*Research Article*

**The Impact of the Current COVID-19 Outbreak on Global Economy, Health, and Society in the USA. A Comparative Case Study**

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*Background.* COVID-19 is a global pandemic that has affected the world in various aspects such as economy, health, and social life in the USA as well as globally. *Aims.* The fundamental objective of this article is to discuss the impacts of the current global pandemic on the economy, health, businesses, entrepreneurship, as well as other essential aspects, as depicted in the study. The article is based on obtaining information from the key government and non-governmental agencies, which in this case, are the respondents. The paper investigates, analyzes, and discusses the results obtained and provide a conclusion on the impacts of the pandemic that the world is currently facing.

1. **Introduction**

With the current global pandemic of the Coronavirus, also referred to as COVID-19, there have been disruptive effects on the global economy, health, manufacturing industry, airlines, stock market, financial institutions, business startup as well as the on entrepreneurship. The outbreak of this deadly disease originated from China and has spread to more than 100 countries globally [7]. As the government is trying to put measures to contain this the spread of this pandemic, most of the operations have been in a standstill, thus affecting not only the local market but the global market.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the federal government in the United States has put in place measures to curb the rampant spread of the disease. Some of the measures put in place include the construction and upgrading of the health facilities, training of the medical workers, fiscal and monetary measures, setting aside funds to be used in the research of the new vaccine, among others.

The essence of all these measures is to counteract the crisis caused by this virus.

1. **Methods**

For this paper, the approach followed was qualitative research, which included reviewing the published work as well as an extensive analysis from various sources. When researching about this pandemic, the readily available information about its impact was scrutinized from different secondary sources, especially from the national and international agencies [6]. The information gathered provided insights into the effects of COVID-19 in various aspects.

In ensuring that reliable information was obtained in this research, comprehensive interviews were held using both structured and semi-structured questions with more than 20 stakeholders. The primary goal of these interviews was to assess the impacts of the current global pandemic in the USA. The interviews were mostly based on the affected areas, such as New York, California, Washington, and Texas.

1. **Results**

*3.1 Impacts of COVID-19 in the US*

*3.1.1 Economic Impacts*

Currently, the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 are being experienced, and it is predicted that the trend will continue being the same until the cure for this virus is found. Businesses that are part of the US economy are not, as usual, most of the jobs have also been closed amid the fear of contracting this disease. Another reason that has led to negative economic impacts is as a result of diverting a lot of financial resources to fight against the disease, thus affecting the economic development of the country.

The survey data documenting the rise in economic anxieties, with google searches that have been obtained, shows a global dataset of Google searches from 190 countries recording a surge in economic anxieties. Upon the arrival of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the country, there was a notable increase in Google search activity about the topic such as stock markets, recessions, conspiracy theories, among other related things.

The airline industry is one of the areas that has been walloped in the US. It forms a substantial part of the US economy. With the government stopping international flights, this has affected the industry. The unprecedented impact of the Coronavirus outbreak could lead to a loss of over $ 113 billion or more on what is considered to be the worst-case scenario. Based on the information that has been published by Airlines 4 America (A4A), the number of flights that have been canceled has now been outpacing the new bookings of flights in the US. The organization has now claimed that the current economic environment is not sustainable.

The impact of the Coronavirus on the stock market since its outbreak in China has shown a tremendous decrease in the financial stock market. Stock market investors now fear that this would destroy the economic growth, and the efforts put in place by the government, may not be reasonable enough to stop this declining trend [8]. The US Senate passed a bill by allocating $ 2 trillion to help businesses and workers during this challenging period. Most of the companies that are dealing with stock markets are worried that the situation may worsen if this pandemic is not contained. Nearly 20% of SP 500 companies have warned their investors and business partners about the COVID-19 impact. The management teams of these businesses that form SP 500 have cautioned about the revenue hit, claiming that they don't expect profits due to the current business environment.

The manufacturing industry is also affected due to the shipment of the materials as well as for the finished products. One of the manufacturing companies in Philadelphia claims to have experienced delays in getting the components from overseas, thus affecting the supply chain of the products. On the supply side, it is also expected to have disruptions because there may be a shortage of raw materials that are imported as well as the spare parts. Nevertheless, the impacts on small and medium enterprises are likely to be dramatic. The effect on the severity of the situation is solely dependent on the measures put in place by the government to contain the spread of this virus. If this virus shows the signs of spreading rapidly, it may lead to the US government as well as other governments in other countries to close their factories and shops, that are dealing with non-essential products. Car manufacturing industries have been affected, since currently, it is difficult to import the materials for assembling, at the same time, it is difficult to export, thus leading to higher losses by these industries. At this point, it is tough for the US to finish its production, hence making it difficult to supply its products to its customers. The effect is the same as other manufacturing industries, such as smartphones and computer manufacturing industries.

