



Research Article

The Revamped World by The Coronavirus Pandemic

Andreea M. MANTA

The Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania
andreeam.manta@gmail.com

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Abstract

This article aims to illustrate the essential changes caused by the Coronavirus pandemic in all fields of activity. The implemented measures imposed to prevent the transmission of the virus generated the alteration of the normal lifestyle for everybody. Unfortunately, there is not much chance of a 100% recovery of the world after the pandemic situation ends. The present research highlights the imminent changes in people's lives which have been produced by the protective measures, so far. Additionally, the paper also emphasizes the forthcoming effects that have not yet occurred. The predictions were based on the public available statistical data and the literature related to this matter. The present article opens new research pathways to identify different ways of dealing with the irreversible changes that have appeared since the pandemic burst and with the ones that will take place after it disappears.

Keywords: Pandemic, Covid-19 Social, Economic, Changes.

Introduction

Since the Coronavirus debut, the situation all over the world has been negatively influenced from psychological, social and economic perspectives. People are seriously affected by the preventive rules they have to obey in order to avoid the spreading of the virus. Moreover, the global economy has suffered a severe shock and, according to the specialists, the predicted future will not be brighter.

Although in the last years, science has rapidly advanced in all fields of activity, the new virus exceeded the world's power to control its evolution and unfavourable effects.

An innocent Chinese bat managed to radically change the earth's vibration into one generated by a terrible war. Therefore, people realized that nature will always set limits for humanity. In addition, the pandemic indicated the unknown weaknesses of the public system and the need for making more correct investment decisions.

Consequently, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, people will experience a completely different life, to which they will have to adapt, in a world based on unusual rules to respect in order to survive.

Literature Review

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared, on the 30th of January 2020, the epidemic of coronavirus a Public Health Emergency of an International Concern. It all started from four patients that were workers in Wuhan seafood market who used to deal with some wild animals. The idea that COVID-19 was sheltered by a bat came from the fact that it contains 96% of its genome level -. (Fang et al., 2020)

As a response to this COVID - 19 outbreak, the Chinese government took protective measures such as: "early detection, early isolation, early treatment, adequate medical supplies, patients being admitted to designated hospitals, and a comprehensive therapeutic strategy" (Fang et al., 2020).

In China, these measures have reduced the number of new cases of Coronavirus with 90%. However, the public protective measures did not work in all the affected countries. Italy was particularly affected. It is imperative for all the health systems to be prepared with proper medical equipment and treatments. (Remuzzi, A. & Remuzzi, G., 2020)

However, there are many cases of countries that suffer from lack of preparedness. In one study entitled *Straining the System: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Preparedness for Concomitant Disasters*, two American authors; Nathaniel Smith and Michael Fraser, stated that "Advancing world-class data and analytics to support public health decision-making is vital to our disease surveillance and response activities." They also blame the system in The United States for using old technologies, such as: faxes, to report information about the public health and use paper forms to follow up. Paper is still used to record important health data and spreadsheets are completed manually. Considering the unbalanced state of the technological evolution, the public health data system urgently needs a modernization (Smith & Fraser, 2020).

In the United States, after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, significant investments were made to increase the level

of public health preparedness. In addition, in 2018, the authorities created a special Reserve Fund for the public health system during epidemics and other kinds of emergencies. Nonetheless, the budget established for public health has been diminished from 2002 to 2019 by approximately one third. The American authors sustain that increasing the budget for public health to the level from 2002 should be a priority for the authorities, considering threats like COVID-19 (Smith & Fraser, 2020).

In fact, the pandemic situation affects many sectors beside public health systems and the medical care field. It also generates social and economic vulnerabilities especially in cities with high population density. Consequently, specialists in managing urban data can have an important contribution to better prevent different similar viruses. In this perspective, urban intelligence can bring value through means of continuous risk assessment and assisting the economic recovery. Therefore, to properly cope with this pandemic, it is necessary to invest in applying the best practices in urban intelligence.

