

Coronavirus Environment vs Socio-Economic and Demographic Problems Followed: A Sociological Appraisal

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Abstract

The paper searches the cause and effect impacts of the newly-found Coronavirus. The word "Corona" is currently used by all the people (7.7 billion) over the age of at least 3. The unprecedented disease is reflecting a large number of effects, infecting and killing many people of the rich and the poor. The new phenomenon is continuing rapidly. It brings about recessions and closures in many businesses, and laying off many employees and workers, and that has created income and security problems for the families. The new environment has imprisoned families inside homes, disrupting them from their normal and regular interactions. Such people are becoming frustrated indoors. The people confined at home are usually exposed and vulnerable to psychological disorders. Almost all those at school age, are banned from attending schools and higher educational institutions at all levels. So, the educational institutions are also losing much. The new phenomenon needs sociological appraisal from various viewpoints. What is currently happening, will create problems in post-Corona age. One of the problems that will demographically impact the world nations is "migration". Many people of the poor countries will move to more developed countries where they hope to earn their living. So, social demographers need to mind the future scenario. Poor economies will not easily be able to rehabilitate and reconstruct themselves. That is why a large migration wave will be quite likely to occur. Similarly, many countries will face increasing child labor and street children because of shortage of employment for the

adults. The method of research used in the present research is of qualitative type--collecting the data through library resources and other media. Findings show that everybody is exposed to being affected, infected and killed through the Coronavirus.

Key words: Coronavirus. Migration. Recession. Child labor. Social demography.

Introduction

The pandemic of newly-emerged coronavirus is observed almost everywhere in the world. The new virus has surprised all people in every country from top to bottom. All the means available have been used to control it, but yet increasing number of people are reported dead every day. The virus is changing every norm and value in different countries. All the socio-economic frames are being affected because of its deadly risks. Increasingly people are currently vulnerable via the coronavirus. Many (more elderly) lose lives in every corner of the world. So, corona deaths are changing relations in families; changing the real value of natural death, and surprisingly making many indifferent to the event of death. Increasing numbers of aging people who really need each other in old age, lose a spouse that is a great loss in the rest of their lives. Many marriage traditions are suspended and do not take place in due time. Coronavirus has also declined many deals and businesses leading to unemployment for an increasing number of people. The scenario is also leading to stressful deliveries and child bearing. Sociologically speaking, the phenomenon is facing a shortage of medical staff. Such a vacuum has contributed to the call back of many retired doctors and nurses to serve in their previous jobs. Similarly, lack of beds in hospitals has entailed not admitting many regular patients in need of treatment. Likewise, many medical staff while highly vulnerable against the corona infection, in some cases, die by the virus.

Method of Research

The method used in preparing the present article is of qualitative type. In that, various paradigms have been used to find out the necessary facts and figures on coronavirus. Qualitative research as an accepted method of inquiry is well used in sociological investigations. The coronavirus issue is widely broadcast on different media, and people are objectively involved with that. Data on the issue is ever changing as it is a pandemic and constantly diffusing worldwide. In the current research, the researcher tried to access the most relevant sources to find the most relevant data to build the literature required. The data fed in the present article is hopefully reliable. The researcher hopes other sociologists will enter the issue, and propose constructive guidelines to calm and improve the present situation. Though literature on the issue is not limited, the author tried to investigate many different resources in order to elicit the necessary information to build up the text.

Coronavirus vs Migration

Migration as a demographic event that happens when and where there is a work stress. So, after the defeat of Coronavirus, the weaker countries will not be in a position to provide jobs for those 15 years old and over. By then, increasing job seekers will move to the developed countries in search of jobs. Such migrations will take place for the sake of social mobility, economic achievements, familial relations, and educational attainments among the members of young generations etc.

But, as social demographers predict, granting refugee status would also be controversial. Due to antipathy towards the admission of migrants and refugees, a complicated situation will emerge. So, due prediction should be made. Anti-immigration mobilization and attitudes are what the world will witness in post-Coronavirus age. However, the Coronavirus-hit countries of the developing world will also lack young man power to build and develop their countries. Though the global world was created before, further cultural merges will take place. The Internet and social media have facilitated and created venues for migration, and at the same time, they could cause anti-immigrant perspectives. However, if harsh immigrant policies are adopted, confusion and conflicts will emerge.

Moreover, Coronavirus has changed attitudes toward natural death, changed family relations, loneliness, changed attitudes toward marriage. It has also changed business relations, disrupted deals, contracts and the like which all will lead to migration thereafter.

Natural Death vs Covid-19 Death

The increasing and sudden deaths occurring because of coronavirus have decreased the value weight of natural deaths. People have almost created demotions towards the natural deaths in themselves. The survivors are not much affected and worried after the death of a family member as compared with the past patterns. So, a heavier vehicle has lowered the importance of the natural one. At the time of coronavirus, every individual thinks he/she will soon be infected and die by a sudden contact. So, everything is unstable at this critical time. However, during the non-coronavirus time, people used to take a lesson from the deaths of their near and dear, but the new type of deaths do not leave behind any such lessons.

