

EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF EBOLA EPIDEMICS IN HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

The current epidemic giant that has currently made HIV-AIDS of a less priority compared to its old standing among deadly virus is the Ebola Virus. What occurred as a small insignificant issue has currently gained the ability to slow the growth of developing economies at a fast declining rate. With its daily interference in the three most affected countries namely Liberia, Sierra-Leone and Guinea, there was a need for drastic measures to be taken for it not to replicate the cases among surrounding nation. With the aid of globalization, the Ebola virus made its way into Africa most populous nation, Nigeria. Though currently described as an Ebola virus free nation by the world health organization, this paper looks at the trend of the theoretical trend the Ebola virus around the world before landing and leaving its mark in the nation. Measures were prescribe to be available for such future occurrence with the basic knowledge that the virus is covert until a suitable host is found.

Keywords: Ebola Virus, Globalization, Nigeria

Introduction

It is not a new scenario that epidemic issues can cause a stifle relationship among nations. Tagged along history, likable cases have sprung up which can be easily referred to. Occurred cases among many was the mad cow disease in 1980 in the United Kingdom (Freeman, 2002). Freeman (2002) was of the opinion that nations can easily cut ties with each other when their national interest are being threatened. The occurrences of different global epidemic issues has changed the orientation of likely involved countries in providing assistance. The case of the mad cow effect with its reverberating link with the down tool of the British beef market can be linked with our deep an epidemic case goes a long way in tarnishing the image of a widely accepted commodity. This is in resonance with the “roast beef of Old England”(Freeman, 2002).The case of the black plague, typhoid, and SARS syndrome among many others have been noted to have a relapse on the economy of the infected countries and their surrounded neighbors and likewise calling for the importance of food culture which is an important culture in the western culture (Freeman, 2002;Laxminarayan, 2014).Using the case of the mad cow disease in the United Kingdom as a reflected case, it can be noted that though there seems relationship between countries, priority will always be national self-interest. And this must be attained at higher cost after considerable lost such as increment in unemployment and agreement on beneficiary national interest among others that would have being of benefit to both parties.(Freeman, 2002).

The note examines the globalization in focus on health grounds with its posit negative effect while using Nigeria as a focus study. This is viewed with the current threatening deathly epidemic infection known as the Ebola virus. Facts have reinstated the signs that the human race has constantly being waging war against infectious diseases. As funny as this could sounds, it a constant war that has never being totally won due to growing trend of resistant that are being developed by

these diseases(Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial, 2014).An epidemic disease occurrence is not strange to the world rather the awareness causes for a double check by all countries. Historical events with infectious disease has created an expected chain of event that would be triggered if not quickly terminated and for this cause, countries decided to go at painful, costly length to made hostile decision to halt the spread from already involved countries(The World Bank, 2014). As earlier by stated by freeman (2002), known changes that have occurred by somatic and environmental changes was as a function of “most essential alteration” which was influenced by human evolution after agronomy began to rise. Though it seems there was victory at first as we emerged from the 19th century into the 20th century in addressing these army of infectious diseases due to them being greatly controlled.(Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial, 2014).

The recent epidemic issue which is a top priority among world leaders is Ebola which is majorly helped by the constant epidemic ignorance among other nations who believe that Africa is just a county(The Economist, 2014). The encouraging facet of globalization with the main aim of doing business, creating jobs by multinational among nations with also an aim of making higher profit has also helped in the spread of Ebola within the few days of its occurrence of its rearing head back into the scene since 1994 when it had it major outbreak. This it did via travelling and the Nigerian case was with arrival of the index patient on the 20th of July, 2014 via the air path; a major instrument of globalization(Nova, 2014).

Background.

The news that Ebola virus made its way into the Nigeria society came along with loads of heart break, societal tension, rise of political fudges, and mental confusion among other human troubles that are not quite describable(Polls, 2014). Yet the black nation with the highest population, which was feared to be the have to her curriculum vitae, the highest outbreak in shocked the world by

cubing it to a nonexistence state(Polls, 2014).It marveled the world how a corrupt nation wriggled with the abusive use of power and consistent failure to implement the rule of rule of law took it stand against a deadly virus that previously had a total of 24 outbreak since its inception(Common wealth of Australia,, 2014; Polls, 2014; Common wealth of Australia,, 2014; Nova, 2014). Having all this, the nation that is known to be developing huge presence of inadequate use of medical equipment in comprehension with the developed world standards, was able to achieve such a feat. This is in regards with Ross, Olveda, & Yuesheng(2014) findings.

