



Corona Pandemic (Covid-19) and Interdisciplinary Issues



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Corona Pandemic (Covid-19) and Interdisciplinary Issues

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Preface

COVID-19 is not only an issue of medical science but also an important issue for other experts like social scientists, economists, technologists, psychiatrics, statisticians, sociologists, policy makers, politicians and administrators etc. Therefore, it is important to made collective efforts to deal with this pandemic. For this, interdisciplinary research is one of the best ways. Interdisciplinary research is capable of bridging traditional divides between disciplines and also combines research excellence with relevant impact. Interdisciplinary research should be taken as policy research. Quality of interdisciplinary research structure provides not only new ideas/areas of research but also provides flexibility and wider possibilities for traditional disciplines. This paper will likely to inspire researchers and policy makers for further interdisciplinary research on corona pandemic. In the present book authors from diverse background have expressed their views on this specific problem. They have contributed their ideas, how the pandemic has affected every aspect of human life. Authors have also focused on the need of interdisciplinary research on the issues of corona pandemic. Interdisciplinary approach of research will provide a common platform to the experts from diverse background. This book contains ideas not only Indian authors but also includes the ideas of foreign authors. Contributors have highlighted the different issues and also suggested some measures to deal with this particular problem. The book is divided into eleven chapters.



All the chapters are related to the corona pandemic issue. The views expressed by contributors in this book shall definitely be helpful not only in the field of research but also for the readers and policy makers. This book will be a literary contribution in research.



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COVID-19 Pandemic and Employee Training and Development

-Akaa Samuel Terzungw & Adagba David Teryisa

Abstract

The sudden onset of the COVID-19 health crisis has disrupted work patterns in almost all organizations across the globe. One of the most hit areas is employee development and training. The pandemic caused a halt in in-person or classroom training and consequently has forced all organizations to shift to online and eLearning training delivery. The effects of the pandemic has impacted organizations in varying ways e.g. increased demand for digital skills training to enable workers receive critical skills training even as they work remotely from home. A number of learning tools that have been adopted in most work places to enable organizations deliver their trainings includes; online programs and resources, virtual reality simulators, video conferencing tools, multimedia including Podcasts, etc. The identified challenges facing most organizations



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as they embrace the 'new normal' of work and learning at this time includes; limited digital literacy of users, limited digital literacy of the trainers, lack of adapted training programs and resources, infrastructural issues, etc. It has been suggested that organizations seek for more friendly financing sources, train and retrain their trainers, as well as recruiting the needed manpower to enable them address all this challenges that the COVID-19 global crisis has created. Though the challenges that this global pandemic has brought to the work place especially as it affects training and development are huge; a careful follow up and implementation of the suggested strategies would help organizations to stay afloat and continue to add to their bottom line now and even in the post COVID-19 world.

Introduction

Training and development is one of the major areas of human resource management that is of a major relevance to the effective use of human resources. Employees training and development are at the heart of employee utilization, productivity, commitment, motivation and growth. (Dugguh, 2007). Well trained and experienced people are fundamental to every organization to be able to achieve their vision and mission effectively and efficiently. The emergence of the COVID-19 global health crisis has disrupted the way work is done in organizations worldwide and one of the most affected areas is training and development. The 'new normal' that has compelled employees to working remotely from home as well as adherence to a number of safety measures like physical and social distancing has made it impossible to provide in-person, class-room based skills training. This chapter has addressed critical issues like what training, learning and development are, impact of the pandemic on the development and training of employees, and also presented a clear picture of how development and training should



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look like in the post COVID-19 world. It is essential at this point to distinguish among the terms; training, learning and development.

What is Training?

According to Cole, 2002: 330 “it is a learning activity which is directed towards the acquisition of specific knowledge and skills for purposes of an occupation or task”. Fajana (2002: 455) defined training as “the process that involves developing skills and learning concepts, rules or attitudes in order to increase effectiveness on a particular job”. Armstrong (2006: 575) sees training as “the use of systematic and planned instruction activities to promote learning. The approach according to him is summarized in the phrase ‘learner-based training’. It simply involves the use of formal processes to impart knowledge and help people to acquire the skills necessary for them to perform their jobs satisfactorily. It is one of the many ways through which an organization can undertake to promote learning which is quite critical to task achievement.

Training can therefore be said to be a learning experience in the sense that it seeks a relatively permanent change in an individual that will improve his or her ability to perform assigned roles on the job. In conclusion we can say that training involves the changing of skills level, attitudes or behaviors, knowledge etc. Training may mean effecting changes in what employees know, how they work, their attitudes towards their interactions with their co-workers or their supervisors.

Usefulness of Employee Training

According to Dugguh (2007) effective training has a number of advantages to both the organization and the individual. These are as follows:



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To the Organization:

- (a) Improved product quality
- (b) Improved services to the customers
- (c) Increased motivation among employees
- (d) Maintenance of sufficient and suitable range of skills among employees
- (e) The achievement of improved job performance and productivity (competitive advantages).

To the Individual:

- (a) Increase in personal repertoire skills
- (b) Increase in job satisfaction
- (c) Increase value of employee in the labor market
- (d) Improved prospects of internal promotions

Stages of Employee Training

Training according to Fill and Mullins (1990:13) can be seen to pass through four main stages. The stages are as follows:

- (i) ***Output Training:*** This type of training is usually performed in-house and is centered round the individual. It is initiated only when new equipments, products or persons are introduced into the organization. Use of this type of training is common among small organizations.
- (ii) ***Task Training:*** This involves selected individuals being sent on short training or college-based courses. It sees the first orientation as been the joint needs of the individual and the organization. Safety regulations, health, manufacturers' familiarization "course" are typical of this form of training.
- (iii) ***Performance Training:*** This type of training arises when the organization becomes well established. Some of the tools used to manage the training process include plans and budgets.



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- (iv) **Strategic Training:** This form of training involves the recognition and the practice of training as an integral part of the management of human resources in the light of both the individual and the organizations' needs. It is integral to the philosophy and culture of the organization.

Determinants of Training Needs and Priorities

A training need refers to any shortfall in employee performance which can be remedied by appropriate training. In analyzing training needs, the focus is on the job requirements and how the job incumbent is meeting those requirements. (Dugguh, 2007: 89). At this point that we have an understanding of what training should include; we can now look at how we assess whether there is need for training.

Decenzo & Robbins (1998: 246) propose that management can determine this by answering these four questions:

- (i) What are the organization's goals?
- (ii) What tasks must be completed to achieve these goals?
- (iii) What behaviors are necessary for each job incumbent to complete his or her assigned tasks?
- (iv) What deficiencies if any, do incumbents have in skills, knowledge, or attitudes required in performing the necessary behavior?

The above questions show a close link between human resources planning and determination of training needs. After considering the organizations needs, the type of work to be done and the type of skills necessary to complete the work that is to be done; the program should follow naturally. Once we can answer the fourth question; we have a graph of the nature of our training needs. The type of indications that would warn a manager that there is a need for training would obviously relate directly to productivity, inadequate



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job performance or a drop in productivity. Once the manager notices that there is a drop in productivity, it is likely that skills need to be worked upon.

Training Plans

According to Cole,(2002: 344); training plans are central to the training process. A training plan therefore is a systematic statement of training intentions and the means by which they are to be achieved. Plans could cover or embrace the whole organization or just a small part of it. Overall, training plans we typically contain information under the following headings:

- (a) **Program Aims:** A general statement pertaining to what is the intention of the training, e.g. “the aim of this program is to improve supervisor’s time management ability/skills so as to help achieve organizational tasks on time”.
- (b) **Target Groups:** The identification of staff for which the training is intended e.g, all middle level managers employed in the marketing directorate.
- (c) **Target Numbers:** The determination of the likely numbers to be involved in the training.
- (d) **Content of the Program:** Detail of the topics to be covered, learning objectives to be achieved, activities to be employed and the proposed methods to be adopted for the training.
- (e) **Program Evaluation:** Proposals for the estimation of the relative success of the training in respect of objectives achieved and impact on the activities of the organizations.
- (f) **Administration and Costing:** What are the details on the time table to be followed for the program location, release of staff involved, as well as whether or not the program involves any external



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speakers or facilitators to be employed. It is the responsibility of the training manager or officer to provide professional advice as is necessary to management concerned.

Human Resource Development

Development has been defined by Harrison (2000) as “learning experiences of any kinds, whereby individuals and groups acquire enhanced knowledge, skills, values or behaviors. It outcomes unfold through time rather than immediately and they tend to be long lasting”. Development can be seen as an unfolding process that makes it possible for people to move from a present state of understanding and capability to a future state in which higher level skills, knowledge and competencies are required.

The major focus of employee (management) development is to enhance the employees’ chances of progression in the organization. In training as earlier explained, workers are made to carry out specific tasks while in development they are prepared to assume more responsibility in the future.

Management development must as matter of necessity embrace all managers in the organization with the aim of challenging all to growth as well as self development focusing more on tomorrow’s requirement rather than those of today. A number of attributes must be present in the employee if he is going to be a successful manager. These features according to Peddler et al (1994:52) include;

- (i) Command of facts
- (ii) Relevant professional knowledge
- (iii) Continuing sensitivity to errors
- (iv) Analytical problem solving and judgment making skills
- (v) Social skills and abilities
- (vi) Emotional resistance



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- (vii) Proactive (the inclination to respond purposefully to events).
- (viii) Creativity
 - (ix) Mental agility
 - (x) Balanced learning habits and skills
 - (xi) Self-knowledge

Taking into perspective, this view and others too, on the nature of managerial jobs, it is agreeable that four key elements can be discussed in terms of what managers need to know or should be able to do. These are as follows:

- (i) Managerial knowledge; the organizational, the job, the procedure involved etc.
- (ii) Managerial skills; problem solving, social and other skills.
- (iii) Management attitudes; what the manager is required to accept in terms of coping with stress, dealing with clients etc.
- (iv) Managerial style: the expectations that people have concerning the way the manager exercise leadership.

Management (Employee) Development Methods

According to Nwachukwu (2002:123) there exist a number of methods of developing members which are both formal and informal and includes the following:

- ***Organizational Level Methods***

This includes:

- Coaching and understudies
- Job rotation
- Assistant to
- Multiple management
- Membership of committees
- Special assignment



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- *Ex-organizational Level Methods. These includes:*
 - Special courses
 - Membership of professional bodies
 - Evening programs
 - Sensitivity training
 - Business games

It is worthy of note in conclusion that training and developing workers via any of the above mentioned methods would for sure enhance the competitive advantage of all organizations.

Learning

'Learning' has to do primarily with bringing about a relatively permanent change resulting from experience. This is made possible via direct experience-by-doing-or via observation. It is quite difficult to measure learning no matter what means by which it takes place. The only thing that can be measured is the changes in attitude and behavior that occur as a result of learning. They have been a consensus among leading authorities on learning in organizations. Honey and Mumford as sighted in Allinson & Hayes (1996) concludes that 'leaning is complex and various, covering all sorts of things such as knowledge, skills, insights, beliefs, values, attitudes and habits'. People learn for themselves and from other people too, as members of teams as well as by interaction with their managers, co-workers and even people outside the organization. Honey and Mumford (1986) explained that; 'learning has happened when people can demonstrate that they know something that they did not know before (insights, realizations as well as facts) and when they can do something they couldn't do before (skills). This implies that learning is both a process and an outcome which has to do with knowledge, skills and insights.



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Types of Learning

There are four types of learning. This includes:

- (a) Instrumental learning-this has to do with learning on the job. It basically involves learning how to do the job better once the basic standard of performance has been attained.
- (b) Cognitive learning-outcomes based on the enhancement of knowledge and understanding.
- (c) Affective learning-outcomes based on the development of attitudes or feelings rather than knowledge.
- (d) Self-reflective learning-developing new patterns of understanding, thinking and behaving and therefore creating new knowledge (Harrison, 2005).

The COVID-19 Pandemic

The Corona virus disease 2019, named COVID-19, is the seventh Corona virus to invade our everyday lives, and almost everything we know to date about COVID-19 is based on the behavior of earlier viruses. It's too early to know all that we need to know about COVID-19, but we are learning more each day thanks to the tireless efforts of scientists working across the globe and round the clock. Health experts have told us that COVID-19 is spread by droplets (fomites) that spray from our mouths for as far as 6 feet and can remain on surfaces where they land anywhere from minutes to days, depending on the temperature and humidity of the surface.

Latest research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reviewed that COVID-19 stays in the air for up to three hours, as droplets that linger as live viruses. It can live for up to 24 hours on cardboard that has been touched by someone infected with the virus, even if they are asymptomatic (e.g., packages being shipped and



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received as well as packages from grocery stores, drugstores, and other stores). The virus lives on plastic and stainless steel for two to three days. This is inclusive of surfaces and items typically encountered in everyday life, such as store checkout counters and shopping carts, playground and fitness equipment, and sinks, toilets, faucets, and water fountains. In view of this, what we need to do is clear. The global goal now is to contain the spread of the virus. It is present in almost every state and is spreading like viruses do. For us to contain and slow the spread requires everyone's collective efforts.

Both as individuals, and in professional roles such as HR managers, we must learn as fast as possible all we can to be effective on the front lines to slow and contain the spread. An important place to begin is by learning to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19: a fever and dry cough, and then difficulty in breathing (this is key). Health experts have concluded that some people remain asymptomatic, but of those who show symptoms, 99% do so five to six days after infection, though symptoms may appear in as few as two days or in as many as 14 days—thus the assumed incubation period of two weeks, for safety.

What to Do at Work

It is advisable that HR managers should innovate with work schedules and assignments by allowing flexible scheduling parameters and being creative in how the work gets done. Here are some ideas:

- Spread out the density of employees throughout a workday vs. everyone working a standard eight-hour shift.
- Have teams work through teleconferencing and/or internet meetings.
- Avoid or postpone group face-to-face celebrations, especially ones with food being served. Consider



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discouraging the use of or closing community dining spaces and encourage at-desk lunch and snacking.

- Allow or expand flex-time opportunities for the majority of positions.
- Allow or expand eligible positions for remote working environments.
- Postpone all work-related travel. Reframe the “how,” e.g., would anything be lost through video/teleconferencing vs. face-to-face?
- Tell employees to stay home/self-isolate if they are ill, coming down with something, or have had a known exposure to COVID-19. The rule of thumb is, if in doubt, don’t. The CDC suggests employers consider allowing employees to go into a “negative bank” of sick leave time available to support their staying away from the workplace when they are or might be ill.

A detailed review of the impact of this pandemic on employee development and training is done in the sections that follow.

How Has COVID-19 Pandemic Affected Employee Training and Development?

The sudden onset of the pandemic has affected greatly the patterns of carrying out work in most if not all organizations globally. One area of work most affected by this global health crisis has been employee training and development. Almost all organizations in an attempt to adapt to the new normal of observing the recommended tips of social and physical distancing and other additional health and safety requirements has had to move staff to working remotely from home. This singular new strategy has made it impossible for organizations to continue in the provision of in-person, classroom-based training. From all



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indications, the effect of this global health crisis has and is wide ranging and long lasting.

Increased Demand for Digital Skills Training

Many organizations have had to either implement or expand their existing online business models primarily to enable them compensate for lock-down related restrictions on their former way of doing business in person. What this means is that the need has arisen for digital skills training. The workplace restrictions consequently have affected the way this new needed skills are to be imparted. As remote work from home policies were adapted in order to help slow down the spread of COVID-19, most organizations which hitherto were conducting physical classroom trainings had to move this programs online.

Functional training offerings to staff in most organizations at this time of the effect of the pandemic has been mostly in areas like; digital operations, technology/software, digital marketing, artificial intelligence/data science, cyber security, cloud computing etc. These trainings have become necessary to enable employees function effectively in this 'new normal' of doing business. Major changes have taken place as a result of the effect of this global crisis. This impact includes:

- Classroom programs have moved online-in most if not all organizations-classroom training sessions have been moved to online as working remotely from home has become the new normal. From my interactions with most workers; it seems like even though normalcy has started returning but it is likely that online trainings may continue to be preferred over in-person training sessions. This apart from the fact that it has proven to be more convenient, would also save the cost of staff movements to training locations as same is totally eliminated with online trainings.



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- Online programs are more effective than in-person trainings-surprisingly most workers are of the view that online classes or trainings are even more effective than the physical or in-person trainings. This claim though is yet to be proven scientifically but from all observations; the online training option is certainly more convenient and has higher advantage of wider coverage of training area as well as reduced cost when considered comparatively to in-person trainings.
- The preference to online trainings looks like it we stick-because of the varying merits that the online training option has brought to bear on organizational learning, most people feel strongly that it would stick even after the crisis is over. It is also worth mentioning that in most corporate organizations and even public sector organizations that have placed priority on e-operations, online trainings are not new, it is therefore likely that these strategy would be revised and strengthened hence it has shown clearly that its advantages far outweigh its challenges.
- Training plans and training budgets-from all indications, it has become glaring that training budgets of organizations post COVID-19 would likely increase, this in the immediate would pose a problem hence the new training plans were not incorporated in the existent expenditure plans. Most organizations would definitely have to prepare supplementary budgets to be able to address this gap created as a result of the urgent need for logistics, new digital skills as well as computer systems acquisitions to enable employee measure up to the challenges of working and training in the new normal.



Learning Tools During the Covid-19 Pandemic Time Period

A number of learning tools that have been adapted in most work places in their training programs includes amongst the following:

- (i) Online learning programs and resources
- (ii) Virtual reality simulators
- (iii) Video conferencing tools
- (iv) Multimedia including Podcasts
- (v) TV System
- (vi) Printed materials etc

Challenges Affecting the Delivery of Trainings in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic Period

Ensuring that skills of the workers have been updated at this time of the global crisis has not been without challenges. This includes:

- (a) *Limited Digital Literacy of Users*-most workers had limited digital skills. Improving these skills has certainly come with an additional cost to all organizations.
- (b) *Limited Digital Skills of Trainers*-in a number of organizations; even their trainers have limited knowledge of the skills required to enable them train employees effectively at this moment. Most of these organizations have had to organize train the trainers' seminars/workshops to update the knowledge of affected workers as this has become necessary at this time period.
- (c) *Lack of Adapted Training Programs and Resources*-though there exist a lack of adapted programs and resources, it has been observed that providers have quickly move into action in order



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to close the gaps as soon as possible. This has enabled organizations which had this challenge to quickly address same.

- (d) *Infrastructural Issues*-lack of infrastructure like internet connectivity, computer systems availability. etc has posed a challenge to most organizations in their attempt to migrate to or intensify the use of existing online programs. It is believed that going into collaboration with suppliers and providers for a long term supply contract would help address this challenge most especially that such arrangements would result to cheaper rates as well as more flexible payment options.
- (e) *Cost*-of course adapting to the new ways of providing training for employees has not come without a cost. This costs would definitely affect the bottom line of this organizations. Finding more friendly ways of financing this investment would go a long way in reducing the burden and ensuring that the returns on their investments are not too negatively affected.

How Will Employee Training and Development Change in the Post-Pandemic World?

The COVID-19 global crisis has changed the work place in many different ways and that includes staff development and training. The likely changes to expect in the post-COVID-19 World would include:

- *Increased Speed of Learning*-in the post COVID-19 time organizations in their quest to deal with the occasioned changes would have to move from the structured and planned -well-in-advance training to the more agile operational learning. This has been necessitated by the need for learning to be more focused on how work happens and it is



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the exact approach required in this challenging times. The global crisis has forced a lot of operational changes; work places are discovering new and better ways of doing business so as to be able to survive in the market. Most of these changes have to be inculcated into employee which consequently means training has to be delivered at the new speed of business need.

- ***Compulsory Mobile-Compatibility*** of Learning Resources-even before the COVID-19 global crisis, some organizations had invested and shown interest in the development of mobile-compatible trainings. Investment in mobile learning was done by most organizations just to deliver training at the moment of need but such efforts were quite few hence it was just meant as an option for learners to continue with their business of learning at their convenience. For organizations that didn't work towards providing mobile-compatible learning resources; this would constitute a great challenge. It is suggestive that developers of our learning resources should focus a lot more on the provision of mobile-first design in online training and eLearning with more native learning experiences which should include features like pinch-to-zoom, swiping or scrolling.
- ***Rapid eLearning on Priority***-authoring tools on rapid eLearning are even getting better with most of the tools facilitating quite simple, quick and collaborative authoring. In place of waiting for months to be able to design some dazzling eLearning courses, most organizations would rather want to keep it simple and low cost. Hence rapid eLearning provides that without compromising on instructional design, it would sure be and should be the preferred option at this challenging time.



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- **Increased Adoption of Micro-learning**-it is likely that there would be a big boom in the adoption of micro-learning after the global crisis period. This would be necessitated by the fact that the post pandemic world would be full of learners who we want to continue to take charge of their corporate learning experiences but the learning needs to be accessible for them to take at their convenience. In an attempt to embrace more of operational learning initiatives, learners would want more of bite sized learning that would ensure quick internalization and application in their next phone call or meeting with a customer. Most people would be stressed up by the effect of the pandemic and may likely not be interested in spending many hours before a computer for training but would most certainly be more receptive to learning that is delivered by way of micro learning nuggets.

Conclusion

Conclusively, it is worthy of note that though the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected work patterns and forced organizations to move towards newer ways of training delivery thereby creating cost and bringing in other inconveniences, it is strongly believed that a careful application of the suggested strategies like seeking more friendly financing options to take care of infrastructure and additional materials, securing of long term supply contracts with suppliers and etc. would help all organizations to stay afloat and continue to add to their bottom line now and even in the post COVID-19 world.

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COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Human Life

-Dushma Thakur

Abstract

In the past nuclear warfare was considered a significant global risk. Going beyond the traditional analysis, water wars were also anticipated to be the potential cause of global conflicts in the recent decades. However, even as these scenarios remain a concern, the world is right now witnessing an unprecedented global crisis caused by a microbe. The novel coronavirus has spread to and wreaked havoc in more than two hundred countries and territories. As of March 28, 2020, COVID-19, the deadly disease caused by the novel coronavirus has infected 571,678 and killed a staggering 26,495 people. This virus is transmitted as commonly and rapidly as the virus causing the common cold (rhinovirus). The symptoms of COVID 19 bear close resemblance with cold or flu, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Owing to the similarities between the genome structure of COVID-19 coronavirus and Severe Acute Respiratory



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Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus, the current 'novel coronavirus' is called SARS-CoV-2. But unlike SARS (which broke out in 2003), COVID 19 is yet to be tamed and controlled by mankind, and an effective vaccine is keenly awaited. The World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a pandemic owing to the extent of its spread across the globe. In the wake of this growing concern, this report seeks to provide a comprehensive coverage of this untoward situation. It aims to throw light upon the novel coronavirus, with a special emphasis on Interdisciplinary Research for policy-making at multiple levels involving the central and state governments, businesses & private organisations as well as citizens.

Introduction

The beginning of the present 'novel coronavirus' crisis can be traced to Wuhan, a city in China where the virus originated and soon spread across the country as people moved from one part of the country to another. The response of the Chinese government ranged from denial and hiding the information, to eventual lockdowns, curfews and ramping up their healthcare to treat the patients. Gradually, it spread globally to almost all the countries with varied responses of the respective national governments. In the case of India, the country is at a critical juncture presently where there is a massive scare of possible deadly effects of coronavirus, if we are not able to limit its spread. At this critical juncture, when we are at the mercy of a microscopic biological agent, solidarity, awareness and preparedness are the pressing needs of the hour. Although 'social distancing' is the buzzword, the world is now closer and more connected than ever before. Tackling COVID-19 needs a warlike response against a common enemy. Doctors and nurses have turned into soldiers overnight. Political leaders are preoccupied with planning and strategizing against the enemy. But most importantly, the role people



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play will be immense in defeating this enemy. Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to the more severe diseases such as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV) and the current COVID-19. These viruses consist of a core of genetic material surrounded by an envelope with protein spikes, which gives it an appearance of a crown (Latin: corona). Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are “transmitted from animals to humans.” In the current outbreak, it was found by the scientists that this Coronavirus was a new strain. Thus, it was named ‘novel’ or new Corona with the appellation of ‘nCorona’. It was later renamed as SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2) by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses, owing its similarities in genome structure with that of SARS virus. The SARS-CoV-2 is believed to have taken the following sequence- It originated from bats, and then transmitted to pangolins to humans. The sequence is yet to be confirmed.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control the source of this virus is identified and controlled, there is a risk of reintroduction of the virus in the human population and the risk of new outbreaks like the ones we are currently experiencing. It was the wet markets (selling live meat, fish, reptiles and wild animals) in Wuhan, where the virus is believed to have spawned, precisely the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. The problem with these Chinese wet markets was that all sorts of animals, ranging from fowl to wild animals, were sold there for their meat (for example monkeys, python, dogs, hares and pangolin etc.) without due care of hygiene. In these wet markets, the live animals were housed in very bad conditions and lived under a lot of stress. Further, stress made it conducive for such animals to get sick and shed the virus. It is believed that the virus was transmitted to humans through the fluid secreted from



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the respiratory system of the wild animals. Further, it spread from humans to humans while coughing and sneezing, shaking of hands, making contact with a surface or object that has the virus etc. On rare occasions, a coronavirus may spread through contact with faeces.

The Incubation Period (the time between catching the virus and the beginning of symptoms of the disease) for COVID-19 range from 1-14 days, with the median incubation period of just over five days. The R_0 (pronounced R-nought) (average number of people who will catch the disease from one contagious person) of the virus is estimated to be between 2 and 3, and the mortality rate is of around 3% but the rate varies and is amenable to change due to different factors such as spread in different locations, response mechanisms and age profile of the infected. Common signs of the covid-19 infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Diagnosis: The infection can be diagnosed by reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). This test identifies the virus based on its genetic fingerprint.

Corona-Virus Vaccine

A vaccine can be prepared either based on genome sequencing of the Virus or by finding out about the Proteins which make up the virus. However, since COVID 19 mutates (in structure), it becomes difficult to develop a vaccine based on the above methods. Further, it requires multiple stages of development—from animal trials, to human trials, to regulatory approvals and finally, the manufacturing. Initiatives for the development of drugs to cure the infection/ disease are also in progress under the WHO Solidarity Trial. Some of the initiatives taken towards this are:

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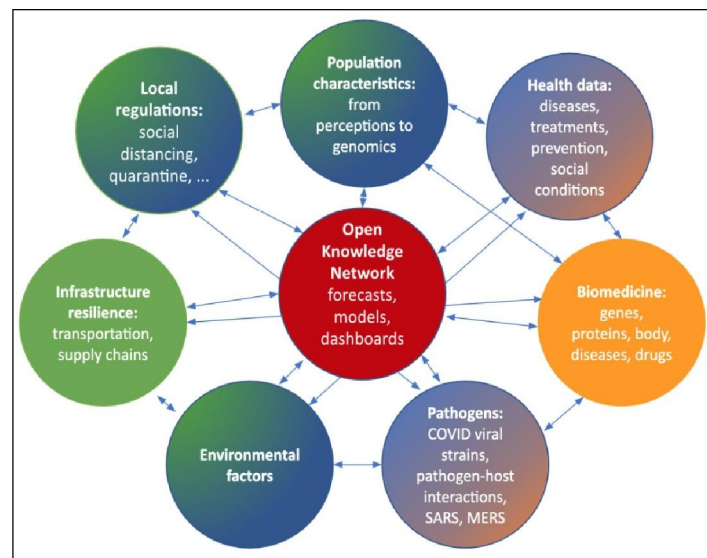
Gilead's remdesivir is being studied in several clinical trials around the world. In China, Gilead is recruiting about 1,000 patients diagnosed with the coronavirus to determine whether multiple doses of Remdesivir could reverse the infection.

Moderna's product is a synthetic strand of messenger RNA, or mRNA, designed to convince bodily cells to produce antibodies against the virus.

Can Sino Biologics involves taking a snippet of the coronavirus' genetic code and entwining it with a harmless virus, thereby exposing healthy volunteers to the novel infection and spurring the production of antibodies.

The Oxford University vaccine, known as ChAdOx1, is one of five frontrunners in vaccine development around the world.

US biotech Moderna gave its first vaccine shot to a person in Seattle earlier this week. In Germany, *CureVac* is working on a vaccine, while others are in development in China.





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- Covid-toe: Asymmetrical, chilblain-like lesions around the hands and feet
- Outbreaks of small blisters, often itchy, found on the trunk and limbs
- Pink or white raised areas of skin that look like nettle rash.
- Maculopapules – small, flat and raised red bumps
- Livedo (also known as necrosis): skin looks blotchy red or blue, with a net-like pattern

The COVID-19 Virus and its Poly-Proteins

COVID-19 is easily infecting and transmitting itself from people to people and scientists and medical experts are waging a war against its spread. Though there are treatments that can alleviate the symptoms such as difficulty breathing, they do not address the underlying cause: the virus. All over the world, experts are involved in understanding this new strain of virus and to find treatment and drug for it.

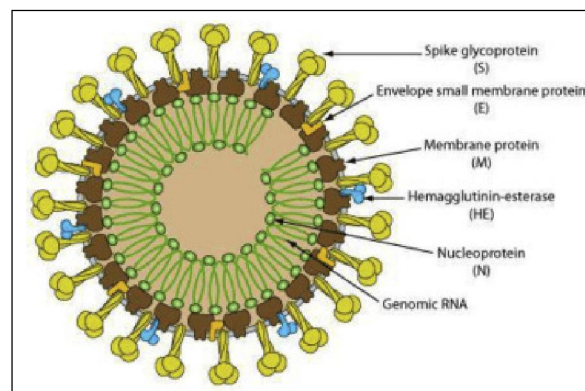
- When an infection by virus occurs, entire RNA with its 33,000 bases is translated in one shot as a long tape of amino acid sequences.
- Since this long chain contains several proteins within it, it is called a “polyprotein” sequence.
- Almost all retroviruses and RNA viruses use the strategy of translating an open reading frame as a large, precursor polyprotein.
- Viruses that regulate gene expression by polyprotein processing includes several important human pathogens such as HIV, poliovirus, rhinovirus, Dengue virus, hepatitis C virus, West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus and SARS corona virus.
- Polyprotein strategy is useful to understand lifecycle of the virus and to find the relevant proteins, isolate



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- and study what each of them does in helping infection.
- Polyproteins allow for a more compact genome by eliminating additional genetic features and express the protein when the need arises.
 - Scientists call the polyprotein a 'single reading frame', containing several 'open reading frames', namely those that contain a start code and end with a stop code, each containing the relevant protein to be expressed by the host cell.

Structure of COVID-19

- As per Journal of Medical Virology, COVID19 has RNA-based genomes and sub-genomes in its polyprotein sequence.
- The architecture of the virus is the spike protein (S), the membrane protein (M), the envelope protein (E), and the nucleocapsidprotein (N, which covers the viral cell nuclear material).
- There are 16 special structural and accessory proteins, called non-structural proteins (NSP), which serve specific purposes for infection and viral multiplication.