At the time of pandemic deaths, empathy and sympathy decrease, and many people just think of their very immediate nears. The current phenomenon is a new experience for many people and nations since 1950 at least. Many of the existing people have not seen even cholera and malaria epidemics. In the past, even at the time of any epidemic outbreak, as there was not any motorized commuting, it only took the people of a certain location, and the spread was not as such.

Table 1: Selected Countries by Total Cases and Total Deaths. March 28 and May 28, 2020

Country	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Cases	Total Deaths
	28-Mar-2020	28-Mar-2020	28-May-2020	28-May-2020
World	621.592	28.791	5.841.820	359.22
USA	105.161	1.722	1.752.091	102.525
Italy	86.498	9.134	231.732	33.142
China	81.394	3.295	82.995	4.634
Spain	72.248	5.812	283.849	27.118
Germany	53.340	399	182.202	8.552
France	32.964	1.995	182.913	28.596
UK	17.089	1.019	269.127	37.837
Switzerland	13.377	242	30.796	1.919
Netherlands	9.762	639	45.950	5.903
Canada	4.757	55	88.476	6.873
Australia	3.635	14	7.150	103
Japan	1.499	17	16.651	858
South Africa	1.170	01	25.937	552
India	933	20	164.936	4.673

Source: World meter Coronavirus, Population. March 28, 2020.

Novel Coronavirus (2019-n CoV) Situation Reports, World Health Organization (WHO).

Appearance of Lonely Men and Women

Coronavirus while killing one partner, the other remaining party feels lonely and isolated. He/she has to support the family later in terms of economy, finance, emotions etc. In the post-Corona era, the countries would be able to have survivors under their supportive umbrella. As it mostly happens to elderly people, those who remain alive have a large number of problems including income, care, food preparation, sympathy, feeling of isolation, shortage of family integration etc. Such a situation would be more difficult for women than men who are Corona-hit. While men can usually marry after losing a spouse, women usually do not get such an opportunity. Such poverty would be there more in traditional developing countries rather than the modern developed countries where there are fewer stigmas and socio-cultural taboos. In developing countries where not many elderly people are insured, and do not often receive regular pensions, Coronavirus has the worse impacts on the families of Corona-infected people. Those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease will be in a harder situation at the time of Coronavirus. They won't be able to keep aside, or remain at home like other people. Moreover, if a spouse of one of them dies by Coronavirus, there will not be a close care-giver to provide help and services to the one who survived. So, such patients will not have any close family member to monitor them. People with Alzheimer's disease may forget to wash their hands, or take other recommended precautions to prevent the illness/Coronavirus. Similarly, COVID-19 may worsen cognitive impairment due to dementia.

Suspension of Marriages

Coronavirus risks have caused many marriages to be postponed, and in many cases downsized. Developing countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. with large populations and rich traditions, usually have increasing marriage ceremonies and parties for many days. But, many of them have been deferred to control and prevent the immediate spread of disease. Such a postponement creates problems and losses for the families and the people concerned. In many cases the would-be marriages are annulled. However, despite the Western world where cohabitation is a social norm, marriage industry must actively take place in time in developing countries. Many planned weddings for a year are suspended or even cancelled/divorced as happened in some Chinese cases. It is even worrying for the Western world too, to cancel many decided plans, or cancel or defer any marriage occasions. Because of Coronavirus risk, almost all marriage halls have remained closed in countries like India and Pakistan. According to the details, a nine-member family attending a marriage ceremony were infected by the deadly Virus (Web Desk, Mar 21, 2020). So, through the appearance of Coronavirus threat, increasingly trips are halted and cancelled.

Deals and Businesses

Coronavirus has caused many businesses to decline or lock down. Cinemas, restaurants, halls for ceremonies, increasingly shops and stores are among the major businesses closed. Such closures have contributed to the unemployment of a large number of workers, So, such an increasing number of unemployed people affects a large number of families; their access to food items, basic needs, para-educational means etc. Many dealers and small business men and women too, have lost, or may lose their jobs. Such hard times severely impact their careers, their spiritual norms and values.

Similarly, closure of educational institutions and universities has kept back students and the scientific development in different areas. Though many educational institutions have switched to an online system of educational transfer, yet it is not successful for many lecturers and students in many fields of education.

However, thousands of educational institutions across the world are currently remaining closed (Global Citizen, 2020). In countries like China pupils are learning through intimate live video chats, while others are tapping into the “broadcast of primary school lessons on public television”. China has also created a “cloud learning program” that teaches its national curriculum.

Because of closures, many disadvantaged students are being deprived of getting the free school meals. Similarly, under such circumstances, many children in certain nations can also be at the risk of “child marriage” and “child labor”.

Stressful Child Birth

Coronavirus patients engaging increasing numbers of hospital beds has negatively impacted the would-be mothers across the world. Medical facilities which are widely used by the Corona patients have weakened the chance of those who want to urgently use the hospital facilities. Coronavirus impact is wide and multi-dimensional; the result of which will be declared later.