Brief History of Ebola Virus

In analyzing the issue partaking to Ebola, the history and trends cannot be ignored, especially in Arica where it has had its highest victims since its inception in 1976 in Congo Brazzaville. The Ebola syndrome has its recognized origin from republic of Congo Brazzaville(The Economist, 2014). According to Formenty(2014) in 1976, Ebola (named after the Ebola River in Zaire) first emerged in Sudan and Zaire. The first epidemic occurrence of Ebola (Ebola-Sudan) infected over 284 people, with a mortality rate of 53% (Formenty, 2014). Formenty(2014) continued the popularly history by stating the emergence of the Ebola virus from Yambuku Area, Zaire and was named Ebola-Zaire (EBOZ). World Health Organisation (2014) stated that EBOZ, with the highest mortality rate of any of the Ebola viruses (88%), infected 318 people. Despite the tremendous effort of experienced and dedicated researchers, Ebola's natural reservoir was never identified. The third strain of Ebola, Ebola Reston (EBOR), was first identified in 1989 when infected monkeys were imported into Reston, Virginia, from Mindanao in the Philippines. Fortunately, the few people who were infected with EBOR (seroconverted) never developed Ebola hemorrhagic fever (EHF)(World Health Organisation, 2014). According to the Economist (2014), the last known strain of Ebola, Ebola Cote d'Ivoire (EBO-CI) was discovered in 1994 when a female ethologist performing a

necropsy on a dead chimpanzee from the Tai Forest, Cote d'Ivoire, accidentally infected herself during the necropsy (The Economist, 2014).

Common wealth of Australia (2014) stated in their travel guide that the Ebola Virus was first introduced into the human population through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected animals. After analysis of all Ebola outbreaks from 1976 to 2014, it appears that in Africa, primary human infection (index case) was documented through the handling of infected chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelopes , fruit bats and porcupines found dead or ill in the rainforest(Common wealth of Australia,, 2014).Polls (2014) also affirmed that in Africa, fruit bats, particularly species of the genera *Hypsignathusmonstrosus*, *Epomopsfranqueti*, and *Myonycteristorquata*, are considered possible natural hosts for Ebola virus.Secondary human-to-human transmission spreads in the communityresulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or otherbodily fluids of infected people. Never the less, occasions where burial ceremonies where mourners havedirect contact with the body of the deceased person can also play a role inthe transmission of Ebola. Transmission via infected semen can occur up to7 weeks after clinical recovery (Polls, 2014; Cock, 2011; Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial, 2014; World Health Organisation, 2014).

According to Ross, Olveda, & L.Yuesheng (2014), healthcare workers have frequently been infected while treating Ebola patients. This has occurred through close contact without the use of correct infection control precautions and adequate barrier nursing procedures. For example, healthcare workers not wearing gloves, masks and goggles; who are exposed to direct contact with infected patients' blood are at risk (Ross, Olveda, & L.Yuesheng, 2014).

Hunger, Explorative and Encroaching of Ebola Virus Transmission

Blakey & George (1996) claimed that the occurrence and reappearance of diseases were based on the following factors; Global social, demographic, and environmental changes, international trade, travel and technological change, breakdown of public health measures and the adaptations and genetics of microbes (Blakey & George, 1996).

As stated above, it could be said all this means aid the transmission of the virus from the secondary host and these brings us to how did the first casualty occur with the basis that viruses do not die but only remain inactive when outside their host (LeDuc & Peters, 1999). This views is based on reasons why the primary contact existed. According to Formenty (2014) and Ross, Olveda, & L.Yuesheng(2014), it was also detected that the ebola virus was encountered by the continued occurrence of startvartion in africa . This makes any seen available found meat to be consumed which would not have being eaten ethically.though these is said to be an attribute of the Afrcan man whil the white man attitude of exploration in research in research led to his contact with ebola. These two primary ways are the link to the means of the secondary contacts in havin the virus.Attahced below is a descriptive way from Formenty(2014) book in which it can be contacted.

