

Original Paper

Research on Covid-19 Pandemic and Social Security

Zhao Lu ming^{1*}

¹ School of Marxism, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, China

* Zhao Luming, School of Marxism, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, China

Received: April 30, 2020

Accepted: May 2, 2020

Online Published: May 4, 2020

doi:10.22158/wjssr.v7n2p4

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/wjssr.v7n2p4>

Abstract

Public health security is one of the important areas of social security. When the author drew up this thesis, the novel coronavirus pneumonia broke out in the Wuhan area, wreaking havoc on the entire land of China. Macroscopically speaking, the damage caused by the epidemic situation to social security is not only in public health, but also has a profound impact on public opinion, economic production and so on. In this paper, the author will analyze the damage on social security caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in three aspects: physical damage, social economic loss, and public opinion turbulence, furthermore, discussing its countermeasures.

Keywords

Covid-19 pandemic, social security, countermeasures

1. Damage on Social Security Caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic

1.1 Hazard of the Epidemic to Social Security in the Field of Health

By the time of writing, the Covid-19 pandemic has been relatively controlled. After academician Zhong Nanshan announced that the spread of the novel coronavirus could be confirmed as “human-to-human transmission”, the number of confirmed infections in China has reached 82,039, 77,355 have been cured, and 3,340 have been killed. The Covid-19 pandemic was centered on Wuhan and spread throughout the country, causing tremendous damage to the health of the people. It is reported that in severe cases of pneumonia, the lung function will cause permanent damage. For those who are elderly and have low immunity, the disease mortality rate rises sharply. Although the virus generally only causes mild disease to younger groups, and has a certain self-healing rate, it is not absolute, the difference in individual immunity still lead to death cases in younger patients. Dr. Li Wenliang, who was widely recognized by the public as the “whistle-blowing man” of the epidemic, died because he was infected with the novel coronavirus.

In addition, the amazing spread of the novel coronavirus has caused huge panic in society. Health and epidemic prevention experts have determined that the transmission routes of pneumonia of new coronavirus infection that can be determined at present are mainly direct transmission, aerosol transmission and contact transmission. In reports around the country, there were cases of infections due to dinners, neighbouring seats, and even commuting. The amazing spreading ability of the virus and the severe damage to the human body pose a great threat to the public health and safety of the society and must be taken seriously.

1.2 Breakeage on Social Stability Caused by the Epidemic in the Field of Public Opinion

With the outbreak of the epidemic, the level of public opinion has also caused huge ripples. In public opinion, various negative reports are very popular, and most of them focus on the treatment of the epidemic and the related prevention and control in the later period. A large amount of negative news in the early stage of epidemic prevention and control caused a certain degree of negative impact on the image of the party and the government. At the same time, it also resulted in an increase in public distrust of the official, and an increased confrontation between the official and the masses, which seriously threatened social stability.

The reasons for the decline in public opinion during the epidemic mainly lie in two aspects. One is the concealment of official information about the epidemic, that is, the concealment of the popular saying; the other is the misconduct of law enforcement during the epidemic prevention and control stage. The first is the concealment of the epidemic news. At the beginning of the spread of the new coronavirus, Wuhan Municipal Government did not publish relevant information in a timely and accurate manner due to various considerations. There is a certain time difference between the three key information from “no person is found” to “limited person is passed on” and then to “sure person is passed on”. There are intervening government staff’s control of public opinion, such as the administrative actions of Li Wenliang and other eight doctors who disclosed the epidemic information in the early stage. After the relevant information was published in the later period, it caused huge waves in the public opinion circle, and the public’s distrust of the official and even the hostility reached its peak. In addition, during the period of epidemic prevention and control, there were some administrative personnel who violated the law enforcement. For example, when a law enforcement officer in a certain place is carrying out epidemic prevention and control work, the mahjong table of the masses playing Mahjong is smashed and physical conflicts with the masses occur. Meanwhile, in the later stage of the epidemic, law enforcement personnel at the junction of Hubei and Jiangxi had physical conflicts due to traffic problems. The outbreak of related events not only affected the official’s image in the hearts of the masses, but also gave some relevant forces with ulterior motives to take advantage of it. During this period, some Hong Kong independence and foreign forces used the epidemic to attack our country’s system wildly, causing huge waves on the Internet. This has caused a considerable negative impact on

the stability of our society.

