



Social Scientific Centered Issues

June 2020-2(1) http://dergipark.gov.tr/ssci ISSN 2687-6221

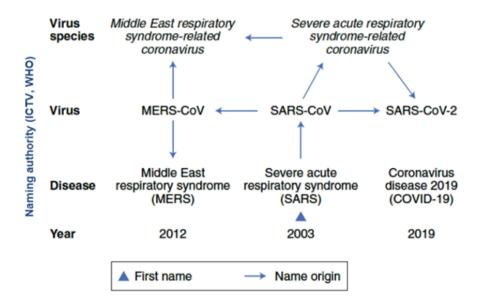
Received: 13.06.2020 Accepted: 14.06.2020



An Overall Evaluation of The Covid-19 Pandemic

1. Erkan YANARATEŞ

Graphical Abstract



Abstract

People have been struggling with this problem for about six months in the face of the global epidemic called Covid-19, which has become one of the most important agendas of recent times and has taken over the world in a short time. Since it has reached a very dangerous point in terms of economic, sociological, and especially health, it has come to the forefront in the literature with researches in almost every field. In this process, all students studying with formal education were sent to their homes, and education and training activities had to be carried out by the distance education method. The purpose of this study, which is designed as a compilation in this context, is to make a general assessment of the economic, sociological and psychological effects of the Covid-19 pandemic process and its relations with the epidemic.

Keywords: Covid-19, Pandemic, Online and Distance Learning

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Citation:

Yanarates, E., (2020). An Overall Evaluation of The Covid-19 Pandemic. Social Scientific Centered Issues, 2(1), 24-33.

1. INTRODUCTION

Because of the Covid-19 outbreak, which is one of the most important syndromes of the 21st century and spread to the whole world in a short time, people couldn't leave their homes for nearly 100 days. People, who insist on going out of their homes despite the restrictions imposed by the state, and because of problems such as giving hundreds of death reports at the end of each day, are now experiencing mental disorders. On the other hand, the fact that the important economies of the world are destroyed, especially the countries whose income source is dependent on tourism, frightens people. In addition to these adversities, academic activities carried out with formal education around the world have been interrupted because of the epidemic. Schools or universities in some countries have decided to run this semester through distance education, while others have declared holidays.

In addition to these crises, academic activities carried out with formal education around the world have been interrupted due to the epidemic. Schools or universities in some countries have decided to run this semester through distance learning, while others have declared holidays until September.

According to unofficial sources, the infection, which may have appeared in November 2019 or earlier, was first seen in Wuhan, China's Hubei Province on December 1, 2019 (Lancet, 2020). The disease, which started with a case of pneumonia said to be caused by coronavirus and later turned into an epidemic, has become a global pandemic over time (WHO, 2020a).

All institutions around the world, especially managers and healthcare providers, try to persuade people to stay at home with morale campaigns such as "Stay at home" and "Life fits in home". At the press conference held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva on March 11, 2020, WHO General Director "Thousands of people are struggling to survive in hospitals. The speed of the virus, its severity and the failure of the authorities to take the necessary measures have brought us to the alarm level." He announced that the WHO declared the Covid-19 outbreak as a "pandemic" for the coronavirus epidemic surrounding the world (URL-1, CDC, 2020).

Drawing attention to the distribution of viruses in the world, on 13 March 2020, he reported that Europe became the center of the Covid-19 pandemic from now (WHO, 2020b). He then explained that the coronavirus epidemic will continue for quite some time and that many countries in the world are in the early stages of the epidemic (BBC, 2020). The reason why the disease can spread to such a large area is that the virus it contains has very high transmission and spreading feature. So much so that the transmission speed is similar to the numbers going down in the Pascal triangle.

Let's get acquainted with this virus, which was first discovered in the 1960s. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause various diseases such as colds, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. There are protrusions similar to the shape of the crown on their surfaces. Therefore, starting from the word "corona", which means "crown" in Latin, this virus was first called "coronavirus", which means crowned virus (Heimdal, Moe, Krokstad et al. 2019).

Coronaviruses can be found in domestic and wild animals such as humans and rodents, poultry, bats, whales, mice, pigs, cats, dogs. The infectious period of the Covid-19 and the time to withstand the external environment are not clear today (Medicana, 2020, Hasoksuz et al.2020).

