planning by government and non-governmental organizations for activities of daily living and to mitigate financial constraints are of utmost importance (S. Dubey, et al., 2020). Responsible social and electronic media can heal their agony, anxiety, and depression by spreading true scientific news and awareness campaigning. Societal empathy, honesty to older individuals can only be able to clear the clouds from their minds. Despite this global catastrophe, there is always scope for humanity to repair, re-educate and reform itself. People must maintain proper hygiene and sanitization and spend time with their elder parents and helpless children (Ghosh, Dubey, Chatterjee, & Dubey, 2020). Utilization of this valuable time towards self-improvement in the form of enhancing their fitness and rekindling the passions they left behind in the race to earn their daily bread can be worthy. People can participate wholeheartedly in scientific and literary research. By random acts of kindness and charity, the economic burden will be minimized. Lastly, we should stand by the frontline COVID-19 warriors and hold the morals high to

combat this pandemic. Earth is today at threat by the COVID-19 pandemic; the Dark triad like a patient predator is hiding at the corner of the alley waiting for the ultimate breaking point when it will pounce and butcher every human value. The only way to save her and its children is the 'H' factor of Honesty and Humility, which once remembered, revisited, fortified, and practiced will lead to the upliftment of all the components of the HEXACO model. Humanity will then find a way with honest science and technology and will be salvaged and rejuvenated.

“Ashes and sparks, my words among mankind! Be through my lips to unawaken'd earth

The trumpet of a prophecy O Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

----- [Ode to the West wind] Percy Bysshe Shelley.

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Figure legends:

Figure 1: Association of factors affecting elderly population

Figure 2: Existing social issues for the geriatric population and the way ahead

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