1.3 Lesion on Safety in Social Production Caused by the Epidemic in the Economic Field

During the epidemic situation, due to the needs of prevention and control work, most areas of China have implemented closed management. In production, except for the production of epidemic prevention materials, most of the other production areas have implemented the policy of stopping work and production. The implementation of the suspension of work and production has caused a downturn in various industries at the macro level, and has also affected the income of the vast majority of the people in the micro field.

Macro level: the impact of the epidemic on the entire production structure is mainly concentrated in both demand and supply. In terms of aggregate demand, the troika of consumption, investment and export will be hit. Moreover, the impact on consumption and investment is obvious. Prevention and control of the epidemic requires the population to avoid large-scale mobility and aggregation, isolation prevention and control, so consumer demand is greatly reduced. Investment: the return of workers to the city, the delay in the resumption of factory operations, the inability to carry out production activities, and the short-term investment in manufacturing, real estate, and infrastructure have basically stalled. From the perspective of total supply, the added value of the service and industry plummeted, and enterprises have stopped working and reduced production. Meso level: the catering and tourism industries have the biggest impact. The Spring Festival stalls in the film industry were almost unrecoverable; the catering industry suffered heavy losses; the tourism industry was no longer in Golden Week; the number of trips to the transportation industry during the Spring Festival travel dropped significantly. Micro level, private enterprises, small and micro enterprises, and migrant workers are more damaged. From the impact degree, private enterprises are larger than state-owned enterprises, small and micro enterprises are larger than large enterprises, and migrant workers are larger than regular employees.

2. Causes of the Great Damage Caused by the Epidemic to Social Security

2.1 Insufficient Social Expectations of the Epidemic

Through combing the process of the outbreak, it can be clearly seen that whether it is the local government in Wuhan or the general public. There are certain limitations in judging the epidemic situation, which had two reasons for its limitation, one is the lack of scientific understanding of the new coronavirus. On the other hand, there is a lack of experience with similar incidents of mass infectious disease transmission. First of all, the former, in the early detection of the novel coronavirus, the health department did not successfully identify the virus. After the discovery of several cases of infection in the South China market in Wuhan, the health department failed to determine the true face of the virus at the first time. Many patients' medical records are impressively written: unknown viral pneumonia. It

was not until later that the expert group identified the novel coronavirus through scientific methods such as genome sequencing. There is a certain time difference from the discovery of the virus to the confirmation of its characteristics, which objectively gives the time to spread the virus. Of course, there is a certain process in the cognition of every unknown thing, and there is some acceptable place in the spread of the epidemic caused by the lack of cognition of the virus.

The lack of experience in the prevention and treatment of related infectious diseases is also the cause of the spread of the epidemic. Atypical pneumonia was spread in China in 2003, and its prevention and treatment has accumulated some experience in the handling of related epidemics in China. China's public health system, especially the epidemic reporting system, has been re-planned. However, today, 17 years later, the alarm system has failed to respond in a timely manner due to a time-honored alienation from the Covid-19 pandemic epidemic. It was not until the virus determined "human-to-human transmission" that the authorities took corresponding control measures. On the other hand, there are certain hesitations and swings in the official handling of the epidemic. In the early days when the virus was discovered, Wuhan municipal government did not cancel related public activities for the first time. The holding of community events such as "All-families Banquet" showed that the local government's judgment on reading the epidemic was insufficient.

