

Impacts of Covid - 19

Introduction

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause respiratory illness in humans. They are called “corona” because of the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and the common cold are examples of coronaviruses that cause illness in humans.

The new strain of coronavirus — SARS-CoV-2 — was first reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019. It has since spread to every country around the world. COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, including death. Bats, cats, and camels are frequently the hosts of coronaviruses. Animals are not infected by the viruses, which reside there. These viruses can occasionally spread to affect several animal species. As they spread to other species, viruses have the potential to evolve (mutate). The virus eventually has the ability to spread from animal to human species. The initial SARS-CoV-19 infections are believed to have occurred in a food market that sold meat, fish, and live animals.

Social Implications

In general, the first rungs of social inequality are occupied by discriminatory views toward a group of people based on their economic status, race or ethnicity, age, or gender. The experience of inequality may also vary throughout eras, which is a problem that is evident in the contrasts between contemporary and pre-modern ages. Social discrimination is much more evident. The most obvious inequities that have been brought to light by the COVID-19 debates are those that are associated with economic position, race, gender, and age. This issue truly has a direct bearing on socioeconomic determinants of health. Racial discrimination is also one of the upstream variables that contribute to disparities in health-related issues. The timeline of the corona virus continues to serve as evidence for this claim. One of the most vivid illustrations of this issue is the discriminatory treatment of Black people in the fight against COVID-19. In addition to ethnic differences, gender also contributes to inequalities during the corona virus pandemic and is a prevalent issue. As mentioned by (Kiran 2022) women have had to face problems such as:

1. The greater burden of domestic and care work
2. Higher rates of job losses
3. Reduced financial independence and future prospects
4. Increased risk of pregnancy-related deaths and teen pregnancies
5. Spikes in sexual, physical, and domestic violence and exploitation
6. Increased risk for front-line health workforce

Social life has also taken a toll. Being solitary has become the new norm. With restrictions on public gatherings, and lockdowns imposed due to covid, the way we talk, greet and meet each

other have completely transformed. As a result of this, social interactions are at an all time low. The deprivation of social interaction have in one way of less negatively affected our comminties as a whole.

Economic Implications

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, citing more than 3 million illnesses and 207,973 fatalities in 213 nations and territories. The illness has impacted the world economy in addition to creating a public health emergency. Reduced productivity, fatalities, business closures, disruptions in commerce, and the devastation of the tourism industry have already had a significant economic impact all over the world. COVID-19 may serve as a "wake-up" call for world leaders to step up collaboration on preparing for epidemics and give the funding required for global coordinated action. Infectious disease outbreaks are projected to have significant financial and health implications, but the world has not made enough investments in preparedness and prevention strategies to reduce the likelihood of major epidemics.

Infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics have evolved into global hazards requiring a coordinated response as a result of globalisation, urbanisation, and environmental change. Although most developed nations, primarily those in Europe and North America, have robust real-time surveillance and health systems to control the spread of infectious diseases, improvements in public health capacity in low-income and high-risk nations—including human and animal surveillance, workforce readiness, and strengthening laboratory resources—must be supported by using national resources in addition to funding from foreign donors. Building and funding technological platforms to speed up research on and development of responses to novel viruses with pandemic potential has been urged on a global scale by governments, non-governmental organisations, and commercial corporations.

The COVID-19 has had significant economic repercussions for the affected countries in addition to placing a significant burden on healthcare systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a direct impact on revenue due to early fatalities, decreased productivity, and workplace absenteeism. It has also created a negative supply shock, with manufacturing activity slowing down as a result of supply chain disruptions around the world and factory closures. For instance, the Chinese output index fell more than 54% from the previous month's value in February (7). Consumers often changed their buying habits in addition to the effects on productive economic activities, primarily as a result of decreased income and household finances as well as the fear and terror brought on by the outbreak. Due to the decline in travel, service sectors like tourism, hospitality, and transportation have seen major losses. According to the International Air Transport Association, airlines might lose up to \$314 billion in revenue from just carrying passengers. The COVID-19 quarantine procedures have had the most of an adverse impact on the following

industries in the United States: sensitive manufacturing, travel and transportation, restaurants and bars, and travel and entertainment . For the week ending April 11, 2020, the advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate in the United States has already reached a record high of 11%.

