

The Impact of Coronavirus on Global Relations (TICOGR)

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Abstract: The Wuhan Center for Disease Control (WCDC), announced on 27th December 2019 the existence of an unknown disease in Wuhan. The disease was announced to have had pneumonia-like

symptoms. The disease caused several deaths drawing the attention of the world to the city. The rate of spread of the disease was also very high because, in just two weeks, more than 14,000 people had been infected. The disease was said to spread through contacts with body fluids and openings in the face which affects the lungs that cause difficulty in breathing. Symptoms can take up to two weeks to be visible and by that time the lungs have suffered fibrosis which makes it a very deadly disease. The World Health Organization was informed of the existence of the disease and on 31st December 2020 the disease was declared a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern”. Since January 2020, the disease has spread to more than 200 countries in the world. Governments have come up with different policies to help in the fight against the virus. These policies by the governments have affected the global relations between the countries in different parts of the world. This paper analyses the strategies employed by countries to fight Covid19, the policies put in place, and the effect of the policies on international relations.

Keywords: Coronavirus, World Health Organization (W.H.O), Pandemic, Quarantine, Curfew, Fiscal and Monetary policies

1. Introduction

A new disease was discovered in China in December 2019 in Wuhan city of Hubei province, China. The illness caused difficulties in breathing and some other respiratory complications for instance chest pains and coughs. When the disease was first identified, it was described to possess pneumonia-like symptoms. Investigations into the mysterious disease revealed that the disease was not pneumonia but an unknown virus. It was therefore named “The Novel Corona Virus disease of 2019) [4]. In the history of the world, there have been other severe acute respiratory syndromes (SARS) including swine flu, and Ebola [11]. The preliminary investigation into the virus revealed that it was part of the viruses that have core chromosomal materials enclosed by envelopes portraying protein like crowns.

The disease spread amongst the traders in the Wuhan market and within 2 weeks, more than 200 people had already died of the disease. The Chinese government sensing the danger of the disease closed its borders and prohibited movement within the country. The World Health Organization assessed the dangers posed by the disease and marked it a global pandemic in January 2020. Since January 2020, the disease has spread to more than 215 countries across all the continents of the world [10]. The most affected countries by the infection are the United States, Italy, Belgium, and Spain among the other European nations. The least

affected countries are the African countries and the North Asian countries. The low infection rates in the African and the Asian countries are associated with the poor economies of the country's leading to low testing of the individuals. The low infection rates have also been associated with the high temperatures in the countries though it is just a speculation.

The disease has infected more than 6.5 million people in the universe. It has also led to the deaths of about 390,000 people as of 04 June 2020 (WHO, 2020). The modes of transmission of the disease have not been fully explored. It has been speculated that the disease could be airborne but investigations are still underway to gather all the relevant facts on the disease regarding its transferability between individuals [9]. The Coronavirus has caused a lot of concern based on the increase in the number of infections and deaths in the different countries of the world. Coronavirus has led to changes in the functioning of several governments within the world and jeopardized international relations.

2. Strategies to Curb the Virus

Different countries across all the continents have put measures in place to curb the spread of the virus in their countries. These strategies have jeopardized global relations and led to the implication of trade barriers between the countries [8]. The main strategies cutting across most of the countries include the restriction of international travel to only transportation of goods, application of curfews, quarantine, and the restriction of travel within the countries. The policies have adversely affected trade and work within the countries. The policies have also affected the education systems in many countries.

2.1. Curfews

Most governments have imposed curfews within the country's borders. Most of the curfews run from nightfall to daylight. The imposition of curfews has led to a stop to trading activities in the night with trade only being carried out in the day time. The World Bank projected that the world economy will be affected by up to \$ 200 billion [7]. The World Bank has rolled up a support plan to help save the dying world economy.

2.2. Quarantines

Most countries in the world have imposed quarantines to help curb the spread of the virus. The quarantines have been imposed on the areas with the highest risks. The countries have also quarantined people who

traveled into the countries to ensure that the persons get tested for the virus before being allowed to mingle with the remaining country populace. Quarantine has limited movement within the country's leading to a decrease in the trade activities in the countries. Hubei province officials have been blamed for failing to quarantine the residents of Hubei to curb the disease at a younger stage. In Italy, failure to quarantine led to an increase in infections and deaths by 65% between March and April 2020 [6]. The high number of infections and deaths reported in the US has been attributed to failure to quarantine the various disease hotspots at an early stage of the disease. The countries across the world have learned from the mistakes of the countries and imposed quarantines on individuals to curb the disease spread.

