

MULTI-SECTORAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN PAKISTAN

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The proliferation in superbugs infections have catalyzed developments in global health protection (UNDG,2020). Like other part of the world, Pakistan public health sector seeks to reinforce national structures to deter the transmission of disease globally, regulatory bodies gradually understand that biological risks not only have environmental health implications but have wide-ranging socio-economic disruptions. This calls for a more detailed economic analyses which should include a multi-sector translational view of disease costs beyond conventional human health-centric frameworks that only address instances of illness, direct care spending, and activities and services in public health.

Health is the foundation of a healthy, prosperous community, while anxiety and disease will disrupt development, consumption, leisure, travel and general well-being. Although non-health industries are frequently seen in the light of negative externalities in causing disease events, the possible impacts they experience from disease events support their contribution to seeking multi-sectoral approaches to reduce and mitigate disease risks.

The growth in Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to drop from 3.2% to 2.4% due to COVID-19 outbreak, and growth in World's GDP drop expected to around 3.1% to 2.8%. Likewise, G20 developed and emerging countries 's GDP growth in 2020, was projected at 1.9% and 4.8% respectively, however after the COVID-19 break it will expected to drop to 1.3% and 3.7% (OECD economic outlook, 2020)².

As result of all this, government revenues in all countries are also expected to decrease across the board, including direct income taxation, VAT collections, and indirect taxes; in addition, decreasing trust among private and international investors contributed to increase in the gap of funding deficits.

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² OECD Economic Outlook database.

These impacts spread through all industries and will have long-term repercussions, including ramifications for wellbeing and life, as well as general industry stability due to a loss of worker capability during illness, and markets are developing to insure against the threat of losses due to the pandemic. Both private sector participation, as well as public agencies outside the health sector, remain constrained in overall preparation and response to the pandemic crisis.

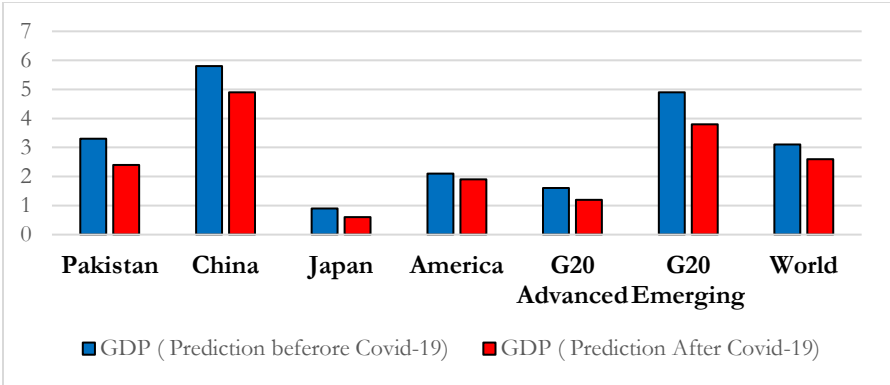


Figure 1: Effects of Covid-19 on Global GDP Growth

Health Sector:

The effects of viral disease incidents on the health system are also the simplest for retroactive assessment. Nonetheless, projections may be elusive with new or re-emerging viral diseases with unexpected clinical effects, so expense forecasts are still restricted to short-term treatment costs, environmental risk, or mortality. For example, COVID-19 infections are unlikely to result in substantial stress, the presence of disease in all age segment of the society especially which are more severe in older ages may have comprehensive impacts. Not only are direct medical expenditures anticipated to escalate during viral diseases, but also post direct and indirect costs-particularly in view of the long-term comprehensive treatment implied for such patient will be significant. The direct treatment expenses associated with Covid-19 hospitalization could be ranged from under 20,000 to over 50,000. So far, the 2019–2020 COVID-19 crisis in Pakistan resulted suspected cases in thousands, 2670 confirmed cases and 40 deaths (Dawn).

Education Sector:

Government of Pakistan has temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the pandemic. Millions of learners are out of schools, college or universities. Drop-out levels are expected to increase as a consequence of this major change because it will force a number of low-cost schools to shut down permanently. As a result of this many of the students to get

enrolled at public educational institutions, which are already overcrowded and lack basic facilities to serve the pupils already there.