SARS-CoV-2, 2019-nCoV, according to WHO records, since SARS-CoV, which started out in Hong Kong between November 2002 and August 2003, is the continuation of the disease, causing the death of 916 people worldwide and carrying the same virus. It was named 2019-New Coronavirus and finally Covid-19 (WHO, 2020a).

Identification of coronavirus disease

Disease: Coronavirus disease

Virus: SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2)

Definitions

CoV: CoronaVirus

CoViD: Corona Virus Disease

MERS-CoV: Middle East Respiration Syndrome **SARS-CoV**: Severe Acute Respiration Syndrome

Based on these definitions, the new identifications seen below were also made.

SARS-CoV-2: Identification of the new coronavirus disease that has the same virus as the SARS-CoV.

2019 nCoV: 2019-New Coronavirus

Covid-19: Thus, the last definition of the disease caused by coronavirus has been made.

2. METHODS

The aim of the article is to evaluate the effects of social, economic and psychological in the pandemic process with current literature data. Also, it was aimed to examine the academic activities carried out in this process and make some suggestions. The research covers the activities of individuals, institutions and organizations, especially the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health, Higher Education Institution and universities which constitute the sources of the findings obtained in the pandemic process. These activities in general;

The names and source of the disease

The names defined for virus

The origin and spread of the disease

The precautions for the disease

The precautions taken and the treatment methods applied

The course of the pandemic in the world and Turkey

The social, economic and psychological effects of the pandemic

The academic activities in the pandemic process

Covid-19 course and prevention methods of the disease in Turkey

The first Covid-19 case seen in Turkey was announced by the Ministry of Health that March 10, 2020. The first virus-related death in the country occurred on March 15, 2020. The next day, the Covid-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic by WHO. After this incident, all institutions and organizations were on alert. The coronavirus occupies the agenda of almost all ministries, television channels, websites, universities and scientific journals. Therefore, the most talked about lately is Covid-19 and ways to prevent this disease have started. To mention some of these protection methods; The first method, which has a five-step rule; frequent washing of the hands, coughing into the elbow, avoiding touching the face, following the social distance of one and a half meters, staying at home if possible. Sterilization method; N95 (95% filter), disposable surgical face mask and chemical reduction or removal methods depending on the appropriate environment. The filiation method is the screening of all the people with infectious disease contact. Turkey has been in the best position in the world in terms of the filiation method use. Besides, in this process in terms of health services, Turkey has been praised by many countries. On the other hand, the Minister of Health, Turkey Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency of International Harmonization said Council unanimously agreed on Human Medicines for membership (URL-1, WHO, 2020a).

The economic, psychological and social impacts of Covid-19 pandemic

Outbreaks in the early 21st century have shown how vulnerable people are to infectious diseases. With the vaccines and antibiotics found in the 1970s, many scientists thought that the age of diseases had closed, but viruses returned with different mutations. Although all of these viruses do not turn out to be a major epidemic, Ebola and HIV (AIDS) virus seen in the 1970s also draw attention as a global problem (WHO, 2018; Aslan, 2020).

Since pandemic affects human health and economy together, negative results are seen on these two concepts. Because, as well as news about human deaths, news about stopping production activities and collapsing economies are heard worldwide. A completely different world awaits us after the epidemic. Covid-19 is a very rapidly spreading disease and it is unknown who carries the virus. Moreover, its treatment is not yet clear. Nobody knows when social and economic life will return to normal globally (Ulisa, 2020).

Covid-19 pandemic data from March 11 to June 11

According to the World Health Organization data; As of June 11, 2020, it is seen that the number of Covid-19 cases worldwide reached 7 million 579 thousand 328 and the number of deaths was 422 thousand 928. In Turkey, the total number of cases during the period up to June from the first Covid-19 cases seen in March, 174 thousand 123, while the Covid-19 induced the total number of deaths is given as 4 thousand 763 (Worldometer, 2020; Last update: June 11, 2020, 23.10 GMT).

Covid-19 death data by continents

Africa: 5.863, Asia: 37.900, Europe: 181.458, North America: 141,326, South America: 56.156, Oceania: 124 (Worldometer, 2020; Last update: June 11, 2020, 23.10 GMT).