2.3. External Travel Bans

Since the announcement of the first coronavirus case in 2019, several countries have closed their borders and only allow movement within the countries. The first country to impose a travel ban was China. More than 200 countries across the world have closed their countries' borders since January 2020 [5]. The travel bans between the different countries in the world have led to disagreements in some of the countries in the world. The most recent disagreement in the countries was when Kenya closed its borders from neighboring Tanzania. In retaliation to the transport barrier imposed by Kenya, Tanzania closed its borders to all Kenyan cargo and freight entering the country. The external travel bans have hindered international trade. For instance, the traders who used to get their stock from the international countries have been left without stock and have had to close down their businesses. Travel bans have also led to a decline in exports to different countries from various countries in the world. The ILO projects that by the end of 2020, there will be a recession in the world economy by more than \$ 2 billion [1].

2.4. Fiscal and Monetary Policies Employed by Different Countries

The world economy is facing the hardest time since the beginning of the 21st Century. Various countries in the world have made attempts to mitigate the problems within and outside the country's borders. The strategies have involved coming up with fiscal and monetary policies to help save the dying economy. The latest adjustments in the monetary and fiscal policies of the countries have been by Afghanistan, Albania, and Algeria. The key monetary and fiscal policies imposed by the countries have been strategies to reduce the tax burden of the residents of the various countries. For instance, Afghanistan reduced the Turn Over tax imposed on its products to 1%. Kenya reduced its Value Added Tax (VAT) to 14% to help reduce the

cost of essentials within the countries [3]. Many countries have also initiated salary cuts on the executive posts of the countries. The funds from the salary cuts have been channeled to contribution lobbies to help support the charity programs within the countries.

2.5. Impacts of Corona on Global Relations

Global relations have been jeopardized in the different countries of the world. The relations have been threatened due to trade barriers resulting from the external travel bans and the suspense between the countries regarding the cause of the virus. The impacts have been projected to intensify with time [2]. The countries are expected to have more intense relations in trying to bring an end to the virus.

Coronavirus has led to poor intensified poor relations between China and the United States. President Donald Trump in a recent press statement told the journalists to ask China the reason for deaths in the country. Many countries in the world have had problems with the cause of the disease. There have been speculations that the virus could have been manufactured in a laboratory in the world. However, these claims have not yet been proved as there is no known cause for the virus.

There has also been a stereotype in the cause of the virus. People have had problems with the types of foods eaten by the Chinese. There have been online scrutiny in the types of foods the Chinese eat. The people have claimed that Chinese food is dirty which may have caused the virus. These claims have been made because of the nature of the Wuhan, the origin of the virus. The virus originated from Wuhan, an open animal market where the Chinese sell both the alive and the dead animals. The Chinese and the general Asian populace have been put under scrutiny based on the types of foods because the virus is claimed to have originated from the bats. Such stereotypes around the eating habits of the Chinese have led to the intensification of the international relations within the countries.

The Chinese have in the past mistreated other races in their country, therefore, threatening the global relations between the countries. In March 2020, their media was filled with claims that Africans in China were mistreated and had to spend the nights outside. China in their defense stated that it was part of decongesting the country's settlements and that the Africans did not obey the set rules to cut on the number of people staying in the same rooms. An address by the AU on the issue showed the concern that the African countries had for their citizens. Such policies have threatened global relations between countries [12].

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, Coronavirus has led to the intensification of the global differences between the countries of the world. Coronavirus was first identified in Wuhan China in December 2019. Since the discovery of the virus, it has spread to more than 200 countries in the world leading to more than 6 million infections across the world. Different countries have developed policies to curb the spread of the virus including the imposition of curfews and quarantine to thwart the spread of the virus in the countries' territories. Governments have also adopted fiscal and monetary policies to help save dying economies. This pandemic has imposed bargains in the business sector in the case that employees have been downsized temporarily and others losing their jobs for good. The virus has increased poverty levels to an alarming rate. The imposition of these strategies by governments has harmed the international relations between various countries. The most recent cases of poor international relations have been identified to be between China and most of the countries with many countries calling on the World Health Organization to probe the origin of Coronavirus and believe a cure and a stop to this pandemic will eventually come.

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