How the Drugs Work on Viruses?

- Corona virus is made up of large set of proteins, against which a number of potential molecules and drugs can be tried to interfere and stop the production of these viral proteins.
- Remdesavir is one of several drugs being fast-tracked into trials by the World Health Organization. It is considered highly effective in stopping the replication mechanism of the corona virus that causes COVID-19. The drug targeted the key enzyme RDRp in the virus and stopped its production.
- The drug worked successfully against the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus, a related corona virus.
- Other studies from the US, Germany and China have developed methods to stop the production of the enzyme (called CL3pro, also called as Mpro) which is needed to make the spike (S protein).
- According to an Indian researcher, Thanigaimalai Pillaiyar, there is no specific treatment available for human corona viruses till date, but numerous antiviral agents are being identified through a variety of approaches. His work is well known in finding drugs against SARS-CoV.
- By 3D modeling, he found a key enzyme of the SARS-CoV, called Chymotrypsin-like Cysteine Protease (**3CLpro**) also called the main protease (**Mpro**) and found that this enzyme fits into the virus structure.
- A total of about 160 known drugs were predicted to deactivate the binding of 3CLpro or pro and thus inhibit the SARS-CoV from infecting.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations during the COVID-19 Outbreak

WHO and public health authorities around the world are acting to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. However, this time of crisis is generating stress throughout the population. The considerations presented in this document have been developed by the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Use as a series of messages that can be used in communications to support mental and psychosocial well-being in different target groups during the outbreak.

COVID-19 has and is likely to affect people from many countries, in many geographical locations. When referring to people with COVID-19, do not attach the disease to any particular ethnicity or nationality. Be empathetic to all those who are affected, in and from any country. People who are affected by COVID-19 have not done anything wrong, and they deserve our support, compassion and kindness. Do not refer to people with the disease as “COVID-19 cases”, “victims” “COVID-19 families” or “the diseased”. They are “people who have COVID-19”, “people who are being treated for COVID-19”, or “people who are recovering from COVID-19”, and after recovering from COVID-19 their life will go on with their jobs, families and loved ones. It is important to separate a person from having an identity defined by COVID-19, in order to reduce stigma. Minimize watching, reading or listening to news about COVID-19 that causes you to feel anxious or distressed; seek information only from trusted sources and mainly so that you can take practical steps to prepare your plans and protect yourself and loved ones. Seek information updates at specific times during the day, once or twice. The sudden and near-constant stream of news reports about an outbreak can cause anyone to feel worried. Get the facts; not rumours and misinformation. Gather information at



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regular intervals from the WHO website and local health authority platforms in order to help you distinguish facts from rumours. Facts can help to minimize fears.

The Economic Impact of Coronavirus

The Coronavirus outbreak is having a negative impact on the various sectors of the economy. These are:

GDP Growth Rate

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has slashed India's growth forecast for 2020-21 by 110 basis points (bps) to 5.1%, warning that the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on business confidence, financial markets and the travel sector, including disruption to supply chains, could shave 50 bps off global growth in 2020.

Pharmaceutical Industry

Given the pharmaceutical industry's deep linkages to China, the supply chain of raw materials of drugs has taken a hit. The production facilities in Himachal Pradesh, largest pharma hub of Asia, have warned of suspension. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), also called bulk drugs, are significant ingredients in the manufacture of drugs. The Hubei province of China, the epicentre of the coronavirus, is the hub of the API manufacturing industry. India is heavily import-dependent for APIs from China. India's API imports stand at around \$3.5 billion per year, and around 70%, or \$2.5 billion, come from China.

Automobile Industry

China is one of the leading suppliers of auto components in India, accounting for 27% of the total imports. The coronavirus is expected to have an impact on the Indian



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automotive industry and therefore also on the automobile component and forging industries, which had already reduced their production rate due to the market conditions and on account of the impending change over to BS-VI emission norms from BS-IV from April 2020.

Stock Market

On 28th February, the Indian stock market registered one of its worst crashes in a single day. Indian indices fell over 3.5%, marking the second biggest fall in Sensex history. The Sensex plunged 1,448.37 points to close at 38,297.29, while the Nifty tanked 3.711% or 431.55 points to settle a little above the 11,200 mark. The Sensex's worst fall in history was on 24th August, 2015, when the indices fell 1,624 points on the back of a slump in the Chinese markets and rising crude oil prices.

Currency

The month of March is typically good for the Indian currency as remittances, from both overseas citizens and companies, tend to boost the exchange rate. In the past decade, the rupee has appreciated seven times against the dollar in March. But March 2020 could be hard on the exchange rate and the rupee's sharp drop to 73.25 per dollar on 3rd March, 2020 is evidence of this. One of the reasons is an increase in the number of reported cases of coronavirus in India.

Global Scenario

Global Growth: The world's economy could grow at its slowest rate since 2009 this year due to the coronavirus outbreak, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD has forecast growth of just 2.4% in 2020, down from 2.9% in November 2019



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Fall in Customer Demand: Some people are choosing to avoid activities that might expose them to the risk of infection, such as going out shopping. Restaurants, car dealerships and shops have all reported a fall in customer demand.

Travel Industry: The number of cases diagnosed is increasing around the world every day. Thus, many countries have introduced travel restrictions to try to contain the virus's spread, impacting the travel industry massively.

Beneficiaries

Consumer goods giant Reckitt Benckiser, for example, has seen a boost in sales for its Dettol and Lysol products. The disinfectant is seen as providing protection against the spread of the disease, although its effectiveness has not yet been scientifically proven. The price of gold - which is often considered a "safe haven" in times of uncertainty - has also increased. Its spot price hit a seven-year high of \$1,682.35 per ounce in February 2020.

Global Response

- The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO on 30th January 2020.
- According to recommendations by the World Health Organization, the diagnosis of COVID-19 must be confirmed by the Real Time- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCRT-PCR) or gene sequencing for respiratory or blood specimens, as the key indicator for hospitalisation.
- \$15 million dollars has been released from the UN's Central Emergency Fund to help fund global efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, particularly vulnerable countries with weak health care systems.
- Vaccines are being developed.



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Indian Response

- The Indian government arranged for the evacuation of 366 Indian citizens from Wuhan in a special Air India flight on 31st January 2020. The passengers were placed under quarantine for a period of 14 days. A second batch of passengers, including seven Maldivan citizens evacuated by the government, arrived from Wuhan on 1st February 2020. The repatriated passengers were also monitored.
- The government has already introduced travel restrictions and suspended visas from affected countries.
- A detailed containment plan has been shared with states. States have been asked to identify possible isolation areas in hospitals that can accommodate larger numbers.
- The Indian health minister advised people to approach the government helpline numbers regarding the doubts related to symptoms of the deadly disease. The situation is being monitored at the highest level.
- PCR Test: If PCR test is positive, the sample is sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune, which is the only government laboratory currently doing genome sequencing, for final confirmation

Covid-19 and Globalization

Globalization envisages a borderless world or seeks world as a global village. It may be attributed by accelerated flow of goods, people, capital, information, and energy across borders, often enabled by technological developments. Over the past three decades (from 1990-2020), globalization has dominated the world's economic order. Trade without tariffs, international travel with easy or no visas, capital



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flows with few impediments, cross-border pipelines and energy grids, and seamless global communication in real-time appeared to be the goals towards which the world was moving.

However, on the negative side, globalization has been criticised on account of exacerbating global disparities, spread of international terrorism and cross-border organised crime, and allow for the rapid spread of disease. These trends pave way for an anti-globalization or protectionism sentiment, which may further amplify due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Anti-Globalization Wave

The globalisation had already begun to plateau or stagnate since the 2008-09 global financial crisis (GFC). This can be seen in many dimensions:

Slowing Globalization of Trade

- Trade as a percentage of global GDP rose from 39% in 1991 to 61% in 2008 but has stagnated over the past decade.
- Similarly, personal remittance flows, previously on the rise, flattened to around 0.75% of global GDP.
- There are several causes for the great stagnation in the globalisation of goods and capital.
- It became increasingly apparent that not all countries, societies, and people were benefitting equally from globalisation, and that soon began to be reflected in national and international politics.
- This is reflected in Brexit and USA's America First Policy.
- Further, trade wars and the halting of WTO talks is another recognition of the retreat of globalisation.



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Slowing Globalization of Information

- The globalisation of information may confront a paradox.
- On the one hand, information is more available, important, and shareable than ever. On the other hand, there is greater monitoring of individual information.
- The SARS epidemic of 2003 was a watershed for the use of mass surveillance and big data by governments in the interest of public health.
- Similar sentiments in a post-Covid-19 world may contribute further to the nationalisation of data.

Slowing Globalisation of People

- The globalisation of people accelerated, although in a manner that was partial and subordinate to national interests.
- The stock of global migrants grew steadily from 190 million in 2005 to 243 million a decade later. The number of international tourist arrivals rose from 900 million in 2009 to 1.4 billion in 2018.

For example, visa restriction policies of the USA, rising cases of racial attacks in countries like Australia.

Slowing Globalisation of Energy

Net international energy trade, which stood at 1.5 billion tonnes of oil equivalent in 1990, swelled to 2.5 billion by 2008 but then grew only moderately to 2.8 billion by 2018. Due to these factors, international media is referring to the process of globalisation by the term 'slowbalisation'.

Effect of Covid-19 on Globalization

The ongoing phase of globalisation hasn't fully recovered from systemic shocks given by GFC. However,



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the spread of Covid-19 pandemic presents a challenge of a different magnitude.

- **Global Economic Crisis:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in its annual Economic and Social Survey, held that the Covid-19 crisis is a challenge never seen before and it is going to be a bigger shock for the world economy than the GFC. This may act as a severe blow to liberal world order dominated by globalisation.
- **Problem faced by Emerging and Developing Economies:** The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held that emerging and developing economies which rely on export-led growth, will now be severely impacted as the global economy contracts and the world opts for protectionist policies.
- **Disruption of Global Value Chain:** Covid-19 crisis is having devastating repercussions for corporations and businesses that have benefited from economic interdependence supported by cross-border supply chains.
- China is the world's largest production base, and lies at the heart of many supply chains. Since the outbreak of this coronavirus, many companies that had come to depend on China were hard hit.
- **Bringing Back Import Substitution:** From a risk analysis perspective, we could at the very least see a rapid trend towards moving from globally dispersed production bases back in favor of domestic facilities. Countries will reconfigure their economies to look at import substitution with a greater clarity now, as the perils and pitfalls of overdependence on foreign supplies become clear. There will almost certainly be calls for the re-



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nationalisation of manufacturing, particularly for what are considered critical or essential goods.

- ***Further Halting of WTO talks:*** This may indicate worse days ahead for the WTO, as trade rules have worked best when the global economy is booming and isn't facing a crisis.
- ***Restriction on People to People Movement:*** National governments will have to weigh the risks of contagious diseases against the benefits of ease of travel or may have to consider stronger safeguards. In the short run, the World's Tourism industry will get affected even after the crisis gets over. Also, mobilisation of finance will be indirectly affected as less migration and business travel coupled with incentives to invest at home will hinder transnational capital flows.

Way Forward

- The US has announced a \$2 trillion economic package (nearly 10% of USA's GDP) for post crisis reconstruction. However, other countries may not replicate this as it may blow up the fiscal deficit.
- In this scenario, full use must be made of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights (SDR). The idea is that, because all countries will obviously want to protect their own citizens and economies during crises, the international community should have a tool for assisting the neediest countries without requiring national budgets to take a hit.
- Advanced economies like the United States should consider donating or lending (on concessionary terms) their SDRs to a trust fund dedicated to helping poorer countries.



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- At the same time, there is a need to work towards eliminating problems such as social and economic disparities caused by globalization.
- Once the world recovers from crisis, it is crucial to create mechanisms to respond to disease through effective international cooperation.

Globalisation has brought more good than harm. Therefore, nations must work together for a better future through globalisation, as climate change, pollution and global warming issues can only be tackled through collective action. In this context, world can take inspiration from India, as India is exporting Hydroxychloroquine in response to demand by other countries for treatment of Covid-19.

Coronavirus and Environment

Global carbon emissions from the fossil fuel industry could fall by a record 2.5bn tonnes this year, a reduction of 5%, as the coronavirus pandemic, triggers the biggest drop in demand for fossil fuels on record. The unprecedented restrictions on travel, work, and industry due to the coronavirus has ensured several days with good quality air in otherwise choked cities. Pollution and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen across continents.

Impact on the Environment

- The impact of the unprecedented lockdown, made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, has been largely positive on the environment.
- According to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the measures against COVID-19 have led to a drop in PM2.5 (fine particulate pollutant) by 30% in Delhi.



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- The Nitrogen-dioxide level has come down drastically with a nearly 40% reduction.
- Water quality in the rivers has improved massively including that of Ganga and Yamuna both of which were in very bad conditions. There are two reasons for this, first, the demand for water has gone down as industries are not using the water, and second, since the industries are not operating they're not releasing toxic effluents in the river bodies.
- Nature and wildlife has replenished itself. According to the Bombay Natural History Society, there has been a 25% increase in flamingo migration since 2019.

COVID-19, Issues and Challenges

One major issue to consider is whether these are just fleeting changes, or could it lead to a longer-lasting fall in emissions.

- **Behavioral Changes:** Work From Home is one such positive change that can be expected to last even beyond the lockdown. Lesser number of private vehicles will ensure fewer traffic-jams and less pollution.
- **Industries and factories:** Due to the lockdown the industrial waste generation has completely stopped and this has played a major role in the improvement of both air and water quality across the globe. However, it is probable that the emissions might even surpass the earlier levels, post-lockdown. Some countries might let their environmental laws down to make up for the economic loss suffered during the lockdown.
- **Poverty and Climate Change:** Sustainable development goals might take a hit in the post



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corona world as a huge amount of poverty is going to come back. The fight against climate change will also suffer as countries across the globe are expected to take knee-jerk measures to undo the economic loss.

Way Forward

The reduced pollution levels and replenished wildlife is a silver-lining amidst COVID-19 crisis. It is an eyeopener for mankind but this has come at a major humanitarian cost, taking a toll on both human life and economy. A long-term vision with a targeted stimulus towards sustainable goals is the need of the hour.

- ***Internalise environmental concerns:*** The repeated outbreak of pandemics like SARS, MERS, Ebola is a result of climate change, desertification, loss of biodiversity, and illegal trading of wildlife. In order to successfully avert such a crisis in the future, we have to respect nature and biodiversity. Climate change is a slow pandemic itself that in years to come will cost human lives so we can learn a lesson from this particular pandemic and devise a future which is sustainable in equal parts for humans and environment and wildlife
- ***Sustainable development:*** The economies have become very weak and therefore supporting the fight against climate change is going to be very difficult. However, now is the time to realise the importance of sustainable development. Data shows that the fatality rate due to coronavirus is higher in the regions with poorer air quality. It's time to redefine growth and development and make preserving the environment an integral part of it. Private companies should incorporate and internalise such method of production so as to



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reduce carbon emissions. Governments should also make developmental policies keeping in mind the environmental challenges.

- **Coordinated response:** The present crisis was the result of a lack of coordinated and timely global response and public health preparedness. We need to act globally and collectively and have a common understanding on monitoring and understanding pandemics.
- **Move towards cleaner energy:** The coronavirus crisis also presents India with an opportunity to invest in clean energy and ensure a cleaner future. Installing solar panels and other renewable energy technology that reduces demand from traditional energy sources that harm our lungs, such as coal-fired power plants should be made a priority.
- The debate between environment and development is a perennial one. But it's time to realise that it is not an either-or choice, the two have to go hand in hand. The environment should not be seen as antithetical to development if we ensure it to be sustainable, We need to mainstream the respect for natural resources and a concern for its conservation and a strategy for decarbonisation. Developing and strategising methods of energy transfer reducing dependency on fossils and moving towards renewables will go a long way.

Covid-19 and Food Security

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely derailed development across the world. It has compounded the pre-crisis levels of food insecurity and malnutrition with job losses, supply chain disruptions, and declines in revenue from key exports and remittances. Globally, the World Food Programme predicts that the number of people facing acute



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food insecurity around the world will almost double to 270 million, including 121 million new food insecure due to Covid-19. However, South Asia is particularly vulnerable, with the number of chronically underfed people projected to rise by to 330 million by 2030. It is also the only subregion in the world where more than half the children from the poorest fifth of society are stunted.

Impact on Food Security

Extreme Hunger

- Covid-19 has struck at a time when hunger or undernourishment keeps rising.
- According to the latest UN estimates, 83 to 132 million more people may suffer extreme hunger in 2020 as a result of the economic recession triggered by the pandemic.
- This would be in addition to the 690 million people going hungry now.

Malnourishment

- Apart from extreme hunger people are also suffering from undernourishment.
- It means that they are unable to consume enough healthy calories to lead a normal, active life.
- Over a prolonged period this will have long-term implications for their future.

Extreme Poverty

- According to the World Bank, the pandemic's economic impact could push about 100 million people into extreme poverty.
- Soaring unemployment rates, income losses and rising food costs are jeopardizing food access in



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developed and developing countries alike and will have long-term effects on food security.

Recession

Furthermore, the pandemic may plunge national economies into recession which will severely hamper their power to run welfare schemes for the poor and deprived.

Sharpened Social Divides

- Covid-19 has exposed some of the world's deepest inequalities.
- The rich have been able to keep enjoying even the luxury due to their wealth accumulation.
- Millions of people on the other hand have been thrown out of work and don't have enough money to even feed their families.

Way Forward

Departure From Trickle Down Effect

- Tackling these new problems will require new ideas and a more robust political will.
- Past progress was sustained by the benign trickle-down effects of strong economies. The Government must take direct responsibility for the ones who are vulnerable and marginalised.
- This is not the case anymore. The facts have changed, and so must our minds.

Increasing Resilience

- We need to find ways to increase resilience across our food systems by identifying new marketing channels like e-commerce which will provide more



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avenues to the farmers to sell their product in case of low demand in the local market.

- If feasible, relocate markets to larger premises, while ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is in place to maintain health, hygiene, quality and food safety.

Increase Efficiency

- We must increase our efficiency to reduce losses and improve the quality of products available.
- It would be a good initiative to identify collection centres closer to producers, for example develop storage facilities like warehouse receipt system platforms where farmers can deliver their produce without the need to go to markets.
- If possible, allow local markets to remain open, while putting in place strict physical distancing measures within and outside markets.

Inclusive Finance

- Inclusive access to finance to strengthen and expand rural supply chains is also crucial.
- Banking products and financial services must be made available to poor populations on priority basis.

Comprehensive Recovery Programme

- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has recently launched a new comprehensive Covid-19 Response and Recovery Programme to provide an agile and coordinated global response aimed at ensuring access to nutritious food for everyone.
- It aims to mobilise all forms of resources and partnerships at the hands of every country.



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Encouraging Innovation

- We must, as a priority, enable farmers to be more dynamic, entrepreneurial and competitive through continual innovation.
- We need smallholder farmers to produce nutritious foods, without fear of crop failures, and we also need to get those foods to the mouths of the hungry across the region and beyond.
- To do this, smallholders desperately need access to financial resources, technology and innovation.

Indian Response to Covid-19

- To remedy the situation emerging out of the Covid-19 pandemic and to prevent any major devastation by way of loss of human lives and livelihood, the country has unitedly taken some quick decisions.
- The government enhanced its social safety programs including direct benefit transfers such as cash transfers under PM Kisan scheme, more liberal financing under MGNREGA like advance disbursement, direct cash grants to construction workers and release of free and subsidized food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to about 800 million people to ensure food for all.
- The Government announced a special economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore (equivalent to 10% of India's GDP) under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme with the aim of making the country independent against the tough competition in the global supply chain and to help in empowering the poor, labourers, migrants who have been adversely affected by Covid.
- Rapid up-gradation of health infrastructure and manpower; and swift readjustment of policies and



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programs with active association and participation of all stakeholders, be that politicians, governments, NGOs, and private sectors, were other daunting tasks performed by the governments.

- The Asia-Pacific region has some of the best agricultural scientists, institutions and innovative ideas. If we are able to cooperate and coordinate then we can also battle this pandemic.
- There is no time to waste. Everyone needs to lend a hand. Governments, academia, the private sector, UN agencies, civil society organisations, international financial institutions and the people who bring us the food we eat, the smallholders should come together and help each other in every way possible.
- We need to be working in unison to overcome pandemics that by definition affect and involve everyone.
- The FAO has rolled out the Hand-in-Hand initiative to tackle these collective challenges, and the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which will be virtually hosted by Bhutan, is the perfect opportunity for the countries to forge ways to expedite action and leverage resources.
- By working together, learning and contributing together, we can overcome both pandemics and transform the agri-food system.

Conclusion

The reversal of gains in some districts prove that the effort to defeat COVID-19 needs to be holistic, sustained and flawless. A single mistake can undo efforts of weeks. Further, World must plan to conduct rapid tests after the current lockdown ends to check the asymptomatic cases to completely defeat COVID-19. So COVID 19 - Interdisciplinary Research efficiently and humanely if it is



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to succeed without imposing excessively large costs of its own. There has been a tremendous effort by the World Health Organisation in trying to contain the spread of COVID 19 . We must keep up this fight, in order to survive.

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3

Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the Indian Economy: An Overview

-Dr. Inderjit Singh

Abstract

Globally Corona virus has produced an unstable environment for people. This has spread all over the world and called as a pandemic by World Health organization. This is stopped many of economic activities due to contagious disease and has no cured till date to fight with corona. It has produced economic impact on globe and India. It may produce recession in many part of the world. In every sector in India most of the products are imported from China, especially in medicine and manufacturing industry. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented shock to the Indian economy. The economy was already in a parlous state before Covid-19 struck. With the prolonged country-wide lockdown, global economic downturn and associated disruption of demand and supply chains, the



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economy is likely to face a protracted period of slowdown. The magnitude of the economic impact will depend upon the duration and severity of the health crisis, the duration of the lockdown and the manner in which the situation unfolds once the lockdown is lifted. In this paper we describe the state of the Indian economy in the pre-Covid-19 period, assess the potential impact of the shock on various segments of the economy, analyse the policies that have been announced so far by the central government and the Reserve Bank of India to ameliorate the economic shock and put forward a set of policy recommendations for specific sectors.

Keywords: Covid-19, Pandemic, Economic downturn, and Lockdown.

Introduction

We are in the middle of a global Covid-19 pandemic, which is inflicting two kinds of shocks on countries: a health shock and an economic shock. Given the nature of the disease which is highly contagious, the ways to contain the spread include policy actions such as imposition of social distancing, self-isolation at home, closure of institutions, and public facilities, restrictions on mobility and even lockdown of an entire country. These actions can potentially lead to dire consequences for economies around the world. In other words, effective containment of the disease requires the economy of a country to stop its normal functioning. This has triggered fears of a deep and prolonged global recession. On April 9, the chief of International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva said that the year 2020 could see the worst global economic fallout since the Great Depression in the 1930s, with over 170 countries likely to experience negative per capita GDP growth due to the raging corona virus pandemic. The world has witnessed several epidemics such as the Spanish Flu of 1918, outbreak of HIV/AIDS, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and Ebola. In



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the past, India has had to deal with diseases such as the smallpox, plague and polio. All of these individually have been pretty severe episodes. However the Covid-19 which originated in China in December 2019 and over the next few months rapidly spread to almost all countries of the world can potentially turn out to be the biggest health crisis in our history. Many experts have already called this a Black Swan event for the global economy.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the new corona virus outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern, officials announced on Thursday, 30th January, 2020. WHO proposed calling the disease “2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.” The 2019 novel corona virus (2019- nCoV) originating in Wuhan, China, has spread to 24 more countries alarming public health authorities across the world. More than 4,900 people have died and over 132,000 have been infected globally, according to the WHO on 13 March, 2020. According to Situation report-48 on Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 08th march 2020 Over 100 countries have now reported laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID19.

Types of Coronavirus

Coronaviruses belong to the subfamily Coronavirinae in the family Coronaviridae. Different types of human coronaviruses vary in how severe the resulting disease becomes, and how far they can spread. Doctors currently recognize seven types of coronavirus that can infect humans. There are the following types of Coronaviruses:

1. 229E (alpha coronavirus)
2. NL63 (alpha coronavirus)
3. OC43 (beta coronavirus)
4. HKU1 (beta coronavirus)



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Rarer strains that cause more severe complications include MERS-CoV, which causes Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), and SARS-CoV, the virus responsible for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). In 2019, a dangerous new strain called SARS-CoV-2 started circulating, causing the disease COVID-19.

Transmission of COVID-19

Limited research is available on how HCoV spreads from one person to the next. However, researchers believe that the viruses transmit via fluids in the respiratory system, such as mucus. Corona viruses can spread in the following ways:

- Coughing and sneezing without covering the mouth can disperse droplets into the air.
- Touching or shaking hands with a person who has the virus can pass the virus between individuals.
- Making contact with a surface or object that has the virus and then touching the nose, eyes, or mouth.
- Some animal corona viruses, such as feline corona virus (FCoV), may spread through contact with feces. However, it is unclear whether this also applies to human corona viruses.

Objectives of the Study

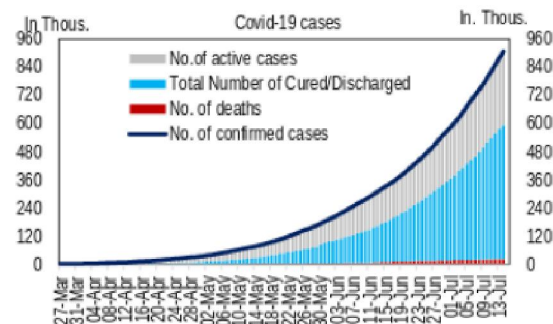
1. To study the types of Coronavirus and Present status of Covid-19 in India.
2. To know the Pandemic impact and Sector wise impact of Covid-19 on Indian economy and Industry.
3. To examine the various kind of policy support is needed and policy announced during Covid-19



Present Status of COVID-19 in India

India recorded the first case of the disease on January 30, 2020. Since then the cases have increased steadily and significantly. At the time of writing of this chapter (September 1st week, 2020), India has recorded the second highest Covid-19 caseload in the world after the United States with more than a million confirmed cases and more than 25,000 deaths. The doubling rate has steadily gone up to around 18-22 days and the daily new confirmed cases are around 40,000-50,000. However, as shown in figure 1 the growth in active cases is lower than the growth in total cases implying a relatively high recovery rate which has continued to improve. In order to curb the spread of the virus, the government of India announced a nationwide lock-down starting March 25, 2020 which continued for about two months. All non-essential services and businesses, including retail establishments, educational institutions, places of religious worship, across the country stayed closed during this period and all means of travel were stopped, aside from some inter-state transport permitted towards end April and early May to let migrant workers, stranded pilgrims, tourists and students return to their native places. At the time this was the most far-reaching measure

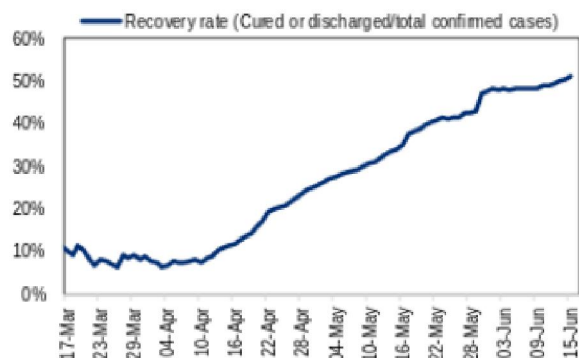
Figure 1. Confirmed Covid-19 cases in India



Source: MHFW, CEIC, Citi Research



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Source: MHFW, CEIC, Citi Research

undertaken by any government in response to the pandemic and till date remains the world's biggest lock-down in context of this disease.

Subsequently from end May early June onward the lock-down was gradually relaxed in a phased manner but continued in high-risk zones or 'containment' areas. This was required given the uneven spread of the pandemic across the country with some states like Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal etc reporting higher than average confirmed cases and also given the tremendous hardship that the nationwide lock-down had begun imposing on the overall economy. With the continued surge in cases, after an initial phase of relaxations in June, the nationwide lock-down was extended till July 31 albeit in a less strict manner compared to the lock-down of March 24.

Measured relaxations have been permitted in areas outside the 'containment or high-risk zones' including opening of non-essential establishments, and businesses. Domestic flights have been allowed subject to the guidelines issued by the government to ensure safe travel of the passengers amidst the pandemic. However restrictions on educational institutions, places of public gathering such as shopping malls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, cinema



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theatres, entertainment parks, places of religious worship, operation of metro train services etc continue. While vehicular movement within states is allowed there remains in place a night-curfew period in almost all states. The re-imposition of the lock-down has delayed any chance of economic recovery that was anticipated once the first phase of 'unlocking' had begun in June.

Pandemic Impact on Indian Economy

The shock is playing out in almost a similar manner in all countries of the world in terms of demand and supply disruptions and the consequent economic slowdown. In case of India however the problem might be more acute and longer lasting owing to the state the economy was in, in the pre-Covid-19 period. By the time the first Covid-19 case was reported in India, the economy had deteriorated significantly after years of feeble performance. The countrywide lockdown has brought nearly all economic activities to an abrupt halt. The disruption of demand and supply forces are likely to continue even after the lockdown is lifted. It will take time for the economy to return to a normal state and even then social distancing measures will continue for as long as the health shock plays out. Hence demand is unlikely to get restored in the next several months, especially demand for non-essential goods and services. Three major components of aggregate demand—consumption, investment, and exports are likely to stay subdued for a prolonged period of time.

The trade impact of the corona virus epidemic for India is estimated to be about 348 million dollars and the country figures among the top 15 economies most affected as slowdown of manufacturing in China disrupts world trade, according to a UN report. Whereas according to Asian Development Bank (ADB) the Covid-19 outbreak could cost the Indian economy between \$387 million and \$29.9 billion



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in personal consumption losses (<https://www.livemint.com/>). For India, the trade impact is estimated to be the most for the chemicals sector at 129 million dollars, textiles and apparel at 64 million dollars, automotive sector at 34 million dollars, electrical machinery at 12 million dollars, leather products at 13 million dollars, metals and metal products at 27 million dollars and wood products and furniture at 15 million dollars. China has seen a dramatic reduction in its manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) to 37.5, its lowest reading since 2004.

This drop implies a 2 per cent reduction in output on an annual basis. This has come as a direct consequence of the spread of corona virus (COVID-19) (The Hindu). When we see the China's Share in total import to India, India's total electronic imports account for 45% of China. Around one-third of machinery and almost two-fifths of organic chemicals that India purchases from the world come from China. For automotive parts and fertilisers China's share in India's import is more than 25%. Around 65 to 70% of active pharmaceutical ingredients and around 90% of certain mobile phones come from China to India.

Sector-Wise Impact on Indian Industry

Chemical Industry: Some chemical plants have been shut down in China. So there will be restrictions on shipments/logistics. It was found that 20% of the production has been impacted due to the disruption in raw material supply. China is a major supplier of Indigo that is required for denim. Business in India is likely to get affected so people securing their supplies. However, it is an opportunity. US and EU will try and diversify their markets.

