Volume 20 Issue 28
Originally issued as B7



Global Journal of Management and Business Research: B
Economics and Commerce
Volume 20 Issue 7 Version 1.0 Year 2020
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal
Publisher: Global Journals
Online ISSN: 2249-4588 & Print ISSN: 0975-5853

Virus and Economy

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Abstract- The paper explored the impact of corona virus pandemic and its impact on the global economy. How this virus affected the life of common people and how their life is miserable. The people are struggling to sustain their life in developing and underdeveloped countries. The economy is completely shattered and people are out of a job due to strict lockdown declared by the countries. Particularly in developing countries this virus attack and lockdown has affected the common people and these people are migrating to their native villages for searching of food and shelter.

GJMBR-B Classification: *JEL Code: I15*



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Virus and Economy

Dr. Satyanarayan Mahapatra

Anstract- **The paper explored the impact of corona virus pandemic and its impact on the global economy. How this virus affected the life of common people and how their life is miserable. The people are struggling to sustain their life in developing and underdeveloped countries. The economy is completely shattered and people are out of a job due to strict lockdown declared by the countries. Particularly in developing countries this virus attack and lockdown has affected the common people and these people are migrating to their native villages for searching of food and shelter.**

Introduction

Nobody thought that the world economy would be severely affected by a virus attack. In the twentieth-century we heard about the economic crisis in 1930, the economic crisis during World War I & II, the oil crisis in the seventies, the Asian currency crisis, and the global financial crisis in the early twenty first-century. The last hundred years the world rapidly progressing, and lots of inventions and discoveries happened during this period. We developed many useful things and achieved many goals. We send humanity to space, to the moon, and to solve many mysteries about the universe. We developed a lot in information technology. Our civilization is proud of the scientific development. Our civilization credited with all kinds of development. All our development proved wrong when suddenly a virus attack the world. Nobody ever thought and imagine that one day a virus will capture the entire world. In twenty-first century when we talk about genetic engineering, biotechnology, internet, digitization, etc, our globe is affected by a virus which is very small and tiny particle unable to see in naked eye killing people on earth. Economists worldwide never predicted that a virus could impact the world economy. If we analyze previous academic works in the economy we will not find any research papers which will show that there is a relationship between virus and economics. This is now true, and we have to accept that besides other factors, there is another uncertain factor called virus, which can impact the economy of the world and the nation. If people are dying today, then the academic community, universities, and multinational pharmaceutical companies should be blamed. They are responsible for the current crisis. People are dying just like insects. When SARS virus discovered very early in twenty first century then why no efforts made by the scientist and pharmaceutical companies to develop vaccine and drugs to cure the disease? It is the failure of the academic community and pharmaceutical companies. Pharmaceutical companies are more interested in manufacturing those medicines which are very profitable and earn revenue for the companies. Pharmaceutical companies R&D are busy developing new medicines and got patented for high blood pressure, diabetes, gastro, neurology, etc. but least-concerned to develop vaccines or medicines to save people on earth. Everybody is busy in making money, but nobody made efforts to protect the world and the common people. We never expected and predicted that the world economy would crash not due to any war but because of a virus. The World is under lockdown, and all the economic activities have come to *stand still*. Stock markets are opening every day, but the indices are highly volatile, and the investors are unable to understand what to do in this situation. Crude oil is at the lowest level, and OPEC basket also quoting low. What will happen to the future of crude oil prices is difficult to predict. A similar case is with gold, silver, and other metal prices. Investors worldwide are confused about where to make investment and to have a sustained return. Every sector of industries are suffering. The rich countries and the countries that rank high in the human development index are suffering more with a virus attack than the developing countries. More people are dying in rich countries, and how many people will die, nobody knows? When will this virus disappear from the globe is uncertain? Today it is proved that the virus is more deadly and lethal than the nuclear weapons. The countries those who possess nuclear weapons do not require to kill the enemy or to destroy the countries. Countries should stop spending money on military weapons, and these weapons are now no longer necessary. Today every country is fighting with virus, and this is a war against nature. To conquer this war, we do not need military weapons, but we need weapons of medicines and vaccines that can save many precious human lives. Human beings should understand this theory very quickly to protect human life and the world economy, but the solution to this problem is not visible. Are we seriously thinking of stopping this virus? The MNCs, private sector companies, public sector companies, research laboratories, and research institutes are all seem defunct. How will this killing explained? Are these dead natural phenomenon? No one has the answer to explain this question. Every country is suffering today, and they are fighting a war that they do not know whether they will win or lose. This is a war against protecting human life and protecting the