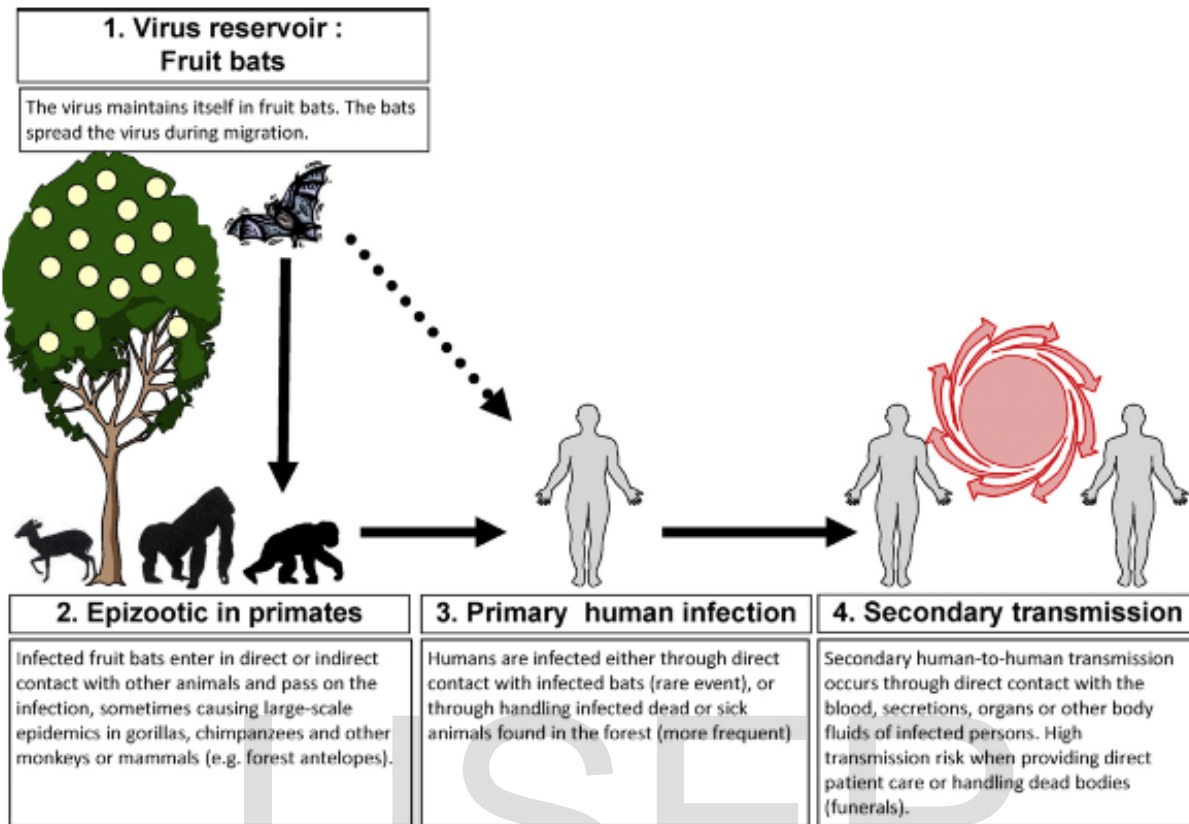


Fig 1 Hypothesis of Ebola Virus Transmitted at the human-animal interface(Formenty, 2014).

Epidemic Importation

The current dispensation of global business depends on interaction among nations. With this in mind, the necessity to travel by the fastest means of transportation becomes inevitable. Thus making it easier to transport an infected personnel with lower risk of detection, especially if the Ebola virus is still at the early stage and relatively calling for the need for gathering reliable data for public health, surveillance and laboratory capacity and stronger health work force(Cock, 2011; Ronald, Katia, & Ted, 2011). That possibly could be one of the ways in which such a virus could enter undetected but the second lies with the inefficiency of the government agencies of the affected countries to put those under surveillance on proper care and security. The security lapses in those

countries created a vacuum which made the infected people escape while under the assumed surveillance (Nova, 2014) .