Table 1. Report coronavirus cases and deaths in some countries (Worldometer, 2020)

| Country | Case | Death | Population |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| USA | 2.120.018 | 118.763 | 330.906.997 |
| Brazil | 829.902 | 41.901 | 212.483.982 |
| UK | 292.950 | 41.481 | 67.868.549 |
| Italy | 236.291 | 34.162 | 60.465.875 |
| France | 156.287 | 29.374 | 65.266.664 |
| Spain | 290.289 | 28.275 | 46.753.936 |
| Mexico | 133.974 | 15.944 | 128.862.724 |
| Belgium | 59.819 | 9.646 | 11.587.177 |
| India | 309.603 | 8.890 | 1.379.307.780 |
| Germany | 187.251 | 8.863 | 83.771.107 |
| Iran | 182.545 | 8.659 | 83.936.074 |
| Canada | 97.943 | 8.049 | 37.725.348 |
| Russia | 511.423 | 6.715 | 145.931.552 |
| Turkey | 175.218 | 4.778 | 84.292.030 |
| China | 83.064 | 4.634 | 1.439.323.776 |
| Total (15 countries) | 5.402.922 | 362.133 | 4.178.483.571 |
| Total (World) | 7.724.832 | 427.680 | 7.790.724.300 |

Last update: June 12, 2020, 00.10 GMT

As can be seen in Table 1, Covid-19 pandemics caused the death of thousands of people and negatively affected the world economic, social and psychological.

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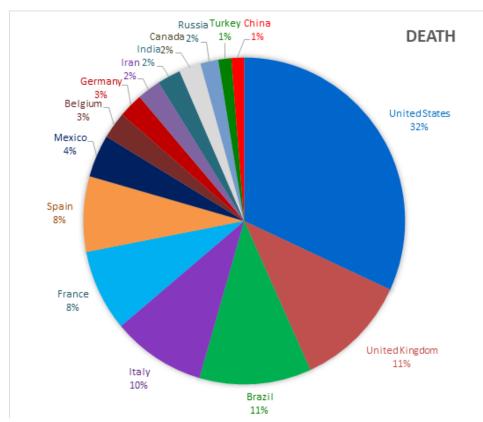


Figure 1. Report Coronavirus deaths in some countries (Worldometer, 2020) (Ref. http://www.worldometers.info/calculation_yanarates, Last update: June 12, 2020, 23.00 GMT)

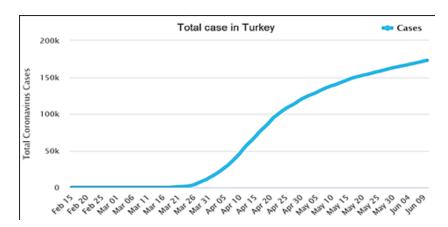


Figure 2. Total Covid-19 cases in Turkey (Worldometer; June 12, 2020, 23.00 GMT)

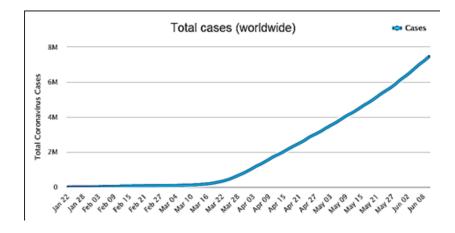


Figure 3. Total Covid-19 cases in the world (Worldometer; June 12, 2020, 23.00 GMT)

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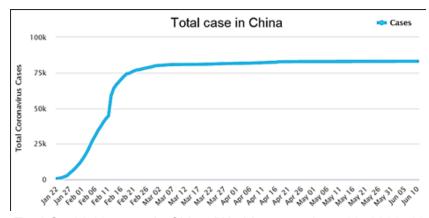


Figure 4. Total Covid-19 cases in China (Worldometer; June 12, 2020, 23.00 GMT)

Turkey, on April 19, 2020 in excess of 86 thousand new cases is the output source of the virus has overtaken China. There were not many cases in China from now on compared to European countries.

In early February, medical supplies were provided to China the epidemic. Then China-Turkey flights were canceled. Although the disease was first seen in China, the number of cases exceeded China in many countries in early April. In fact, no new cases were reported in China on April 6. After this incident, quarantine was removed in the city of Vuhan.