The problem of a possible pandemic situation was predicted by Bill Gates and other disease and flu experts. Bill Gates warned the public authorities that they should invest in the pandemics' preparedness. Furthermore a former official from the White House also sustained the idea of an upcoming pandemic threat. (Hoffower, 2020)

Regarding the question about the end of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, scientists from Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) attempted to discover the answer by using a mathematical model. They predicted that the end will be in December. However, this date will differ from one nation to another depending on the start date of the pandemic. (Macaulay, 2020)

From a psychological perspective, the pandemic situation of COVID-19 has been undoubtedly affecting people all over the world. In a survey of people at higher risk of

being infected with Coronavirus, the rates of depression, traumatic stress, generalized anxiety and insomnia reached alarming

levels (Liu et al., 2020). The following Figure 1 illustrates them:

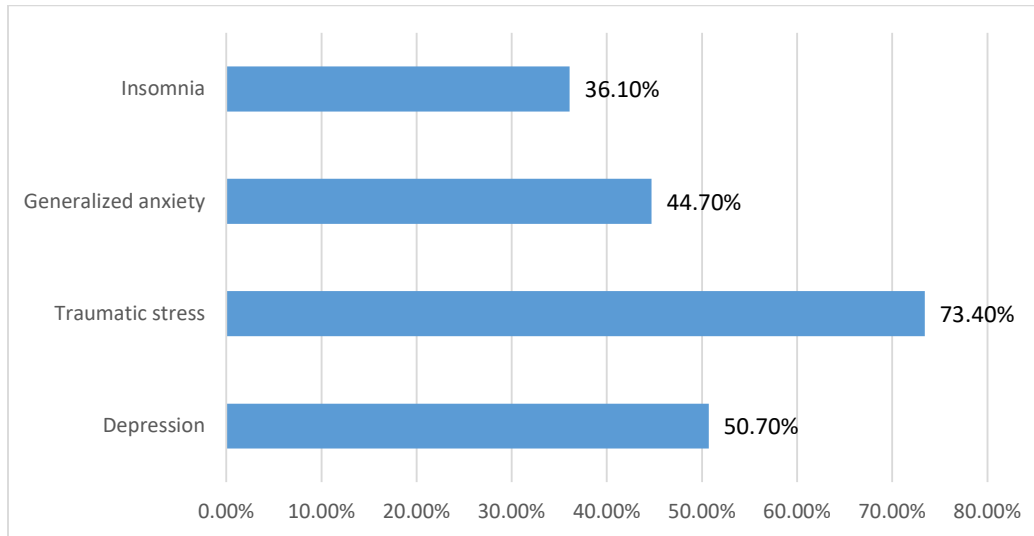


Figure 1: Results of a survey on the psychological impact of the pandemic

Source: based on information from (Liu et al., 2020)

These results are quite shocking, however, if they are compared with previous research materials on the psychological impact of other similar outbreaks, it has been demonstrated that fear related to being infected is connected with anxiety, post-traumatic stress and suicidality (Sherman, 2020; Chong et al., 2004; Wheaton et al., 2012; Wu et al., 2009; Yip et al., 2010).

Another correlation discovered in the study is the higher level of coronavirus anxiety that people of younger age and higher education levels tend to have (Sherman, 2020).

Furthermore, in 2003, during SARS epidemic, there was a positive connection between the virus related anxiety and the aversion to Chinese people, food and products (Sherman, 2020; Keil & Ali, 2006).

Covid-19 has created a massive panic world-wide and it has been compared with an "angel of death, a relentless and soulless invader that has infected the global psyche with fear and the bodies of our most vulnerable citizens" (Polizzi et al., 2020).