Using the case of the New York syndemic situation of the early 1990, Africa nations can be known to currently be in a syndemic situation with on the basis that they are battling more than one epidemic situation. Though the Ebola virus takes a higher priority and these battle will definably have a huge strain on the fiscal and financial activities (Nicholas, Marianne, Sandro, & Andrew, 2006; Yukhananov, 2014; The World Bank, 2014). The problem faced by all concerned nations is how the virus can be eradicated and if that fails, possibly controlling it with the major priority of making it become the epidemic of epidemics as stated by Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial(2014). Ironically the solution to the Ebola virus also comes from the use of globalization. In these view, world leaders and non-governmental organization advocate

Role of Globalization in the Spread and Curbing of Ebola Virus

Nova (2014) attributed these occurrence to be as a result of both live insensitivity and corruption practices among those that are expected to ensure safety in those countries and the price was duly paid for by medical professionals in Nigeria whose major fore bearer was Dr. Stella Adadevo among other well established Practitioners to act as a cushion net in stopping the virus, it still made its way into another major city, Port-Harcourt within few days of inception in the country(Nova, 2014; Polls, 2014).Based on the Cartalucci(2014) finding, there exist curiosity from global watch organization, what the scores old have being if the disease was discovered lately or handled wrongly in Nigeria as to the current dispensation in the three affected countries in west Africa namely Guinea, Liberia and sierra Leone(Nova, 2014; Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial, 2014; Laxminarayan, 2014; Cartalucci, 2014).

Volunteering in Curbing the Virus

Looking at the Nigerian scenario, an important questions comes into one's mind about the health Practitioners in those three majorly affected countries. Could it be that there were not well equipped to combat the spread of the virus or other motives came into play such as inadequate equipment to be made use of or treatment? If those were not the case, will we be right to assume that the government were insensitive to determine the level of threat that these virus posed to her citizens? These finally brings u back to the future of what, where and how these infected countries will bail themselves out of these current predicament. This statement is made based on the current information by W.H.O (2014) that the current available means of treating the infected persons are strained and in some cases, infected (Economist, 2014; MSF Canada, 2014; World Health Organisation, 2014).it can be said that the rapid spread of the Ebola virus from its first occurred state is as a function of Globalization. When globalization is being discussed in this paper, the aspect of business is not the only considered issue. It is majorly viewed in terms of reducing the world into a village where movement restrictions, cultural bias among many other likely boundaries are reduced. The current available machinery also ensure in the creation of a global village. Having these in mind, there is a likely possibility that persons infected with the Ebola virus can decide to travel to another country without displaying the symptoms associated with it during the transition and providing the Patrick sawyer case in Nigeria (Ross, Olveda, & L.Yuesheng, 2014).

Role of Corruption in Facilitating the Growth of Ebola Virus

The rise of the Ebola virus in the three major countries was seen by some foreign watch personnel as either the effect of ineffective health system that has being ill equipped over the years and thus making it ill prepared to be able to act as a shock absorber in receiving such an epidemic situation in the country (Ross, Olveda, & L.Yuesheng, 2014). Surely the Nigerian

government and officials shocked the watching world who expected that the high level of corrupt practices would be able to deter the focus of the watch dogs (security personnel) from doing the expected responsibility. The Ebola virus could be said to have brought out the positive aspect of man when survival was of the essence (Nova, 2014). With the polls generated by Polls(2014) from the questionnaire which was designed to note the awareness level and the populace level of trust with the government showed that the Nigerian people seems more prepared for the worst in their daily activities. It could be that the constant insurgence attacks in the nation had made them more fearless but watchful of their environs (Polls, 2014; Nova, 2014; The Economist, 2014). During the course of the virus, the government tried coming up with bylaws in enduring safety but as stated by Polls(2014), the level of trust with the federal government was or rather said is weak which brought about the reliability from a foreign body and in some cases, government to declare Nigeria safe before the people believed.