The social effects of Covid-19 pandemic

With the declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic, educational activities in many countries were stopped for a while. It was decided not to perform Friday prayers by the Presidency of Religious Affairs on 13 March. On March 15, entertainment venues were closed, mutual flights were stopped with some countries. On 16 March, it was decided to play sports competitions without spectators, while praying with the congregation was interrupted in mosques. Curfew has been introduced for citizens under 20 and over 65. After March 21, some countries gradually announced a curfew. Some state administrators were diagnosed with Covid-19.

The economic and financial impacts of Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted its social, financial and psychological structures worldwide. Economic giants of the world such as USA, UK, China, Germany, France, Italy and Japan have come to the point of collapse. In addition, all world stock markets, money markets and oil prices fallen off a cliff. Also, many financial experts have warned that the global economic structure will deteriorate. Pandemic has already become a reason for closing large numbers of employment and closing supermarkets that appears empty recently. Therefore, many investors have feared and forecast that epidemics could cause inflation (Mahar, 2020).

The psychological impacts of Covid-19 pandemic

In addition to being a medical phenomenon, the pandemic is a social phenomenon that affects individuals and society at many levels and causes disruption. Because as the threat perception caused by infectious disease increases, people who experience panic and stress exhibit different behaviors than usual. How the emotional and psychosocial effects of the uncertainty and crisis that occur during the pandemic periods are managed and how these are dealt with have an important place for the individual and the society. When a situation such as epidemic disease is unpredictable, it is considered natural for people to show protection and avoidance behavior with the feeling of fear and panic. Risks affect the moment due to their potential power, as well as damage the hope and confidence in the future (Beck, 1992).

In this process, based on the lack of trust, people by persuading people to a certain behavior or belief is also used as an important propaganda tool (Chomsky, 2016). It is also easier to lead people maliciously by using their health-related fears. Although the effects of epidemic diseases occurring in every period of history have decreased, the risk is carried systematically exaggerated by the media, and the danger is kept alive (Çelik et al, 2017). In order to manage this process properly in pandemic periods, planned and organized psychosocial support services are needed in terms of public mental health as well as medical intervention (Karataş, 2020).

The academic activities in Covid-19 pandemic process

While this period is between 2-4 weeks in some countries, it has been extended until the end of the period in some countries. Later, it was decided that face-to-face education could not be continued with the rapid spread of the epidemic, and students were sent to their homes. Thus, since March 23, 2020 universities in Turkey have begun to make distance education activities. After the universities, other educational institutions gradually switched to distance learning. In addition to students in the country, students studying abroad also experience some problems. Universities that send mutual students to study abroad within the scope of student exchange programs call on these students to return to their country in early March 2020 (CoHE, 2020). On the other hand, academic and administrative staff were asked to cancel their travels abroad, if possible, for activities such as congress and meeting participation, if necessary, warnings are made to check whether the country has a travel ban due to the pandemic (URL- 1,2,3,4).

Public televisions have been trying to carry out distance education activities in this way by making a common broadcast to primary and secondary school students. At the same time, teachers have been given instructions to watch these publications and prepare their own students according to these publications. All students and teachers have been trying to go online for distance education at the same time. In higher education, the situation is not very different. When academics and students try to go online at the same time, telephone networks are interrupted from time to time. In order to get better results, telephone stations and networks have been increased and internet packages have been given to the students by the governments through internet service providers (CoHE, 2020).

3. DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS

With the SARS-CoV-2 syndrome, which has dropped like a bomb on the agenda of 2020, about eight billion people face many problems caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. One of them is that academic activities are not as efficient as desired. Some publication indexes, universities and scientific research institutions, the portals of education, science and culture were reported to be open during the Covid-19 Pandemic process.

At the end of 2019, cases of pneumonia of unknown cause were reported by the WHO in Wuhan, China, and at the beginning of 2020, a novel coronavirus, that was not formerly detected in humans, was identified. This disease, originally referred to as 2019-nCoV, was later called Covid-19 and, after emerging in China, it affected the whole world in about 3 months (WHO, 2020c, Budak & Korkmaz, 2020, Hasoksuz et al.2020).

While preparing this study, websites of institutions and organizations such as Kastamonu University, Council Higher Education (CoEH), Ministry of Health, Worldometer, WHO, Web of Science and Dergipark were visited almost daily. During this visit, some interesting events were encountered between 1-10 June 2020. One of them is that as of June 1, restaurants, cafes, pastry shops, cafes, tea gardens, associations, swimming pools, beaches and spa type businesses have started to serve. This means an invitation to the coronavirus (URL-2, CoHE, 2020).

