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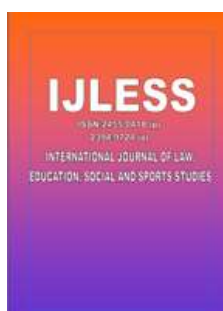
The COVID-19 : Political Challenge and Public Health

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ABSTRACT

The factually impaired discourse promoted by political leaders, particularly in the US, has done little to sustain public confidence. The flu contagion is perhaps a greater challenge on the political terrain than it is in the public health domain. Civility and social cohesion, already threatened by growing economic anxieties, have suffered a massive dent since the first intimations of the crisis. At the same time, careful attention to human rights such as non-discrimination and human rights principles such as transparency and respect for human dignity can foster an effective response amidst the turmoil and disruption that inevitably results in times of crisis and limit the harms that can come from the imposition of overly broad measures that do not meet the above criteria. The COVID-19 pandemic is testing the societies of the world's most unequal continent, where many depend on informal work for their livelihood. Social-distancing measures directly affect their livelihoods, and make immediate social assistance imperative. Perhaps the flu contagion today is a test of how vital the attribute of trust is in sustaining economic relationships. Other direct effects could come from the collapse of demand in the travel and tourism industry, which could lead to a broader decline of purchasing power. Unlike in the economics textbooks, supply and demand are not quite distinct in terms of their dynamics in the real world. The world has been under the effect of the new type of corona virus for the last July, 30th. While more than 6700,200 people have lost their lives, over 17,185,930 people were directly affected by the virus.

Keywords: livelihoods, mobilization, troublesome, attribute

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is testing the societies of the world. The crisis is also testing political leadership, as some presidents are emerging as strong, unifying leaders, while others flounder, in a continent where historically trust in formal institutions is low. Intimations of human fallibility always lurk on the other side of the glitter of progress. Rising global inter-linkages were once a matter of pride for champions of Globalization. Social distancing measures directly affect their livelihoods, and make immediate social assistance imperative. But at first signs of discord within the global elite over free flows across borders, vicious strains of racism resurfaced. Rapidly spreading panic over the novel Covid-19, opens a deeper vein, as the global majority that lived through decades of benign neglect under neoliberalism, finds its precarious existence dissolving in deep insecurity. The political culture in the next worst-affected country, Italy, proved less amenable to the lockdown. There was almost immediate pushback against the mass quarantine of the northern territories, involving a quarter of the

Italian population. Ironically, resistance was most acutely manifest among the prison population that revolted against the doubling down of their confinement through the curbs on visitation and parole rules. Prudence is the balance between the fear that paralyses and the casualness that could kill. In the case of Covid-19, the quest for balance came after an initial effort at suppressing the bad news. All else being equal, that may have meant an easing of supply constraints in the travel and transportation industry, stimulating demand for its services. But the global oil market has also been a gigantic siphon, channeling money into the US financial markets. A contraction of those flows could dampen market sentiment, shrinking demand that was otherwise sustained by the so-called “wealth effect”.

Statement of problem

As COVID spreads – with higher or flatter curves – health systems will struggle to treat the severely affected. Lockdowns will be differentially respected, as promises of emergency social assistance need to be immediately delivered. Where the executive uses the moment at hand for narrow political gains, sharp political conflict is likely to ensue. Multilateral initiatives to secure social protection for vulnerable households in the region are needed. Strong leadership regarding quarantine measures will fast become meaningless if it is not accompanied by comprehensive social-assistance packages.

Objective

Decisive leadership has proven crucial for implementing wide-ranging lockdowns and for the immediate commitment to social assistance. The potential abuse of extraordinary powers raises concerns for the medium run. In governments struggling with legitimacy after last year’s massive protests have had to postpone a constitutional convention. With the immediate and still-to-come economic effects, close to half the population in the region is facing an impending humanitarian crisis.

Methodology

The study should be based on qualitative research for finding out the perception; attitude and practices towards cause and effect of The COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic is testing the societies of the world’s most unequal continent, where many depend on informal work for their livelihood in the world. This papers based on descriptive and explanatory method of research design for finding how affect. In this study area, there are most affected from “ The COVID-19”. The sample size has been selected among affected country of judgemental sampling procedure according to the situation of political challenge and public health in the study area.