Since the inception of COVID-19 in November 2019 in Hubei province, China, business activities in the affected regions have ground to a halt. Small, medium enterprises are currently struggling to survive. Based on the survey conducted, it appears that 14% of such businesses will not be able to survive for a month, while 50% beyond a span of 3 months. This represents a dire picture of SME’s bankruptcies, during this scenario of the global pandemic [1]. Further analysis shows that 80% of the surveyed organizations may not be able to continue with their operations as a result of hard economic times and lack of customers to sustain their businesses. Barriers in business operations vary depending on various reasons, which include supply chains, labor shortages, as well as consumer demands. Similarly,

companies in different regions are experiencing different challenges which tend to obstruct business resumption. The overriding objective of containing this virus has also been identified as another fundamental factor. Entrepreneurs, as well as business startup, has been walloped by this global pandemic. In the USA, just like other countries that have been affected, running businesses have become a significant challenge as there are no customers in the market. Since the introduction of the guidelines to defeat this deadly disease such as social distancing, staying at home, among others, has been introduced by the federal government. [1] This has made it impossible for entrepreneurs and businesses to meet their objectives. However, business startups are taking up the fight against COVID-19. The efforts undertaken include fast-acting socially, using platforms such as digital financial tools that provide loans to small businesses to ensure they survive during this tough time.­

Notably, since the outbreak of COVID-19, there have been global health emergencies as well as the slowdown of the global economy. Business investment, employment as well as growth have also been affected, and these crises will significantly have an impact on the revenue generated by these firms, among other things. As the global response continues to develop, firms are experiencing significant challenges and need to respond rapidly. The economist may argue that this may have an impact ranging from long term recession to the severe effects on various sectors of the economy.

* + 1. *Health Impacts*

With the spread of COVID-19 to most of the states in the US, just like it is in other counties, there is a risk of health systems being overwhelmed. The rationale behind this is because the number of health workers may not be enough to sustain the number of patients contracting this disease. Additionally, health workers are also at risk of contracting this disease when handling patients who have turned positive [3]. One thing that has been noted about this virus is that it is spreading very fast, especially where hygiene and social distancing measures are not put in place. The deadly virus has claimed thousands of people, and as the situation escalates, it is expected to claim more. It is worth noting that the number of deaths is increasing on a daily basis, thus increasing the mortality rate [10]. According to the survey conducted on the implications of the current global pandemic, if this pandemic continues spreading to the human being, there are significant repercussions, as affirmed as follows.

*Even with the current situations and severe social distancing scenario, it is apparent that the health systems might end up being overwhelmed, which is anticipated to happen just in case the proportion of those infected in the US reaches a proportion of 1%, which is equivalent to 3.3 million cases in the country.*

As the level of infections rises, is expected to have a higher number of people in self-quarantine, isolation as well as the higher number of sick people, who might not get adequate care from the healthcare facilities [4]. It is paramount to understand how critical healthcare is, economic as well as the financial infrastructure during and after the containment of the novel coronavirus pandemic in the country [2].

According to the World Health Organization, the situation has become a global health issue with over 5000 reported deaths in the US. Additionally, this disease has also caused psychological and emotional effects, especially to those who have tested positive [10]. Older people are among the most vulnerable people to the severe infection of the Coronavirus. Most of these people are already in poor health since they live in poor living conditions [9]. The main challenge is that, with the increase in the number of those contracting COVID-19, there is the demand for healthcare workers to handle the patients, which has become a real challenge. Studies show that the COVID-19 has significant impacts on health as affirmed by one of the doctors, as illustrated below.

*The outbreak of COVID-19 has created a global crisis that has had an implication on how people perceive the world and in everyday life*

* + 1. *Social Impacts*

Coronavirus can be transmitted when a person tested positive to come into contact with another person. Sneezing, coughing, and touching surfaces that are infected may lead to the transmission of the disease. According to the guidelines provided by WHO, keeping social distancing could prevent the spread of the virus.