Auto Industry: Its impact on Indian companies will vary and depend upon the extent of the business with China. China's business no doubt is affected. However, current levels of the inventory seem to be sufficient for the Indian



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industry. If the shutdown in China continues then it is expected to result in an 8-10% contraction of Indian auto manufacturing in 2020.

Electronics Industry: The major supplier is China in electronics being a final product or raw material used in the electronic industry. India's electronic industry may face supply disruptions, production, reduction impact on product prices due to heavy dependence on electronics component supply directly or indirectly and local manufacturing.

Foreign Trade: China has been India's largest source of imports since 2004-05, shows data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) database. In 2018-19, the latest period for which annual data is available, it had a share of 13.7% in India's total imports. Any major disruption in the Chinese economy can disrupt these imports and hence both production processes and supply of consumer goods in India.

Effect on Poultry: The poultry industry in different parts of the country has been hit hard amid rumours that the novel corona virus can transmitted through consumption of chicken, the prices of which have fallen considerably as a result. About two crore people employed in the poultry industry across the country have been impacted. People were avoiding consumption of meat, fish, chicken, and egg etc. Due to the fall in demand, wholesale price of chicken had dropped by as much as 70 per cent.

Various Kind of Policy Support is Needed During COVID-19

The immediate objective of the policy responses to the economic impact of Covid-19 is to ameliorate the effect of the shock on economic agents in both the formal and the informal sectors and to help them tide over the crisis. Against the background of a weak economy, the twin shocks of



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Covid-19 and lockdown are operating at two levels: Creating supply-side disruptions and Triggering reduction in aggregate demand. The need of the hour is policy actions to deal with both supply-and demand-side problems. The supply side has been reeling under three pre-existing shocks: (i) demonetisation of 2016, (ii) goods and services tax (GST) since 2017, and (iii) slowdown in credit growth. The pandemic is creating additional disruptions due to the following factors:

- **Mass exodus of migrant workers from urban areas:** Many firms will not be able to find the required number of workers, and hence production will be constrained even if they do not face a demand shortage. This will be acute in sectors such as construction, logistics (last-mile delivery of goods), unskilled manufacturing, etc., where large numbers of migrant workers are employed.
- **Non-availability of financing:** Finance is the backbone of business. The banking sector, especially public sector banks (PSBs), has been operating under high levels of risk aversion. The future prospects of borrowers have become more uncertain in the ongoing crisis. This will further affect credit availability. Bond markets have also become risk averse. Credit spreads on corporate bonds are the highest since 2009.
- **Restrictions on International Trade:** The pandemic has disrupted global supply chains. To the extent that international transport of goods is adversely affected, importing firms will face supply constraints.
- **Logistics Issues:** The lockdown has imposed restrictions on intra-and inter-state movements. This has made transportation of raw materials and finished goods difficult even within the national boundaries. In other words, all factors of



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production are facing disruptions –capital, labour, and raw materials. In addition, marketing has been disrupted, retail stores are closed and e-commerce is also not operating smoothly. The gradual relaxation of lockdown will release some pent-up demand, but the supply-side disruptions are unlikely to get resolved soon. This in turn will exacerbate the demand shortage.

For example, firms have fixed expenses such as rent, wages, inventory maintenance, etc., but a large number of them are earning no revenues. If they do not receive financing to tide over this crisis, they will be forced to downsize their businesses or even shut shop. This will add to unemployment and aggravate the demand problem. Hence, authorities need to figure out ways to offer funding to the firms who need it, to help them stay solvent.

Analysis of Policies Announced in India

Policy package for informal sector workers on March 26, 2020 the Finance Minister announced a Rs. 1.7 lakh crore package largely aimed at providing a safety net for those who have been worse affected by the Covid-19 lockdown i.e. the unorganised sector workers, especially daily wage workers, and urban and rural poor.

Atmanirbhar Package: In May 2nd week the Finance Minister announced a comprehensive economic relief package called the “Atmanirbhar (self-sufficient) package”, which had three components: (i) monetary actions, (ii) fiscal actions, and (iii) economic reforms.

Careful assessment of the package announced by the Indian government therefore shows that given the widespread demand destruction, the package will fall short and may need to be enhanced. The fiscal initiatives only address the financing constraints on the supply side, that too inadequately.



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In the first phase, there was no common strategy in the region. Instead, there could have been greater coordination between ASEAN Member States and East Asian countries to mitigate and isolate the movement of workers and tourists from China, even though some economies had not yet experienced infection. At this stage, more information could have been shared with businesses and workers. Efforts could have been made to manage the movement of people and to stockpile the necessary healthcare and medical equipment. During this phase, there could have been more healthcare mitigation (hospital isolation and observation for identified cases and treatment of critical cases) and social isolation (identification (testing), isolation (managed social distancing and self isolation) and implementation (enforcement)), which, although costly to business, would have had benefits for human well being and reducing fatalities in the longer term. Proper policy reactions could have reduced the economic impact and, when supported by regional coordination, would have been likely to shorten the gap between the initial stopping point and the new starting point at the regional level as well.

In the second phase, assuming no or limited policy action in the first stage, the effects of the pandemic become significant in several countries. The interregional effects, including through GVC, also become important. At this stage, learning from the case of China, policy responses could still have been effective in reducing the growth of infections. The following are the key policy responses:

- Greater isolation is required at the border, through regional coordination, because to reduce the chance of community transmission domestically.
- Isolation of some foreign and domestic workers would be valuable. At the same time, there will be a need to move resources, including critical medical and healthcare workers, to countries where they are more in demand and valuable.



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- The economic impact is now larger and demands stronger fiscal packages.
- At this stage, shocks in terms of unemployment and corporate bankruptcies become more likely. Experience of the region in managing financial crises is valuable.

In the third phase, most of the regional countries will experience the pandemic shock, assuming the action in the second stage is not significant. Each country is likely to experience a different pandemic curve due to population demographics, urban densities, healthcare facilities and rural-urban migration dynamics. GVC will now be largely shut down, directly affecting the procurement of medical and health equipment and services as well as basic food. During this phase, we should anticipate the impacts of the pandemic shock on the economic shock, with massive unemployment, large corporate bankruptcies and greater financial fragility. In this phase, the likelihood of economic crisis is high, even if it is possible to maintain the caseload within the capacity of the health system. The economic cost of the pandemic shock as well as the economic shock (unemployment and financial crisis) will be high. The social and human costs (e.g. individuals experiencing depression from unemployment and home isolation, and the human cost of death) will be especially large. The policy response includes the following:

- We need to provide heavy relief packages to support the basic liability of the domestic population.
- We expect a significant shift and coordinated fiscal policy to support the economic recovery.
- At this stage, the probability and expectation of a financial crisis will be high. A larger fiscal stimulus will mitigate both the economic and pending financial crisis.



Conclusion

Covid-19 has posed an unprecedented challenge for India. Given the large size of the population, the precarious situation of the economy, especially of the financial sector in the pre-Covid-19 period, and the economy's dependence on informal labour, lockdowns and other social distancing measures are turning out to be hugely disruptive. The central and state governments have recognized the challenge and have responded but this response should be just the beginning. The eventual damage to the economy is likely to be significantly worse than the current estimates. On the demand side, the government needs to balance the income support required with the need to ensure the fiscal situation does not spin out of control. The balance struck so far seems to be a reasonable one but the government needs to find a greater scope for supporting the incomes of the poor. Involvement of the state and local governments may also be crucial in the effective implementation of further fiscal initiatives. Policy makers need to be prepared to scale up the response as the events unfold so as to minimise the impact of the shock on both the formal and informal sectors and pave the way for a sustained recovery. At the same time they must ensure that the responses remain enshrined in a rules-based framework and limit the exercise of discretion in order to avoid long-term damage to the economy.

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4

Tourism ‘Rip Current’ and the Relation with COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges for Tourism in Torres/RS

-Jennifer Bauer Eme & Maria Luiza Cardinale Baptista

Abstract

The present article has the object of study approximations between the epistemological ‘Rip current’ of Tourism and the COVID-19 pandemic, with direct link to the research performed on the challenges for Tourism in Torres/RS. It is about the epistemological assumption due to the ecosystemic and complex scientific vision, aligned to the locus of investigation of research at Mastering level. In technical terms, the rip current is also known as ‘undertow’ or ‘rip tide’. Within this context, a discussion on these themes is presented, reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic, as expression of a ‘rip current’, regarding the tourism processes which have developed throughout times and have become stiffer at the beginning of the present century. The



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locus of the empiric research, the city of Torres, is located at the extreme North of the shore from the state of Rio Grande do Sul, South of Brazil. The theoretical reference is transdisciplinary and guided by the comprehension of Tourism as Ecosystemic-Path-Tourism, produced from the thought developed by Maria Luiza Cardinale Baptista (2018), in alignment with Marutschka Moesch (2000; 2004; 2017), Mario Beni (2017), Susana Gastal (2002; 2005). In addition, the theoretical reference approaches information which characterized the COVID-19 pandemic and its approximation with the epistemological assumption of Tourism 'Rip Current', from the authors such as Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2020) and Michel Maffesoli (2010). The methodological aspects correspond to the comprehension of an open methodology, being aligned with the scenery of Science Mutation, treated by contemporary thinkers such as Edgar Morin (2005), Fritjof Capra (1997), Roberto Crema (1989). The research, in this case, has social character and the methodological aspects are composed by the methodological strategy Cartography of Knowledge, proposed by Baptista (2014), guided by four major paths: Personal Knowledge, Theoretical Knowledge, Production Plant and Intuitive Dimension of the Research. Operational procedures from the empiric research: bibliographic cartography, research diary, systematic observations, interviews, documentation analysis and cartography of data on the internet. As challenges for Tourism, presented in the results, are highlighted: need to complex and systemic comprehension of the tourism doings, with strong bond to ecosystemic responsibility; flexibilization on planning and review of the priorities, based on holistic comprehension, broad development of projects of tourism education, with entanglement with media devices, in a way to recognize all subjects involved – locals, visitors, tourists. We understand that such aspects are crucial for the chances of survival of the destinations marked by seasonality such as the case of Torres/RS. The final considerations highlight the importance of reflecting on the post-pandemic tourism knowing-doing, considering the entanglement between



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'wave' and 'current', realizing, in this movement, potentialities which contribute to a more careful, sensitive tourism practice, which recognizes the several subjects whom are hosted, being ecosystemic responsible. In the rip current, one can see what exists when the 'wave' is not full. Therefore, we also must consider what there is of basis for the survival of tourism destinations, beyond the season 'tourism wave', scheduled by the capitalistic logic.

Keywords: tourism 'rip current'; tourism; COVID-19 pandemic; Torres/RS.

Introduction

The present article has as object of study approximations between the epistemological assumption Tourism 'Rip Current' and the COVID-19 pandemic, with direct link to the research performed on challenges for Tourism in Torres/RS. The production part of the research developed, at mastering level, in the Program of Post-Graduation in Tourism and Hospitality (PPGTURH) from the University of Caxias do Sul (UCS) entitled 'WHO DOES NOT LIVE FROM THE SEA, LIVES FROM WHAT?' Signs of Tourism 'Rip Current' in Torres/RS, analyzed from narratives from locals. The work is linked to Amorcomtur! - Group of Studies in Communication, Tourism, Loveliness and Autopoiesis (CNPq-UCS) and also to two broader research projects, performed in the same UCS with the titles Tourism-Communication-Subjective Ecosystems: theoretical-methodological signs, in the study of tourism-communication-subjective ecosystems, considered from their ecosystemic characteristic, chaotic and autopoietic (2018-Current) and 'Con-verse' Amorcomtur! - Places and Subjects! Sensible transversal narratives, involving subjects in processes of deterritorialization - Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Mexico, Colombia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India (2020-2022).



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The beginning of the text is dedicated to the presentation of the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current', which is the basis of the discussion on Tourism, in the dissertation, and in the present article sustains the reflection on living, in research, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal is entangled with the scientific complex ecosystemic vision and also with the place [Torres/RS], where the empiric research itself is performed.

One of the matrix of the assumption is the proposal of discussion which overpasses the group of research, untitled as *Tourism Inside Out*, proposition presented by the Ph. D. professor Maria Luiza Cardinale Baptista in the *Cahotic Meeting of Communication, Tourism and their Transversalities* and has been guiding the studies. It starts from the comprehension of Tourism as *Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic*, produced from the thought of Maria Luiza Cardinale Baptista (2020), in association to authors such as Marutschka Moesch (2000; 2004; 2017), Mario Beni (2017), Susana Gastal (2002; 2005). From the conception of path (Baptista, 2000), thinking on its construction, a sign for the inside out is born, which is not shown, what does not look like. It makes sense to attribute to the contextualization the metaphor of the embroidery: in addition to the work in which the path is presented with beauty and poetry, there is the inside out, the place of knots, of loose strings or where they meet to provide support to the path. In case of Tourism, the inside out may be expressed in non-touristic places in a destination, but also it can be related to other ways to produce, in other epistemological basis, which are not linked to the exploration of destinations, to the exploration to obtain profit at any given price, even if price is the destruction of the ecosystem and compromise the quality of life from locals.

Since the empiric proposition of the research, already quoted, involves an approximation with the sea (and with



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the not-sea), the metaphor expression *Tourism 'Rip Current'* was chosen. In technical terms, the rip current is also known as 'overtow' or 'rip tide'. The sea rip current happens from the excess of water which is pushed to the sand, by the waves, which, by gravity, returns to the sea, forming a channel called undertow. "Rip currents are strong, narrow, off-shore directed to the sea jets of water, which originate near the shore and extend throughout the surf zone" (Galvão, 2018, p. 13). The rip current force is intense, which breaks the waves flow to the sea.

It is possible to think, in the composition of waves and rip currents, that the sea power is in the motion. In the force of salt water, which bath shores and face rocks, there is poetry and a power of continuous mutation, showing the beauty to be transformed all the time. It is known that, when encountering the sea - just like other volumes of water - caution is needed with its inherent condition of continuous movement. The force of the wave that breaks on the beach may lead to serious accidents, with unwarned bathers or without experience; however, just as the movement of arrival to the shore, the rip current also has its strength, provoking unexpected situations and, many times, uncontrollable and unwanted.

To retain the water in excess, the motion needs to be intense and, due to this, the return chain may be reason of even more severe accidents. In addition (and not to describe this power as something bad, after all, the sea is in its natural motion), the rip current allows to sea what the wave hides. In this strong movement of overtow, the sea puts light in what remains underwater the whole time, as if it were something mysterious, only for its own access. Therefore, in the rip current, one sees what is hidden, what the sea (also Tourism!) does not show during the exuberance of its motion.

From the thought that the revealed things by the sea may be both beautiful, as little colorful shells and different



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and curious organism, as well as possible to embarrassed ourselves, such as disposable waste, discarded incorrectly, the expression of the Tourism 'Rip Current' appeared in the present study. This aesthetic-existential 'inequality' of what may appear from the sea's rip current, puts in discussion how interesting may the vision of what is underlined may be, what constitutes Tourism, but it is not shown all the time.

Therefore, the expression, here, is being used as counterpoint between merely commercial tourism, which, many times, is more involved with money interests, contaminated by what Harvey (2004) calls "capitalism by spoliation", without relation with ethical, loving, ecosystemic practices, in the sense of studies which have been developed by the group of research.

Another important matrix of the epistemological assumption is entangled with the city of Torres/RS, empiric field of the dissertation and also from the present text. Torres is located in the extreme north of the shore of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, South of Brazil. The city is highlighted by the natural beauty of its beaches, being the only city in the state to have rocky walls in the shore, in addition to having the only Southern sea island, the Island of Wolves. It is just precisely for its rich nature, in addition to the beach scenery, which makes the city to be searched for tourism during summer.

According to the data disclosed by the Economy and Statistical Foundation (FEE) from Rio Grande do Sul, Torres receives 65 thousand tourists who stay at the center of the city to enjoy the heat near the sea (Rádio Guaíba, 2019). On the contrary, the information on the resident population of the city is highlighted, that in 2019, was of approximately 38,700 people (IBGE, 2017). This comparison points out the demographic growth that occurs in the city during the summer, highlighting that most people who search for



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Torres stay (or have their second residences) downtown, the closest to the beach as possible.

Tourismfication is understood in this study as a process, in which a place becomes a tourism destination, involving theoretical actions and policies of space alteration (Almeida Filho, 2014). In Torres/RS this process has been noticed, mainly between 1950 to 1980, giving the city the slang “The most beautiful beach in the South”, which increased the movement of tourism activity and, consequently, has heated the real state market (Falcão, 2000).

The mark related to the beach, provided by tourism, has unlinked the city from the space built by the country side, rural, little known and little valued as a place for living. It draws the attention, however, a contradiction. Since tourism activity, in Torres/RS, is characterized by the condition of season, happening in great part during the summer, in the following months of the year, it is from this not so much occupied by tourists place that the city maintains itself economically. It is highlighted as main source of city income the agriculture, majorly, from plantation of grain cereals, such as rice, cattle, mainly animals for slaughter and fishing, activity which Torres/RS is the leader in the region (COREDE, 2015).

According to the tide motion: wave and rip current, it is possible to realize, in the city, interesting aspects to (re)think tourism practice, by looking at the activity of other place. In this sense, it is worth ‘calling for the conversation’ Eduardo Yázigi, who proposed the idea of “soul of the place” (2001). The perception, up to the present moment, is from the possibility of conversation, which may contribute for the identification of the soul of Torres/RS, in the genuine sense, not mediatically made. It is understood that such thing is possible, constructing a sow between the cultivated knowledge in one place of the city that does not have the daily activities guided by the sea, but that, directly or



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indirectly, suffer its interference and constructs, also the basis of Torres, whether during the wave or the (Tourism) rip current.

In this sense, the proposal is to contribute, also, to think of the tourism activity in the post-pandemic reality, promoting ecosystemic responsible activities. In addition, it is understood that the moment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is an invitation for a reflection on human behavior towards planet Earth.

In case of Torres/RS, where tourism activity is one of the pillar of the city economy (as well as in other shore cities in the State), the interference in the tourism activity will occur in short-time, corresponding to the world tendency, may being extended in the long run, being necessary a systemic plan, which considers the contemporary and specific complexity. Tourism, in the city, is marked by Sun Tourism and Beach, also known, in conceptual terms, by Sun and Sea Tourism, Shore Tourism, Beach Tourism, Seaside Tourism, Cost Tourism, among others.

According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), in 2019, tourism activity registered an increase of 4% in international displacements, worldwide (Market and Events, 2020). In Brazil, having in mind that the climate characteristics in the country value the Sun and Beach tourism segment, the information that every four out of five most searched destinations between June and July 2019 were of beach destinations - Fortaleza (CE), Maceió (AL), Natal (RN), Gramado (RS) and Rio de Janeiro (RJ) is highlighted (Tourism Ministry, 2019).

This way, considering the importance of the tourism practice for Torres/RS, the approximation between the COVID-19 pandemic and the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current' aims at signaling challenges for Tourism in the city. For this, the structure of the present article is placed,



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in addition to the introduction, by the theoretical reference, presenting the concepts involved in the comprehension of Tourism and on the COVID-19 pandemic, the methodological aspects, results and discussions, related to the signed challenges and final considerations.

Theoretical Reference

The theoretical reference of the present article is composed by the comprehension of Tourism as Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic and by the time cut marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. This way, the section has the purpose of presenting aspects of the theoretical-conceptual path that involves the themes, relating them with the presented object of study. It is highlighted that the methodological strategy is guided by the Cartography of Knowledge. In this sense, there is also here to consider the cartography action, as inherent.

One of the marks of the COVID-19 pandemic is the constant landscape alteration. The cartography is a daily work, in broad sense: the alterations occur in all levels and spheres, affecting all beings from the ecosystem. Therefore, a review of the literature regarding the theme - COVID-19 pandemic - is also marked by this process, by constant mutation. In this sense, the texts seem to lose the aspect 'current' more quickly, although here the interest is more directed to its mutation sign character and constitution of challenges.

With this, in addition to texts on discussion published at the beginning of the pandemic, it was searched for texts which could contribute to the reflection about moment (published before the pandemic period), approximating from Tourism, strengthening ideas which could be responsible alternatives in an ecosystemic form to live the future, marked by the current moment.



Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic

As previously mentioned, the comprehension of Tourism, in the present study, is supported by the proposal of Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic. It is highlighted that such vision is related to the understanding that the group of research has on Tourism, having as basis the studies developed by Marutschka Moesch (2002; 2004; 2017), Mario Beni (2017), Susana Gastal (2005) and Maria Luiza Cardinale Baptista (2020).

According to Beni & Moesch (2017, p. 432), "Tourism is a human process, which goes beyond the understanding as a function of an economic system. As a singular process, it needs re-signification of the imposing relations, the capitalistic codes and the values put as cultural patrimonialization". The idea is complemented by Gastal (2005, p. 11) when considering Tourism as "[...] a very complex social, cultural and economic phenomenon". Therefore, to think about tourism today is to turn oneself to a complex path of views, which dwells on a way full of entanglements which are 'sowed'¹ in a social environment. It is about a path from a multi-inter-trans-disciplinary phenomenon, as pointed out by Lima & Baptista (2017), which are displaced in a trip, through a path of concepts, definitions, debates.

In this sense, Moesch (2004, p. 395) states that,

Tourism as a "social science" has conditions to scientifically self-justify from an own theorization, which takes into consideration the subject and the encounter; or still, the subject in its totality, in the intention for displacement, in coming and going, as personal response to the appeals of the human transcendence.

The idea developed by Moesch, in the discussion of a Tourism social epistemology, proposes a reflection to the



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scientific production on the area, stating that Tourism can be thought as an applied social science, trans-disciplinary and autonomous (Moesch, 2004). In addition, the authors states that the tourism activity may be considered beyond the third sector, being classified as service. “The problem is that Tourism, much more than an industry of services, is a phenomenon with cultural basis, with historical inheritance, diverse environment, natural cartography, social relations of hospitality, inter-cultural exchange of information” (Moesch, 2002, p. 20).

Extending the discussion, the proposition of Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic, developed by Baptista, appears, mainly in the research projects: Tourism-Communication-Subjective Ecosystems: Theoretical-methodological signs, in the study of tourism-communication-subjective ecosystems, considering from its ecosystemic, chaotic and autopoietic characteristic (2018-Current) and Amorcomtur! Path: Complex and subjective processes, which enhances tourism, considered on the bias of loveliness and autopoiesis (2016-2019), in addition to the article “Amar la trama más que el desenlace!” Reflections on the Ecosystemic Path of Science propositions, Cartography of Knowledge and Rhizomatic Matrices, in Research in Tourism (2020).

The comprehension of Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic starts from a deep ecology vision, in which the notion of ecosystem includes abiotic factors and also abiotic that dynamically inter-relate. This way, it is important that in researches, in Tourism, the relationships between the elements that constitute the ecosystem, its dynamism are considered, since that the determinant for an ecosystem are their patterns and organization (Baptista, 2020).

According to Baptista (2020, p. 48) Tourism-Path-Ecosystem may be understood as

*[...] complex processes of deterritorialization,
involving triggering and entanglement different*



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ecosystems, in which the subject displaces oneself are also subject of transpositions and ecosystemic transversalizations, which schedules the movement and connections of worlds, from universe of meanings, references, production and consumption.

Starting from the comprehension, tourism is transversalized by motion, deterritorialization, subjects and places, and with this, it autopoietizes, re-inventing itself "[...] subjects and places, from the involved ecosystemic dimension (Baptista, 2020, p. 49). The proposition is the counterpoint to the production marked by characteristics of the Integrated World Capitalism, according to Félix Guattari (1986) or from the "spoliation capitalism", according to Harvey (2004). When referred to the tourism knowledge, Baptista (2020) highlights the link of the capitalism machinery, based on schizoanalytic studies, mainly by Félix Guattari (1992), with Gilles Deleuze (1995) and the studies that the author developed with Sueli Rolnik (1986).

According to what was described in the item of introduction, the conception of Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic is the matrix for the assumption of Inside Out/Rip Current from Tourism. Just like the proposal of Baptista (2020) the epistemological assumption also discusses the marks provided by capitalism in contemporaneity. The proposal of the discussion, performed in the project and in the present article, is to contribute with alternatives that develop society, without needing to turn to capitalism practices of the ecosystem exploitation - comprehending here the biotic and abiotic factors - and from the incentive of the frantic consumption.

It is recognized the importance of the capital for the construction of initiatives guided by other points of view, but the idea is to aid in the deconstruction of the empire of the capital, from "spoliation capitalism", as put by Harvey



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(2004), those that is put before all other priorities. This way, the idea is to guide oneself by solutions that develop Tourism, considering the moment of 'rip current'. After the rapid development, frantic, in 'high tide', the return motion from this sea (Tourism) presents an unknown field, clean, showing consequences and news that were drowned in the development sea guided by the capital.

Therefore, the idea is to discuss issues that are born from the motion of the rip current, constructing a reality guided by ecosystemic responsible aspects, recognizing the tourism destinations in whole form.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Composing the scenery of discussion, it is aggregated, in the theoretical reference, the moment lived in 2020, the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus. Rescuing the presentation of the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current', it is highlighted that the discussion of the metaphor attributed to Tourism [Tourism Rip Current] was built from the relation between tourism practice and the city of Torres/RS, marked by season, in which the Tourism 'Rip current' is the moment that tourism "is not" in its place, in which the tourism practice is not the main economic activity of the city.

When tourism "is", its reach is selective, causing an overtook motion between the space in which the practice is present and where it is not possible to realize, *a priori*, its relation with the daily life. With this, it seems to be a division between places in Torres/RS: the sea bathes the sands and the city with tourists, during the summer and in specific moments during the winter, such as in holidays and events promoted as attractions to visitors. These marks make that the rip current metaphor, the motion, strong, performed by the sea, contribute to the proposal of approaching what stays in sight when there is no sea - Tourism, in this case.



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Starting from this comprehension, COVID-19 pandemic started being reflected by the researchers as 'Rip Current' from a reality guided by destructive practices, careless and responsibility with the ecosystem, its levels and spheres, practices linked to the "spoliation capitalism" (Harvey, 2004).

At the end of December 2019, the world had the news of the first cases of pneumonia, caused by a new type of coronavirus still unidentified nor seen in humans. In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) defined the outbreaks, caused by the virus, in several countries, as a pandemic. Just like in previous cases, from the elevation level of viral contamination, recommendations related to sanitary care were quickly disclosed. The difference, this time, is in the capacity of the advance of the disease, causing crisis in the health systems, once the contamination curve has been constantly growing. Brazil had its first registered case on February 25th, 2020.

To stop the advance of the novel coronavirus, it was recommended, in addition to sanitary measurements, social distance or quarantine, measure adopted in several countries.

The scenery, new, of transformation, provoked alterations in the individual and collective routines quickly, leaving at sight aspects before hidden by daily activities, by inflexible schedules, by acceleration of life. Soon, social researchers stated organizing their discussions on the present moment, analyzing the history and reflecting on future paths. In this sense, it is highlighted that the state of inconsistency of the facts related to the virus, and their social, political and economical impacts, appear as marks on the texts, being able to notice that in addition to volatility, the purpose of reflecting more deeply over the pandemic and from this propose orientation - still open, as propositions.



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It is recognized, in this case, the effort done by researchers in propose contributions to comprehend the moment and help searching for collective solutions. The publications, prepared in special editions, are used to show essays with deep reflections on the moment, linked to specific theoretical basis. In search for references which could contribute to the contextualization and to the discussion on the pandemic experience, the data base Capes Journals was consulted, with the purpose of finding, mainly, articles which would relate the COVID-19 pandemic with aspects of research in the social field.

From this investigation the relation between tourismfication and COVID-19 pandemic performed by Sequera (2020) is highlighted. According to the author, the processes of tourismfication in several European cities were turning Tourism into the most promising economic activity. In Spain, for instance, the tourism sector was the responsible for diminishing the negative impacts from the *Gran Recesión* (2008–2016). However, still according to the author,

On the other hand, this recent expansion of tourismfication, has fed the neighborhood's indignation and the local resistance within the 'tourism city'. These protests were focused in the struggle to review the negative impacts of such dynamic on the right for housing, construction of the city for the monoculture of tourism [...]. (Sequera, 2020, p. 02).

The alterations in the world scenery in front of the pandemic have also forced interruptions in tourism activities, putting on the agenda discussions the intensification of the tourismfication process in the last years. In this first moment, it is possible to notice the first approximation between the epistemological assumption to the pandemic, once the chain of return from the “sea” of Tourism has revealed aspects that are submersed in the



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discussion of the development of the tourism activity that, at the same time, is possibility for economical growth and reason for territorial disputes between locals and tourists.

It is highlighted, still, the presence of texts produced during this period and that discuss the fact itself, but were not born in the search of the data base. After all, the investigative path makes the traveler of experiences without previous planning closer, signing subjective aspects from the scenes and their characters. Boaventura de Sousa Santos published in April 2020 a book called *The cruel pedagogy of the virus*. The situation was declared pandemic by the WHO over a month ago. This shows that few days in this new scenario were enough to realize the importance of the moment, making it a historical moment that needs to be reflected deeply.

Santos (2020) organizes the text proposing the drawing of the pandemic 'path', discussing the interference that the novel coronavirus is promoting (and will still promote) in the current society. When dealing with propositions for the post-pandemic reality, the author describes that "The new articulation proposes an epistemological, cultural and ideological turn that sustain political, economic and social solutions that guarantee the continuity of the worthy human life in the planet" (Santos, 2020, p. 31). In this sense, the approximation between the pandemic and the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current' happens in the middle of the exercise of seeing the reality from another place, more complex, entangled, in a place in which beauty does not appear 'in the wave' but sustains it.

In addition to specific texts on the COVID-19 pandemic, other texts, written in previous moments, help to comprehend the description of the pandemic as rip current (proposition presented in the object of study from the present article) both by the approximation with the discussion performed in the dissertation research, as well



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as by the epistemological vision that guides the studies developed by the group of research. This is the case of the book *Saturation* written by Michel Maffesoli (2010).

The discussion presented by the author put into a relation the marks caused by a development society, based on capitalist patterns of production, in which the main characteristic is mass production, and the transformation for which it is necessary to go through, as humanity, establishing alternate forms of daily livings, connected to the ecosystem, with respect and responsibility. Maffesoli (2010), states, still, that this condition needs to stop to emphasize “[...] the force of doing, the brutal action and the frantic development of the Promethean forces” (Maffesoli, 2010, p. 65), process called by the author as *progressism*, and, what Harvey (2004) calls ‘spoliation capitalism’.

Just like the rip current of the sea, the pandemic is a ‘return chain’, a stopped force in front of the advances of the developed ‘sea’, a rip current caused by the accumulation, by the human behavior of excess exploitation regarding the ecosystem.