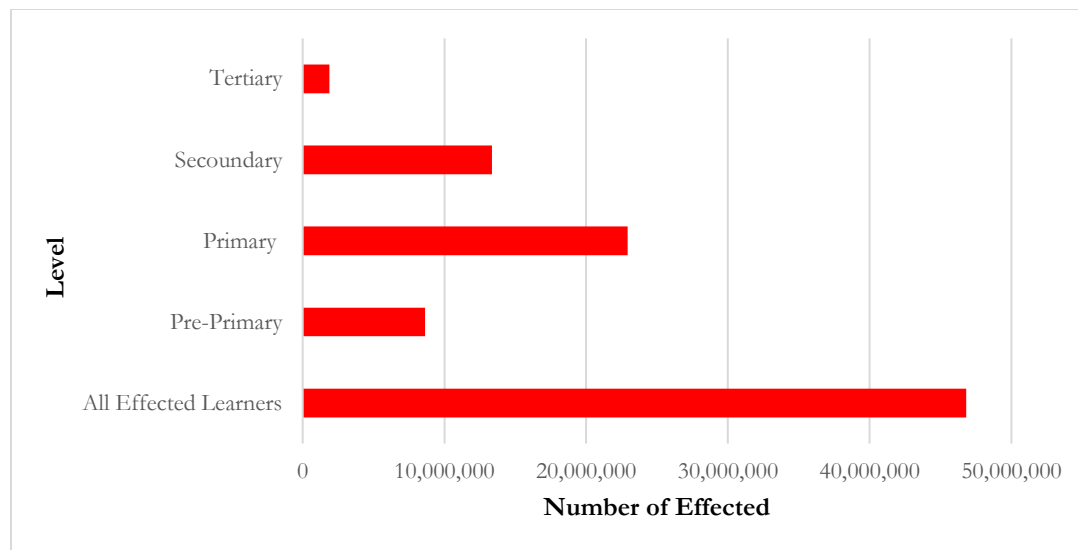


Figure 2: Covid-19 Impact on Education

TOURISM AND TRAVEL:

Coronavirus sparked a chaos throughout the world, which is expected to affect Pakistan’s travel industry as well. Travel trends have dropped by 60-70% in Pakistan due to the fear of coronavirus (Pakistan tourism development,2020). According to Asian Development Bank report 2020, in worst case scenario of COVID-19 virus, Pakistan tourism industry face a US\$ 5.8 million losses. Concerns and security alerts give quick visibility into impacted regions of the planet.

TRADE AND RETAIL INDUSTRY:

After recovery from coronavirus, the world is likely to reconsider the global supply chains to avoid concentration of industries in one country, China, which will create opportunities of relocation of some industries to Pakistan. After killing more than 19000 people and infecting more than 15 lac people, the total global economic loss due to COVID-19 will be forecasted near to 10 to 15 percent of the world gross domestic product (GDP) (IMF,2020). Much of this impact was due to consumer fears given the ease of transmissibility of the virus in public settings.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the public's contagion fear and Pakistan government overreaction closed down many public events and stifled daily activities. As a result of all these safety measures the accommodation and food sectors experienced a 10% drop in production; the entertainment and recreation sector production likewise dropped 60%, and publishing, communication and

information sectors expected to drop 20.3%. Transportation and storage drop to 70%, wholesale and retail dropped 28.6%, and electricity and air conditioning 60.9%. Meanwhile, the industries with high proportions of temporary jobs (e.g. restaurant, accommodation, and recreation sectors), who are also typically disproportionately affected by outbreaks, were significantly impacted, leading to labor losses.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Since environmental products and services are usually deemed non-market commodities and their consumer price may not represent their true value, disruption to important natural products, destruction of animal habitats, and environmental pollution are sometimes ignored in economic analyses of disease incidents. Regional demand for natural resources can increase during political and security crises, contributing to increased wildlife harvests and the illicit usage of protected land, implementation of environmental protection policies can diminish when the government becomes overwhelmed by other burdens like the quarantine and travel restriction measures.

OTHER IMPACTS

The exceptionally high effected patients and death toll during the COVID-19 outbreak has resulted not only in extended social and household economic impacts, but also in stifled growth levels, loss of production and incomes due to unwillingness to avoid work or contagion, heightened hunger and food scarcity, lost employment and lost education. Military forces were pulled from routine roles in public protection to conduct quarantine facilities, a role they were not equipped for. These provide only modest samples of the individual and household-level ripple effects that can have a multitude short- and long-term bearing on the public and private sectors.

The effects of viral disease outbreaks on public safety are important but monitoring is ad hoc and possibly incomplete. Public and private actors at the state, regional and foreign levels need to work together more closely to maintain responsive policies and risk and effect analysis, and to promote cost-sharing approaches for mitigation and preparedness when appropriate, and to determine effective solutions for action where necessary. Viral disease outbreaks in today's globalized environment would need nothing less than these strong public-private collaborations and optimum safety and economic protection obligations.