Based on the survey conducted by WHO on COVID-19, which involved 25 nationals and international experts from different countries, it was noted that the implementation of social distancing had reduced the community transmission of this virus, thus resulting in lower cases being reported on daily basis [9]. Other measures put in place as per the survey include aggressive case and contact identification, isolation as well as management of social distancing to limit human to human transmission nationwide. Research shows that COVID-19 has an implication on the social aspect of the human being as mentioned by the medical practitioners as follows

*The measures to combat this deadly disease is by exercising social distancing, provisioning of protective equipment, especially for the health and allied workers and other personnel who come into contact with those infected.*

1. **Discussion and Conclusion**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has presented severe public health issues in China, which have spread rapidly to other countries such as the US. With this outbreak, it has affected various sectors such as the economy, businesses, health, among others, as presented in this article. COVID-19 had not been appeared in the past and hence taking a lot of time and energy for the scientists to get the vaccine. The reason for such delays is because the scientists are still studying the behavior of this virus. Based on the research undertaken by different specialists, this virus originated from bats and pangolin, which then spread to other animals and then to people.

The recognition of the first case of COVID-19 in the US was based on a woman who traveled from China in mid of January 2020. The identification of 372 close contacts was initiated. As a result of this, it was noted that human to human transmission of COVID-19 could occur between two people with prolonged as well as unprotected exposure with patient number 1 [5]. According to the survey conducted about the disease and how it spreads, the medical practitioners and healthcare workers noted the following during the interview.

*Healthcare workers and community workers are at a high risk of contracting the disease. Additionally, aggressive case and contact findings are critical in preventing the spread of the virus*

In the USA, past influenza pandemics seem to have spread as a series of waves with the durations as well as intensities that vary. This has been associated with the school cycles as well as seasons. CDC is responding very well to this pandemic of respiratory diseases that spreads from one person to another. The current situation poses a public risk. In the United States, the federal government is working closely with the state government in responding to the current condition of COVID-19, which is deemed to cause mild to severe illness, this is mostly affecting older adults. Mild symptoms include dry cough, sore throat as well as fever. For the case of people experiencing severe illnesses, symptoms include organ failure, pulmonary oedema, extensive pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), among others. Based on the study analyzed, the transmission from human to human is very fast, as mentioned below.

*Coronavirus spread from human to human through respiratory fomites. Also, the respiratory viruses are contagious, especially when the patient is symptomatic. Nevertheless, there is increasing evidence showing that human to human transmission during the asymptomatic incubation of the virus, which is estimated to be between 2 to 10 days.*

In different parts of the US, several levels of COVID-19 activity have been seen. Based on the behavior of this virus, the duration, as well as the severity of this pandemic, may vary as a result of the characteristics of the infection and the public health response put in place. It is worth noting that the public health laboratories, as well as those from the state, are testing for this virus that causes COVID-19, as per the CDC Public Health Laboratory Guidelines. In all the states, cases of COVID-19 have been reported to CDC. Such cases include the imported cases in the travelers, cases from the known close contacts, community spread cases where the source of infection of this virus is not known. In assessing the responses given by the doctors, several measures have been put in place to contain the spread of this virus, as mentioned by a CDC expert.

*Community-based control measures have become a fundamental part of the residents’ quarantine. In some areas, which are the epicenters, one member in every household is the only one permitted to go outside after every two days.*

In terms of the severity, the complete picture in regards to COVID-19 is not yet fully known. Most of the reported cases range from mild illnesses where there have been people without the reported symptoms to severe illnesses, which are those illnesses that could amount to death. The sources show that most of the signs and illnesses are mild, while 16 % of the cases occur as a result of severe illnesses [4]. As per the risk exposure, the CDC stipulates that the immediate risk of exposure to this deadly virus is still low to the Americans, but as the outbreak continues expanding, the risk of exposure will rise. The reported cases of COVID-19 that are as a result of community transmission have been reported in a growing number in most of the states. According to the CDC, those people residing around the areas with many reported cases of COVID-19 are at a high risk of exposure to contracting the virus.

**Data Availability**

The datasets used for this analysis by the author are available in case of any reasonable request.

**Ethical Approval**

In completing this research, ethical approval was received from the relevant institution.

**Consent**

All the interviews undertaken for the completion of this research were based on the informed consent from the respondents.

**Disclosure of the information in this article**

The manuscript under consideration has been approved by the author and consent that none of the material in the paper have been published before. The article is solely based on the investigation of the effects of the current global pandemic by name COVID-19, which is as a result of the Coronavirus.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Before and after completion of this work, the author assured that there is no conflict of interest, based on the subject matter of this research.

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