Other relation between the COVID-19 pandemic and the epistemological assumption ‘Rip Current’ is that the pandemic shows how the dichotomy present in the everyday life needs to be instrument to understand that *everything* is part of a *whole*, connected among themselves. The good is only good regarding evil. The motion is the mark of nature, of social, daily livings, and also of Tourism. The poetic of the sea is composed by movement between the exuberance of the wave and the power of the rip current.

Methodological Aspects

In congruence with the epistemological assumption ‘Rip Current’ and the view of Science that guides the developed researches developed by the group of research, there is the



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comprehension of an open methodology, without strings attached, which is not rigid, being aligned with the scenery of Science Mutation, treated by contemporary thinkers such as Edgar Morin (2005), Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2003), Fritjof Capra (1997), Roberto Crema (1989). This way, the methodological aspects, both in the present study as well as in the dissertation, are marked by characteristics of qualitative research and by the methodology strategy Cartography of Knowledge (Baptista, 2014; 2020).

The qualitative research is developed in the social field, to better correspond to the daily reality - place of study from the researcher. According to Goldenberg (1999, p. 16-17), "The researchers who adopt the qualitative approach in researches are against the assumption that defends a unique model of research in all science, based on the model of study from nature sciences". Qualitative research, therefore, seems to "handle" the subjectivity contained in the daily living where social research is, worried with the level of reality that can not be quantified". .

The Cartography of Knowledge, developed by (2014; 2020), comes from the proposal presented by Sueli Rolnik. This author states that the Cartography is the drawing that is made from the landscape, following its alterations (Rolnik, 2006), once landscapes are not static, "[...] worlds that are created to express contemporary affections, regarding which presenting universes have become obsolete" (Rolnik, 2006, p. 15).

Within this perspective, the Cartography of Knowledge is a methodological strategy, which is constituted by a guidance of thought, which directs the actions of the research, enabling the combination of such strategy with other methodological assumptions. This way, it is possible to identify and consider the alterations in the landscape, the transformations from (and in) the relation between the researchers, object and field of research. Baptista (2020, p.



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50) says that “Therefore, in this “path-web” of ways and unways of research, I predicted four investigative paths, as called: path of personal knowledge, path of theoretical knowledge, path of production plant and path of the intuitive dimension of the research”.

The paths are not hierarchical or prerequisites, one for the other. They should be developed simultaneously and, it is worth mentioning that they are always in construction. At the same time that the paths are entangled to unleash an autopoietic process, remembering Maturana & Varela (1997), who self-feed, feed the research and fee the knowledge from the researcher.

Anyway, by Baptista’s guidance, a special attention on the path of research is interesting for the Path of Personal Knowledge. This is the moment in which “the investigator should aim at reflecting on what one knows of the subject” (Baptista, 2014, p. 350). The reflection is to bring consciousness the knowledge on the chosen subject, which shows the researcher a possible starting point, interesting aspects for the construction of the study. These initial signs of the research appear in one’s place, within, from oneself.

The writing of a preliminary text on these knowledge gives, to the research, the dimension of how much and which knowledge on the theme the researcher has, a priori, helping to determine the cut of research, in addition to facilitating the process of authorization to write, scientifically, on the chosen subject.

After the individual has defined the subject of the research, it is the moment to divide the theme’s path, which will compose the investigation: the path of Theoretical Knowledge. Each one of these investigative paths needs to involve theories in development (Baptista, 2014; 2020). This path corresponds to the ‘talk’ with theoreticians, who will help build the path of the research. There is a relation of knowledge of the studied theories and that better



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complement the speech of the researcher, which allows to rescue more knowledge on the subject presented by the study. The process of interaction with the authors, in addition of being essential for the construction of the scientific study, reinforces and shimmers the personal knowledge from the researcher.

The other path the Production Plant, which treats the approximations and investigative actions that start to become used by the researcher to 'live the research'. The investigative approximations are preliminary actions, without strict planning, but performed form movements towards the preliminary intuition" (Baptista, 2020, p. 51). Such approximations help planning that investigative actions - 'practical-operational actions' - will be performed during the interaction with the field of research. Baptista (2014) indicates that, both approximations as well as investigative actions, should be chosen according to the type of research, the object of study.

Concluding on the Cartography of Knowledge, Baptista speaks of the Dimension Path from the Research, which transversalizes the process of production of the research. This path leads to dimensions that knowledge is not only produced at conscious level "[...] in the instances of rational thinking. When someone investigates, the subject invests towards the object passion-research and this means that the whole subject of the research and vibrates with the investig[action]" (Baptista, 2014, p. 352). Therefore, it is possible that the solution for the problem appears from a moment of 'not research', in which the research connects oneself with abstracts levels, unconscious, awakening theoretical aspects and of analysis from the object that were not previously noticed by the researcher.

With this, the Cartography of Knowledge involves assumptions that aid the researchers to relate the complexity of the daily reality with the research being developed. It



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allows to see paths that the research should follow, remembering that such process is in constant mutation, reinventing itself in every moment, where *“All entries are good, as long as the exits are multiple”* (Rolnik, 2006, p. 65, highlight from the author).

The livings in the dissertation research, guided by the Cartography of Knowledge, have allowed the discussion of the study contained in the present study. The first investigative approximations, such as the review of the literature, informal conversations with locals from Torres/RS combined with the observation of materialities, in visits to the city, and in registries in a research diary happened in the pre-COVID-19 pandemic scenery. At that moment, the main intention was that the researcher would go to the city to perform the conversations with the locals. In face of the circumstances created by the pandemic, this, alterations were necessary, since the investigative actions was planned to happen between August and September 2020. In addition, before the moment of conversations, other visits to Torres/RS were planned for investigative approximations with the place.

The alterations caused by the new moment: the condition of social isolation, the world crises being the trace of the way of the infection, the recommendations and the determinations for life in society, etc. gave new meanings to the conversations with locals, that are being performed, at the present moment, in virtual form, through video calls, enabled by the Google Meet operational resource.

Still, it is highlighted that the alterations and new meanings have extended to other aspects of the research. It is necessary to adapt the literature references to context the moment in which the research is in production, for example, in addition to relate the object of study with the alterations that the novel coronavirus causes/will cause in Tourism. Among the reflections due to the new landscape



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is the relation between the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current' and the daily pandemic.

Results and Discussion

Considering the reflections performed in the previous sections, regarding Torres/RS and its tourism dimension, from the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current', the comprehension of Tourism as Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic and from COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible to understand, as results, challenges from general scope, discussed and lived in broad form in the production of tourism knowing-doing, and challenges that treat the peculiarities of the locus of the research.

It is highlighted, therefore, at a first moment, the challenge of developing a complex, systemic, holistic thought, in several areas, mostly in the universe of knowledge of Tourism. The COVID-19 pandemic put in evidence the need to construct ecosystemic knowing-doing, which consider and value biotic and abiotic elements, materialities and unmaterialities, subject and subjectivity, in addition to their crossings, once that the crises caused by the present moment has affected all levels and spheres of life in the planet.

In this sense, for Tourism, it is considered the challenge to understand it as Path-Ecosystemic in fact, recognizing its multiple essence and transdisciplinary in the discussion for the establishing of a conscious practice and that contributes for the survival of places, relating it, therefore, with the idea of ecosystemic responsibility.

It is highlighted that one of the propositions of the dissertation project is to promote the conversation between locals and the city of Torres/RS. It is believed that such proposition may contribute to the full development and strengthening of the place, with everyone's participation. According to Vianna & Rambo (2016), in the cost region



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from Rio Grande do Sul, there is a diversity that goes beyond beaches, which needs to be studied broadly and deeply to map it. This way, according to the authors, it is possible to stimulate regional potentialities, which talks to the tourism activity, in the work of sustainable development and responsible with the ecosystem. The authors still highlight that

[...] the strengthening of thin bonds, as pointed out by Granovetter (1973), represents a way to promote a process of territorial development that generates quality of life for the whole population and not only for those who are directly involved in beach tourism. (Vianna & Rambo, 2016, p. 17).

Another challenge signed by the COVID-19 pandemic, marked by the rip current, is precisely, the survival of tourism destinations, mainly destinations marked by seasons, as Torres/RS is. It is highlighted that the discussion is approached as ecosystemic survival, recognizing the elements that directly sustain the tourism practice (methods as housing, feeding, transportation, leisure and entertainment), but not only this, since there is an ecosystem that indirectly sustains the activity, remembering that the 'sea of Tourism' is constructed by the wave and the rip current.

It is highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has been showing the need to develop alternatives, which makes the societies wealthy, without the need to turn to capitalistic practices of exploitation of the ecosystem – comprehending here the biotic and abiotic factors – and that boost the frantic consumption. Regarding Tourism, the practices must, through economic development, also contribute to a society socially fair and that provides a sustainable environment. This means to think about Tourism, as a group of knowing and doing, which needs to be responsible with the ecosystem's well-being.



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This way, recognizing the COVID-19 pandemic as a rip current, the challenge is to establish a process that 'firms the basis' from destination – allude to the recommendations to bathers, when it is found involved by a return chain, an overtop. This challenge includes the motion to entangle subjects, recognizes the subjects, recognize the ecosystem, its composition and the change of thought and the change of thought, broadening the consciousness on relations, searching what Yázigi (2001) calls 'soul of the place'. In this sense, it is noticed the need of flexibility of planning and review of priorities, based on holistic comprehension.

Tourism planning also needs to work at the level of affections, in the sense of presenting the destination, in this case, Torres/RS, in its integrality: the wave and the rip current. To map the potentialities and the fragility, from the narratives of locals [visitors and tourists], may help comprehend whose place is the tourism scenery, facilitating the production of actions that (re)value elements that have its history, strengthening the bonds between subject and destination.

In case of the present research (but not only!), the broad development of projects of tourism education, entangled with media devices, in a way to recognize all subjects involved – locals, tourists and travelers – is a challenged also perceived as potential to boost Tourism aligned with ecosystemic responsible aspects, redefining its practices.

Final Considerations

Returning to the object of study from the present article, approximations between the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current' from Tourism and the COVID-19 pandemic, with direct link to the research performed on challenges for Tourism in Torres/RS, it is highlighted that the presentation of the field of research and from the epistemological assumption approached, in entanglement



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with the theoretical reference that sustains the discussion, the challenges presented in the previous item show the importance to investigate the theme considering the pandemic moment, having at sight the proposition to contribute to the proposition of tourism knowing-doing in the post-pandemic reality.

Reflecting on Tourism, during and post-pandemic, is to consider the entanglement between 'wave' and 'rip current', noticing, in this motion, potentialities that contribute for a more careful, sensitive, tourism practice, which recognizes the several subjects that host, being ecosystemically responsible. In the force which the seas returns, in the rip current, it can be seen that what exists when the 'wave' is not full. Just as we must consider what there is as basis for the survival of tourism destination, beyond the 'tourism wave', season and scheduled by the capitalistic logic.

According to what was presented throughout the study, the entanglement of social behaviors to capitalistic patterns of production have put life from humanity at risk at Earth. It is necessary to look at the reality in a more broad way, recognizing "the other as legit other in coexistence" (Maturana, 1998). Therefore, the epistemological assumption 'Rip Current' from Tourism with the COVID-19 pandemic and the comprehension of Tourism-Path-Ecosystemic, through its theoretical basis, aims at looking to the fold that marks tourism spaces, especially the city of Torres/RS, recognizing the narratives that also compose the 'sea' of Tourism, but tells the place from its own 'rip current'.

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Impact of Covid 19 on Education in Indonesia

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Abstract

Education is something that must continue to happen regardless of the obstacles, because education is an endless learning process. During the Covid-19 pandemic, there were many things that could neglect education, Indonesia government has done many things to overcome these problems. Even though education during a pandemic is different, it has become a joint policy to continue to support the government in carrying out education through distance curriculum or what is known as learning by online at homes. This incident gives awareness to parents that educating children is not easy, it challenge and takes great knowledge and patience, parents must be aware and know how to guide their children in learning, it is hoped that after getting this experience parents will learn how to educate their children at home.

Keywords: Impact, Covid 19, Education, Indonesian



The Covid 19 Has an Impact on Changes in the Implementation of Education

Indonesia is still fighting the Corona virus to date, the same as other countries in the world. The number of Corona virus cases continues to grow with some reporting recoveries, more people have died. Handling and prevention efforts continue to be carried out to fight the COVID-19 Case of the Corona virus, a disease that paralyzed the City of Wuhan, China. The tragedy at the end of 2019 has continued until the spread of the Corona virus has spread throughout the world. The spread of this virus is very fast and has spread to almost all countries, including Indonesia, in just a few months. This has led several countries to implement policies to impose lockdowns in order to prevent the spread of the Corona virus. The Indonesian Government used a lockdown method in the form of a Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policy to suppress the spread of this virus.

In addition, the Indonesian government through the Ministry of Communication and Informatics (Kominfo) has developed an Android-based Care and Protect (*Peduli, Lindungi*) application that can be downloaded freely by the public to help deal with the spread of the Corona virus which is increasingly, related to the procedures for using the Care and Protect application to have a tracking application feature. It could detect the movement of exposure to Covid-19 for the past 14 days. Based on the results of tracking and tracing, the public will receive a warning to immediately implement the health protocol if there are positive Covid-19 patients in the vicinity. This has an impact on a crisis in various aspects such as economy, trade, tourism, health, education and various other aspects.

Data on 30 October 2020 data from WHO shows that 219 million people were confirmed as having been sick due to COVID19 totaling 44 351 506 people, who died in the amount of 1 171 255. Then the data obtained from the



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Information Center on October 29, 2020 were positive with 404,048 people who recovered 329,778 and who 13,701 people died. Corona virus that causes COVID-19 can strike anyone. According to data released COVID Handling Acceleration Task Force-19 the Republic of Indonesia, the number of confirmed cases of positive until October 28, 2020 was 396 454 people with 13 512 the number of deaths. The death rate (case fatality rate) due to COVID-19 is approximately 3.4%. When viewed from the percentage number of deaths divided by age group, the age group above 60 years old has a percentage higher mortality rate than other age groups. Meanwhile, by gender, 58.5% of patients who died from COVID-19 were men and 41.5% women.

The impact of COVID 19 is very significant on education because all aspects of education are disabled for face-to-face learning in class, they have to study online at home, there are many obstacles faced by students and parents while studying online.

Implementation of Education During the Pandemic Cases

Education is a process that does not end or education is the process without end, and education is a process of forming fundamental basic abilities, both in terms of intellectual power and emotional feelings directed at human nature and towards others. Therefore, the learning process is the key to the success of education so that the quality learning process requires quality service administration Based on this statement, it can be seen that education must run in any circumstances. To reduce the number of Covid-19 spread and educational activities to run as usual, the government has made several efforts to reduce this number, one of which is implemented in the education system in Indonesia. Teaching and learning activities have been carried out using an online system or an online system since



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March 2020. The learning system is carried out without face to face, but is carried out using a distance learning system. With the distance learning system, students are not required or obliged to come to school or campus to carry out learning. Many facilities are eventually applied by educators to carry out teaching and learning activities remotely. This means of distance learning cannot be avoided from the development of information and communication technology. The learning facilities include the Google Meet Application, Zoom application, Google classroom, YouTube, television, and whatsapp social media, where all these facilities are generated from the development of increasingly advanced information and communication technology.

However, the distance learning system does not rule out some problems in the learning process. With the implementation of this distance learning, of course, students and educators from all walks of life are required to have good internet network access. However, many areas have poor or ineffective internet access, which is one of the obstacles to carrying out teaching and learning activities properly. In addition, there are not a few students who do not get maximum learning results, both from the subject matter and assignments given by educators during the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, in addition to several obstacles that have arisen, there are several lessons that can be obtained from the Covid-19 pandemic. With a learning system that is implemented remotely, where students do a lot of activities at home so that it can make it easier for parents to monitor their children. In addition, in terms of creativity, both teachers and students in the distance learning system are required to be creative. For example, not a few educators make learning materials that are presented in the form of learning videos. I, it is not uncommon for students to be assigned an interesting learning by video.



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Basically the Covid-19 pandemic has impacts that can weaken human activity in general. It cannot be denied that at first many people thought that the Covid-19 pandemic was a difficult time for mankind. However, without realizing it, there are many positive sides that we can learn from the Covid-19 pandemic that is currently sweeping the world to this day. The impact that is felt is real and can be felt by everyone. However, the public cannot make the Covid-19 pandemic an excuse for not carrying out activities, especially in the field of education.

Management of Educational Crisis During the Pandemic Period

The education sector gets the impact of the policies implemented. The government's sudden decision to dismiss or change learning was initially transferred to school learning activities to their respective homes or what is known as distance learning or online learning (online). This sudden policy caused a lot of chaos in the field of education. This is due to the unpreparedness of schools, students, teachers, and parents. But the main factor is the unpreparedness of schools to implement this distance learning, even though the government has provided alternative solutions in providing assessments of students as a condition for promotion or graduation from educational institutions in an emergency situation like this.

This shift in learning methods forces to follow a path that if it can be taken so that distance learning can be carried out smoothly, and the choice is to use technology as an online learning medium. The use of technology is problems; many factors hinder the implementation of learning using this technology, such as the low mastery of technology. Among the teaching staff, especially those who are quite old, during their education and teaching days they rarely used or did not use the technology too massively. Actually



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they are not unable but they just need to learn to use it a little and get used to using it. The same thing happened to the students. Not all students taught by teachers are accustomed to using technology in their daily lives.

The availability of technology support devices is another issue that needs to be taken into account. The low economic level makes some students do not have the necessary infrastructure for this distance learning process. In schools, peacocks also have to fight over the use of learning support technology devices provided by schools because they are limited.

Apart from the devices there are also other disturbances in the form of the internet network. Especially in remote areas where it is still difficult to get a signal, the internet network is not stable. In addition, the increase in internet network usage also causes problems among the community. This is not only because of increased usage but also increased monthly budget expenditures even though their current financial condition is unstable, don't buy additional usage quotas to meet personal needs, sometimes it is difficult because of this pandemic. This long distant method is actually not something new, but something that is already familiar of education in Indonesia, especially universities. But for lower education levels, such as secondary and elementary schools, it becomes something new and needs special handling so that it can be carried out and there is no confusion among the community.

Implementation of Education During the Pandemic

At present, education is based on Article 31 of the 1945 Constitution and Law No. 23 of 2003 concerning the National Education System. One of the principles of the reform movement in education is that education is organized by empowering all components of society through their participation in the implementation and control of the



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quality of education. Changes in the world of education amid the Covid-19 pandemic are still being felt today. In just a matter of months, ministry of Education and Culture must change the direction of its policies to help teaching and learning activities run effectively even from home. The rate of spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia, of course, makes the government has to make various efforts to end the pandemic immediately, so that all sectors of life no longer experience difficult times, including the world of education.

Reducing the number of Covid-19 spread and educational activities can run as usual, the government has made several efforts to reduce this number, one of which implemented in the education system in Indonesia. Teaching and learning activities have been carried out using an online system or an online system since March 2020. The learning system carried out without face to face, but it carried out using a distance learning system. With the distance learning system, students are not required or obliged to come to school or campus to carry out learning. Many facilities are eventually applied by educators to carry out teaching and learning activities remotely.

This means of distance learning cannot be avoided from the development of information and communication technology. The learning facilities include the Google meet application, zoom application, Google classroom, YouTube, television, as well as what Sapp social media, Spada. All these facilities are generated from the development of increasingly advanced information and communication technology. However, the implementation of online learning is sometimes still ineffective. Some of the things that make online learning less effective include:

- (a) ***Limitations of Mastering Information Technology by Teachers and Students:*** The condition of teachers in Indonesia does not fully understand the use of technology, this can be seen from teachers who were born before the 1980s. Information technology



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constraints limit their use of online media. Likewise with students whose conditions are almost the same as the teachers who are meant by understanding the use of technology.

- (b) *Inadequate facilities and infrastructure*: Tech support devices are obviously expensive; teachers are still in dire economic condition. The welfare of teachers and students has prevented them from being completely limited in enjoying the information technology facilities and infrastructure that were very much needed by the Covid-19 disaster.

Limited Internet Access

The internet network is uneven in all corners of the country. Not all educational institutions, both primary and secondary schools, can enjoy the internet. Even if there is an internet network the condition is still unable to cover online media.

Lack of Readiness for Budget Provision

When they use their internet quota to meet their online media needs, they obviously can't afford it. Costs an obstacle because aspects of the welfare of teachers and students are not expectations. There is a dilemma in the use of online media, when the minister of education encourages productivity to move forward, but on the other hand the financial skills and abilities of teachers and students have not moved in the same direction. The state has not yet been fully present in facilitating the said financial needs.

Crisis Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic on Education Implementation

One of the most visible impacts of changing the world of education amid the Covid-19 pandemic is the



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effectiveness of the teaching and learning process. The reason is, not all students are able to adapt to this new educational method, especially at the elementary school level.

Another impact caused is the fundamental loss for students when there is a school or campus closure. There are many exams that should be done by students in normal conditions, now suddenly because of the impact of Covid-19, the exams are canceled or postponed. Internal assessments for schools may be considered less urgent, but for students' families the assessment information is very important. There are those who consider the loss of student assessment information very meaningful for the sustainability of the student's future. For example, students who have been able to master many skills this year but did not get the assessment they should have this year so that it will have an impact on treatment for the coming year.

Another case for students in college, many colleges overseas are replacing traditional exams with online tools. This is a new condition for lecturers and students. This is an unusual situation and this is a state of crisis in various aspects that occur in various countries around the world.

University or secondary education graduates looking for work this year have experienced severe disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students and students who graduate this year experience teaching disruption at the end of their studies. The immediate impact on them is a major distraction in their due final assessment. However, regardless of the conditions, they still pass through this heartbreaking global recession. Labor market conditions that tend to be difficult are a new obstacle for graduates. University graduates initially predicted that they would get adequate jobs and wages, but the reality in Indonesia due to Covid-19 has resulted in them being disappointed with this situation.



Efforts to Overcome the Education Crisis Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Seeing the education crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education and Culture hope teachers not only to focus on pursuing curriculum targets. But also equip students with life skills that are reinforced by character values. The goal is none other than so that the distance learning method will no longer be a burden to teachers, students and parents. This learning adjustment has also been explained as in Circular Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Prevention and Handling of Covid-19 within the Ministry of Education and Culture, as well as in Circular Number 3 of 2020 concerning the Prevention of Covid-19 in the Education.

Not only addressing curriculum issues, under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Culture, namely Nadiem Makarim, the Ministry of Education and Culture has also issued new policies to minimize the spread of the corona virus in the realm of education. Here are some of the policies:

Cancellation of the 2020 National Examination for High School Students

Changes in the world of education in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic were also felt by students at the Secondary school, Senior High School of education levels in Indonesia, where the Ministry of Education and Culture officially canceled the implementation of the national exam for the 2019/2020 school year. This policy is contained in the Minister of Education and Culture Circular Letter Number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policies in the Emergency for the Spread of Coronavirus Disease. On the official website of the Ministry of Education and Culture, it explained that the determining



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requirements for passing students in the emergency period of the spread of the Corona Virus are by holding school exams, which can be done online. If there are schools that are not ready to hold online school exams, then this exam can be done in the form of a portfolio of previous report card scores and achievements, assignments, and other forms of remote assessment.

Free Online Schools through Educational Platforms

In order to support a quality learning process for students, the Ministry of Education and Culture is also known to collaborate with various parties so that learning can be done online. Some of them who have joined this program are Google Indonesia, Ruangguru, Smart Class, Quipper, Microsoft, Zenius, and Sekolahmu application.

Flexible School Operational Assistance (BOS) and BOP

In addition to free online schools, the Ministry of Education and Culture has also released a new policy on changes in the of education in the midst of the Corona pandemic, namely flexibility in operational assistance (BOS) and BOP. This policy is in the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 19 of 2020 concerning Amendments to, the Ministry of Education and Culture Number 8 of 2020 concerning Regular BOS Technical Guidelines.

The, the Ministry of Education and Culture (Permendikbud) explains if schools can use BOS Regular funds to finance power and service subscriptions, the use of which is no longer limited in terms of percentage. Likewise with the payment of honoraria for honorary teachers, It considered to be much more flexible and no longer limited as before, namely a maximum of 50 percent.



The Existence of a Volunteer Medical Personnel Program

Another change in the world of education made by the Ministry of Education and Culture is the relocation of resources to fight the corona virus in Indonesia. This policy is made in the form of the Medical and Health Student Volunteer Program, which has collected more than 15 thousand volunteers from various parts of Indonesia. Later, these volunteers will be assigned to carry out a series of preventive and promotive programs, namely through communication and education to the public regarding the corona issue.

How is Covid-19 Handled?

Health experts are still trying to find a vaccine and an effective way to deal with this virus. But, to date, most countries have taken isolation measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus. So far, medical personnel have focused more on managing symptoms when the virus is acting on patients. Before the patient tested positive for infection, the patient underwent a throat swab and DNA laboratory examination with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

Then, medical personnel will monitor and provide therapy to patients. Monitoring and therapy includes isolation, implementation of PPIs, serial chest X-rays, oxygen supplementation, empiric antimicrobials, symptomatic therapy, fluid therapy, mechanical ventilation, use of vasopressors, observation, and sorting of comorbid disease therapies.

Keeping 2 meters away from each other may not be enough to stop the transmission of the new coronavirus. Recent studies have shown that just light wind can spread infected droplets between people when outdoors



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Public health authorities in many countries may need to reconsider their guidelines or protocols, which usually consist of social distancing and wearing a mask, following the publication of a research paper in the journal *Physics of Fluids*. Talib Dbouk and Dimitris Drikakis, researchers from the University of Nicosia in Cyprus, said 2 meters is an approximate safe distance at rest, with droplets taking about 15 seconds to fall below waist level. But, “When someone coughs, the wind speed in the open space environment significantly affects the distance traveled by disease-carrying droplets in the air,” they said in their paper as quoted by the *South China Morning Post*.

By using a computational fluid dynamics model to compare the distance traveled by human saliva droplets under different wind conditions, The researchers found that the droplets can travel up to six meters in five seconds with wind speeds of just 4 km per hour. At a speed of 15 km per hour, the wind can carry the droplets the same distance in just 1.6 seconds. Our findings suggest that, depending on environmental conditions, 2 meters of social distance may not be sufficient, “said Dbouk and Drikakis, adding that further research is needed on the effect of other parameters, such as relative humidity and ambient temperature.

The researchers also warned that taller adults and children could be at a higher risk if they were on a droplet trajectory that carries the coronavirus, which has infected more than 5 million people worldwide.

Conclusion

Education is something that must continue to happen regardless of the obstacles, because education is an endless learning process. During the Covid-19 pandemic, of course, there were many things that could neglect education, but the government has done many things to overcome these



problems. Even though education during a pandemic like this feels a little different, it has become a common policy to continue to support the government in carrying out education through distance curriculum or what is known as learning from their respective homes. The times will demand changes in learning methods that must be done. In this technological era, it is possible that the learning process after this pandemic will undergo enormous changes. It is possible that learning after this uses an online system or the absence of the system meets in a classroom. This can be done because considering the effectiveness in transferring knowledge of knowledge is very good, fast, easy, low cost.

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6

**‘We are in the Full Sea’!
Reflections on Pandemic Times
Covid-19, Considering the Weave
of Subjective Tourist-
Communicational Ecosystems¹**

-Maria Luiza Cardinale Baptista

Abstract

The essay presents reflections on contemporary signs, expanded in the scenario of the Covid-19 Pandemic, considering the weave of subjective tourist-communicational ecosystems. It is based on studies carried out at Amorcomtur! Study Group on Communication, Tourism, Lovingness and Autopoiesis, in a transdisciplinary and holistic perspective, with a complex and

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ecosystemic epistemological-theoretical dimension. The Covid-19 Pandemic brought about the need to expand planetary awareness, in the sense of redirecting individual and collective actions. The sea of illness and collective deaths demands new, more loving and ethical views, through multiple existential windows: the eyes, the screens, the multiple prisms of life, of Science. We look for ways of 'over-living' in the Great Journey.

Keywords: Tourism; Communication; Pandemia Covid 19; Amorcomtur!

Initial Bursts in Times of Wild Seas

In recent years, a poem has been recurrent, during the Amorcomtur! Chaotic Encounters, by the perception of the force of the winds, of the contemporary gusts that demonstrate the emergence of reflections on the power of events, which put life on hold, which evidence the risk of collective death, the difficulty of accounting, of survival to the intensity of involuntary movements, caused by the larger vessels of the great collective maquenic gear. Castro Alves's poem, O Navio Negreiro, for some reason, sprouted in me, in several of our meetings, at different times. So I'd say, "Think! We are all, again, as humanity, in a great vessel, in the midst of rough seas, gusts of storms. We don't know for sure the course of the events of this planetary vessel. We know that the trip is challenging! Our only chance of survival, as a planet and as singular subjects, is interlacing, mutual care, reaching out to those close to them, filling the chest with air and establishing the foundations. We're together! We are Amorcomtur!. Here is an excerpt from the poem:

*We are at sea ... From the firmament
The stars jump like foams of gold ...
The sea in turn ignites the fiery,
- Constellations of the liquid treasure ...*



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'We are at sea ... Two infinities

There they tighten in an insane embrace,

Blue, gold, placid, sublime ...

Which of the two is heaven? which ocean? ...

'We are at sea. . . Opening the candles

In the hot panting of the sea,

Brig sailboat runs along the seas,

As swallows graze in the wave ...

Where does it come from? where you go?

Of wandering ships

Who knows the direction if the space is so big?

In this Sahara, the steeds raise the dust,

They gallop, fly, but leave no trace.

Well happy who can there

Feel the majesty of this panel!

Below - the sea above - the firmament ...

We are at sea! The verse has been chasing me for many years. In recent years, it is in my recurring thoughts, when I think of the hardships of everyday life, when I reflect on humanity, when I watch the news, when I immerse myself in thoughts about absurdities and contemporary extrapolations. "We are at sea, above the firmament, below the expanse of the ocean. On the horizon, which of two is which? ", I have been repeating in my thoughts. It is a reinterpretation of some of the verses of the poem, which help me to say that we are the contemporary slaves, amid the great crossings, the processes of deterritorialization all.



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We are all pilgrims, in ships swaying under the gust of winds, about to sink!

Year 2020. In the initial months, news begins to emerge of a virus, from a distance, initially identified in China, which caused a disease, a kind of flu (but it is not just a flu, we already know!), Which spread rapidly. So, too, the news spread quickly, in the great planetary media gear, and day by day, we were taken by the perception of a viral wave, without control, that dissipated and killed. A tide of death and sadness, dizzying politicians, scientists, administrators, leaders of all kinds.

No, no, wait! It can not be! The world has developed. Science has developed. Technology has developed. Someone or something will stop this virus! It didn't stop. That was not what happened, and the virus spread throughout the world, practically breaking the borders, traveling by the most different transports, invented during the centuries of scientific discoveries. The invisible virus, of the level of the tiny particles in the world that has still been disregarded by some scientists, was not contained, at the beginning of its great expansion and, therefore, the world literally stopped!