The COVID-19 spread's impacts have had a significant impact on world financial markets. The global financial and energy markets sharply plummeted as the number of instances began to rise, mostly due to the US, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Iran, and South Korea. Leading U.S. and European stock market indices (the S&P 500, FTSE 100, CAC 40, and DAX) have lost 25% of their value since the beginning of the year, and oil prices have fallen by more than 65% as of April 24, 2020. Consumer and business confidence in the economy is well-indicated by daily statistics on stock market volatility and price changes. The daily number of COVID-19 instances and major stock indices had very negative correlations.

Political Implications

Numerous domestic and international political issues have been caused by the global epidemic. An exogenous shock to the larger international system is the COVID-19 health crisis, which has disrupted world politics and heightened tensions between allies and foes alike. Without a doubt, it will have a significant impact on geopolitics and continue to do so for some time. 133 Political leaders from powerful nations like the US and China can try to take advantage of the crisis in their continuous struggle for hegemony in the international political system. 134 In many situations, states have been forced to scramble to gather enough supplies and resources to properly combat the virus, putting the interest of the nation and the welfare of their own inhabitants first. For instance, the US asked the company 3M to stop supplying protective masks to Canada and Latin American nations so that they could keep them for domestic usage. In the quest to discover a vaccine for the virus, a type of "vaccine nationalism" developed that hindered collaboration and gave priority to local delivery once mass production of the vaccine began.

The pandemic might make existing political disputes between states worse. For instance, COVID-19 runs the potential of escalating hostilities over Kashmir between India and Pakistan. The militaristic status quo may become more entrenched as political leaders in both nations concentrate on combating the virus. Local initiatives to draw attention to the shortcomings of Indian rule in Kashmir may also increase. There is a chance that fervently nationalist Indian policies will be implemented to distract people from the COVID-19 situation. However, given the severity of the pandemic danger, India and Pakistan will likely pay more attention to the urgent needs for public health services and the need to alleviate domestic economic distress.

Discord over new policies has occurred in political systems like the European Union that include supranational governance institutions. Despite disagreements during the negotiation process,

particularly because of worries of so-called "frugal" countries about the cost of the plan, EU member states eventually managed to compromise on an economic recovery plan in July 2020. However, debates over seasonal migrant labour have also contributed to tensions inside the EU. While certain businesses, particularly farmers, desire access to foreign workers, some populist governments have called for tighter immigration restrictions.

Domestic political differences are being impacted by the public health issue in several ways. For instance, several politicians used the pandemic for partisan political gain during UK and EU post-Brexit negotiations. Politicians have occasionally questioned the expertise of specialists, eroding the confidence of the public in knowledge based on facts. In order to support their claims, they have frequently misrepresented or appropriated scientific knowledge on topics like mask use. Political division that already existed in some nations has fueled the pandemic debate and made it worse, inflaming tensions between regional, state, and federal political authorities. Calls for cooperation and concerted action, however, have occasionally also assisted in bridging party and ideological gaps.

The pandemic presents particular difficulties for maintaining state stability and may increase the likelihood of political unrest, internal armed conflict, and instances of state failure. Rebel organisations and other violent players have grabbed opportunities to increase their influence, further their political goals, and show that they are capable of governing and enforcing laws. For instance, armed individuals operating along Colombia's southwest coast publicly threatened to treat those who disobeyed curfews as "military targets."

The pandemic has also had an impact on political engagement. For instance, protest politics have been the subject of intense public discussion. On the one side, people have protested in the streets in certain nations over the government's measures to contain the virus, such as lockdown and stay-at-home orders. The debate about whether protests like those led by Black Lives Matter activists throughout the globe may have contributed to recent COVID-19 breakouts, on the other hand, centred on the protests themselves.

Conclusion

This article provided an overview of the human, economic, social, and political effects of the pandemic. Due to COVID-19, the world is facing hitherto unheard-of difficulties, including a severe pressure on interpersonal relationships and the way people interact with one another in various spheres of their existence. A greater knowledge of how the general population should prepare for and react to uncertainty and disruptions in social and political life is necessary. Politicians and other decision-makers will come under growing pressure to develop strategies for confining the pandemic, reducing its economic impact, and minimising its negative social and political repercussions. They must balance a variety of interests, values, and expectations while

also making sure they rely on reliable scientific facts, which is a challenging challenge. We shall analyse each of these issues in the remaining chapters of this book using the prism of civility.

