

Subject:

Week 124 learnings - Jobs where too much distance is a problem

Dear All

As the lockdown lifts over the next two weeks in most parts of the world, I looked at jobs/activities where physical distance is actually a problem in doing the job. Here is the list and I think some form of automation and some new form of guidelines will come in.

- a. The Police: The police rely on being able to see your full face, make a match and then do whatever. With people in masks, how will police even come near you? Crime rates have certainly come down in the last two months, however, cybercrimes have gone up. How will police arrest someone now and how will police interrogate someone in a cell. The Maharashtra Government released half the inmates in their jails because they cannot handle them and they want them to come back to jail after the lockdown is lifted. So, this area of policing, arrests, questioning, jail life will change now.
- b. Hair salons, spas: Most people have gone DIY in this phase or asked their family members for a crude haircut. I believe the home hair cut market will take off after lockdown is lifted. If a hair stylist puts out the message on digital or an aggregator gets many hairdressers on a platform, then they will strike gold. Almost all the population will want a redeeming haircut, a redeeming cut which takes them back to their original hairstyle. How will spas work now, how will women get their pedicure, manicure done? What precautions will a salon need in place?
- c. Tea gardens: tea gardens employ thousands of men/women to pluck the two leaves and a bud. These workers tend to sit together, congregate together through the plucking season. With physical distancing, a lot of tea will not be plucked. Tea estates have never been able to automate because of the peculiarities of terrain and height of the shrub and position of the pluckable leaves! There will be many other agricultural, horticulture produce where similar challenge will exist.
- d. Travel and Tourism: These industries thrive on globalization and personal attention and support. Dubai, HK, Singapore all depend on a global world, working 24 by 7. A third of Dubai GDP is linked to tourism. Dubai will be severely impacted. How does a country like Dubai, manage now with distance norms? Imagine the security queue in Dubai, you will now need to go to the airport 4 hours in advance if a flight has to leave on time!!
- e. Doctors: How will doctors work with physical distance norms? How will hospitals work, how will nurses work? More important as patients and consumers, we were happy when the doctor examined our eyes, our nose, our throat, now imagine the doctor telling you that you are fine from about 3 feet by looking at you. Will that make a patient happy, will we trust that system?
- f. And finally restaurants/dance floors in restaurants: A packed restaurant adds to the buzz of the celebration or the enjoyment of dinner. People tend to look at each other, comment on the clothes others are wearing, comment on how others are dancing etc. With distance rules in place, the restaurant will be silent compared to normal standards, and dancing will be a non no.

As lockdown lifts, it will be a different world, some will follow the rules, some will break them.

I just hope we will not have a second wave as lockdown lifts now

Stay healthy, stay safe, feedback welcome

Wr

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