The orientation of the World Health Organization has become social distancing, in the sense that as many people as possible return to their homes and stay there, isolated, detached, to avoid the spread of contagion and the collapse of health systems, planned to serve the population, in times of supposed normality - concept, by the way, absolutely questionable and understood more than ever as a fallacy, as a great planetary deception. In this sense, the questions remained: "Say, what do you think is normal? What's the concept? Based on what^?". Could it be that we were living in normal times before the Covid 19 Pandemic? I think not.



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Back in Time

The point we reached, in this great planetary ship, has a history. Of course, it is the world history of all times and places, but I want to highlight, here, two great milestones, whose orientations collaborate greatly to reach the moment of these great turbulences and the planetary risk of 'end of the world'. Scientific Revolution and Industrial Revolution are our points of confluence, remembering Prigogine (2001) for the analysis of dissipative, derivative and consequent structures. Here, in this sense, the expression inspired by Régis Debray (1993) "When I go back in time, I advance in knowledge!".

It was agreed to call the Scientific Revolution the set of discoveries, transformations and orientations related to Science, which occurred in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Representatives and exponents of this period are scientists Francis Bacon, René Descartes and Isaac Newton, among others, such as Galileo Galilei, for example. There are general signs of the scientific mutation resulting from this revolution, which are related to the passage from Metaphysics to Mechanical Physics, the passage of valuing and explaining things from God, to the emergence of understanding that Man would be able, through understanding the mechanisms of nature and all phenomena, understanding everything and thus directing events towards the progress of humanity. Apparently, the intentions were not bad. Understand to help make life more possible, viable, in the creation of more and better conditions to live, since the resources would be directed towards the development of these conditions. Right. Everything interesting 'in theory'. The question, as often occurs, is the direction of events and the direction of these assumptions and discoveries.

So, let's go little by little. Among the assumptions, it can be highlighted, based on Francis Bacon, reductionism,



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which is the tendency to reduce the manifestations of phenomena to their concrete. Their scientific findings and discoveries were important, but they valued the concrete, emphasizing the reduction of understanding to what could be proven 'scientifically', from materialities. In this sense, there would be security in Science, which would be guided by rigidly structured methods, to apprehend the concreteness of the manifestations of the phenomena, in the most diverse areas. In practical terms, rigid protocols are derived from this to be applied in research, with a strong quantitative orientation and 'concrete' material demonstration of the phenomena. This trend is observed in Physics, Biology, among other Sciences and, over time, has spread to all areas of knowledge. You see, this is not about denying the importance of materialities in the processes, but of inviting us to reflect, especially in the Pandemic scenario, to the limit of the visible, palpable, concrete world, in the direction of events, in a broad sense.

Renè Descartes, in turn, offers us the assumption linked to his name, Cartesianism, which guides the fragmentation of phenomena into their basic units, in such a way as to understand each unit and, in sum, to understand the whole. It is didactic and also conveys the idea of security, since, understanding one part, another part and another, it would be possible to understand the whole. This assumption and the Cartesian, vertical and horizontal axes, as great organizers of the expressions of life, nature, Mathematics, of all occurrences, are orientations that helped to develop Science, to make great discoveries, but, since the last century, have been discussed as important knowledge, but that have their limits. Fritjof Capra (1990, 1991, 1997), Roberto Crema (1989) and so many other authors help to understand the mutation of Science and the need to expand understanding to a holistic perspective. Boaventura de Sousa Santos (1990, 1997, 2002, 2009) is also an important reference to understand the limits of a science, which was built in a



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process of intertwining with the socioeconomic and political dimension, generating gaps between beings and fields of knowledge . Thus, in the Complex Ecosystem perspective, with which I have been working from a set of theoretical paths, it is understood that one part is not separate from another part, and the sum of the parts is not the whole. The phenomena need being understood as broad ecosystems, systems of life power, which makes it impossible for us to stay in the parts or in their sum, as a strategy for understanding the phenomena, in themselves, of life or ecosystems - be they tourist, communicational, subjective or from any referential universe, in the complex web of knowledge.

Along the same line of time, I quote the contribution of Isaac Newton, considered the Father of Mechanical Physics. Powerful assumption, indelible mark for the whole history of mankind. Mechanical Physics directed Science towards the understanding of repetitive mechanisms, inherent to supposedly all phenomena, with the assumption known as mechanism. It made possible the understanding of many phenomena, the discovery and invention of many machines and technologies, in the most diverse fields, especially related to the machine dimension as a gear of mechanisms engendered by the joining of (concrete) parts, in repetitive couplings, therefore, predictable, that is, liable to be changed. I reiterate the obvious here: humanity has lived through the emergence of many discoveries, the spinning machine, the analog clock, automobiles, airplanes, the atomic bomb ... This means that, while recognizing development, progress scientific understanding of mechanical discoveries, it is understood that the evolutionary logic of the discoveries, for some time, has made us question about the success of the ode to progress and the developmental syndrome, at any price, at any cost, mainly, at any and all cost - not only of human lives, but of compromising the entire planetary ecosystem.



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Reductionism, Cartesianism and mechanism, as conceptual frameworks, based on epistemological-theoretical assumptions of the Scientific Revolution, were potent vectors, signaling beams of the direction of humanity. They compose signs of what we live in contemporary times, even though they have been questioned since the last century. At the confluence of the three assumptions, there is evidence of a rationalist tendency, of the predominance of reason and desire (arrogance!) to control nature, processes, by the human being (considered as 'the Man'). Bases for the constitution of the triad questioned by Boaventura de Sousa Santos (1997), in the book *Um Discurso sobre a Ciências* and in so many other texts: colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy. Thus, over the centuries, the discoveries made possible a change in the modes of production and, with that, we passed from the condition of artisans and producers in small groups, made up of close people, often family members, to the production that potentially expanded, by the appearance of more and more machines, to eliminate the human from the production chain and 'simplify' the work. The maximum orientation was to reduce the production chain, reduce costs, streamline processes. Everything seemed fine, we would be heading towards the long-dreamed progress, the conquest of new territories, markets, the victory of humanity over difficulties and bad weather. Defenders of processes began to emerge in every corner of the planet aimed at the search for efficiency and effectiveness in the control of mechanisms, which would move the great machine of production and, thus, generate progress and economic development. Any and all obstacles could be overcome, in the combination of Scientific Knowledge and Technologies and Capital. In theory, it would be so. Apparently this was the path we were taking. Only in theory and apparently.



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Mutation Flags

The 20th century was a period in which, more clearly, signs of the mutation of Science emerged, which, allied to the upsurge of processes and consequences resulting from the high technological capital development, devoid of ethics and values, were showing the emergence of transformations of attitudes - in the sense of act as a whole - at the planetary level. Unfortunately, these changes did not take place, at least not at the necessary level, to escape this great wave of death bursts, which devastated the Earth, Gaia, and our multiple 'existential worlds', which we saw quickly disintegrate before our eyes, of our windows of life!

Thus, it is worth remembering Capra's (1991) speech, in *O Ponto e Mutação*, when he affirms, about the beginning of radical changes, in the first three decades of the 20th century: "Two discoveries in the field of physics, culminating in the theory of relativity and in quantum theory, they pulverized the main concepts of the Cartesian worldview and Newtonian mechanics "(Capra, 1991, p.69). In this sense, the author states that the notion of absolute space and time, the elementary solid particles, the fundamental material substance, the strictly causal nature of physical phenomena and the objective description of nature could not be considered in the new domains where physics penetrated .

What triggered, from then on, was a collapse of the previously established pillars, even though they had been built over the centuries, on solid and consistent bases and represented - and still represent - advances in the knowledge of humanity, for a long period, as I have already emphasized. The questions raised began to signal for maximum alerts, at the planet level, which today, with the phenomenon of the New Coronavirus and the resulting pandemic, are evident. The flags of the mutation are, in principle, questioning the constituent vectors of the building



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of traditional science. With the Theory of Relativity and Quantum Physics, the bases of reductionism, Cartesianism and mechanism are put in check, which triggers a sequence of discoveries that, in composition, at the same time contribute to the advancement and improvement of technological processes, but it also questions the attachments to the dogmas of Traditional Science. (Capra, 1991)

As a result, an ethical dilemma is triggered in relation to Science, Capitalism, Colonialism and Patriarchate. I could summarize this dilemma, in the question: "Against whom?". By this I mean that it is necessary to reflect on whom the development of Science, Capitalism, Colonialism or Patriarchate takes place and what the consequences of these abyssal fissures between beings and elements of the same ecosystem can be. Thus, when Science overestimates 'man', in the arrogance of the assumption of control and domination of all phenomena, it is authorizing itself to make decisions that may compromise the other 'subjects' of the composition of the web of life, the elements of nature, such as the Forest, for example, rivers, seas, fauna and flora, the biosphere. The anthropocentric principle, therefore, is a boomerang that, guiding science over the centuries, has led to ignorance and the risk of destruction.

Likewise, the emphasis on materiality has become a trap with dramatic consequences. In an attempt to guarantee certainties, the supposed safety of the method, in the illusion of clear apprehension, with Cartesian clarity, of the elements constituting the matter of the phenomena, there was an abandonment of dimensions of the invisible, the tiniest, the subtle universe of subatomic particles, of beings that 'you can't catch', apprehend, arrest, imprison, dominate, like viruses, for example. In this sense, the uncertainty principle, as stated by quantum mechanics, proposed by Werner Heisenberg, in 1927, represents a remarkable fact. According to this principle, there is a limit



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to the precision with which certain pairs of properties of a given physical particle, known as complementary variables (such as position and linear momentum). Heisenberg states that, at the quantum level, the lower the uncertainty in measuring the position of a particle, the greater the uncertainty of its linear momentum and vice versa. The tiny, tiny condition of the viral universe has taught us to live with uncertainty as a constant, to be experienced every day, in multiple everyday situations (Capra, 1991)

It is also perceived, as a signal, the evidence of the condition of systemic complexity, I prefer to call it ecosystemic, or, more, chaotomic complex ecosystemic plot - of chaos, osmosis, in the cosmos -, in the constitution of the phenomena. In this sense, we are facing the pandemic experience of transdisciplinary and holistic connections. In other words, there is no way to understand the pandemic episode caused by the new coronavirus, from the point of view of Tourism, Communication or Subjectivity. Nor is the medical, biological, epidemiological area sufficient. Chemistry, Physics, in short, all fields or scientific areas, as isolated plateaus, are insufficient. It is necessary to understand that one is faced with evidence of a phenomenon of high complexity, of levels and processes involving subatomic dimensions, with large-scale effects and speed.

The consequences affect not only any and all levels of materiality, on a planetary scale, but also and mainly, complex abstract mechanisms of intense and subtle flows and dimensions, poorly understood, in the engendering of fields and universes of existential conformation. This makes us understand what has been known as the butterfly effect, in signaling the deep connections of the planet and the universe. This is an effect inherent in Chaos Theory, which was first analyzed in 1963 by Edward Lorenz. It concerns dependence sensitive to initial conditions within chaos theory. It is reasonably known with the idea that the



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flapping of a butterfly's wings, in a region of the planet, could cause chain changes, which, perhaps, will cause great physical manifestations on the other side of the world, a typhoon, a storm. Anyway, what is certain is that we realize, at the cost of many thousands of lives, that there are no borders, that there is no 'there and here', that the division of national states was also a strategic but illusory fractionation on the part of humanity, as well as the organization of time, in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and so on. The time of the eyes in the window, which we lived during the Covid-19 pandemic, teaches us that we are far away, we are close, that the intensity is more important than the measurement of the hours, that really, everything is relative and uncertain. This, of course, alters the worldview, the way of living, of thinking, of loving, in the sense of survival of the planet and of all beings, of the beings that (still) 'we are here' - at least it should change.

Connections to the Web of Subjective Tourist-Communicational-Ecosystems

The propositions presented here, as connections and implications for the plot of tourist-communicational-subjective ecosystems demand some preliminary conceptual operators, due to the singularity and complexity of the approach. It is a matter, then, of explaining a kind of unfolding of the statement of the plot, in its course. Weave is a synthesis word, expression of assumptions of complexity and intertwining, which crosses my studies, since the Master's degree, research that resulted in the book: *Comunicação: Trama de Desejos e Espelhos* (Baptista, 1996). There, the idea of a weave was already signaled, as a complex entanglement of multiple bundles interlaced, in movement, towards the Other, in processes of deterritorialization. In this research, I already proposed that communication,



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in its complexity, implies processes of interaction of subjects, which, as a field of forces and stellar bodies, when they meet, they transform, reinvent themselves, become self-propelled. Later, during research for my PhD, I coined the concept of communication-weave, more closely, which was thus established:

Communication is interaction of subjects, through the flow of information between them, a kind of complex weave-web, made of both visible and invisible, corporeal and incorporeal, significant and a-significant elements, whether or not they are mediated by technological devices, in the constitution of something like a force field for an encounter of energies, resulting from the universes of reference for each subject involved. That is, an encounter of subject's universes, subjective universes. (BAPTISTA, 2000, p.33-34).

The weave proposition refers, therefore, to the complex dimension, having as constituting threads a set of theories of contemporary authors. This proposition was gradually constituted, for me, an interpretative signal, a matrix related to the epistemological-theoretical assumptions of the transdisciplinary perspective, of reconnection of knowledge.

The notion of ecosystem represents a conceptual proposition in a broad sense, directly related to the weave dimension. It stems from studies based on Fritjof Capra, in basic texts such as *The Point of Mutation* (1991), *Web of Life* (1997), especially, but also in James Lovelock (1991), with *The Eras of Gaia* and the notion of ecosystem linked to that of Deep Ecology. It is also related to the approach with the Amazon since 2010, especially with the concept of Communication Ecosystems, by Gilson Monteiro (2011), also from the perspective of Colferai (2014).

In this sense, the communicative, tourist and subjective ecosystem is being understood from the decentralization of



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voices, from the dialogicity of biotic and abiotic factors, in a process of interaction. Relationships should seek fluent balance and harmony, in environments where different actors coexist. Thus, it is not only in the natural or technological world that the communicative, tourist and subjective ecosystem operates, but in all spheres of these areas.

From this perspective emerges the concept of ecological tourist and tourism weave, itself, with which we work in Amorcomtur! Study Group on Communication, Tourism, Amorosity and Autopoiesis. We consider that these are complex processes of desiring deterritorializations, involving the activation and interlacing of different ecosystems. In these processes, the moving subject is also subject of ecosystem transpositions and transversalizations, which agencies the movement and connection of worlds, universes of meanings, references, production and consumption. Thus, the subject-weave of tourism triggers a web of materialities and immaterialities, from the powerful economic-political-social-cultural and service-providing weaves, to the underlying flows of particle energies, of quantum drive, which also reach the levels of affections. With tourism, everything moves and transforms, at the same time that the deterritorialization movement, itself, 'autopoietiza', that mean reinvents subjects and places, of the ecosystem dimensions involved.

It occurs, however, that this cultural tourist weave has been produced in the counterpoint between: the developmental perspectives of the sector, with the inherent criticism of turistification; paradigms of sustainability and eco-efficiency; and the emergence of discussion of environmental justice, ecosystem responsibility and amorosity. Exactly at this point the discussion of the occurrence of the Covid-19 Pandemic can be understood as a challenge and opportunity to expand consciousness,



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in the sense of reinvention of tourist-communicational-subjective ecosystems. Reinvention, in the sense that I have been proposing in *Amorcomtur*, from various researches, such as the 'Inside Out of Tourism', the other side of the weave, from where the seams, the moorings, also the consistencies, the loose threads are perceived, which also inspires care.

The discussion of the 'inside out' is linked to the need for responsibility and commitments to processes, in a movement of expansion of consciousness and affections, in the sense of an ecosystem ethics. Over the last century, processes of development, of supposed evolution, that would lead humanity and the planet to progress have been consolidated. On the visible side, the front of the productive weave in general, it seemed that the association between Science and Technology, financed by the power of capital, could solve any problem that would arise. Especially in the second half of the last century, however, the gigantism and speed of growth of development and deployment of large conglomerates of the production system began to issue warning signs of the risks, of what I have been calling the 'planet risk'. Thus, pressured by evidence of environmental risk, for example, by the emergence of non-governmental organizations, at all levels, including international, discourses such as total quality, ecoefficiency, sustainability began to emerge. In parallel, in the business sector, organizations, we began to realize the need for development and implementation of social responsibility projects, as well as to ensure sustainability. I have proposed, in recent years, the discussion in the expanded bias, in the sense of ecosystem responsibility, so that, already in the denomination, the holistic view of the demand for commitment to the whole ecosystem is explicit, shifting from the social dimension, to the ecosystem dimension, in the sense of collective sets of enreds and flows, according to deep ecology.



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This discussion of ecosystem responsibility is linked to what I've been synthesizing in the hashtag "# Por Um Mundo Mais Amoroso!" that mean 'ForaWorldMoreLoving - considering amorosity, as ethics of relationship and care, under the inspiration of the studies of escuela Matriztica de Santiago, especially in Humberto Maturana (1997, 1998). They are propositions in connection with scientists from various areas, in perspective, therefore totally transdisciplinary, which help to understand and reflect on the current context, in which the mega structure of the ecosystem-tourist-communicational-subjective plot was shaken by the emergence of the new coronavirus, which reached the pandemic level.

To understand the implications, it is necessary to reflect, from the understanding that this weave does not exist isolated, but is part of broader processes, of ecosystem flows and weaves, on a planetary scale, involving economic, political, social, technological, cultural, religious and, of course, scientific dimensions. In this sense, it is therefore faced with the challenges at the 'planet' level, that is, faced by Gaia, to remember the English scientist James Lovelock (1991), an important interlocutor, when I refer to ecosystem responsibility. This author proposes Gaia's Theory or Gaia hypothesis, from which he understands that the earth is a living being, capable of self-organizing, regenerating, caring, with levels of consciousness and interactions, in which all beings who live here transit and survive. The Gaia theory was proposed in the 1970s, based on studies conducted in the early 1960s for NASA, with the aim of detecting life on other planets, especially on Mars.

Thus, from what is perceived, in these times of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are come up posed with a strong activation of the alarm system of this living being, seeking to protect itself from threats. It is, therefore, it seems, a kind of rebound, in the search for survival, on the part of the planet itself. As ecosystem procedural weaves, tourism and



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communication, they had been developing exponentially, with the consolidation of large conglomerates and the constitution of powerful flows and processes in action, facilitated and supported by the development of advanced technologies. The two fields of production were strongly linked to the general production system, with emphasis on capital, linked to the logic of capitalistic idolatry, which has characterized what Guattari (1992), with Deleuze (1995) and with Rolnik (1986) called integrated world capitalism and Harvey refers to as capitalism by expropriation. "We have lost the instinctive understanding of what life is and what our place is in Gaia. Our attempts to define life are at the same stage as the drunken walk," says Lovelock (1991, p.200). The reference to the walk of the drunk is interesting, when he comments on the oscillation between the paradigm of Classical Science, whose bulwark is Mechanical Physics, and the Holistic view, with the emergence of the knowledge of quantum physics. It also reminds me of the perspective of Mlodinow's approach (2009), with the interesting book "The Walk of the Drunk", in which he resumes transdisciplinary knowledge, to mention, in summary, that if there is instability and uncertainty in movements, there are also clues to a directionality, an inflection, which can be known from deep studies.

I think, in this sense, that it is essential to emphasize the highlights of Lovelock and Capra, for example, when they also admit the importance of the knowledge of Classical Science, obviously, reporting, at different moments of their texts, that it is not a question of denying the knowledge produced and how much this knowledge contributed to the expansion of science and the development of technological devices that helped humanity to survive. The point is that the euphoric evolutionary logic in relation to the Scientific Revolution needs to be questioned, as well as the productivist developmental euphoria linked strictly to



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capital, whether in Tourism or Communication or Science. The question of progress or innovation, by itself, without criticism, which is proposed to exist at all costs, at any price, raises a fundamental ethical question, which, as I highlighted earlier, I have been summarizing in the question: “Against whom (all this is produced, invented, created)?”.

A classic example in science, in this sense, is that of the German physicist Albert Einstein, who was a pacifist, but had his image associated with the atomic bomb, because of his discoveries and, in particular, a letter he wrote in 1939 to the President of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt, warning of the possibility of building the atomic bomb. The letter was proposed to draw attention to the fact that there was such a possibility and that Germany had the knowledge to develop this type of technology, which meant a great threat in the context of World War II. Interesting, in this sense, the explanations of Francisco Caruso, from the Institute of Physics of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), as well as other scholars, referring that the development of the atomic bomb was only possible after understanding that mass and energy are related, through Einstein’s formula – physics formula: $E = mc^2$, in which energy (E) is equal to mass (m) times the speed of light (c) squared. Although Einstein’s intention was to warn about the risks, the U.S. president decided to set up a commission, at the time called the Manhattan Commission, to put into practice the production of the bomb. Einstein didn’t take part in the commission. According to existing records, he was not considered fit for the project because it was contrary to the utilitarian interests of the U.S. government. This shows that the directions of a discovery often come out of the control of which it has been made, as well as that ethics must always be present, in scientific discussions and in the processes of knowledge, under penalty of our knowledge being used for shady interests, even if coated by beautiful discourses.



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Thus, we understand the strong connection between the economic and political ecosystem, in the composition of the complex power weave, which forces the direction of the great 'production machine', also scientific, according to its premises, assumptions and interests. This is what is true in all areas - also in these fields, to which I have been referring, especially - Science, Tourism, Communication, Subjectivity - as complex ecosystems, with strong and direct intertwining with broader systems of other ecosystem plots.

In this reflection, I observe that exacerbated development has generated processes that we can refer to as collective and planetary illness. Both the tourist and communicational ecosystems and, consequently, the subjective - the weave of subjects - had already been widely questioned. In the case of tourism, for example, expressions such as turistification, 'tourismphobia' demonstrated deep clashes and clashes of interests. Thus, in many cases, developing tourism, investing and producing knowledge that led to this seemed to be contributing to a maquina gear, which did not necessarily generate the collective good, the horde of tourists that expanded daily or the populations originating from tourist destinations. The benefit was even less presumed, when thinking about the environment, in a broader ecosystem notion. The legion of tourists moved a large capital, put into action a great machinic gear of displacements, involving products, services, work, but, in the background of more recent studies, in a more phenomenological perspective, seemed to begin to resonate the question: "for what?", in a version of the other question: "against whom?". It is worth much, here, to reflect from the lyrics of the song, well known in Brazil, in the voice of the group MPB4.



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Yes, For What?

Sidney Miller

The automobile runs, the memory dies

Sweat dwells and wets the sidewalk

There's truth in the street, there's truth in the people

The woman all naked, nothing more new

The latent revolt that no one sees

And you don't even know if you feel, because it is, for what?

The tax, the bill, the cheap bazaar

The clock points to the exact moment

of uncertain death, the tie hangs

the shoe tightens, the country exports

And on my doorstep, no one wants to see

A dead shadow, yes, for what?

What a boy is this, what a strange corner

Your face is holy, your singing is everything

Came out of nowhere, from the fake pain

went down the road, went up in life

The distressed girl he doesn't want to see

The guitar turns on, yes, for what?

Hunger, disease, sport, gymkhana

The beach makes up for the work, the week

The draft beer, the cinema, the love that attenuates



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*The shot in the chest, the blood in the street
Hunger the disease, I don't know why
What a night, what a moon, baby, for what?*

*The boss supports the coffee, the lunch
The newspaper comments, such a young boy
The heat increases, the family grows
Scientist invents a flower that looks
The safest reason no one knows
Another flower that tortures, why is it for?*

*At the end of the world there is a treasure
Whoever goes first carries the gold
Life goes by in my cigarette
Who's in a hurry to get a car
To walk lightly, without having to
Without having where, for what, why?*

Time of Eyes in the Window

If, as I said in the title of this text, 'We are in the middle of the sea!' who is in better condition was brought to the condition of 'eyes in the window'. From the window of the vessel, from the hatch of our houses, we witness, to some extent astonished, the transmutation of the world we know, the world of tourism, communication, science, relationships, in short, of many worlds. July 2020. We still 'are in the middle of the sea' of events. The reflections throw us back and, to some extent, we have to go forward. We don't know what's ahead. As another song says, "How will it be tomorrow? Answer whoever can (Please)".



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In the midst of the struggle to keep me alive, firm and moving, at the same time, I bring as an outcome of this reflection, the expression: “Eyes in the window”. This expression has also accompanied my thoughts for many years, for various reasons. Now, it makes even more sense. Humanity has been asked to spend a lot of time seeing life, from the experience I’m calling ‘eyes in the window’. The life seen by the hatch of this great vessel aimlessly. Apparently, we are adrift, especially in Brazil. I return here, by timely, the speech of Saramago (1995, p. 244):

[...] this must be what chaos is, this is what is really meant by chaos. There must be a government, said the first blind man, I'm not so sure, but if there is, it will be a government of the blind trying to rule the blind, that is to say, nothingness trying to organize nothingness. There is no future, said the old man with the black eyepatch, I cannot say whether there will be a future, what matters for the moment is to see how we can live in the present, Without a future, the present serves no purpose, it's as if it did not exist, Perhaps humanity will manage to live without eyes, but then it will cease to be humanity, the result is obvious, which of us think of ourselves as being as human as we believed ourselves to be before.[...]. We're going back to being primitive hordes, said the old man with the black eyepatch, with the difference that we are not a few thousand men and women in an immense, unspoiled nature, but thousand of millions in an uprooted, exhausted world.

From the window, looks eager for a little sun, which can brighten the day and remake the lost vitamins, in times of other enclosures. Looks also invited to focus on the ‘within’ of each one, of our homes, of our families, of the



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closest relationships. Said Leonardo da Vinci: "Can't you see that the eye embraces the beauty of the whole world? [...] It is a window of the human body through which the soul speculates and enjoys the beauty of the world [...]" (apud Chauí, 1988, p.31). Hence we also have the grandeur of the moment. Window eyes indicate that if we 'are in the middle of the sea', we are also called to the limit condition between life and soul, between life and death. We also have our eyes on the window of life, ready to go to another dimension, passing through the experience of Death. Death has never been near, so loose, so commuter. It has taken over all the spaces, the airports, the boats and the means of transport. Death doesn't need a passport. Impetuous and aggressive, in a sense, Death quickly tracked the Planet, without it being contained, at first, until now. It is not known if it will ever be...

In July 2020, some countries show signs of survival, others of recidivism. Brazil seems to have very low rates of vital signs. Much of the country has died in the last three months. There were thousands of human beings who died, but you can see the collapse of a nation project. Deaths are not numbers, as has been repeated by the media. Each death drags with it a plot of lives that remain in pain, broad general and unrestricted. The feeling is of collective helplessness, even if there are denialist segments, of exacerbated expressions of the failure of senses and feelings in humanity. There is, in this scenario, more uncertainty than certainty. Daily analysts promise what they cannot offer: understanding the future. In this sense, I make clear, I do not think there is any chance of understanding what we are experiencing if we do not go back a little in time and do not understand how the virus formed, not necessarily Covid-19. The virus of a civilization in deep crisis. That's what I tried to do in this text. In my opinion, what we live



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today is the expression of a great wave of collective illness, in which, I am sorry to say, humanity is a project that didn't work out! Anthropocentrism doesn't either. We're going to have to relearn to be human, in a full sense and in tune with the ecosystem - or that, or nothing. And End Point.

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Impact of Coronavirus in Indian Economy

-Rajesh Kumar

Abstract

Coronavirus is a dangerous disease spread all over India where there is no perfect cure for this. The problem of coronavirus was started from china and now a days, almost the whole world is suffering from this disease. As far as India is concerned, the problem of coronavirus has spread so frequently that its positive cases have reached above 8lakhs and death above 1200000 within a short span of time. The study has been conducted to check the impact of coronavirus on Economy of India because all the sector due to lockdown were closed down as per the result of covid-19. Basically the study is conceptual in nature. In order to check the impact of coronavirus pandemic on different field of India, secondary data has been collected from various sources like Hindu newspaper, and related online sites. The gathered secondary data has been analysed on percentage and judgement bases. The study found that every sector of the country whether



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that is organised or unorganised has badly affected by lockdown as per the result of coronavirus. And tourism sector, transportation, restaurants, business ,hotels have most effected by coronavirus. Almost every individual has badly affected by coronavirus in terms of mental condition, employment, transportation, agriculture, governance, business, even by the basic needs. The study has reflected that most of the vulnerable and poor section of society has badly affected by Covid-19 as they have deprived of their basic needs as food, shelter etc, due to lockdown.

Keywords: Pandemic,disease, respiratory, infects, sneezin , tourism

Introduction

The word “Coronavirus” is the combination of two words Corona plus virus. The word corona means “Halo or crown” and virus means a living thing which is too small to be seen without the help of microscope, that can cause disease in people, animal and plants. Thus coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is defined as an illness which is caused by novel coronavirus also called as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2(SARS-COV -2). Firstly, it was identified in the Wuhan City, Hubei province China as an outbreak of respiratory illness case on 31, December 2019. Initially, its reports was published by WHO. And after one month on January 30, 2020, the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak as global health emergency. Recently SARS-COV-2 has termed as COVID-19 by the WHO which was derived from “Coronavirus Disease 2019”. The cases of coronavirus has reached above 80 lakhs as on 25 october 2020 in India. On February 11, 2020, the study group of coronavirus of international committee on taxonomy of viruses have issued a statement which announced on official designation for the novel virus: as severe acute



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respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV2). In India, the numbers of COVID -19 positive cases have increased to approximately next to 80 lakhs where Maharashtra state has the highest number of cases followed by Gujarat. Almost all the states of the country are suffering from coronavirus physically as well as mentally.

Research Methodology

The study is conducted to know the impact of COVID-19 on economy of India. The study is conceptual in nature. For the study, secondary data has been collected to know the impact of COVID-19. The secondary data has been collected from Hindu newspaper, and other internet websites. The collected data has been analysed on judgement basis. It is important to check the impact of coronavirus on different economic sector (both organised or unorganised). So that appropriate steps can be taken along with lockdown and social distancing keeping in view the economic condition of India.

Objectives of the Study

- To know the impact of COVID-19 on Indian economy.
- To know the problem faced by people due to effected Indian economy.
- To give suggestion based upon the problems.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Impact of Corona virus on Indian Economy: As we know that India is already a developing country. The growth rate of GDP has declined even before the impact of coronavirus. Besides this, now coronavirus has badly affected all the sector (primary, manufacturing or tertiary)



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which have now shrunk because of curfew and lockdown by the Govt. That is why there has been the situation of unemployment in all unorganised sectors (like hotels, airlines, transportation and all other businesses. And due to shutdown of almost all the sector except essential commodities, the estimated GDP growth rate has declined from 5.3% to minus figure. Because due to curfew and lockdown, there is situation of demand depression, unemployment, lower industrial output as well as profits.