2.2 The Idea of Official Stability Affects Decision-Making

Currently, social stability work is an important task in our country. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has made a series of important judgments on maintaining social stability. Among them, Xi Jinping emphasized that in order to deal with the relationship between vitality and order, social development needs to be full of vitality, but this vitality must also be orderly activities. However, in the interpretation and implementation of relevant spirits by local governments, there is a phenomenon of rigid thinking, and some local governments mistakenly understand as "stability overrides everything", in the social management of all work to maintain one-sided "stability" service, and finally diametrically different. Instead, it caused a disruption to social stability.

In the handling of the epidemic, the local government of the outbreak place where the epidemic occurred has the related aspect insufficiency. Relevant departments in the processing of epidemic information, there is a certain delay, concealment and other behavior in the handling of epidemic information. From the "undiscovered person-to-person" to "limited person-to-person" and then to "determined person-to-person" three pieces of information in the process of publication. From the view of maintaining social stability and preventing group panic, relevant departments have adopted the strategy of publishing relevant information step by step. However, after the real information was published, it caused a larger amount of panic within a certain period of time, and also attracted a lot of criticism and accusation from the public opinion. In the process, the relevant news about the epidemic

is mixed, and the sand is full. On the contrary, it has an adverse effect on social stability. The misunderstanding of the idea of stability maintenance by the relevant departments actually caused the delay of the maintenance work and affected its decision-making.

2.3 Unfavorable Public Opinion Control

In the actual process of epidemic management and control, the treatment of public opinion is one of the important tasks to maintain social stability. However, as far as the official disposal is concerned, its control over public opinion is inadequate. As far as the author is concerned, the official has two deficiencies in guiding public opinion, one is the lack of voice. There was not enough voice to disseminate information on the Internet during the epidemic. But the means are backward. In many cases, it is simple and brutal, and one-size-fits-all, deleting the relevant information, while it has caused a greater counterattack of public opinion, and the trust of the official and the people's events has been eliminated.

On the practical level, since the closure of the city in Wuhan, the public opinion field has been in an uproar. The general public is extremely dissatisfied with the Wuhan municipal government's handling of the information related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The reason for under-reporting, whether there is malfeasance and other doubts continue. However, for nearly a week, the local government did not respond as expected to similar public opinion. As far as public opinion is concerned, the public's trust in the government during this period has been greatly reduced. In addition, during this period, some anti-Chinese elements and foreign forces used the epidemic to attack the party and government, fabricated information on the Internet, and tried to discredit our country. However, at the same time, our public opinion department failed to respond effectively, and there is a one-size-fits-all approach. For many information, we only use public power to eliminate it instead of achieving effective communication with the broad masses of people in the exchange of relevant information. In the early stage of the epidemic, our country was passive in the field of public opinion, which had an adverse impact on social stability.

3. Response to Epidemic-Related Social Security Issues

3.1 Breaking the Traditional Ideological Barriers of Maintaining Stability and Protecting the People's Right to Know

The impact of the epidemic on social public opinion is closely related to the rigid governance thinking of relevant departments and the traditional governance thinking of maintaining stability. Regarding social governance, government departments must break the barriers of traditional ideas of maintaining stability, not hide relevant information for the sake of no negative information, and respect the people's right to know. During the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, the relevant government departments in the early stage of the epidemic in the relevant information opaque treatment led to the public opinion

counterattack. Therefore, relevant lessons must be learned. Breaking the traditional ideological barriers of maintaining stability, and attaching importance to the information disclosure system. Relevant information related to the safety of the people's lives and property should be disclosed in a timely manner, the opinions of the people should be widely collected, and relevant measures should be actively improved in conjunction with the relevant opinions and suggestions.

3.2 Actively guiding the relevant public opinion, attaching importance to the new media platform publicity

During the Covid-19 pandemic, a considerable amount of negative information was revealed on the Internet, some of which were about reports of the epidemic, and there was exaggeration of Covid-19 pandemic, which caused public panic. In the face of this situation, the relevant departments should adhere to the principle of information disclosure, publishing real information in time, and correcting the mess in order to create a better public opinion environment and giving the people more security. There is also information about the government's handling of the epidemic. In the early stages of the outbreak, there were huge amounts of negative news related to the government's epidemic disposal work. In the face of these negative public opinions, if there is news that the handling measures are not familiar with the misunderstanding, the government department should immediately clarify and explain its reasonableness; if it is its own mistake, it should immediately apologize to the public and seek understanding. In this process, we should pay attention to the use of modern new media. Through the timely release of information on new media such as WeChat public account, Weibo, and Douyin, we actively guide public opinion and take the initiative in publicity propaganda.