The Child birth process is usually a complicated process including the birth to a baby

Preterm, Premature, Labor that does not progress, Abnormal heart rate of the baby, Perineal tears, Excessive bleeding and many more are the problems needing proper and in place hospitalization.

Similarly, some women have herpes after delivery which really needs hospital attention for both; the mother and the newborn infant (Medline plus, 2020). All such complications need nursing and hospital services. During the Coronavirus emergency many such medical urgencies are denied. During pregnancy, some common cold or a skin infection may appear. Though they may not cause serious problems, yet it needs medical attention, care, and treatment. Preterm births sometimes lead to low

birth weight that needs immediate and proper protection and treatment. So, shortage of hospital arrangements would endanger the life of the newborn infant, followed by psychological problems/inconvenience for the mother.

Shortage of hospital beds

The outbreak of Coronavirus has decreased the number of hospital beds for the ordinary patients. Hospital-beds shortages are there even in developed countries in these days. Many non-Coronavirus patients cannot be admitted into hospitals for ordinary treatment. For poor countries, ICU beds are difficult expenses. Hospitals can manage their own hospital bed capacity. Shortage of capacity in care units is well felt with special reference to the developing countries. Lack of bed availability, drug shortages and many more is now faced via the Coronavirus appearance in all countries. People are in-doors for protection and precautions also lead to psychological difficulties for many of the families concerned. Around the world, every health care system is struggling with rising costs. These pressures are mainly focused on the arriving patients. Therefore, families must take care not to lose their health and well-being (New York Times, 2020).

Countries like Italy with a widespread Coronavirus patients, and one-in-five being a cigarette smoker, the scenario has created complicated problems. Overall, the shortage of hospital beds is well realized. Unfortunately, many developing countries lack the budget to increase their strategic plans for health service provisions. Priority is given according to a cluster of factors including need, emergencies, and patient volume. In addition, capacity building and strengthening is quite vital for the improvement of hospital services and treatment of Coronavirus (BMC Health Services Research, 2006).

Overwork of the medical staff

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, medical doctors, nurses, and other staff have been busy round-the-clock with checking and treatment of virus patients. They have not had leave, holidays and the like. They tirelessly work, and some of them even die because of contacts and infections. In China, while 3,400 healthcare workers got Coronavirus, 13 healthcare workers died because of that (Holly Secon, March 4, 2020). Other countries face such problems and deaths too. Medical staff are also exposed to death threats. Some of such staff had postponed weddings to treat the Corona patients. Similarly, 93 healthcare workers in California who came into contact with one patient, before the patient was diagnosed, were put under quarantine or isolation for 14 days.

The United States being the epicenter of the global pandemic, reportedly on 26-Mar-2020 had more than 82,000 positive infected patients, and surprisingly China, Spain and Italy are the hardest-hit countries via the Coronavirus (Newsletters.cnn.com, March 27, 2020). Similarly, as reported on 28-Mar-2020, Italy had the toll of more than one death every 2 minutes (BBC March

28, 2020). Spain's death toll tops China's; the number of Coronavirus infected has been reported there as 57,521 patients/cases on 26-Mar-2020. Also, the number of deaths in Italy has been as reported 9,134 on 26-Mar-2020 (Al Jazeera, 2020).

During the crisis of Coronavirus, many hardworking doctors are facing shortages of equipment, proper masks and protective body suits. In China, because of shortages, some doctors had to wear diapers to avoid having to take off the equipment and make it last longer in Wuhan, China (Japan Times, 2020). Socio-demographically speaking, Coronavirus is mostly killing older people, and much of the high-experienced and skilled labor capital evacuates. Such pandemic challenges cannot be easily compensated for (IUSSP, 2020).

Conclusion

Coronavirus as a never-contemplated phenomenon has surrounded all countries of the world, and is requiring sacrifices at global level; poor and rich, high ranking, low ranking, educated and uneducated, but mostly the elderly people. The merciless virus is targeting all the countries, causing closures, recessions, poverty, and increasing challenges of all sorts, in quality and quantity. Coronavirus is paralyzing tourism, economies, production, scientific development etc. Coronavirus has also impacted natural death patterns too in many countries. The new phenomenon has led to the appearance of loneliness of many men and women across the world after the death of one spouse. Increasing labor forces have been laid off in many countries. Similarly, many marriages and weddings have been postponed or cancelled especially in developing countries such as Bangladesh and India. Due to Coronavirus, increasing numbers of businesses and trade deals have ceased or slowed. Families also at home and in confinement get disturbed and psychologically impaired. Coronavirus has also created difficulties and challenges for child birth. The operation has become highly stressful, with a great shortage of arrangements in many cases. Another problem well sensed is the lack of hospital beds; and the difficulty to get into hospitals with the threats involved. Another difficulty that has emerged because of the Virus diffusion and outbreak, is the overwork of the medical staff, and the burden they should tolerate.

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