Another issue is the situation of Brazil in recent days. While its name has not been mentioned in cases or death news for about three months, it has come to the second place in the world in recent days. However, in the country, approximately 21,000 deaths occurred in Brazil between the dates of 21 May 2020 (20,082 deaths) and 11 June 2020 (40,920 deaths).

Although education and training activities are carried out with distance education, it cannot replace formal education (Yılmaz & Ertuğrul Akyol, 2019). The most important proof of this is that many students, teachers and academicians at all levels from primary to higher education are just starting to use teleconference applications (Avan, Gülgün, Yılmaz & Doğanay, 2019). In addition, although the internet services infrastructure of universities and other educational institutions is sufficient, people who are connected to the internet from their homes are not satisfied with the internet services they receive.

On the other hand, the conditions required for distance education and the infrastructure of schools are not yet ready. Many of the administrators, teachers, academics, technical staff and students are newer on these issues. Distance Education Centers of Universities tried to share the necessary information with their own staff, but it is not sufficient. Because, in terms of number, both their own staff was insufficient and it is very difficult to reach many people and to convey information to them at the same time. In short, everyone tried to learn distance education through their own efforts, trial-and-error or watching instructional videos from the internet.

More importantly, the evaluation of some of the courses given by distance education is done online via the internet. In this way, a measurement-evaluation cannot be expected to be healthy and objective. Because the necessary conditions for taking some precautions and checking for online exams have not been fulfilled. Looking at the event from this perspective; It can be said that students who can use information technologies well or reach someone who understands their lessons are more advantageous. Nevertheless, rather than not evaluating at all, it was agreed to make a poor evaluation (Bakar & Avan, 2019).

In fact, governments and related institutions are aware of this situation, but it is thought that holidaying schools for a period will make many things more negative. A similar incident has not been canceled by the state exams to be held in the summer. However, people were restricted from going out of their homes. However, due to these exams, people of almost all ages will be out of their homes. As in the previous issue, if the exam is not done, more important problems may be encountered.

These examples, which seem like unsuccessful moves, can be reproduced, but if there is nothing else to do, there is only one thing to say; People can sometimes be helpless in the face of events such as disasters and pandemics. In this period, humanity has passed some exams. The most important aim of these exams is to try to survive the pandemic with the least damage.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The concept of health includes physiological, sociological and psychological aspects of people, apart from disease or any disability. In this context, regardless of differences such as religion, language, ethnicity, and political thought, everyone should be able to make the most of their current healthcare opportunities. Because this is among their basic human rights.

Economy and health are inseparable for the comfortable society or comfortable of society. The epidemic has negative effects on world economies as well as on health. So much so that production activities have declined a lot around the world and most of the manufacturers have suffered serious damage. Adversely effects on the global economy are also reflected in Turkey's economy.

While all countries struggle with the deaths caused by the pandemic, they face an economic crisis that negatively affects the lives of billions of people. For this reason, the measures to be taken to control the epidemic and their economic effects should be considered all together.

Regarding critical and worsen conditions in the worldwide, countries need collaboration and communication among themselves, people's help and maturate and logical behaviours to struggle covid-19. Otherwise, due to the universalized and linked world, false activities taken by any state will leave a major impact on the other countries too.

Not time for political scoring and fighting with each other, but it is time for states to help each other and coordinate and cooperate to overcome this deadly outbreak to save the global economic structure.

In recent days, the number of cases and death in Brazil has started to occur more than expected. Because Covid-19 has killed approximately 21 thousand people in the last three weeks. The reason for this is that people switch to the normalization process very quickly, probably with the arrival of summer. Thus, new cases and unfortunately new deaths are inevitable. However, the coronavirus outbreak is not over yet, it is still necessary to continue taking precautions.

According to WHO and health ministry data, Turkey has managed to stay behind European countries in the last 10 days. This success would be made possible by following the rules of the social distance, the cleaning and mask use. As expected, the Covid-19 cases also decrease when the rules are followed. However, with the arrival of the summer season, it was observed that people disrupted the rules slightly. Whereas, this situation may carry our country back to undesirable conditions. The situations of the USA, Brazil and many European countries are obvious. As a country, it is necessary to draw very good lessons from all these events. Success is only possible in this way.

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