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economy. The economy of each country is devastated and shattered. The people are hungry and lost their job due to pandemic. Their earning is stopped and has no money to feed their family. Due to lockdown in the countries, people in many countries, particularly in developing countries and underdeveloped countries, are fighting for survival. The real threat to life is not the virus, but the real threat is hunger. This hunger is going to kill many innocent people. In India, the daily labors and casual labors are migrating to their villages with the hope that they can survive. Since there is no work and no earning due to lockdown; therefore these workers and their families are going back to their villages. Once upon a time, rural people migrated to the cities for searching for jobs and livelihood, but today same people leaving everything and going back to their native places. Though these people are going back to their villages the irony is their own people and village panchayat not allowing them to enter into the village and demanding to produce medical certificate whether you are free from the Covid-19 virus. These people are facing a very pathetic situation for survival. Both sides, there is a threat to their life. Threat from corona infection and the threat of hunger where they will go? Even they cannot go to their native village. Innocent people are suffering because of foreign returned Indians or foreigners who are the main cause of the spreading virus in India. Why are these people should suffer when they have no-fault? Where will they go, and what will be their future? Is this meaning of globalization? People who are well settled with their families in the urban areas are suddenly jobless and unemployed. How the economic cycle will explain this situation? Can we explain the current economic crisis of the world with the help of the economic cycle or trade cycle? No economic theory can explain the current economic crisis. Let us analyze the various economic impact on common people and grass-root people. People who live on hand to mouth and earning their bread and butter. The earning of these people are associated with various means such as transportation systems (train services, public transport, etc.). Indian railways giving scope to a large number of people for earning directly and indirectly, but due to lockdown, the train services completely stopped except goods train. Many businesses are linked to rail transport, and state transport services, and people do business due to the movement of passengers, whether it is the railway platform, inside the train, bus stand, etc. Many poor people do their business due to passengers and they're earning linked to these services. Suddenly closing of the services, the business comes to stand still, and all are affected. The Government has not taken notice of this business while declaring lockdown. This is one example, and there are many such examples of business which are close down due to lockdown and revival of these businesses is very difficult. In India the earning of so many people is linked with this business. The government should seriously think about these people though some NGOs and relief agencies are helping, but this help is very minuscule. It is not in India may be happening in other developing and *under developed* countries. Rich people are in a comfortable zone, but poor people are suffering. Why every time-poor people should suffer. If we are in a democratic society and believe in the constitution, then all people are equal irrespective of their color, caste, and income. Therefore all types of people should be protected, but certain sections people in society are in danger. It is more critical than *corona virus* attack. No doubt one day, the world will win the war against the virus, but can these people who are severely affected will bounce back. Will they able to come back to the mainstream of life. We always appreciate ourselves that we are highly civilized, but still tribes who live in jungles, and we criticize them that they are uncivilized and do not understand the civilization culture, but today, they are safer and have no threat from *corona virus*. They are more intelligent and isolated from the modern and dirty civilized world. These uncivilized people are safer than the so-called civilized world. Their trust in nature and following nature's law protecting them against all threats. We never respected nature and never followed the law of nature. Our food habits and *life style* destroying us. We should learn from this uncivilized society. People at the bottom of the society are suffering, and their plight cannot be mitigated by the capitalism model. If not then why are we encouraging this type of economic system? Which benefits the one percent of the population? Right now socialism concept should strictly be implemented, and at least the majority section of the population will be benefitted by socialism. The job, income, and family will be protected. Socialism can save the world, not capitalism. The developing countries should encourage the socialistic economic model instead of the capitalism model. This model is the right model not only for developing countries but also for developed countries. Socialism is always criticized by most of the economist and *policy makers*. Today people need job protection, timely payment of salary, social security benefits, etc. to face this crisis, and only socialism can save the people at this juncture. The government of each country should come forward and protect the people because in the private sector people are asked to go on leave without salary or with a salary cut. In most of the private sector except few in numbers, people are on leave without salary. Today people need money for food to feed their family. This is giving additional burden and family are in distress due to a shortage of money and a shortage of food. In most developed countries which adopting the capitalism model economy, the unemployment rate is rising and more, and more people are jobless even in the United States job situation is very critical. People are struggling to sustain their life. How long this pandemic

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situation will continue in this world, nobody knows, but human and humanity should survive. Therefore there is a greater need for socialism. Capitalism cannot solve the problem of labor migration and food security. Children and adults are dying of hunger. Nobody knows what the law of nature has decided about the fate of the people and the future of the world. This virus attack has stopped the source of income for everyone. The person who is selling tea, street vendors, fruits and vegetable sellers, toys sellers, and *business men* running hotels, restaurants, gym, multiplexes, etc. are all sitting idle with no income. The crisis is going from bad to worse, and during a crisis you need money. Every essential item is now costly, and to buy these goods, you need cash. The government should come forward to help these people. The government should have a proper plan to tackle this situation. Simply declaring lockdown will not solve the problem. It may decrease the virus infection, but at the same time, the life of common man and economic activities will be pathetic.

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