In this context, the situation of poor section of society like daily wage earner is very pitiable. They are deprived of even their basic need of food and shelter. Because during the lockdown period, they are unable to earn for their living.

According to CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) the unemployment rate has shut up in March 2020. The Govt. debts jump over 80% this year. Besides this, according to Mahesh Viyas (Managing director of CEO and CMIE, the rate of economy has fallen to an all time low of 38.2 percent in March 2020. As per LPR (Labour Participation Rate), this is the first time that LPR has fallen below 42% CMIS said because of national shutdown and curfew.

There is huge impact of COVID.-19 on unorganised sector along with organised sector. Unorganised sector almost contribute 50% of the GDP but because of lockdown, almost the earning sources of income had stopped. There is the situation of depression, unemployment in unorganised sectors. Do doubts, these sectors are slowly and steady opening but not fully as before covid-19.

There is greater reduction of Income level for informal workers and poorest household which can be understood in a better way with the help of following table:



Table 1. Causal Workers and Businesses most Affected by the Covid-19 in Terms of Reduction of Income Level

Extent of Income Drop	Very much	Some what	Not at All
Total	55	30	15
Urban	57	28	15
Rural	53	31	16
Farmer	42	38	20
Casual workers	75	20	5
Business	65	25	10
Salaried workers	47	31	22
Others	51	32	17

Source: Table taken from The Hindu newspaper April 16,2020.

This survey conducted between (April 3-6) in Delhi by National Council of Applied Economic Research.(NCAER) covered a representative sample of 1750 people of rural area and urban as well.

According to the survey, about 55% of the total respondents said that due to COVID-19, the income level has reduced to “very much” extent while according to 30% of total respondents the income level has reduced to “some extent” and 15% indicates to “not et all”. As per the specified group is concerned, most of the casual workers are effected due to corononavirus in terms of reduction in income as 75% of respondents viewed, followed by businesses (65% very much affected), urban(57%) rural (53%), others (51%) salaried workers(47%) and farmers (42%).As per the World Economic Outlook and IMF, due to covid -19 , The world

Table 2. Impact of Coronavirus on Poor Household

Extent of Income	Very much	Some what	Not at All
Poorest	64	25	11
2 nd Quintile	58	30	12
Middle	54	33	13
4 th quintile	49	28	22
Richest	42	32	26

Source: Table taken from The Hindu newspaper April 16, 2020.



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economy has contracted by 3% in 2020 which is “much worse” than the financial crises of 2008-09. So Indian growth rate is expected to dip to 1.9% in 2020 and rebound to 7.4 in 2021 as per the WEO (World Economic Outlook) released by IMF.

According to the survey, it is found that income level of the poorest has reduced to “very high extent” due to COVID-19 followed by 2nd quintile, Middle, 4th quintile and richest respectively. As per impact of covid-19 on MGNREGA is concerned, due to lockdown, the MGNREGA jobs livelihood has crashed to 1% of normal. There is drop of number of family earn their livelihood in MGNERGA from 1.6 crore families in March to only 1.9 lakh families in April. So large number of families have deprived of their employment through MGNERGA.

Sector wise impact of Covid-19 in India: All the sectors have badly affected by COVID-19. All the important sectors are mainly classified into four category namely Group A, Group B, Group C, and Group D which have divided on the basis of extent of effect of Covid-19. Although all the sectors have disrupted due to coronavirus, some may effected more than other. The sectors are divided into four categories based upon the degree of effect of coronavirus:

Group A: (Sectors that suffered only limited disruption) Agriculture & Allied sector, Public administrative defence etc.(estimation to achieve 90% of the 2019-20 growth performance).

Group B: (Average disruption) 50% of 2019-20 growth performance, mining & quaring, electricity gas, water supply.other utility services, construction and financial real estate and professional services.

Group C: (Significant growth erosion in 2019-20) 40% performance factor

Group D: (Sector suffered with maximum disruption Trade, hotels, restaurents travel and tourism.



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Although Govt. has taken many major steps for the poor and vulnerable section of the society like Rs.1.7 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna for the poor section of the society, insurance cover of Rs. 50 Lakh per health worker, 5 kg wheat or rice to the 80 crore poor people for the next 3 months etc. to implement Self -Reliant India Movement in a successful way.

As per India is concerned, according to the united nations, The impact of covid-19 on India's trade is estimated to be about 348 million dollars. India figures among the top 15 most effected economies as slowdown of manufacturing in China has disrupted the world trade according to the UN Report. The most effected sector of the economy includes machinery, automobile, precision, communication equipment and instruments. The most effected economies due to covid-19 are European Union (USD 15.6 billion), The United States(USD 5.8 billion), Japan (USD 5.2 billion),South Korea(USD 3.8 billion), province of China (USD 2.6 billion) and Vietnam (USD 2.3 billion). In India, the most estimated effected sectors are Chemical sector at 129 million dollars, automobile sector (34 million), metal products (27 million), furniture (15 million dollars), leather products (13 million dollars) and electrical machinery (12 million dollars).

Conclusion

The study concluded that coronavirus has badly affected the economy of India in term of GDP, income level, and employment level. Because the income level of all the sectors except essential commodities is approximately upto nil. The study also revealed that casual workers are mostly affected by COVID-19 in terms of reduction of income level followed by business sector. All the section of the society in terms of economic condition like poorest, 2nd quintile, middle,4th quintile and richest have badly affected by coronavirus. The



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most effected sector of economy. But the economic condition due to lockdown as per the result of COVID -19 in terms of income level is worst. The poorest people of the country have even deprived of their basic necessities like food, shelter, health. They don't have earning to affords for two time meals.

SUGGESTIONS

Based upon the problems, the following steps should be followed:

- In order to recover Indian Economy, Micro & Small Scale Industries in the rural areas must be open along with the proper implementation of social distancing norms. This step can provide employment opportunities of rural people who have deprived of their basic needs like food along with fight against COVID-19.
- Social distancing, sanitizer facilities, mask facility etc. should be there. But it does not mean to close down all the organised and unorganised sector. All the sector should be open carefully considering the factor of social distancing.
- And as far as possible, we should not dependent upon China .India should implement the concept of "Make in India" based upon the availability of sources in the country. Because after China, the whole world is looking for their dependence on India. So if Make in India concept is implemented successfully, it can become opportunity for India. This will lead to boosting Indian economy by inflow of foreign currency in the country.
- As agriculture sector has important role in Indian economy. So for the successful operation of agriculture activities, there must be provision for transportation of agriculture labour who reside at



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their home because of lockdown. So that farmers of states like Haryana, Punjab etc. can harvest the wheat crop within appropriate time with the help of labour work. But there must be provision of social distancing norms.

- There must be online system for international conferences regarding the Indian economy as well as world economy among different nations so that all national and international problem solutions can be found until the period of Covid-19.
- But before Make in India, Indian Centered Economic Model should be considered through which exports can be increased along with satisfaction of domestic requirements. Through this step, China can be replaced by India in terms of manufacturing hub. So we should see the opportunities due to this situation.

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Impact of Covid-19 on Lives of Rural Communities Dependent on NTFPS With Reference to Mandi District, Himachal Pradesh

-Ritu Sharma, G. S. Goraya & M. K. Seth

Abstract

*NTFPs are forest produce apart from the timber which forest dwellers collect and sell as an important source of livelihood. NTFPs are major players in the rural economy of Himachal Pradesh. These products are seasonal with limited availability and are basis of major income of rural people mainly from the month of April to July. Mandi district is rich in floral diversity due to a large altitude variation. Most of the population of the district belongs to the villages and NTFP collection and sale is one of the major sources of their income. Tor leaves (*Bauhinia vahlii*), flowers and buds of Kachnar (*B.variegata*), fruits of*



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Kaaphal (Myrica esculenta), fronds of Lingad (Diplazium esculentum), highly valued Gucchi (Morchella esculenta) etc. are some of the major NTFPs collected and sold during Summer season by the rural people of Mandi district. But unfortunately, this summer season coincided with the lockdown declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has badly affected the collection, sale and storage of these products. Although due to the lockdown and less anthropogenic pressure, the production of some NTFPs was comparatively better than previous years. Some of the NTFPs became the saviors of the unemployed youth as well. But overall, this pandemic caused by COVID-19 has derailed the livelihood of many houses and communities. The present study is based upon the impact of this dreadful pandemic on the NTFPs and the lives of rural people of Mandi district.

Keywords : COVID-19, NTFPs, Economy, Rural People, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

Introduction

For most of the history of evolution, timber was not the most esteemed product; instead the real treasure of the forests was the minor products or non timber products that include medicines, fuel wood, fodder, food, fruit, vegetables dye, resin, tannin, fiber, gum etc. In the present scenario, the contribution of NTFPs is so vast that more than a billion people are directly dependent on the forests and their products for livelihood globally. NTFP may be defined as all biological material other than timber which are extracted from natural forests for human use (Beer and McDermott, 1989). NTFPs can also be referred to as all the resources or products that may be extracted from forest ecosystem and are utilized within the household or are marketed or have social, cultural or religious significance (Shackleton and Shackleton, 2004; Marshall *et al.*, 2003). NTFPs have the potential to provide community needs for improved rural livelihood and have attracted global interest due to the



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increased recognition (FAO, 1995; World Bank, 2006). According to an estimation, 50% of forest revenues and 70% of forest based export income come from the resources other than timber (Shiva and Verma, 2002; Chauhan et al., 2008). Himachal Pradesh is a potential state, rich in highly valued plant resources and these plant resources play a significant role in the rural economy. Most of the population of the State as well as Mandi district resides in the rural areas and the forest and its resources are integral part of their lives whether it is social, or cultural or as source of income. When COVID-19 was declared as Pandemic by WHO on March 11, 2020, Government of India implemented a 55 days lockdown that started from March 25, 2020 to reduce the viral transmission. But this lockdown dramatically impeded the economy and all the sectors including NTFP sector as well. The present study takes in account the impact of COVID-19 with special reference to NTFP based livelihood of rural communities of Mandi District.

Review of Literature

Forests of India are rich in many natural resources, including non - timber forest products, such as medicinal and aromatic plants, fruits, seeds, flowers, leaves, bamboos, cane and resin (MoEF, 1998; Darlong and Barik, 2005). In India, more than 3000 plant species yield economically important NTFPs (Dubey, 2007). Thus it can be concluded that NTFPs form important source of income (Chopra, 1993; Mallik, 2000). About 80% population of developing countries use these NTFPs as source to meet their nutritional and medicinal needs (FAO, 2008). NTFPs provide several opportunities for improved rural development (Adepoju, 2007). Mostly women and children are involved in the selling of these NTFPs. The impact of COVID-19 on the economy of India has been extremely disruptive. According to The Hindu Business Line (2020), the Indian economy has lost more than 32,000 crores everyday during the



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lockdown. Although many studies has been carried out in context with NTFP and its impact on socio economic status and n the same way, many studies are being carried out regarding the impact of COVID-19 on various sectors and industries but no research with special reference to NTFPs of district Mandi has been reported.

Study Area

The area selected for the research and study was Mandi district, situated in the North Western Himalayas. Mandi district is situated between 31°72'N latitude and 76°92'E longitude and covers a geographical area of 3950 km². District Mandi is sorrouded by Dhauladhar, Ghogardhar, Sikandar Dhar and Vairkot Dhar. Beas and Sutlej are major rivers in the District. It is bounded by Kullu district in the East, Hamirpur and Bilaspur district in the West, Kangra district in the North and North West. It occupies second rank among the twelve districts in the population rate. The altitude varies between 503 meter (near Dehar) and 4034 meter asl (near Nardu WLS) which provides an ample scope of rich floral and faunal diversity.

Methodology

Since the whole research was carried out amid lockdown period, the standard adopted methods of surveys were not possible. Movement was not allowed in any way, so the survey in the far off areas was carried out telephonically and the nearby areas of the district were surveyed on personal note. A questionnaire was prepared accordingly which included basic introductory questions, their occupation, source of their livelihood, assets collected from the forests to sustain livelihood and the impact of lockdown on their collection and the effect on their income. The plants were identified with the help of existing literature on the flora of the Mandi region [Flora Simlensis, (Collett,



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1902); Flowers of Himalaya, (Polunin O. & Stainton A,1997); Flora of District Mandi, North West Himalaya (Singh PB, 2018)].

Results And Discussions

Based on the survey, it was observed that following plants have a great significance in the economy of the rural people and during COVID - 19, how the sale of these NTFPs affected is described as well. In the present study, 20 plant species belonging to 17 families has been reported.

In Rural India, there are four main sources of family livelihood - Agriculture, daily wage laboring, MGNREGS and NTFPs. According to estimation, about 275 million people are dependent on NTFPs for running their families. It is evident from the above table that NTFPs bring in vital cash for economically vulnerable communities. In India, the business of NTFPs is very unregulated and unstructured. A lot of families are primary gatherers at the bottom of complex, dynamic NTFP hierarchy chain. These NTFPs are seasonal and available in the Nature for a particular time period. NTFPs are collected in the form of leaves, fruits, vegetables and rhizomes/ roots/ tubers. Out of these, leaves, fruits and vegetables are perishable and needs to be consumed as soon as harvested. So, mostly the collectors sell these products in their nearest town, in open markets and many times along the roadside as well. The collected NTFPS are sold either directly in the open market of the towns, or purchased by middle man coming from the other districts or States. Since Himachal Pradesh roads are usually packed with the tourists during the summers, the rural women and little children find more comfortable to sell these NTFPs like flowers of Buransh, Banafsha, stem of Tirmira etc. along roadside. Usually, the summer is the season of local fairs dedicated to local deities. Such roadside incomes make handsome pocket money for these countryside women



Table 1: Comparison of the Average Sale of Some NTFPs Before and during COVID-19

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Part Sold in the Market	Income of family/ season in Rs. (approx.)	Effect of COVID-19 on sale
1	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa	Bel, Bilva	Rutaceae	Leaves, Fruits	5000-7000	2000-2500
2	<i>Aesculus indica</i> (Coleb.ex Cambess.) Hook.	Tutakhar	Hippocastanaceae	Seeds	7000-10000	2000-3000
3	<i>Bauhinia vahlii</i> Wight. & Arn.	Tor	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves	15000-20000	NO INCOME
4	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Karyale, Kachnar	Caesalpiniaceae	Buds, Flowers	4000-5000	1500-2000
5	<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i> (Buch.-Ham.) Nees & Eberm.	Tejpatra, Gudpatraj	Lauraceae	Leaves	6000-10000	2000-2500
6	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott.	Kachaloo	Araceae	Rhizomes, Leaves, Petioles	8000-10000	1500-2000
7	<i>Coriaria dichotoma</i> C. Forst.	Lasooode	Ehretiaceae	Fruits	8000-10000	2000-3500
8	<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Roxb.	Arraroot	Zingiberaceae	Rhizomes	8000-10000	3000-4000
9	<i>Diplazium esculentum</i> (Retz.) Sw.	Lingad	Athyriaceae	Fronds	5000-8000	2000-3000
10	<i>Drepanostachyum falcatum</i> (Nees) Keng.f.	Ringal	Poaceae	Stems	10000-15000	NO INCOME
11	<i>Ficus palmata</i> Forsk.	Phegre	Moraceae	Fruits	4000-5000	500-1000
12	<i>Hedyclium spicatum</i> Sm.	Shoye	Zingiberaceae	Rhizomes, Leaves	5000-7000	1500-2000
13	<i>Juglans regia</i> L.	Akhrot, Khod	Juglandaceae	Fruits, Twigs	18000-20000	8000-10000
14	<i>Jurinea macrocephala</i> DC.	Dhoop	Asteraceae	Roots	10000-15000	6000-8000
15	<i>Morchella esculenta</i> (L.) Pers.	Gucchi	Morchellaceae	Fruiting body	22000-25000	12000-15000
16	<i>Myrica esculenta</i> Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don.	Kaphal	Myricaceae	Fruits	8000-10000	3000-5000
17	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.) Roxb.	Khajre	Arecaceae	Dried Leaves	8000-10000	2000-2500
18	<i>Rhododendron arboreum</i> Sm.	Buransh	Ericaceae	Flowers	6000-8000	3000-4000
19	<i>Viola canescens</i> Wall.	Banafsha	Violaceae	Dried Flowers	5000-7000	2000-3000
20	<i>Zanthoxylum armatum</i> DC.	Tirmira	Rutaceae	Twigs, Stem	3000-4000	NO INCOME



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for their small, fancy purchasing in such fairs. For children, such NTFPs road side incomes help them to buy stationeries and books as well. NTFPs are the players to supplement meager means of rural people.

Corona was declared as Pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020. COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent Lockdown coincided with the peak time period of NTFP collection, i.e., April- July which directly affected the income associated with NTFPs. The sudden lockdown halted the wheels of life and brought a lot of challenges to sustain the livelihood. Due to the restriction in the movement, there occurred a great difficulty in the collection and gathering of the products. Most of the NTFPs were not plucked/ gathered during their harvesting times, due to which most of them remained in the trees where they dried up which led to the deterioration of their quality. As discussed before, these NTFPs are usually sold by the folks in the open market or by the roadside. But due to lockdown, such open markets were unavailable. Although the vegetable shops were opened amid lockdown, so the gatherers were able to sell their collected products like fronds of Lingad, fruits of Bilva, fruits of Lahsoode, Kaaphal, buds of Karyale etc. But the rates were reduced by local sellers which caused loss to the primary gatherers. During normal days, the rural women often visit homes in the towns to sell some of the products like brooms made of Khajre leaves, mats made of Shoye, leaves of Gudpatraj, fronds of Lingad etc. but due to Corona lockdown, the women were not able to sell their products from home to home. A few NTFPs like Gucchi, Dhoop are very highly valued and are in high demand in other States due to their utilization. But due to lockdown, the middle man/ buyers were not able to come and these highly valued NTFPs were sold at very low rates than average which caused a blow to the people associated with the selling of these products. In district Mandi, there is a village named Gharvasda in Baggi



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region known for making Pattals (Leaf plates) and Dunnu (Leaf bowls) from the leaves of Tor. Usually, March- June period is usually the period of Navratre, fairs of deities and weddings and also the peak season for these villagers's income. But due to the lockdown, mass gatherings were totally banned. The business of Pattals and Dunnu was totally crashed and the survival of the families associated with its business became critical. The most highly valued NTFP of the district as well as State is Guchhi. It is a fungus with highly medicinal and nutritional properties and in great demand in other States. The usual price of Guchhi is Rs. 22000-25000 per Kg. It is very tedious job to collect it from the forests and usually all the members of the family are involved in the collection because it takes from hours to days to collect even one Kg of Guchhi. This year, the production of Guchhi was more as compared to previous year but due to lockdown, the buyers from other States could not reach the primary gatherers and Guchhi was sold in the local vicinities at very low prices, about Rs. 12000-15000 per Kg. Another highly valued NTFP is Walnut fruits. During the Sair festival (a very auspicious and famous celebrated in the valley to welcome the Winters and to pay gratitude towards the Mother Nature; Walnut fruit be one of the compulsory and integral part of the festival), on an average, there is the business of about 4-5 Crore in the district, but this year the sale- purchase of the Walnut fruit was very low.

Thus it is clear from the above discussion that the countrywide lockdown forced to forestall the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the work and economy of indigenous individuals living in and around the woods of India. COVID-19 lockdown coincided with the harvesting season of many NTFPs and suspended the supply chain. As a result, the sale of these NTFPs got hampered which ultimately dented the economy of the rural people. Although the Central Govt. gave relaxation



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for the sale of NTFPs but since the Interstate transport was also banned, so the relaxation proved no longer useful to the Forest dwellers.

Although Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojna (PMVDY) under Tribal Cooperation Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has come up as savior for the indigenous people to process, store and the sale of the products within their areas in many States of India including Himachal Pradesh but was confined to Lahaul-Spiti only. But the people associated with the NTFP collection and sale of other districts also need special relaxation package to cope up with this pandemic. The wealth of these forests should always stay in the hands of these indigenous people, as they are the “True Custodians” of these plant resources.



A child holding dried Gucchi



An old man selling Beal fruits & leaves



A little girl selling Buransh Flowers



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A man selling Kaaphal fruit



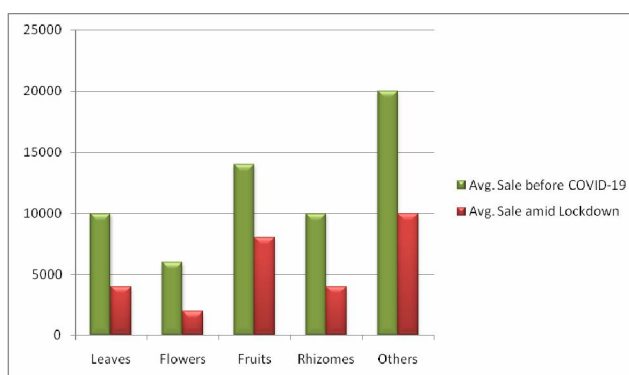
A lady selling Lingad & Tejpatta



An women in the Haat Bazaar



Pictures Showing the Rural People Selling NTFPs in Their Routine Life for Their Livelihood



Graph Showing Average Income by Sale of Various NTFPs before and during Lockdown

Conclusion

It is quite clear from the discussion that COVID-19 has affected almost all the sectors of the country and even this sector of NTFPs has not left untouched with this pandemic. Whereas the industrial sectors were totally crashed, this underestimated sector still came up as savior of the economic status of rural people amid lockdown and enabled them to sustain their livelihood during such critical period. The Nature has always bestowed the mankind with so many assets and it is just because of the systematic management of these plant resources by rural people that even during such crucial times, they were self dependent enough to run their families smoothly.

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Impact of Corona Virus on Health, Economy and Education

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Abstract

The Corona Virus pandemic that has spread widely to almost all countries in the world and Indonesia is no exception poses many challenges. Challenge this comes from the awareness of residents affected by the pandemic demographically, the Corona Virus or COVID-19 outbreak has an effect on numbers the mortality of the population. Although several have already been implemented policies such as Lock Down and advice to stay at home, but there are many Indonesians who disobeyed and followed these policies and recommendations. The corona virus has infected almost the entire world and has even killed more than 1,24 million people. The Covid-19 pandemic has limited human movement. The government also made several policies



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such as Lockdown, it have serious impact to some factors, such as Economical, healthy, education, social, and others aspects.

Keywords: Impact Corona Virus, Health, Economy, Education, Indonesian

Impact Corona Virus on Some Aspects

Currently, World Health Organization (WHO), declared the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus as a world pandemic today. There have been many people around the world who have been exposed to this virus, even become victims and then died. In various countries in the world are hit by Extraordinary Events in the form of a pandemic COVID-19 (Corona Virus Diseases-19). Which caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus first appeared in Wuhan, one of the cities in the People's Republic of China and then spread throughout the world and Indonesia. Transmission is very fast spreading to various countries in the world. Statistic show about the data the impact of Corona Virus or Covid 19 on 23 October 2020 total causes of Covid 19 in some countries in the world about 42,2 million, Those who recovered from Corona Virus about 2.14 million people and those who died were around 1.14 million people. And the cause of Coronna virus Impact to Indonesian around 386000 people, who the covered about 309.000 people and was died around 1320500 people.

The Indonesian government confirmed the first COVID-19 case in Indonesia on March 2, 2020, despite some speculation that COVID-19 had entered Indonesia some time before (detikcom team, 2020). On May 14, 2020, positive cases of COVID-19 had reached 16.00 with a cure rate of 3,518 and a death rate of 1,043 people (Idhom, 2020). The Indonesian government has implemented several steps, such as advising its citizens to stay at home until the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions or abbreviated as Local Lock Down even though the policy shows restrictions on civil society freedom to assemble



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(Liputan6, 2020) as well as a setback in community performance in the economic sector which is currently finally led to the collapse of the economy on a national scale so that there was a recommendation from the Chair of the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19 from BNPB, Doni Monardo, who advised residents under 45 years of age and under. to be allowed activities with the aim of moving the economy back

Local Lock down limits the local mobility of the population as well as locally circular and temporarily with the advice not to even prohibit homecoming activities, especially for residents who live in areas that implement (Large-Scale Social Restrictions), PSBB (Lock down) such as Jabodetabek, Greater Bandung area, Makassar City, Pekanbaru City, Tegal City, Banjarmasin City, Tarakan City, Surabaya City, Gowa Regency, Sidoarjo Regency, Gresik Regency, to West Sumatra Province. Even so, there are still some people who continue to carry out homecoming activities and even smuggle travelers (detikcom Team, 2020). The research team sees that the above description is a challenge for the Indonesian government and also the Indonesian citizens in order to accelerate the completion of the COVID-19 outbreak in Indonesia, even though many of the activities that seem to violate the PSBB regulations are based on urgent economic factors and anxiety about restrictions. civil liberties in assembling and traveling. Therefore, to understand more deeply about the spread of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia and its impact on the national situation, the research team will describe data on the spread of COVID-19 cases, serious challenges in breaking the chain of spread, and future social and economic impacts from a social demographic perspective.

Impact of COVID 19 on the Health Sector

The COVID-19 crisis draws attention to an already overburdened public health system in many countries, and



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the challenges it faces in recruiting, deploying, retaining and protecting adequately trained, supported and motivated health workers. This highlights the strong need for sustainable investment in the system health, including health personnel, and for decent working conditions, training and equipment, especially those related to personal protective equipment and work safety. Social dialogue is essential to building a resilient health system, and therefore has an important role to play in responding to crises and in building a prepared future. face a health emergency.

Impact of COVID-19 on Health Workers

As of 10 April 2020, more than 1.4 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 87,000 deaths have been reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), affecting more than 200 countries, territories and territories. 22,073 cases of COVID-19 in health workers from 52 countries have been reported to the World Health Organization by April 8, 2020. WHO stated, the number of deaths was reported. 5 In Italy, as of 9 April 2020 there were 14,066 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among healthcare workers, representing an infection rate of over 10 percent. 6 Ireland got reported that 1 in 5 cases of COVID-19 are health workers. 7 Five health workers infected have been reported in Togo, representing an infection rate of 8.6 percent. Robust data on the number of health care workers infected are not, however, collected systematically, as many countries do not have adequate reporting mechanisms. Furthermore, many reports do not differentiate health worker infections from general and occupational exposures, but include all sources of infection. However, these figures may be fewer representatives of infections in healthcare workers globally due to a lack of systematic reporting.



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Infections among health workers have been common since the onset of the disease. As of February 2020, a study from China looked at 3,019 cases of COVID-19 among those health workers, of which 1,716 were confirmed cases (3.8 percent of all confirmed cases, 63 percent of whom were in Wuhan). Of the cases among the health workers, 14.8 percent were classified as severe or critical, and the infection was among the workers' health care providers and patients in healthcare settings.

Impact on the Health System

The capacity of the health system for rapid reorganization to respond to crises by mobilizing health workers, while at the same time ensuring the continued provision of essential services along the continuum of care, is equally important and challenging. including ensuring occupational safety and health, decent working conditions, psychosocial support for workers' health, and providing training and education mechanisms to rapidly reuse health workers and new recruits for health system requirements. Emergency preparedness also includes optimizing service delivery platforms, such as through medicine. Technological advances, such as online and mobile health applications, 3D printing and artificial intelligence can improve healthcare delivery and ways of working during and after the epidemic. 50 Several countries have introduced the use of mobile phone location data to track the spread of COVID-19 at the national level. 51 In the Netherlands, medical students are being employed in call centers, whose patients experiencing severe symptoms can be used to be directed to their care Introducing and enhancing digital technology to inform, train and mentor health workers, especially in poor and remote communities, can improve transparency, service delivery and management during a pandemic.



Impact of Covid-19 on Public Health and Health on Environment

When the Corona virus outbreak entered Indonesia, it created panic and anxiety for the community. The corona virus has infected almost the entire world and has even killed more than 3,000 people. The Covid-19 pandemic has limited human movement. The government also made several policies such as Lockdown, PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions), and Quarantine. Many people complain, because they cannot go to the Mall, Tourist Attractions, School, office and to crowded places during the corona virus outbreak. However, many people forget that the existence of this policy reduces human activity for as long Covid-19 pandemic then we have given the earth a chance to “rest”. Even though the corona virus outbreak has made anxiety

- (a) *Changing a Healthy Diet* : According to World Health Organization how to prevent the corona virus through food, such as avoiding fast food and it is advisable to consume home-cooked foods. This is done to avoid drooling when sneezing or coughing and to maintain personal hygiene.
- (b) *Aware of Environmental Cleanliness* : A clean environment can affect the development of a disease. Therefore, it is advisable to maintain the health of yourself and your family by adopting a clean and healthy lifestyle.
- (c) *Exercise diligently* : Since the corona virus entered Indonesia, many people have been diligent in doing sports activities. With exercise, it can increase endurance and prevent various diseases, In commemoration of World Environment Day, June 5, 2020. There has been a change in the environment during the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Impact of Covid-19 on Environmental Health

- (a) *Better Air Quality* : Because all activities are carried out from home, mobility on the roads is reduced, and with the reduction in the number of motorized vehicles on the roads, air pollution which is the main cause of exhaust gases from cars and motorbikes can be minimized. Satellite imagery shows a significant drop in global levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), a gas produced from car engines and commercial manufacturing plants. Barcelona Institute For Global Health, states that almost all over the world record low for air pollution. In fact, Jakarta reported that the level of pollution dropped dramatically during the implementation of the PSBB. (Large-Scale Social Restrictions).
- (b) *Reduced CO₂ Emissions* : When economic activity stopped, CO₂ emissions decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic.. The water becomes Clearer the absence of water transportation facilities at water tourism sites that operate, so there is no water pollution so that the water looks clearer than usual.
- (c) *Plants Grow Freely* : Various types of plants and flowers grow more than usual due to the absence of human feet to step on or ignorant hands to pick flowers.

It is not fun to live with a very limited space, but we must realize that so far we have neglected the health of the environment around us. It is hoped that after the Covid-19 outbreak is over, the public can pay more attention to sustainability Living environment.

Socio-Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Indonesia

Not only in terms of health, the COVID-19 outbreak also has an impact on other sectors, namely social and



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economic. Like the statement presented in one of the videos uploaded on the Youtube channel by Nas Das Official entitled Be Careful of The Next 2 Years, which is a statement that reveals that COVID-19 has not disappeared on earth for at least 2 years which has an impact on social conditions, namely poverty and losing a job, then these two things can happen in Indonesia based on the presentation of the following study.

According to a study conducted by Suryahadi et.al (2020), which predicts Indonesia's average poverty rate will increase at the end of 2020 so that this increase will cause around 8 million people to experience new poverty due to this outbreak. This estimation data was obtained based on Susenas data for March and September 2019. In addition, there is data on poverty levels in 2006 and 2007 to see the existing pattern, because that year there was a spike in poverty due to rising world oil prices. So it is predicted that by the end of the year, Indonesia's average poverty rate will reach 9.7% previously in September 2019 it reached 9.22%. The prediction of an increase in the percentage of poverty is also based on economic growth. if economic growth decreasing by 1% will at least add about 1.4% to the poverty percentage. Not only based on estimated data, the situation in the field is also described thus. About 2.8 million people have lost their jobs, and projections are there shows that at least another 5.2 million people will lose their current jobs pandemic is spreading. Therefore, the KSPI (Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions) asked the government to take firm steps in this regard.