Political Challenge and Public Health

Globally connected cities with a high population density have historically been especially susceptible to epidemics. Yet with Covid-19, some of the world’s most vulnerable cities have fared relatively well. Political geography has played a key role in shaping the impact of Covid-19 around the world and may be crucial in determining how the pandemic impacts the future of democracy (Goebel, 2020, p. 10), As COVID spreads – with higher or flatter curves – health systems will struggle to treat the severely affected. Lockdowns will be differentially respected, as promises of emergency social assistance need to be immediately delivered (Daniel, 2020, p. 6). Where the executive uses the moment at hand for narrow political gains, sharp political conflict is likely to ensue (Roberto, 2020, p. 32). Pragmatism dictated that China’s war against fact be transformed into a harsh lockdown in affected provinces. It was a strategy that may have fetched results, aided by the civic culture of obedience that China’s single-party monopoly on power has nurtured (Adam, 2020, p.12). Multilateral initiatives to secure social protection for vulnerable households in the region are needed. On the one hand, the mobilization of the state’s repressive apparatus raises serious concerns (Adam, 2020, p.10). Where the state has historically shown a weak capacity to guarantee health and sanitary conditions that are fair to everyone, it has instead been less hesitant to mobilize the police and military in the name of order and

security (Bert, 2015, p. 154). As the corona virus progresses, countries have implemented increasingly restrictive measures on the movement and assembly of people. The imposition of curfews – such as in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras – and other constraining measures that force people to quarantine – such as in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, and Uruguay – are justified by the need to curve the spread of the contagious disease. However, they also raise concerns about the abuse of extraordinary powers for narrow political motives, or for their perpetuation over time beyond the current health crisis (Blofield, Merike, and Fernando Filgueira, 2020. p. 5). The US administration claimed “containment” of the contagion after 14 deaths, but then, in panicky retreat, began ramping up the availability of testing equipment and quarantine capacities. After some initial parsimony, budgets for the public health emergency were significantly raised. But rather implausibly, as the markets persisted in their downward plunge, Trump administration officials began thinking out loud about a possible tax cut to stimulate investor interest (Ricardo, 2020, p. 9). At a time when the stimulus imparted by Trump’s first round of tax cuts has worn out, leaving the troublesome legacy of a trillion-dollar deficit, further giveaways may seem the least-prudent course (Sukumar, 2020, p. 11). Latin America will suffer from post-crisis external shocks. With little aid coming from the United States or Europe, China emerges as a key hope for ship (Igor, 2020, p.13). Many governments have quickly promised social assistance. An enormous economic rescue package in Chile stands out for its stinginess towards the most vulnerable. Where populist presidents from the right (Brazil) or left (Mexico) deny the seriousness of the pandemic, sub national and other authorities seek to fill the leadership vacuum – but policy implementation is harmed. The fall in purchasing power of retail sector workers is one among several potential demand-side effects. COVID-19 epidemic not only threatens human health but also undermines social and political patterns (Igor, 2020, p.17). COVID-19 has a characteristic to inhibit politics. The most important reason for this is the conflict between the traditional logic of politics, which discriminates between friends and enemies, and health-based technopolitics (Igor, 2020, p.12). This dispute also influences the decision-making dynamics. The social-economic decisions about the future of a country are now left to the private-technical information regimes and representatives. It is remarkable in this sense that the policy on the virus outbreak in Turkey, which has not made this mistake, has been left to the skills of a science board since the beginning. Another important example in this sense is how the successful crisis management of the minister of health, a physician, has made the current political power more acceptable even in the eyes of the opponents (Igor, 2020, p.14). civil society and solidarity politics all over the world are being replaced by policies of strict controls, which make hillbilly and social isolation a priority. This is also a development closely related to the political technique (Bert, 2015, p. 124).. Indeed, the introduction of politics into a techno-political form not only pushes the average citizen further out of the corporate politics, but also challenges preliminary assumptions about the functioning and nature of the state. This new form makes the state that holds devices of controlling health-technical regimes even more advantageous to the individual. The society, which is trying to find its way between the faltering economic structure and the volatile political practices, is becoming more confused. Society can find no other way than to surrender itself to this language and politics of health, which is emerging as a new ideological device. This new form is radical and jarring (Roberto, 2020, p. 31). While this is a trend we have been experiencing for a long time, with the recent global COVID-19 epidemic, the traditional mechanisms of socialization that have taken the individual (from teacher-student relationship to Sunday shopping) are seriously shaken. Another consequence of this new state is that it is easier to control individual opportunities and initiatives in one direction. Denial proved costly for China’s communist government, allowing space for the virus to multiply (Ricardo, 2020, p. 8). The world’s second largest economy could not afford isolation. A new imponderable was introduced when Saudi Arabia, after the failure of negotiations over a coordinated production cut with Russia, announced the sharpest cut in crude oil prices in over three decades (Bert, 2015, p. 174).