The pandemic managed to affect every aspect of people's lives such as: the way people earn their living, how they communicate with other people, the way they spend their spare time and other similar aspects. People are permanently concerned about the future, whether they and their families and friends will survive the virus. None of the previous pandemics created such prolonged perturbations as Covid-19 did. (Polizzi et al., 2020)

From an economic point of view, the negative impact of COVID-19 has started to be increasingly visible. People store stocks of food, hand sanitizers and other necessary products. Considering that schools are closed, some parents give up work to stay home with their children. Other families are worrying about what their children will eat. Universities were closed, meanwhile the authorities imposed travel restrictions and some students have been stranded. Weddings and other similar events were all canceled. (*Science in the time of coronavirus*, 2020)

All these changes result in financial losses for people and their countries. Some of the

most powerful countries in the world have announced their intention to develop investments of thousands of billions for sustaining the economy as the global production cannot be stopped and money needs to circulate regardless the COVID-19 global crisis' level of severity. Any hesitation in this way would cause incalculable consequences. Therefore, the powerful countries' governments declared from the

beginning of the pandemic that they will implement immediate measures to sustain the economy. (*The big states are fighting coronavirus with colossal investments in the economy. Romania is calm and analyses, 2020*)

The next Table 1 illustrates the numbers associated with these investments and some related details:

Table 1: Investments for sustaining economy

COUNTRY	INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINING ECONOMY	DETAILS
GERMANY	550 billion €	The German Minister of Finance, Olaf Scholz, declared that companies will receive all the financial support they need during the pandemic situation.
ITALY	32,5 billion €	The Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced to allocate these funds in order to sustain the economy to face the Coronavirus pandemic's devastating impact, Italy being one of the most affected countries.
FRANCE	45 billion €	The Minister of Finance, Bruno Le Maire, announced to use this investment in order to help the French companies during the pandemic. The President Emmanuel Macron promised that the government will guarantee credits of 300 billion € for the French companies to overcome the crisis.
SWEDEN	28 billion €	The investment aims to help companies face the economic consequences caused by Coronavirus. In addition, the state will ensure the salaries for the employees that encounter problems due to their employer's activity reduction. Moreover, companies can postpone the payment of taxes.
SWITZERLAND	29 billion €	The banks consider developing a loaning program for thousands of businesses affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. The government announced that it will create a fund for immediate assistance in order to ameliorate the pandemic's impact.
EUROPEAN UNION	40 billion €	The European Union can offer between 28 and 40 billion € for sustaining the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which are affected by the pandemic. However, the European Investment Bank requested additional guarantees from the Member States' governments that the bank can use for maintaining the access to finance SMEs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	700 billion \$	The Federal Reserve of USA, who has reduced the reference interest rate with 1%, has ameliorated the regulations for the banks and has launched a program for quantitative relaxation in order to protect the economy from the negative effects of the pandemic. The Federal Reserve of USA will procure treasury securities of at least 500 billion \$ and mortgage-backed securities of at least 200 billion \$. The Federal Reserve encouraged the banks to use the money in order to consolidate their capital buffers to sustain companies and households affected by the pandemic.
CHINA	170,6 billion €	The Chinese Central Bank has reduced the level of compulsory minimum reserves for sustaining the economy. Reducing the quantum of money that the banks have to preserve at the Central Bank, the banks were encouraged to offer more credits to companies in order to sustain the economy.
NEW ZEELAND	6,5 billion €	The Minister of Finance, Grant Robertson is aware of the future economic recession. However, the authorities developed a relaunching plan consisting of grants for salaries, reduced taxes, and support for health services.
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND	50 billion \$	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that it is providing 50 billion \$ to emerging and low-income countries through its fast-track financing facility amid the Coronavirus epidemic.

Source: based on the information from (PROTVNews, 2020;)

Based on the information provided by Eurostat, during the first quarter of 2020, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decreased by 3, 5% in the European Union, compared with the previous quarter, while the GDP diminished with 2, 7% in the first quarter of 2020, compared with the first quarter of 2019.

It can be observed that the negative difference of the GDP growth due to the Coronavirus pandemic is significantly high but not higher than the one recorded in 2008.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates, the United States' GDP growth decreased by 4, 8% in the first quarter of 2020 in comparison with the previous quarter.