At least the government has planned to disburse 405 funds trillion rupiah for cash assistance. food, assistance in health, social and also business development. Seeing this crisis, Australia sees it necessary provide assistance to Indonesia, at least provide interest-free loans because even though Indonesia managed to get through the crisis in the previous years but it seems that the situation this time is



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quite serious. Wrong one case example of an affected profession is motorcycle taxi and drivers with a 44% decrease in income. Therefore the government is preparing social assistance to affected residents. On the other hand, with the closing of the shop and the office certainly has an impact on those who sell goods and food. This case is decreased purchases because people prefer to shop online. Therefore, they, the party with minimal income, could leave Jakarta but they are at risk of spreading the virus throughout Indonesia. (Asia News Monitor, 2020). The government finally made a policy for Pre-Employment Cards held free training with a priority for 3.7 young unemployed 18-24 years old. So this job training is digital based by holding cooperation with digital unicorn startup companies in Indonesia such as Bukalapak, Maubela Jarapa, Pintaria, Ruangguru, Sekolahmu, Tokopedia, Pijar Mahir, and Sisnaker. This is done because 90% of the total young job seekers have never been attended certification training with most high school graduates. Card distribution pre-employment is expected to increase competence, competitiveness and productivity them in the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak. So hopefully this will be one solution regarding the large number of unemployed as a result of the impact of this pandemic (AsiaNews Monitor, 2020).

Furthermore, the social impact that is felt is the difficulty in accessing the facilities health. This was experienced by a resident in West Java whose husband affected namely the layoffs. Not only had her husband, the Manpower Office and West Java Transmigration recorded that 5047 workers were terminated employment relationship or layoffs. In addition, as many as 34,365 workers in West Java were closed and 14,053 people were sent home. The data is recorded until April 5, 2020. When a female difficulty health access that she wanted to check for pregnancy at the Hospital. Mother pregnant women are not allowed to go



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to Hospital because they are prone to spreading the causative virus COVID-19. On the other hand it doesn't have to pay more to check the contents into midwife or gynecologist. Her husband also had difficulty getting a job after he was fired. Until finally he hopes to get food assistance from government, but unfortunately the assistance was only given 10 households and his family is not included. Now he and his family are forced to borrow money from siblings for daily meals. So the layoffs experienced also had an impact to difficulties in access to health due to economic difficulties experienced. Not only that, women experience multiple roles when working at home women also take care of children at the same time.

As experienced by one teacher in Cianjur, West Java. He must be good at sharing time between babysitting and teaching at home. In a pandemic like this there is also gender imbalance that is getting more unequal. According to charring female of organization, the burden experienced by women is doubled for women who have families and work. So the problem of domestic work is borne by women at the same time when women work at home which is a lot of complaints today. It is necessary to have cultural recommendations, namely how a family can divide tasks and work together to manage the life that must be at home (BBC.com, 2020). So it can be concluded that the socio-economic impact is not only around increasing poverty due to the loss of jobs, difficulties in access to health, but also in the cultural realm where there is increasingly unequal gender inequality which many women complain about. On the other hand, the statement in the video regarding the impact if COVID-19 persists for 2 years there is the possibility that Indonesia will also experience the impact of poverty and the loss of several types of work because the current situation also reflects this.



Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Education

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected education systems around the world, leading to the complete closure of near-schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As of 4 September 2020, approximately 1.277 billion students are currently affected due to school closures in response to the pandemic. According to UNICEF monitoring, 46 countries are currently implementing national closures and 27 countries implementing local closures, which impact an estimated 72.9 percent of the world's student population. 72 countries' schools are currently open. On 23 March 2020, Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) released a statement announcing the cancellation of the Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International AS & A Level, Cambridge AICE Diploma and Cambridge Pre-U exams for the May / June 2020 series in all countries. . The International Baccalaureate exam has also been canceled. In addition, the Advanced Placement Examination, SAT administration and ACT administration have been moved online and canceled.

School closures don't just affect students, teachers and families. But it has far-reaching economic and social consequences. The closure of schools in response to the pandemic has shed light on a wide range of social and economic issues, including student debt, digital learning, food insecurity and homelessness, as well as access to child care, health care, housing, the internet and disability services. The impact is more severe for disadvantaged children and their families, leading to impaired learning, impaired nutrition, child care problems, and consequent economic costs for families who cannot work. In response to school closings, UNESCO recommended the use of distance learning programs and open education



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applications and platforms that schools and teachers could use to reach learners remotely and limit educational disruptions.

Responding to cases and phenomena as well as government policies, education is starting to improve on online learning for its students. Awareness as a human being who must keep trying in the midst of adversity Face-to-face communication patterns using the facilities of the globalization era with the E-Learning method can be an alternative solution to learning problems. Several universities have also prepared a zoom meeting, namely a video conference application that is used on all platforms, both Android, IOS, MAL, and Windows, Google Classroom. The hope is that the online service system will still interact in real time. Until now, student knowledge in the millennial era regarding on-line learning is indeed preferred, even though some lecturers and students are still doing assignments, the opinions of some information technology experts are lessons that can be learned amid the outbreak of the corona virus. Educational institution policies limit face-to-face learning and replace it with online learning to prevent transmission of the corona virus disease (COVID-19).

The on-line learning system still provides assistance for teachers and students regarding its application or use, because this on-line system is included in learning methods or learning facilities that also need to be clarified. Understanding learning methods is a process of delivering educational material to students which is carried out systematically and regularly by the teaching staff or it can be interpreted as a strategy and tactics in carrying out learning and teaching activities that are applied by the teaching staff so that learning objectives can be achieved properly. Meanwhile E-Learning is learning that uses electronic services as a tool. E-Learning means learning using electronic device assistance services, for example using



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audio, video or computer services, cellphones and others through the features provided. Awareness of the importance of human resource development is education and training on the development of globalization, the culture of society and geography of Indonesia as well as the socio-economic conditions of society which also become a consideration for traditional learning problems. The development of society towards the information society era (Information Age) or the knowledge society forms a positive potential for changes in the education and training sector

1. *Consequences of Closing Schools* : School closings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have describes the many issues affecting access to education, as well as broader socio-economic problems. On March 12, over 370 million children and youth are not attending school due to state closures temporary or unlimited wide schools mandated by the government within efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. On March 29, almost 90% of the world's students are affected by closures.

According to the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), the COVID-19 pandemic has affected more than 91% of students in worldwide, with an estimated 1.6 billion children and adolescents unable to attend physical school due to temporary closings and lockdowns. Although school closings were temporary, they did result high social and economic costs. The annoyance they cause it affects people throughout the community, but it is more severe for disadvantaged children and their families included impaired learning, impaired nutrition, parenting problems and consequences of economic costs for families who cannot work. According to study of the Economic Dell'Ocse (OECD) Study, school performance is very dependent on maintain close contact with teachers. This is especially true for students from disadvantaged



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backgrounds, which may not have support parents needed to study on their own.] Parents who work more tends to lose their jobs when schools close to care for children them, resulting in loss of salaries in many cases and impact negative on productivity. Local closings of schools put a strain on schools because parents and officials direct their children to open schools. They are learning online at home.

E-Learning Learning Model

E-Learning automatically utilizes internet service facilities so that there is a paradigm shift from The Era of Teacher and Book to The Era of Teacher Book and Technology, namely teaching with the dominance of teachers, books, and technology. The interactive nature that can be utilized from the internet media is mass and interpersonal media where access to information from all corners of the world as a supplement and a complement to the representatives of the teacher as a learning resource. Therefore, some of the advantages of E-Learning learning are that students can take courses anywhere in the world without institutional boundaries or national boundaries. Students can also access the flow of areas of interest. Learners' learning resources can freely through access to library sources on-line, on-line literature, access to research results, and lecture materials without a physical meeting.

On-Line Learning is learning to change someone to be smart, not just smart. described by smart people know from repetition of others, intelligent people can figure it out by themselves. Apart from that, the concept of E-Learning with online learning has resulted in gaps. Because it is still a scourge in society, which can be seen clearly is that the use of the internet is not evenly distributed throughout Indonesia, meaning that there is a gap in on-line access in some areas. The on-line learning system cannot be carried out optimally. The profile of E-Learning participants must



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have high independent learning motivation and fulfill genuine learning commitments.

The character of E-Learning participants leads to a penchant for learning and conducting self-development studies. The conditions of E-Learning participants are those who need subject matter without leaving home. Expectations with on-line learning are indeed to provide learning packaging that is in accordance with instructional objectives. Mode of all teaching materials, discussions, consultations, assignments, exercises, exams are carried out on-line without having to face to face between the teacher and students. However, the concept of learning towards education in a comprehensive manner is still being questioned by some people, namely from the affective and psychomotor sides. Literally the personal requirement of the teacher is that he must be able to interact well and be more personal with students by paying attention to the progress of students, and helping the problems students are facing. This phenomenon becomes the task of education on how to adapt conventional systems towards E-Learning.

Among them are the operational questions of formulating measurable learning objectives, pre-test perceptions, generating motivation with communicative language, descriptions, clear material, providing problem solving, post-test questions and answers, assignments, and action activities, so that the affective and psychomotor aspects are exceeded. E-Learning designs that are attractive of interest are important to note. According to Onno W. Purbo (2012) designing E-Learning is at least capable of fulfilling, simple, personal and fast. Simple in the sense those students recognize and have the type of application used. Personally, there is interaction like the atmosphere in the classroom, and then services are supported at the speed of responding to complaints and the needs of other students.



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The clarity of the conditions for the corona outbreak that occurred in Indonesia from March to April 2020 hints at a future education process with an integrated network.

- 2. *Impact on academic integrity* :** Ministry of Education and Culture declared online learning standards cannot be equated with face-to-face at school. Target curriculum during a pandemic covid-19 also differs from the learning activities under normal conditions. “Indeed, we can not demand the quality of the curriculum targets in future pandemics. Because the main objective is to maintain the safety and health of students, families and teachers, “said Director of Elementary Kemendikbud, Sri Wahyuningsih, in a virtual discussion, Tuesday (16/6).

Its impact on academic integrity has been observed worldwide. Increased contract cheating and academic file sharing, and cheating the exam was identified as a particularly problematic problem. Many institutions turning to commercial services to take over exam supervision, however Concerns immediately arose about student privacy, supervision, and its impact on the mental health of students. This led to increased protests students in a number of countries who oppose the use of e-proctoring services commercial.

- 3. *Unequal Access to Educational Resources* :** The lack of copyright restrictions and exclusions could also have an impact students’ ability to access the textbooks and materials they need to learn. Several initiatives were taken to provide that students and teachers can have access to open educational resources, or understand copyright restrictions. The International Council for Open and Distance Education put out a special website to provide



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webinars, tips for teaching online and resources for teachers. In New Zealand, a group of publishers agreed to allow reading virtual public over their materials from libraries and classrooms. Similar agreements take place in Australia, where the Australian Association of Publishers, which is Australian Library and Information Association and the Australian Society of Authors agree on a series of extraordinary steps to make it possible library to provide educational content. Australian Organization AMCOS agreed to provide a free license for all sheet music them to all schools across Australia. An advocacy organization in The Netherlands launched a website to allow teachers to use music and free licensed videos for their classes.

A coalition of more than 500 civil society organizations and individual issued a letter to Francis Gurry, Director of the Organization World Intellectual Property, entails, among other things, a series of restrictions and special exceptions to copyright during the pandemic. Some organizations also try to explain to teachers how navigate complex copyright scenarios. National Copyright Unit Australia, the specialist copyright team responsible for policy and copyright administration for Australian schools and TAFE, issued a series of recommendations to follow regarding copyright issues when doing distance learning and a set of recommendations for using openly licensed content, specifically intended for supportive parent's students. Centrum Cyfrowe in Poland held an open call for supporting the work of leading teachers and educators in the education sector open. Information Justice and Intellectual Property Program at the University America holds a bunch of webinars for different educators to guide them through copyright issues when delivering lessons online and how to handle best practices for that use allowed.



Conclusions

Covid 19th pandemic that swept the world, one of which is the state of Indonesia provide a visible impact in various areas, namely among the economic, healthy and Education. The Covid-19 pandemic has limited human movement. The government also made several policies such as Lockdown, it have serious impact to some factors, such as Economical, healthy, education, social, and others aspects. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected education systems around the world, leading to the complete closure of near-schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Implementation of education in Indonesia in the past pandemics Covid-19 through some changes those look real. Behind the problem and complaint, it turns out there are many lessons for education in Indonesia. Among them, students and teachers can master the technology to support online learning. The use of technology in completing the task on students, it could lead to creativity among students in developing knowledge they already have. With a variety of learning methods of the teacher, they can create a product that can develop a creative learning through the analysis of their own thoughts, without departing from the subject matter has been presented by the teacher.

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COVID-19 in Central Asian Countries: Implications and Policy Responses

-Saltanat Adilkhaym Mukash

Introduction

It is obvious that the World will never be the same due to the COVID-19 global outbreak. Human communication, social norms and habits are transforming. More digitalization and less physical interactions are becoming a daily routine in education, medical treatment, entertainment, and business. Global politics and the global economy will also experience drastic changes.

The coronavirus pandemic presents a fundamentally different external shock than those in the past due to its effects on the real economy from lockdowns and unprecedented pressure on global value chains. Uncertainty may account for up to half of projected coronavirus-related economic contractions in some instances. The pandemic has exposed Central Asian economic vulnerabilities stemming from highly concentrated and undiversified

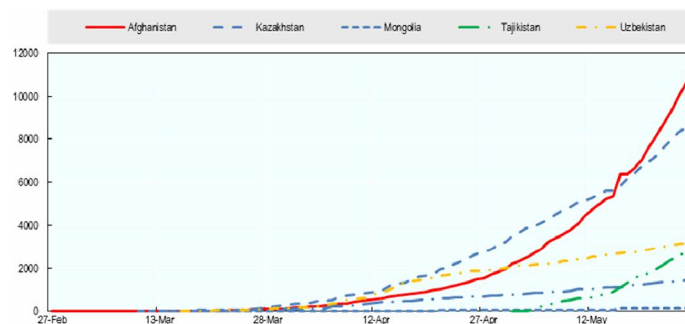


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production and export capabilities, inadequate integration in global value chains, as well as underdeveloped private sectors. It is therefore incumbent upon governments in Central Asia to reduce business uncertainty, leverage existing comparative advantages, while avoiding the protectionist trade measures that have proliferated in the wake of the current crisis.

The global COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant negative impact on the economies of Central Asia. Countries in Central Asia started to report their first COVID-19 cases in mid-March, with the exception of Afghanistan, which reported its first cases late February. The number of cases has risen significantly since, following a similar trend to most of the world (Figure 1). Mongolia adopted strict containment measures early, closing all borders, and has so far limited the number of declared cases. Most other counties have put in place stringent lockdown and quarantine measures. As of 25 May, only Turkmenistan had yet to report any confirmed cases.

Figure 1. COVID-19 in Central Asia has Spread Rapidly in the Region since the first cases were reported (as of 29/05/2020)



Source: Central Asian economy calculations

Underfunded health systems, returning migrants, and high levels of informality risk exacerbating the social cost of the pandemic in Central Asia. The spread of COVID-19

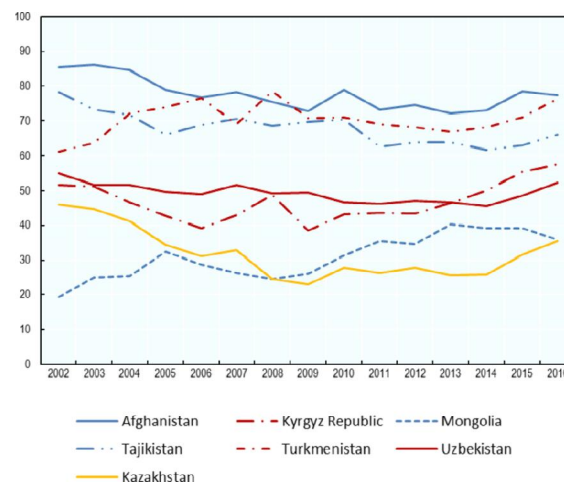


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in Central Asia is likely to put significant strain on the region's healthcare systems, with the latest data available showing average regional healthcare spending at 6.3% GDP, or about 740 USD per capita at purchasing power parity exchange rates, significantly below the Central Asian economy average (World Bank, 2019). Even in cases where spending has been higher, such as Kazakhstan, healthcare system performance has significantly lagged Central Asian standards (Central Asian , 201). Low levels of government spending have led to an unusually large share of the cost of healthcare being transferred to households, putting further downward pressure on consumption, with Central Asia having some of the highest ratios of out-of-pocket healthcare spending to total health expenditure in the world (Figure 2). Women, in particular, have poorer access to healthcare, due in part to the limited number of female doctors and in part to inadequate levels of provision in many rural areas.

Figure 2. With Healthcare Systems Under-resourced, Citizens Bear the Brunt of Costs

Out-of-pocket healthcare spending as total of healthcare expenditure (%)



Source: (World Bank, 2019)



GDP Growth is Expected to Turn Negative in Most Central Asia Countries in 2020

The multiple effects of the COVID-19 on commodities, trade and local economies will have a big impact on GDP growth in the region, which is expected to turn negative in 2020 (Table 1). These economic growth rates are likely to be further revised down in the upcoming months, as lockdown measures are very progressively removed and the risk of the second wave can materialise, while global trade forecasts remain bleak with a possible decline of up to a third in 2020 (WTO, 2020).

Table 1. GDP Growth will be Negative in Most Central Asia Countries in 2020

The high differences with original forecasts underscore the depth of the economic shock

	GDP growth 2019	GDP growth forecast 2020 (estimates as of October 2019)	GDP growth forecast 2020 (estimates as of May 2020)	GDP growth forecast 2021 (estimates as of April 2020)
Afghanistan	+3%	+3.5%	-3%	+4.5%
Kazakhstan	+4.5%	+3.9%	-2.5%	+4.1%
Kyrgyzstan	+4.5%	+3.4%	-4%	+8.0%
Mongolia	+5.1%	+5.4%	-1%	+8%
Tajikistan	+7.5%	+4.5%	-2%	+5.5%
Turkmenistan	+6.4%	+6%	+1.8%	+6.5%
Uzbekistan	+5.4%	+6%	+1.8%	+7.0%

Source: (IMF, 2019[7]) (IMF, 2020[2])

The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent economic crisis constitute the third major exogenous shock to hit Central Asia in a little more than a decade. Recovery

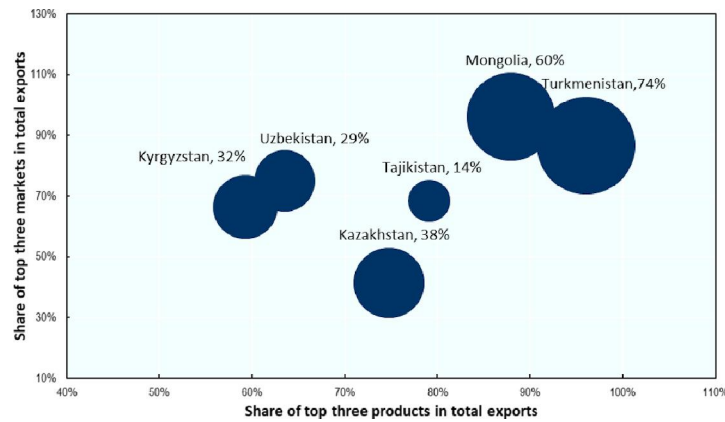
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following each of the two prior shocks fell short of a return to the trend rates seen beforehand (Figure 3 below). If this pattern repeats itself yet again, the coming decade will be bleak. It is vital that policies to support recovery are aligned with long-term structural needs, so as to help Central Asia countries recover their dynamism and establish a trajectory of sustained, strong, and inclusive growth.

COVID-19 may have a Particularly Severe Impact on Undiversified Economies

Protracted and stalled diversification reforms have left many economies in Central Asia with highly concentrated and undiversified production and export profiles, relying heavily on the export of raw extractive goods. This lack of diversification will not only have implications for revenues, but also for employment, investment, productivity, and longer-term recovery.

Figure 3. Central Asian economies are characterised by highly concentrated export baskets and a small number of dominant trade partners



Note: The size of the bubble and the percentage next to the country name indicate the share of exports in GDP

Source: (CENTRAL ASIAN , 2018)

Economic concentration leaves many economies in the

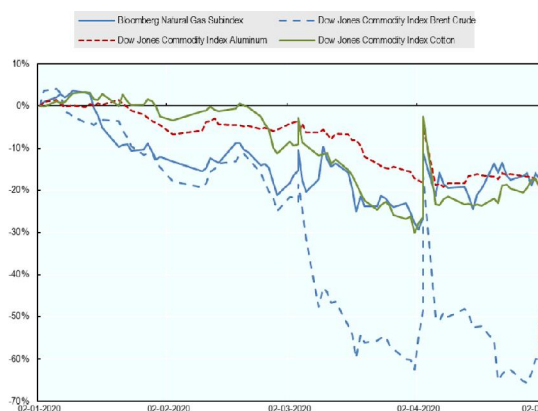


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region highly vulnerable to the kinds of external shocks that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to trigger in global markets (Figure 3). For one, the Central Asian economies in which exports constitute over a third of GDP have export baskets in which the top three products account for over two-thirds of all exports. In addition, with the exception of Kazakhstan, the countries of Central Asia export to a very narrow range of markets.

At the same time, falling levels of demand have led to significant price decreases in a number of Central Asia's key export products, such that lowering trade volumes will be compounded by falling nominal values. As of early May, a number of major oil indices had crashed over 60% in value since the beginning of the year, in a reflection of both falling demand in industries such as aviation and manufacturing as well as structural issues in the oil sector. While not as dramatic, a number of other commodity indices indicate similar negative trends, likely to have a significant and detrimental impact on the trade-dependent economies of Central Asia (Figure 4).

Figure 4. The Value of Many Key Central Asian Exports has Plummeted Since January 2020



Source: (Financial Times, 2020)



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The drop in global demand for primary commodities is already making itself felt in the region. In Kazakhstan, for instance, the government has had to revise its state budget for 2020, which was based on an average annual Brent oil price of 50-55USD per barrel – as of May 2020, the price had collapsed to 25 USD (Financial Times, 2020) (Government of Kazakhstan, 2020). Chinese imports from Central Asia fell sharply in the first quarter, and PetroChina issued a *force majeure* notice, cutting planned gas purchases from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. According to Chinese trade data, Q1 imports from Mongolia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were down 47.5, 22.3 and 38.4%, respectively, with imports from Kyrgyzstan down 17.6% (General Administration of Customs of China, 2020). For Mongolia and Turkmenistan, where China accounts for the overwhelming majority of exports, the cost of this contraction will have been especially great.

Policy Responses in Central Asia

Central Asian countries have taken comprehensive measures to respond to both the sanitary and economic emergencies created by the COVID pandemic. All governments of the region have announced and started to implement sanitary and fiscal packages, ranging from initial estimates of 1.5% of GDP in Uzbekistan, to 5.6% in Kyrgyzstan, and 9% in Kazakhstan. These emergency measures are critical to help the region withstand the pandemic and the associated economic shocks, but against a backdrop of sharply falling export and remittance incomes, this response puts considerable strain on public finances. Current account and fiscal balances are set to move – in some cases deeply – into negative territory. During the first quarter of 2020 for instance, the implementation of containment measures caused an 11% drop in tax revenues in Uzbekistan. Across the region, fiscal and current



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account deficits are projected to rise substantially; Table 2 shows the adjustment of IMF projections in the early months of the crisis.

Table 2. Fiscal and Current Account Projections Before and After the Onset of the Pandemic

	General government net lending/borrowing (% of GDP)		Current account balance (% of GDP)	
	Oct 2019	Apr 2020	Oct 2019	Apr 2020
Afghanistan	-0.05	-4	0.2	4.9
Kazakhstan	0.04	-5.3+	-1.5	-6.8
Kyrgyzstan	-3	-9.6	-8.3	-16.6
Mongolia	-0.9	-5.3	-12.4	-10.2
Tajikistan	-3	-6.4	-5.8	-7.7
Turkmenistan	-0.3	-2.6	-3	-1.4
Uzbekistan	0.4	-3.3	-5.6	-9.4

Source: (IMF, 2020[22]).

Given this constrained environment, governments in the region have financed their crisis response packages through a reprioritisation of public spending, the use of existing fiscal buffers, and through large grants and debt financing, mainly from international donors. A presidential decree in Uzbekistan, for example, allowed the country to take USD 3.1 bn in soft and long-term loans from international financial institutions (IFIs), including the World Bank, the ADB, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In addition, most of already scheduled funds for 2020 were redirected to financing health measures, and donors such as the EU in collaboration with the WHO provided additional funding for the health sector across the region.



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In this regard, the size and scope of the current economic downturn, and the already constrained fiscal margins that are the legacy of previous crises, will make ensuring the sustainability of public finances and debt servicing one of the most pressing issues to solve to secure long-term growth.

Central Asian Countries Economic Overview

Kazakhstan

Economic Overview

After a decade of commodity-driven growth, the combined impact of lower global oil demand and price volatility triggered a sharp slowdown in 2015-16. In 2017-18, the economy recovered, growing at a solid but unspectacular rate of 4.1%, still driven largely by oil output and increases in commodity prices, which underpinned rising domestic consumption and positive spill-over effects on the non-oil manufacturing and services sectors. Growth moderated in 2019 due to stagnating oil production, low foreign investment, and subdued domestic demand. The fall in commodity prices and demand with the COVID-19 outbreak is significantly hitting the growth rate, exports and government revenues, calling for state support.

Public Health Measures

Kazakhstan declared a state of emergency on 16 March that ended on 11 May. Exports of key food products have been banned, while imports of food products and freight have been maintained and a cap on food prices introduced. The government has closed all borders to entry of non-citizens, has initially quarantined the main cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty, then also Shymkent and remaining regions, and has put air, train, and car traffic on hold,



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though national traffic is now resuming. Educational institutions, public places, non-essential businesses have been closed, and working hours of public transport limited. Quarantine measures are being cautiously relaxed with the reopening of stores. A recent surge in cases has prompted the government to restate the importance of social distancing and containment measures in local media. The government required to wear masks in all public places and transport. A new hospital has been built in Nur-Sultan and is operating, and the number of people for COVID-19 testing is planned to be increased up to 25,000 per day. According to official statistics, more than 662,000 people have been tested so far.

Economic Support Measures

The government designed an anti-crisis package of 10 billion USD (4.4trn tenge or about 9% of GDP) to cushion the economic impact of the pandemic. Measures are to support businesses, in particular SMEs, and households. The state will finance an extension of the social safety net by providing wage and unemployment subsidies, and food baskets to the most vulnerable. According to official statistics, more than 1.6 million people and 11.5 thousand SMEs benefited from a deferral of payments of loans, and new preferential loans totalling USD 870 mn (360 bn tenge). Businesses are granted liquidity support, loan guarantees, and temporary tax reliefs to sustain operations and shield employment partly channelled through the DAMU fund. In particular, the National Social Security Fund grants wage subsidies, channelled through firms to employees of MSMEs on unpaid leave until the end of the emergency situation. This had benefited 4.25m workers by end April.

Macroeconomic Policies

Kazakhstan has spent over KZT5.9 trillion (US\$15 million, 8.9% of GDP) on anti-crisis measures, including



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direct investment in infrastructure and healthcare as well as measures to support the population. On March 10, in order to stabilise inflation and limit the effects of global economic uncertainty, the National Bank of Kazakhstan (NBK) raised the base rate from 9.25% to 12% per annum, and expanded the interest rate band from +/-1 percentage point to +/-1.5 percentage points. On April 6, in order to stimulate economic activity after measures had been taken to stabilise the economy, the NBK reduced the base rate to 9.5% and expanded the interest rate band to +/-2 percentage points. The capital adequacy ratio has been reduced to 50% for loans issued to small and medium-sized enterprises, 100% for foreign currency loans and 50% for syndicated loans. The country has taken numerous measures to support the national currency, including reductions to the limit for foreign exchange long positions and the aggregate net foreign exchange position, limits on the discrepancy between the purchase and sale rates of foreign currency, restrictions on the purchase of foreign currency, and the sale of state-owned export firms' foreign currency income.

Business Support Policies

Kazakhstan's government has not provided direct financial support to business, or offered direct lending, but has introduced several other business support policies. In March, a KZT600 billion (0.86% of GDP) government-backed lending scheme was launched for small businesses affected by the crisis, and in April, a pre-existing lending scheme had its budget expanded from KZT400 billion (0.59% of GDP) to KZT1 trillion (1.5% of GDP), of which KZT700 billion (1.0% of GDP) is for the agricultural sector and KZT300 billion (0.45% of GDP) is for manufacturing. All sole traders have been made exempt from income tax until the end of 2020.



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A wide range of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are entitled to suspension of loan repayments from March 16 to June 15, on any loan taken out prior to March 16. SMEs that carry out certain activities are automatically eligible for this, without having to meet any other conditions. The list of qualifying activities is extensive, including much of agriculture, food production, manufacture, wholesale, retail, transport, hospitality, entertainment, education, healthcare and customer services. In addition, SMEs that carry out other activities are eligible if they can demonstrate that their business has suffered as a result of the pandemic and the related economic downturn.

Population Support Policies

Kazakhstan has introduced a wide range of lockdown measures. The country was under a national state of emergency from March 15 to May 11, during which different parts of the country introduced different measures, such as closure of workplaces, closure of public places, cancellation of public transport and restrictions on domestic travel. Since May 11, restrictions have been gradually lifted in those parts of the country where the epidemiological situation has improved. However, due to a rapid surge in corona virus cases in late June and early July, the government has re-introduced a two-week lockdown, effective from July 5 onwards, which includes banning large public events, suspending bus routes between cities and regions and reducing the hours of public transport operation. International travel restrictions started in January with the closure of crossing points on the Chinese border, continued in March with entry bans on citizens from certain countries (namely China, Iran, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Italy), and culminated in a near-total ban on entering or leaving the country during the state of emergency (the only exception being for diplomats and delegations of



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intergovernmental organisations). Since May 11, the list of people allowed to enter and leave the country has gradually expanded to include various categories of people travelling for family, medical, educational and professional reasons. From May 11 to 29 people entering the country were required to provide a certified test result or to undergo quarantine or self-isolation.