The US response was uniquely inflected by the personality of President Donald Trump and his proclivity to see all bad news as a design to make him look bad. The bluster gained him hours of airtime but earned little credit beyond his far-right congregation (Roberto, 2020, p. 21). Trump may have had the commendable aim of calming economic anxieties and keeping the markets ticking. But the farrago of self-praise and half-truths he served up, almost always in contradiction to expert opinion, compounded worries (Daniel, 2020, p. 16). Markets went into a swoon, the worst since the global meltdown of 2008, and an emergency rate cut by the Federal Reserve did little to restore confidence (Blofield, Merike, and Fernando Filgueira, 2020, p. 29). Economist Paul Krugman has read the potential impact of the flu contagion in terms of the two distinct forces of supply and demand. Originating in China, the “workshop of the world”, the contagion has disrupted supply chains both upstream and downstream. Since going into lockdown, China’s exports have fallen 17 per cent in comparison to the same time last year (Igor, 2020, p.12). Without the hitherto constant and reliable supply of Chinese merchandise, retail operations in various parts of the world are at risk of shrinking.

In fact, China has used the crisis to give an impressive display of its soft-power capacities as it sends face masks and test kits, protective medical gear, and ventilators to Latin America (and to Africa as well as other world regions) (Bert, 2015, p. 154). While the political gains Beijing seeks from this are evident, the aid China provides is magnified by the contrast with the absence of such practical help from the US and Europe (Daniel, 2020, p. 26). Even if seen as propaganda tools, in current circumstances they are highly welcomed by receiving countries. As a result, China is not only Latin America’s best hope to revive demand for exports but its medical help in these times of acute need will not fail to boost its public image across the continent. The one Latin American country that is also engaged in foreign medical missions to fight the COVID-19 crisis, even if on a very different scale, is Cuba (Bert, 2015, p. 134). The photos of the Cuban doctor brigade arriving in wealthy northern Italy forcefully contradict the usual perspective of North–South aid. For a long time, “medical internationalism” has been part of Cuba’s foreign policy and regime legitimacy (Hoffmann, 2015, p.43). In the past two decades, it also evolved into a key revenue stream for the socialist state (Igor, 2020, p.9). Large contingents of Cuban medical personnel were deployed to Venezuela, Brazil, and Ecuador (the latter two cancelled after their left-wing governments lost power) (Roberto, 2020, p. 8). At the height of the projects, more than 50,000 healthcare workers from Cuba were working in 66 countries around the world (Sukumar, 2020, p. 21). The direct precedent of Havana’s anti-COVID-19 brigades is the mission sent to fight the Ebola epidemic in Africa in 2014. Under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO), a group of 256 Cuban doctors, nurses, and other health professionals was rapidly mobilized to provide “front-line” care in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Equatorial Guinea (Adam, 2020, p.8). As today the COVID-19 virus is threatening to overrun national health systems all over the world, Cuba’s medical missions are in high demand (Blofield, Merike, and Fernando Filgueira, 2020, p. 7). Aside from the iconic brigade sent to Lombardy, Cuban medical personnel have also been sent to Angola and a dozen Caribbean states – from Suriname to the small islands of the West Indies. More destinations are likely to follow, and the WHO will probably seek again Cuban assistance to fight the pandemic on the African continent as well (Bert, 2015, p. 154). The Covid apps are doing their own politics. They have their own political lives and loves. Apps are not fixed, immutable entities. They morph and develop. The technologies that went into their making and the knowledge acquired in the process can be transferred and used elsewhere for other purposes (Anna. 2020, p.12). So can the institutional and regulatory initiatives relating to the apps. There is good reason to think that this not only can but also will happen.

Notwithstanding Cuba’s assistance to other countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has also put its own domestic health system to a severe test. After many years of crisis, the quality of Cuban hospital care is no longer what it used to be (Adam, 2020, p.18). Doctors are extremely low-paid (one reason why the much better paid work on missions abroad is so attractive), many medical materials are in short supply or cannot be come by, and sanitary conditions have become precarious for broad segments

of the population – with chronic deficiencies in the supply of tap water or body soap (Daniel, 2020, p. 8). The biggest challenge, however, stems from demography. Cuba has, together with Uruguay, the oldest population on the continent so that a full one-quarter of the population needs to be considered among the at-risk group (Ghebreyesus, 2020, p. 4). The tourism sector, like no other economic activity with social impact, is based on interaction amongst people (Roberto, 2020, p. 32). UNWTO has been guiding the tourism sector's response on several levels:

- By cooperating closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the lead UN agency for the management of this outbreak;
- by ensuring with WHO that health measures are implemented in ways that minimize unnecessary impact on international travel and trade;
- by standing in solidarity with affected countries; and
- by emphasizing tourism's proven resilience and by standing ready to support recovery.