3.3 Promoting the Resumption of Production in a timely and Protecting the Lives of Grassroots People

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on China's economy is huge, a large number of industries have stopped work because of the Covid-19 pandemic, whether investors or related industry practitioners have suffered a huge amount of economic losses. In the face of this situation, China should grasp the state of prevention and control of the epidemic situation in time, and promote the resumption of work and return to production in time. In the face of specific industries to distinguish, for the national economy and people's livelihood, the basic life of the people can give priority to resume work; relatively low-priority industries, such as the film industry, can slow down the resumption of work. In addition, for the ordinary people who lose their income, they should adapt to the relevant measures to subsidize them economically and reduce their living pressure Force. Such as calls for rent relief, housing loans delayed payment and so on. and even give them cash subsidies directly when the finance allows. At present, the United States and other countries have similar policies to provide certain benefits to everyone in the unemployed, in this point our government can actively learn.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on China's economy is huge. A large number of industries have

been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, both investors and employees in related industries have suffered from huge economic losses. Faced with this situation, China must grasp the prevention and control status of the epidemic in a timely and promptly resume work and production. In the face of specific industries, it is necessary to distinguish between those related to national economy and people's livelihood. Priority can be given to resumption of work; industries with relatively low importance, such as the film industry, can be slowed down. In addition, for ordinary people who have lost their income, they should adapt to relevant measures to provide economic subsidies to alleviate their pressure on life, such as calling for rent waiver, deferring payment of housing loans, etc. Even under financially permitted conditions, cash subsidies were given directly to them. At present, countries such as the United States have similar policies that providing a certain amount of relief to the unemployed. At this point, the Chinese government can actively learn.

References

- An, G J., & J. J. (2020). Analysis of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the study of countermeasures. *Financial Theory and Practice*, 2020(3), 49-55.
- Bai, J., & Wu, L. (2020). Visual application in health transmission—taking the Covid-19 pandemic report as an example. *News and Writing*, 2020(4), 33-38.
- Deng, Z., Liu, X. J., & Kang, Z. D. (2020). A study on the propaganda of public opinion and its ideological and educational function of new media in colleges and universities in the prevention and control of Covid-19 pandemic—based on the empirical analysis of 2966 WeChat public articles in 42 “double first-class” universities. *Research on Ideological Education*, 2020(3), 40-45.
- Huang, C. X. (2020). Strong confidence, warm people, gather people. Public mentality and network, public opinion in the Covid-19 pandemic. *People's Forum*, 2020(5), 38-40.
- Huang, J. F. (2020). An intelligent interconnection system for the management of public emergencies—taking the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic in China as an example. *Fujian Forum (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition)*, 2020(3), 55-63.
- Jiang, F., & Yan, Q. M. (2020). A review on the “economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic” by scholars of peking university. *Economic Science*, 2020(2), 132-138.
- Liu, P. (2020). Science and value: Risk decision-making mechanism and its optimization in the context of Covid-19 pandemic. *Governance Research*, 2020(2), 53-60.
- Luo, Z. H. (2020). Impact and response of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy, capital markets and national governance. *Financial Economy*, 2020(2), 10-17.
- Shen, Z. F. (2020). Crisis management, public opinion response and empathy transmission of public emergencies—based on the examination and thinking of the Covid-19 pandemic. *External Communication*, 2020(2), 44-47.

Zhu, J. (2020). Study on public countermeasures to reduce the impact of “Covid -19 pandemic”. *Public Finance Research*, 2020(1), 6-14.