Hygiene role in the spread of the virus

A fundamental proof of virus is that they need a breeding environment and such was the case of the mad cow, malaria, SARS syndrome and many more. With the full knowledge that they only stay dormant, the constant yearn for a clean and less polluted environment comes into place (Freeman, 2002). These according to Freeman (2002) was a function of government enforcement especially when individual responsibility was failing. It is right to believe that the state in which the environment was and is enabled the spread of the virus in most affected areas, though ignorance played its own role too (Herper, 2014; Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial, 2014; Camacho, Funk, Breman, Piot, & Edmunds, 2014).

Spread and Economic Crushing by the Virus

Thinking that the spread of the Ebola virus has no economic impact or financial strain on the economy will be of utmost insensitivity. During the course of the epidemic, the three most affected countries had to take loan to treat these epidemic (The World Bank, 2014). According to the World Bank biannual financial report which was held with the G20 summit, there was a reconsideration to shut out the loan taken by these countries in threatening the current epidemic war in their various nation. Though it all boils down to the contributor votes. The essence of these by the World Bank was an indication to the fact that they are aware of the economic strain and in some cases, decline that these economies are facing (The World Bank, 2014; The Economist, 2014; Freeman, 2002).

Social and psychological effect

The few days that Nigeria hosted the Ebola virus will remain in the history of many years to come. Multinationals made a quick cash, such as the soap makers and so did some business activities pommelled down especially the bush meat sellers. These was and is vividly evident in the case of the three affected countries (LeDuc & Peters, 1999; Herper, 2014; Ross, Olveda, & L.Yuesheng, 2014; Jones & Shaikh, 2014). It was duly noted by Jones & Shaikh (2014) that the effects of Ebola virus on the effected person among those he stayed with caused a psychological effect which could also be referred to as tension and likewise brought about a social disorder. According to Tavernise, (2014) Nigeria never got to the latter stage even though she struggles with it but the three affected countries are too deep into the economic cause of fighting the Ebola virus (Tavernise, 2014). The money spent on these countries based on the

Ebola virus epidemic according to W.H.O (2014) will possibly be of little tension cause of the rising tension high calls for irrational actions or behaviours and where not controlled, an economic collapse was inevitable (World Health Organisation, 2014; Formenty, 2014; Herper, 2014).

Conclusion

With all the above discussed facts on the outbreak of Ebola virus in Africa with a streamlined focus on Nigeria and how they were able to curb it shows that no matter the stage in the epidemic spread, possibility of it being brought under control was achievable and all with the primary focus of establishing responsibility and “being the watch of thy neighbor” (Polls, 2014). Just like Camacho, Funk, Breman, Piot, & Edmunds (2014) stated that Nigeria became a role of undertaking quick actions before they go off the bait and become ferocious shows that the virus will be tamed if the same mental suppression, leadership confidence and individual responsibility was fully displayed (The Economist, 2014; Polls, 2014).

with all the played scenarios, it finally showed that the quick role of Nigeria in curbing a disease so potent with ninety days shows that any ailment could be brought down or totally whipped out not forgetting that other epidemic issues still bothered the countries during these period such as polio and a positive result was gotten. As reaffirmed by LeDuc & Peters (1999), the reoccurrence of these virus makes us know the fatality which this viruses poses to us with the common characteristics that they virus do not die but only lie dormant once out of a host and the need to have an environment that would not breed them rather put them under proper control and if possibly eradicated from human environs.

Recommendation

Within the few weeks of the outbreak, a conscious new attitude began to grow among the Nigerian populace. Could it be the fear of the Ebola virus of an act that was always in them but they never knew. The government became actively responsible. Hopefully, one could attribute it to the fact of Ebola not knowing who the social elite were brought about a constant vigilant amongst everyone. It is with the experience that the virus epidemic has come along with the need to have a clean environment. The need also to enquire about everyone about your state of health becomes a necessity not a brotherly affair but a crucial intent responsibility. This attitude can be learnt and there for should be taught to the younger generation.

The function of a government that knows her role also goes a long way in determining the trust of the people towards them. There is need for the government to constantly improve on the current laws that will guide the lives of her people and less focus on frivolities. The improvement of the health care system should not just include buying over practitioners but also the provision of adequate medical system that can be used in treatment and also detection of these epidemic disease. For further studies, empirical studies using questionnaire should be made that will be able to test the knowledgeability and equitability of health Practitioners about dealing with Ebola virus.

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