As the virus has started to spread exponentially, Cuba's acclaimed healthcare system will face its most crucial test to date. Should the pandemic get out of control, it would take a high human toll. Also politically the stakes are high for the Cuban government, as the public health sector is the pride of the Revolution's social achievements (Sukumar, 2020, p. 13). For Cuba, this concrete aid in a humanitarian emergency represents an enormous reputational gain in a moment where the Trump administration has stepped up its aggressive rhetoric aimed at isolating the Havana government (Igor, 2020, p.8). The medical missions will also provide the hard-currency earnings more desperately needed than ever (Bert, 2015, p. 144). Over the past two years, Cuba's economic situation has become more and more precarious (Daniel, 2020, p. 11). Now an even more profound economic crisis looms large, as Cuba – just as with other Caribbean countries – will face a disastrous tourism season and a sharp drop in remittances (Roberto, 2020, p. 9). Whatever revenues the medical missions to fight COVID-19 might generate, they will fall short of preventing Cuba from heading towards a profound economic crisis that has now already revived memories of the dramatic post-Soviet crisis years of the 1990s (Adam, 2020, p.15).. There are no shortcuts to a healthier world (Roberto, 2020, p. 12). 2030 is fast approaching, and we must hold our leaders accountable for their commitments (Ghebreyesus, 2020, p. 2), Despite the development of the COVID-19 Risk Assessment for MGs tool, events continue to be cancelled without this risk assessment being done and without clear communication of justification in terms of the expected impact on the spread of COVID-19. These cancellations have social and economic impacts on public morale, on national economies, and on individual livelihoods (Daniel, 2020, p. 16). The effect of MG cancellations on reducing the spread of COVID-19 needs to be determined (Blofield, Merike, and Fernando Filgueira, 2020, p. 6). The global public health community needs to consider the effects of MG cancellations on the future wellbeing of communities through economic recession or job losses, as well as through the spread, or otherwise, of COVID-19 (Roberto, 2020, p. 12). A precautionary approach is often used to explain MG cancellations, but when does an abundance of caution become counterproductive? (Adam, 2020, p.10). The overarching advice during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is that events should be cancelled or postponed on the basis of a context-specific risk assessment (Sukumar, 2020, p. 23). If a decision is made to proceed with MG events, risk mitigation measures should be put in place, consistent with WHO guidance on social distancing for COVID-19, and the rationale for the decision should be clearly explained and communicated to the public (Roberto, 2020, p. 22). One thing they are obviously doing is challenging the territorially-based politics of states. Unruly territory, partly outside the jurisdiction of sovereign states, is something that has not existed (formally speaking) in the international system since the scramble for Africa and the Berlin Conference (Anna. 2020, p.11). The outbreak of Corona virus COVID-19 presents the tourism sector with a major and evolving challenge (Daniel, 2020, p. 6). The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has strengthened its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) (Bert, 2015, p. 164). The two

UN agencies met in Geneva to further advance a coordinated response to COVID-19 (Igor, 2020, p.5). UNWTO calls for solid international leadership and for tourism to be included as a priority in future recovery efforts (Ricardo, 2020, p. 11). (Adam, 2020, p.16). A pandemic could bring economies and nations to their knees. All the challenges in this list demand a response from more than just the health sector (Blofield, Merike, and Fernando Filgueira, 2020, p. 2). We face shared threats and we have a shared responsibility to act. With the deadline for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals quickly approaching, the United Nations General Assembly has underscored that the next 10 years must be the "decade of action". This means advocating for national funding to address gaps in health systems and health infrastructure, as well as providing support to the most vulnerable countries (Igor, 2020, p.15). Investing now will save lives – and money – later. The cost of doing nothing is one we cannot afford. Governments, communities, and international agencies must work together to achieve these critical goals (Ricardo, 2020, p. 21). The scale and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic clearly rises to the level of a public health threat that could justify restrictions on certain rights, such as those that result from the imposition of quarantine or isolation limiting freedom of movement (Adam, 2020, p.10).

CONCLUSION

The world has been under the effect of the new type of corona virus for the last July, 30th. While more than 6700,200 people have lost their lives, over 17,185,930 people were directly affected by the virus. Besides its influences on human life and health sector, it is necessary to mention that this outbreak, which has turned into a pandemic, would also have a lot of consequences in terms of politics. In this article, we aim to assess what kind of outcomes the COVID-19 outbreak would give birth in the political field in both short and medium terms. It is one of the important findings of the social sciences that such unexpected events that upset the lives of masses overwhelm the established forms of policymaking and enable the transition to new political discourses and practices. We need to realize that health is an investment in the future. Countries invest heavily in protecting their people from terrorist attacks, but not against the attack of a virus, which could be far more deadly, and far more damaging economically and socially.

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