In conclusion, the global economy will record high financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

However, the world succeeded to pass through similar situations by analyzing all the pandemic's effects and identifying efficient solutions to cope with them.

Most of the public authorities world-wide implemented the correct measures to cope with the pandemic situation from a socio-economic perspective.

The next chapter highlights the most important changes brought by COVID-19, changes that the world has to accept and to adapt to them. Therefore, the world has to adapt to the new directions imposed by COVID-19, directions that reveal the new "normality".

Potential irreversible changes after COVID-19

It is a well-known fact that the world has the capacity to overcome COVID-19 as in the past, as the economy managed to rebound after similar crisis.

The novelty of the current pandemic is represented by several potential changes

that the world might have to accept. People are waiting to return to their lives before COVID-19 appeared. Unfortunately, this is not likely to happen because the pandemic situation imposed changes that will influence the world's evolution.

The next Table 2 displays some of the mentioned changes predicted by thinkers, experts and scientists:

Table 2: Potential changes after COVID -19

Subject	Potential permanent changes
People's interaction	People will prefer to avoid meeting new people online. (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020).
Hygiene	People will avoid shaking hands and touching their faces and will wash their hands more often. (The legacy of the pandemic: 11 ways it will change the way we live, 2020)
Recognition	People will consider doctors and nurses true heroes as they do with military veterans. Therefore, the medical personnel will receive increased salaries, holidays, corporate discounts and other benefits. (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020).
Public investment	Public authorities will make major investments in medical equipment, treatments, disinfectants and other necessary medical products. Another priority for the public authorities will be to invest in the digitalization of public services.
Telemedicine	Telemedicine will be practiced and empowered to avoid queues and crowds in the hospitals. (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020).
Education	Online public schools will be created in order to protect children's health.
Teleworking	If possible, people will choose to work from home in order to avoid wasting time in transportation and to have a more flexible program. (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020). Employers will save money with office spaces.
Generosity	Some teachers already offer free online classes to people.
Technology	Virtual reality glasses will be used for courses, psychological consultations or other activities.
Pharmaceutical industry	The pharmaceutical industry will be managed by the public authorities in order to produce the necessary treatments and vaccines with priority.
Voting	The public authorities will offer people the possibility to vote online for an extended period of time. (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020).
Cooking	People will cook more than they used to, during the pandemic crisis. (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020).
Economy	Many restaurants, tourism agencies, hotels, shops, malls, private kindergartens, schools and universities will be closed. Payments will be made mostly using cards and online banking, instead of using cash. The exchange value will be less important and the mutual aid will become the guiding principle in the economy. After this crisis, people will realize that "success came in states where the government, as well as civic and private-sector leaders joined their strengths together in a spirit of self-sacrifice for the common good" (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020)
Real estate	The rents and prices for city apartments will decrease, while the prices for houses with yards in the suburbs will increase. Families will prefer to move to the suburbs

	after realizing how important it is for children to have enough spaces to play and enjoy fresh air.
Religion	Religion will accept the online future and some of the religious services will be held online. (The legacy of the pandemic: 11 ways it will change the way we live, 2020)
Pollution	The air will be cleaner and the public authorities will impose similar rules in order to maintain it this way.

Sources: based on the information from (Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How, 2020; The legacy of the pandemic: 11 ways it will change the way we live, 2020)

Some of these changes might not happen, but the world has to accept that this is the time for a radical change being so vulnerable in front of a very little virus.

Conclusions

The present Coronavirus pandemic has caused over 3,2 million deaths and has seriously affected people's lives from psychological, social and economic perspectives.

Nevertheless, the world will successfully overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and will find the proper methods to adapt to the new reality.

Moreover, people have to learn the lessons offered by this pandemic, appreciate health and hope for a better world in which the guiding principle is the life's protection.

Public authorities, people, private companies and NGO's have to form a capable team that can win the war against climate changes, nature hazards and new viruses. In addition to that, people should remember to resist human weaknesses as greed, arrogance, vanity and egoism.

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