Around KZT150 billion (0.22% of GDP) has been dedicated to healthcare measures. Special hospitals have been built in Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent, and efforts have been made to free up space in existing hospitals and sanatoria. The Ministry of Healthcare has spent KZT5.4 billion (US\$13.5 million) on providing free tests at centres across the country, has invested in research into clinical interventions and carried out contact tracing through co-operation between police and healthcare workers.

The main financial support measure was a scheme to provide direct cash transfers of KZT42,500 per month for the duration of the state of emergency to those who had lost their income. Other support measures for individuals include debt relief, utility bill deferrals, an increase to pensions, an increase to benefit payments, food packages for vulnerable groups and price controls on flour, bread, pasta, buckwheat, rice, beef, chicken, eggs, sunflower oil and salt.

Kyrgyzstan

Economic Overview

The Kyrgyz economy has grown at an average rate of 4% since 2014, and whilst growth slowed to 3.5% in 2018, it reached 4.5% in 2019 due to a 15% increase in output from the country's largest gold mine, Kumtor. The higher earnings from gold exports combined with lower import spending has resulted in the current account deficit



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narrowing from 12.1% GDP in 2018 to 9.3% GDP in 2019. Remittances from labour migrants continued to support domestic demand and reduce the current account deficit. FDI in non-extractive sectors remains low, with limited investment in the financial and manufacturing sectors. COVID-19 has had a negative impact on these economic drivers and will turn the GDP growth negative in 2020. The economic slowdown in Russia, where the government estimates April GDP down about 20% year-on-year in real terms, will reduce the demand for migrant labour, leading to a sharp drop in remittance income. At the same time, lower global demand and trade disruptions are decreasing export revenues. Both of these factors, coupled with floods in May, are putting a strain on public finances, and have led to the government requesting emergency international support.

Public Health Measures

The government has declared a state of emergency, with some districts in quarantine and Bishkek under a nightly curfew. With deconfinement measures in place, regulations on movement and curfew are gradually being relaxed. All education facilities are closed until 1 September, with online enrolment in selected cities. Mobility across the country is restricted, and large gatherings are banned. Border crossings and freight are restricted, with foreign nationals facing a temporary travel ban. Quarantine measures have been introduced and nationwide testing started on May 4. After the complete interruption of trade activities, a gradual resumption is planned, with stringent health checks and potential quarantine measures for importers. One percent of the annual state budget has been allocated to react to COVID-19, including expenditure on additional medical supply and salaries for health personnel.



Economic Support Measures

On April 30, the government adopted the Act on New Economic Freedom and Development, which plans to re-launch economic activity in Kyrgyzstan for USD 400m or 5.2% of GDP. The policy has the overarching aim to enhance the business environment by further digitalising the economy (cashless payments), introducing justified tariffs, launching new infrastructure projects, adopting a new investment code, ensuring the protection of private property rights and guarantees for investors, extending privatisation across the country, and fostering free capital movement. These measures are coupled with direct measures to simplify business operations over the short-term, which entail reducing licenses and the number of taxes and inspections, and offering digital procedures where possible.

Macroeconomic Policies

On the monetary front, Kyrgyzstan has mainly sought to stabilise its national currency, the som, and provide liquidity to the financial sector. On February 24, the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan (NBKR; the central bank) raised its policy rate from 4.25% to 5%, and reduced the mandatory liquidity ratio and reserve requirements. Furthermore, the NBKR allocated additional credit (through several credit auctions) to banks to support them lending favourably to agricultural businesses. Between January 31 and April 2, the NBKR sold US\$216.9 million of its foreign exchange reserves to stabilise the som, which depreciated by 11% in 2020.

On May 6, the government adopted an “Anti-Crisis Plan” for economic recovery, worth KGS14 billion (US\$190 million, 2.3% of GDP) in the short term and rising to KGS 40 billion (6.6% of GDP) in value over the 2020-21 period.



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A new budget announced on May 14 allocated an additional KGS4.3 billion (US\$57 million, 0.7% of GDP) to healthcare and KGS868 million (US\$11.6 million) on unspecified measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. The Fiscal stimulus is financed partly from budget restructuring and partly by international donors. The IMF extended two emergency loans to Kyrgyzstan (on March 26 and May 8), totalling US\$ 242 million, to finance the salaries of state workers, social benefits, PPE reserves, medical supplies and food supplies. Loans have also been provided by the Asian Bank of Development (US\$ 50 million), the World Bank (US\$ 21 million), the European Union (US\$ 30 million), the International Development Association (US\$ 15 million), and the Eurasian Fund for Stability and Development (US\$3 million grant).

Business Support Policies

The government has sought to improve business' access to credit. The Anti-Crisis Fund provides direct preferential loans to businesses, especially those involved in food production and other priority sectors. Loans are provided at the rates of 4% to 8%. The NBKR also doubled its existing credit guarantee fund to KGS2 billion (US\$27 million), which mainly supports export-oriented companies, regional projects and female entrepreneurs, predominantly in the agricultural, trade, and industrial sectors. Agribusinesses are also targeted through the expansion of an existing credit scheme, "Financing Agriculture-8", which offers preferential rates for loans to farmers, by KGS1 billion (US\$1.3 million). Subsidised loans for agribusinesses and manufacturers of medical products have also been launched by the Russo/Kyrgyz Development Fund, which finances projects in priority sectors in Kyrgyzstan, as well as those of Russian firms in the country. Additionally, budget restructuring freed up a further KGS250 million (US\$3.4



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million) for government-administered soft loans aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Sole traders were targeted through the allocation of KGS1 billion (US\$13 million) to fund a credit guarantee on unsecured microfinance loans offered to them, on a continuous basis.

Population Support Policies

On March 25, Kyrgyzstan declared a state of emergency and went in to lockdown, adopting containment and social distancing rules, closing schools and public spaces, banning public events, and restricting domestic travel. The state of emergency and the lockdown were lifted in early June. However, foreign citizens remain banned from entering the country, returning nationals are subject to mandatory quarantine, and domestic travel remains restricted. Citizens abroad were repatriated on flights chartered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April and May. Although the country has been witnessing a surge in confirmed cases, as of July 15, the Kyrgyz government decided against the idea of re-imposing a state of emergency, however public transportation and taxi service in Bishkek has been suspended on week ends starting June 27, inter-region public transportation is also suspended and additional controls will be put on bazaars and shopping centers. All citizens are advised to wear masks and observe social distancing.

Kyrgyzstan's stimulus package includes KGS4.3 billion in spending on healthcare, covering the re-profiling of hospitals and the stockpiling of vital equipment to prepare for an outbreak of COVID-19. The Ministry of Health's response included the transfer of medical staff to areas with high infection rates, mobilisation of medical students for auxiliary roles, and creation of mobile teams to monitor people in self-isolation. The government sought to inform



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citizens through TV and radiobro adcasts, mass SMS messages and social media and messenger applications, as well as through a 24-hour helpline and a dedicated website. In order to support food security among low-income citizens, the government allocated over KGS200 million to distribution of food packages valued at KGS800 (US\$10.71), containing flour, sugar, pasta and vegetable oil. On March 13, the government also introduced price controls on flour, bread, milk, vegetable oil, butter, meat, sugar, rice, pasta, eggs and potatoes for 90 days. The export of essential foods (wheat and flour, vegetable oil, rice, pasta, sugar, eggs, salt) was prohibited in mid-March.

Tajikistan

Economic Overview

According to official government data, real GDP grew by 7.5% in 2019, supported by strong growth in manufacturing (14%), agriculture (7%) and retail (9%) (World Bank, 2020[62]). GDP per capita nevertheless remains the lowest in Central Asia. The IMF expects growth to fall to around 1% this year under its baseline scenario for the pandemic (IMF, 2020[2]). There are substantial downside risks attached to the public health emergency, in terms of both local economic resilience and the impact of a deteriorating external environment on the country's economic and social recovery.

Growth continues to be driven by public investment, raw materials, and remittance-fuelled consumption, all of which render the economy vulnerable to deterioration in the external environment. Investment fell by 7% in 2019, with FDI inflows remaining concentrated in extractive sectors. Public investment has largely focussed on the Roghun hydroelectric power plant (World Bank, 2019). The concentration of public investment in a few large



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infrastructure and energy projects may have crowded out investment in these under resourced sectors, limiting their ability to cope with a significant demand increase.

Public Health Measures

Prior to the first cases of COVID-19 in Tajikistan at the end of April, local containment measures had been comparatively limited. The country's borders and airspace for all international air carriers were closed, but freight transport remained in operation, though foreign drivers were not allowed to enter the country. Public places are being disinfected on a daily basis and awareness campaigns are being held to inform the population on the effects of the virus.

Economic Support Measures

The government is implementing an Action Plan to reduce the impact of external risks to the national economy, which focusses on providing food security and price stability of staple goods, ensuring timely delivery of social assistance, supporting vulnerable segments of the population, providing tax benefits to SMEs, postponing non-tax audits of businesses and attracting financial assistance from IFIs. As part of the implementation of the Action Plan, the government intends to increase healthcare spending in 2020, as well as spending on social protection of vulnerable segments of the population and support for severely affected sectors of the economy. Tajikistan has also created permanent headquarters for countering the spread of the virus, which on 22 March implemented an Action Plan to strengthen anti-epidemic measures in the country and on 25 April introduced an export ban on all types of cereals and legumes such as wheat, rice, lentils, peas, mung beans, eggs, potatoes as well as all types of meat.



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According to preliminary estimates by the government, the total damage to the economy due to the COVID-19 crisis may amount to more than USD 650m. The government is negotiating with IFIs and development partners to obtain financial assistance to mitigate the economic consequences of the crisis. In addition to a grant provided by the World Bank, Tajikistan received EUR 1m from Germany, USD 80m from the ADB and EUR 78m from the EU (including a EUR 30m loan from EIB). The IMF has approved immediate debt relief to the government and approved a 10-year interest-free loan of USD 189.5m (80% of quota) with a 5-year grace period.

Macroeconomic Policies

Tajikistan's economic policy response to the pandemic prominently featured monetary policy measures. The central bank reduced its refinancing rate to 11.75%, from 12.75%. It also sought to provide added liquidity to banks by reducing reserve requirements from 3% to 1% for the national currency and from 9% to 5% for other currencies. Fiscal measures have consisted of the construction of a field hospital at a stadium in Dushanbe, the capital, and a 100% increase to the salaries of medical professionals working with coronavirus patients, a package worth TJS12.4 million (0.02% of GDP) in total.

Business Support Policies

The central bank has taken a soft approach to preventing banking risks and alleviating financial difficulty in the private sector. The regulator has recommended banks increase lending to industrial enterprises, including those engaged in import substitution, but they have not been obliged to do so. Similarly, the central bank has allowed credit institutions to extend and restructure some of their loans, as well as provide grace periods, but has not obliged



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them to do so. On June 5, the president issued a decree calling for more substantial measures, including tax relief for the tourism, hospitality and transportation sectors and for sole traders in retail and service industries, as well as soft loans for companies producing food and medical supplies. However, there is no evidence that these measures have been implemented.

Population Support Policies

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, starting from April, Tajikistan went into partial lockdown. Pre-schools and secondary schools across the entire country, as well as primary schools in Dushanbe, were closed on April 27 and will remain so until at least August 16. Mosques across the country, and most non-food shops in Dushanbe, were closed down progressively between April 18 and May 12, until at least May 31. Since late April, public events have been banned and masks have to be worn in public. The entry and exit of foreign nationals to and from Tajikistan, with a few exceptions, were banned on April 10 and nationals travelling home are subject to 14 days of mandatory self-isolation to avoid the importation of the virus. Citizens have been repatriated from Russia. While many of its regional partners are seeing recent surges in their coronavirus cases, there are no reports of a second wave and resulting re-imposition of lockdown measures in Tajikistan.

Tajik authorities have sought to boost the health care capacity without significant allocation of budgetary funds. Late-stage medical students were included in response efforts and patients were discharged from hospitals. The government informs citizens about protection against infection through a dedicated helpline, public service television announcements and the state news agency, and patients with symptoms are tested free of charge at two



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laboratories in Dushanbe. On June 5, the president decreed that state funds be allocated to provide free healthcare and pay wage supplements to medical workers, but there are no details on figures and there is no evidence of implementation.

Turkmenistan

Economic Overview

According to the official data, real GDP grew by 6.3% in 2019, with growth continuing to be driven by the export of hydrocarbons. Trade turnover amounts to 117.9% GDP, with 90% of total exports being hydrocarbons, and over 80% of exports going to China. Turkmenistan is therefore particularly exposed to developments in that country. Early data suggests that the immediate impact of COVID-19 in China has already seriously affected Turkmenistan's export revenues, with Chinese imports of Turkmen goods down 22.3% in the first quarter of 2020 (China General Administration of Customs, 2020[65]). Public revenues will be severely affected by the COVID-19, particularly through falling export revenues, with this likely to act as an impediment to further developments of the domestic economy. The large presence of the state in the economy, and the risk that this leads to the misallocation of ever scarcer resources, may be a particular risk for the contribution of the private sector to recovery, growth and employment (EBRD, 2019[66]).

Public Health Measures

As of early April 2020, there were no officially confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Turkmenistan. The government has generally refrained from talking about the pandemic, and aside from some limited public health information, there has been little guidance to citizens or firms on preventive



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measures. Nevertheless, the government has taken a number of steps to prevent a COVID outbreak. It has closed its borders to non-nationals, and all non-Turkmen carriers have ceased flights to the country.

Monetary Policy

Turkmenistan has an official fixed exchange rate of 3.51 manat/USD, which many observers have long considered to be seriously overvalued (the informal rate is close to 22/USD) and therefore deleterious to export-oriented enterprises. The effects of the COVID-19 may further reduce the competitiveness of domestic industries, while complicating trade and profit repatriation. At the same time, with declining dollarised trade receipts from gas exports, the government has increased already strict currency controls.

Economic Support Measures

As of early April 2020, the government had not issued any advice to entrepreneurs or outlined any plans on how the private sector would be supported should the COVID-19 pandemic have a serious impact on the economy. Restrictions on internal movement, however, had reportedly strained the supply of food and basic goods to shops and markets throughout the country, leading to prices increases and shortages. There have also been widespread reports of difficulties for citizens seeking to withdraw cash from banks and also with card-based payments.

Macroeconomic Policies

There have been relatively few verifiable details available about the response measures pursued by the government. As of May 2020, there were no officially confirmed cases in the country. Nonetheless, there have been reports of a boost



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to healthcare and infrastructure spending, and the government has committed to reallocating resources to fight the pandemic. Although no details are available on the policy steps taken and funds spent, the construction of quarantine facilities in the city of Turkmenabat and near the Afghan border at tests to the fact that some spending has taken place. The government also announced the purchase of diagnostic testing kits as well as disinfectant and personal protective equipment.

Turkmen authorities have sought to contain the economic effects of the crisis, particularly through monetary measures and propping up the national currency. On March 13, the government reduced the limit for foreign currency that can be held by citizens from US\$500 to US\$300.

Business Support Policies

As of May 2020, the government of Turkmenistan has not reported any specific measures aimed at supporting the private sector, although a few reports suggest that such measures have been discussed. On March 3, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow gave the Cabinet of Ministers a series of instructions related to the pandemic. Specifically, Berdimuhamedow asked the government to complete a list of enterprises that should be granted tax deferrals and to expand a lending programme for small- and medium-sized businesses to help cushion the pandemic's impact. However, no further details have been reported about whether any deferrals have been granted. During July 3 Cabinet session, the President announced support measures for transport companies.

Population Support Policies

Turkmenistan has sought to curb the spread of COVID-19 through sporadic closures of public places. Schools'



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spring break was extended by a week and customary celebrations to mark the end of the school year on May 25 were cancelled in Ashgabat, the capital. Many non-food shops were forced to close by April 1. Some major events were cancelled in March and April and on May 23 the government recommended people not to gather in groups. On July 13, due to reports of surges in coronavirus cases in its regional neighbours, Turkmenistan closed its largest trading market and metro politan mall in order to prevent the spread of the virus. On the same day, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan recommended that everyone use protective medical masks to prevent the spread of the virus while they are on the street and in public places while police patrols have been established to advise citizens to wear masks and to maintain 1.5-2 metres' social distance.

Two public health plans—a general pandemic preparedness plan and a corona virus-specific plan—were adopted, though not published, in February and May. The plans reportedly guide the work and training of healthcare professionals and provide for the modernisation of healthcare equipment and facilities. Diagnostic testing is carried out in all of the country's provinces and mass testing, targeted primarily at school children, has also reportedly been rolled out.

Uzbekistan

Economic Overview

The effects of the COVID-19 crisis will slow down the economic growth experienced by the country to an expected +1.8% in 2020. Real GDP growth had accelerated slightly in 2019 to 5.6%, supported by a 34% year-on-year increase in investment, largely driven by direct lending to SOEs, and growth in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Since



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2016, growth has been supported by an active programme of economic reforms, including currency liberalisation. Despite these reforms, FDI inflows remain low, at 1.2% of GDP in 2018, though trends prior to the COVID-19 suggested that foreign investment had begun to increase. Uzbekistan has one of the more diversified export baskets in Central Asia and trades with a wider range of countries than most of its regional peers.

Public Health Measures

Uzbekistan began implementing national quarantine and preventative measures in March. Borders have been closed, and the capital, Tashkent, has been quarantined. All transport within the country has been put on hold, and schools, public places and non-essential businesses have been closed. Only freight transport has been excluded from bans.

Economic Support Measures

An Anti-Crisis Fund of UZS 10 tn sum – EUR 950 m – (1.5% of GDP) has been set up to cover immediate medical and quarantine expenses, increase the number of social benefit recipients, provide liquidity, interest subsidies, loan repayment deferrals, guarantees to businesses, and finance infrastructure work in regions to sustain employment. The Fund also finances an allocation of UZS 200bn (EUR 19 m) to the Public Works Fund to support employment and the construction of additional infrastructure, and of UZS 500bn (EUR 47m) to the State Fund for Entrepreneurship Support to assist job creations by businesses. The State Fund for Business Development Support will also provide businesses with partial compensation for loan interest expenses and a guarantee in the amount of up to 50 percent of the loan amount. A series of fiscal measures have been set up in addition. In particular, tax deferrals for most affected SMEs



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and individual entrepreneurs until October; a moratorium on tax audits until the end of 2020 and on bankruptcy procedures until October; a deferral of the scheduled increase of tax rates; an extension of tax declaration submission until October; an ease of VAT calculation and payment requirements for small businesses; no excise tax and customs duties for the import of 20 types of basic consumer goods until the end of the year; and the suspension of rent payments for the use of state property by business entities that have been forced to suspend their activities.

Macroeconomic Policies

The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has sought to provide monetary stimulus to the overall economy while also supporting liquidity in the financial sector through different measures. After maintaining the policy rate at 16% in March, mitigating against economic uncertainty, the Central Bank reduced its policy rate by one percentage point to 15% on April 14. While the Central Bank did not reduce required reserves for commercial banks, on April 1, it adjusted the amount of required reserves banks could hold on correspondent accounts rather than with the Central Bank to 35%, from 25%. The Central Bank also held multiple repurchasing auctions between March and May, issuing UZS2.19 trillion (US\$215.7 million) in total. The central bank allocated US\$1.5 billion to interventions to stabilise the Uzbek Soum (UZS) between January and April, and is expected to increase interventions by 30% compared to 2019 figures thanks to a rise in the price of gold.

On March 19, a presidential decree committed the government to attracting US\$1 billion in international financing towards creating a UZS 10 trillion (US\$ 990 million, 2% of GDP) Anti-Crisis Fund to combat the pandemic, support businesses and vulnerable citizens, and stimulate the economy. Throughout May, loans totalling



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US\$908 million in value were secured from the IMF, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, with US\$722 million received from IFIs for the Anti-Crisis Fund by May 27. UZ\$5.5 trillion from the Anti-Crisis Fund is earmarked for supporting businesses and the construction of new infrastructure projects, and UZ\$200 billion is earmarked for expanding local employment programmes.

As part of a second package of support measures launched on April 3, the government exempted COVID-19 test kits and other essential imports from import duty. Construction materials intended for medical facilities and quarantine centres were also exempted from customs duties and VAT until the end of 2020.

Business Support Policies

Under the Anti-Crisis Fund, an additional UZ\$500 million (US\$ 49.3 million) was allocated to an existing state credit guarantee programme, which supports a credit scheme through commercial banks offering loans to companies for the supply, sale and production of essential consumer goods; the maximum size of eligible loans was later increased to UZ\$10 billion (US\$98.7 million). The government has allocated UZ\$2.8 trillion (US\$277 million) to support vital sectors and businesses, including subsidies to state companies in the water, heat and electricity generation and oil and gas sectors, as well as restructuring loans held by Uzbekistan Airways in the value of US\$111 million.

Population Support Policies

Starting on March 23, Uzbekistan went into national lockdown, which involved closing schools and non-essential workplaces, banning public events, and introducing strict stay-at-home and social distancing directives. The lockdown has been gradually lifted since May 8 in the framework of



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a “traffic light” system, loosening restrictions region by region based on the number of active cases. On July 8, the Special Republican Commission adopted new measures to limit the recent surge in cases in the country, banning recreation parks; non-food markets and large stores that sell non-food products; gyms, fitness clubs and pools; preschool educational institutions and training courses; catering facilities (restaurants, cafes, canteens, teahouses); and sanatoriums, boarding houses and children’s camps. International travel is banned until June 30, however, with only citizens permitted to return – subject to a 14-day self-isolation period – while non-nationals are permitted to leave. Starting from July 10, public transport has been suspended in Uzbekistan while from July 13, the government has suspended domestic air and rail travel.

Conclusion

The global COVID-19 pandemic has revealed several problems in Central Asia’s medical, social, economic, and digital development. The crisis also indicated how these problems could be approached more efficiently. The responses of different governments have demonstrated that measures against the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences have not always been timely enough. It has certainly not been easy to make the right decisions rapidly since financial resources were scarce and medical care systems were mostly unprepared for the pandemic. However, it has become obvious that fast and strict quarantine measures are helpful in controlling the spread of the infection and allow medical care systems to save lives. Had COVID-19 not been taken seriously, it could have led to an exponential growth of confirmed infection cases and put the medical care systems under unmanageable pressure. The Corona crisis has also helped the Central Asian republics to realize more clearly the benefits of regional cooperation.



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Temples of Western Himalaya: As Centres of Spiritual Health During the Covid-19

-Sunny Kumar

Abstract

The study discusses the importance of religious centres as the natural healing centre for spiritual health. The eighteenth to twentieth century have witnessed the establishment of numerous temples of socio-religious and historic importance in the Western Himalaya. The impact of religious places run deep into our economic and social system, along with these impacts it also has psychological implications on the health of traveler and devotees of these shrines. Study tries to make distinction between the regular devotees and travelers from all over the India to explore nature. Shrines are centre of traditional ceremonies; which have been performed for the well being of progeny. The devotees have great faith in these rituals. The nineteenth and



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twentieth century ethno-historical accounts of the Western Himalayas focused on locating spiritual identity of the hills' population, whereas within the western Himalaya an unequaled mixture of faith and natural spirituality is found in them. The deities until worshiped by a little community have emerged as emblem of bigger identities. Presently, devotees have been come from each every corner of the world. This study have four sections; one is on the term temple and historical background of spiritual relationship with religion. Second, how Covid- 19 has been impacted the spiritual health of people all over the world. The third part of the study deals with that how temples plays significant role to revive the spiritual well being of people and fourth is findings of research.

Key word: Religion, Western Himalaya, Spirituality, Covid-19, Temple and Spiritual Health

A temple (Webster Dictionary defined Temple as edifice or place of worship, it is house of God) is a holy place that promulgate the divine faith and beliefs among the people. Etymologically, the word 'temple' is taken from the Latin word, 'templum' which, interpret as a square or a rectangular place marked out by the augur for fulfillment of their rituals and installed the idol of god (Sairam, 1982, page-18). In its ancient and lay man sense, however, this word can be understand as a place marked off as sacred to God, in which the house for God may build (Sairam, 1982, page-18). Functional of spiritual cognition with commitment to social boundaries of human mind the totality of traditions, beliefs and reverence related to functional expression is called deity or temple culture (Singh, 2001, page-51). The temple, originally, conceived as an embodiment of faith to serve the religious and spiritual needs of the community, came to be associated with various social, cultural and economic activities as well. The word 'Temple' denotes as the house of God or holy place or worship. Indian civilization is among the world's oldest civilizations (Mishra,



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2011page- 1). Changes and scouring occur in the method of such functional expression but the basic beliefs remain in same. There is also obstruction or attenuation in the discharge of traditions sometimes even a dormant state is attain the era of Babar and Aurangzeb are the best example to substantiate it even in the communist period of Russia is also an example to this movement the freedom of speech millions of people did the candle march and reached churches where are the prime factors of worshipping their concerned god in the particular mythological fields are the minute factors of spiritual culture in this way untidily they constitute the deity culture.

Himachal Pradesh is called '*Deva bhoomi*' or Land of God (Thakur, 1997), the abode of god. A striking feature of the Himalayan topography is the number of shrines, big and small, scattered all over the place (Mishra, 2011, Page 3). Valley of Gods used as the metaphor for the western Himalaya (Sharma, 2007). Western Himalayas have number of big and small religious shrines, which have been developed and evolved from centuries. People from far flung areas of plains have great faith in the majesty of these shrines. The Language and Cultural Academy of Himachal Pradesh catalogued, approximately, 4000 shrines (Mishra, 2011 page-2). Each village have its own temple and total number of these shrines goes up to twenty thousand (Sharma, 2007). Many of these places are quite well known and attract thousands of devotees throughout the year. This is because the Western Himalayan population have presented unique blend of religion and modernity (Kumar, 2020, Page- 254) and religion has been the guiding force to the people of western Himalaya. Himachal lives on terraced fields, orchards, forests and sloppy hills with eternal streams and rivers flowing down the valleys. Himachal lives in the myths and fables, rituals and customs, folk songs and dances, arts and crafts with the legendary village gods



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witnessing and participating in every activity of the people (Mishra, 2011). The rock temples of Mashroor, the ancient inscription of *Khaniyara*, the stupas at *Chetru*, the *Gompas* of Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur, the shrines of *Lakshana Devi*, *Chamunda*, *Bhimakali*, *Bhadrakali*, *Jawalamukhi*, *Vajreshwari*, *Chintapurani*, *Baijnatha*, *Kaleshwar* etc. The wandering monks, the traders and the pilgrims, the search for livelihood and for knowledge kept this region closely linked with the rest of the country. Majority of these shrines, as well as the people, may be broadly categorized as 'Hindu' (Sharma, 2007), though Buddhism was entrenched in some pockets of Chamba, Nurpur, Sirmaur and Kangra-more (Mishra, 2011).

This is because to fulfill the soul with popular among the weavers and buffalo herders. However, more than 95.5 percent professed Hinduism. The Kangra cluster has a large number of temples such as *Ashapuri* temple, *AmbikaDevi*, *Vajreshwari* temple, *ChamundaDevi* temple, *Kaleshwara* temple, *Thakurdvara* temple, *Baijnatha* temple *Indravara* temple, *Jawalamukhi* Temple etc (Mishra, 2011 page -3, Nagar, 2001, page-118). The pilgrimage at the regional level, while trying to establish linkage with the sub continental phenomenon, integrates the villages and localities and provides a collective religious identity to these temples (Sharma, 1995). The entire region is called *Jalandharpeetha*. The *Jalandharpeetha* is the foremost among the 51 Shakti peethas (Sharma, 1995) and is shaped like a bow, spread, as it is over 12 *yojans* (64 miles) (Shastri, 1983, page- 16). The *peetha* is dotted all over with luminous goddesses. Those who undertake pilgrimage to the tirtha (pilgrimage) of various gods or goddesses in the *peetha* are liberated from the reoccurrences of rebirth and death and attain salvation. The Main goddesses of the *Jalandharpeetha* are *Brajesvari*, *Jayanti*, the most benevolent is *Jawalamukhi* and the widely worshipped goddess is *Ambika*. *Jalandharpeethadipika* have



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mentioned one forty one pilgrim places to be covered in sixty eight days on foot journey (Shastri, 1983, page -16). The pilgrimage is considered auspicious if the pilgrim visits the *ChamundaDevi* temple situated on the east of the northern gate i.e *Nandikeshwar*. Next to be visited is *Bhrithasi*, a temple of Shiva. Then to be visited are *Tumbiksha*, *Paliksha*, *Ashapuri*, *Sidhehwam*. *Baidyanatha* another temple dedicated to Shiva i.e., *Baidyanatha* which is considered to be as significant as the *Kashi* of Benaras. Take its *parikrama* and then start a journey for *Ashapuri* and on the way, pay a visit to *Mahakal*, and *Latuksha* (Iyengar, 2004, page-206). Geographic locations of these temples have great importance because environmental peace provides a calm and pleasant atmosphere to devotees of metropolitan cities.

Covid -19 pandemic shakes the world in twenty first century and people are disturbed with mental and physical health issues. Throughout the globe people are facing the Covid -19 with unprecedented consequences both to physical and mental health. The world has been stopped for few months and locked themselves in the homes, which have great impact on their mental and physical health (Lima CKT, 2019), because during the twenty first century consider as the age of globalization, it is most difficult to stay in a room for months. As Covid-19 safeguard, social distancing is first and major step and country like India, whose society is known for the festivities throughout the year. It has been observed that the number of domestic violence cases, suicide and stress patients rises surprisingly. Western Himalaya is one among the effected places of Covid-19, but it has strong spiritual connections with spirituality prevalent widely in the region. Total number of shrines and pilgrimage centres has been indicated the importance of these places in western Himalayas.

Covid -19 have been affected economic position of the world, economic statistics by different economic forums



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indicate that how pandemic slow down the world economic growth. Indian economy has been devastated by this locked position and demand in markets has been reduced to half. All lockdown position has been raised the stress and mental problems. It becomes necessary to curtail such environment. Religion has great importance to cure the mental stress and maintain the spiritual health. Temple and religious activity provide environment to come out of stress.

Himalayan geography and environment have great spiritual vibrations. More than 20000 religious places established throughout the Himalayan ranges. Each village has its own place of worship. The socio-cultural life of hills based on religion and religious activities (Handa, 2004). People come from far flung areas to satisfy their spiritual requirements. Hinduism is the religion which is gives people peace. Hinduism is not a religion but a way of life that promotes the belief that god resides in each human and every atom of universe. It can be observed through number of devotees annually pay homage in the Himalayan temples. The news papers daily reports various stress based analysis and suicidal cases from different regions. This is also indicated that how stress had impacted our society. Temples and rituals help people to have a routine and discipline to follow for well mental health. God become an anchor to the rocking boat and strengthen believe that god will cure their worries. This will also help people to come out of dilemma and do their bit of *Karma* and move on. By performing the rituals man have the faith that he is not alone and god help him in his problems. The idol in the temple becomes the medium of dialogue for man with god. When people come to temple and observed the strict discipline by sitting on temple floor, meditating, reading scripture and join rituals have impacted his mind and keep him calm and reduce his stress.



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