

Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on the Socio-Economic Situation in Africa

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ABSTRACT

This article assesses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social and economic situation in Africa. The data used in this paper was generated from online survey questionnaire, in which the participants were asked questions about how COVID-19 has affected their socio-economic lives. The questionnaire was designed to help Africa to understand COVID-19 impacts. The results reveal that COVID-19 affected Africa in the following ways: 1) 51.6% responded that coronavirus affected their job search; 2) over the past three months, 47.1% of the respondents said their private financial situation remained unchanged; 3) 61% did not trust the existence of COVID-19; 5) according to this online survey administered using Google form, 51.8% of the respondents said the services sectors are the most impacted sectors, followed by industrial sector, 31.3%, and agriculture is least affected sector at 8.4%. Policy implication is that it has serious impacts on socio-economics interactions.

KEYWORDS

Africa, Coronavirus Pandemic, COVID-19, Economic Sectors, Online Survey, Social Distancing

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper assesses the impacts of covid-19 on socio-economic situation in Africa. Coronavirus pandemic which had created from the Wuhan Province of China in last part of December 2019. It instigated increasing quickly in China and to other parts of the world through the movement of people in late 2019 and early 2020. The feast of COVID-19 pandemic pretentious economic undertakings in China, the Chinese economy came to a standstill. China is a major exporter of producer and consumer commodities to Africa, and the economic reduction in China is anticipated to have spillover effects for Africa through the deleterious effect on African trades that depend on deeply on China for the supply of primary and intermediate raw materials. The coronavirus crisis is affecting many African countries, and the number of confirmed cases have been rising rapidly with a particularly severe situation in South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Cameroon. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, maximum of the healthcare infrastructure in African countries had worsened. Ozili, P. K. (2020) reveal that African countries have been pretentious by the coronavirus pandemic, and the consequence was more severe for African regions related to other areas and increasing Covid-19 pandemic posh social interaction and

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economic activities through the imposed social distancing policies that have different points of severity in numerous African countries. Some private hospitals rejected to admit sick patients whereas public hospitals surpassed their volume. This pressured the government of some countries to build isolation centers in large open fields around the country; notably, football stadiums were converted to isolation centers in countries such as Cameroon and Nigeria. In African countries where good healthcare systems exist, the government had to scale-up intensive care units and provide more resources for hospitals and healthcare systems to control the spread of coronavirus. The plain social consequence of the coronavirus crisis was fingered through the burden of movement limitations in numerous African countries. These measures inevitably affected economic activities in African countries, and because of the peoples in African countries are not versatile to operate jobs from home and even the government lack certain understand and lack human capita based that have that knowledge to operate from home and contributes effectively and efficiency to the economic growth and development. Most central banks applied fiscal policy, monetary policy and exchange rate policy to stabilize the economic in both the long run and short dynamics.

The emergent coronavirus literature has discovered the effect of the coronavirus predicament by single-day data, two-day data etc. and they typically emphasis on a exact sector like tourism industry sector (Gossling et al., 2020), the mining sector as part of industrial sector (Laing, 2020), or the economy (Fernandes, 2020; Ozili and Arun, 2020; Fornaro and Wolf, 2020). first, this study contributes to the recent literature on the impact of coronavirus in society (e.g Fornaro and Wolf, 2020). The paper contributes to this literature by exploring the socio-economic effect of coronavirus in Africa by looking at the context that was not mention in the literatures such as the online research methodology. The second, it contributes to the literature that examines the impact of social policies on the well-being of individuals in society (e.g. Lunau et al., 2013; Jutz, 2015; Acevedo et al., 2014; Li et al., 2016; Holt-Lunstad et al., 2010; McGuire, 2011).

The main objective of the paper is to assess the impacts of covid-19 on the social-economic live and livelihoods of the people in Africa, specifically; 1) the sectors' that made up the economy, 2) perception of the people 3) social distancing 4) job search 5) Private financial situation, 6) prevention method of covid-19 pandemic etc. The paper follow this formatting. Section 2 presents the brief literature review. Section 3 current statistic of covid-19 in the World and Africa Section 4 the online research methodology. Section 5 the results. Section 6 concludes and policy implication.

2. A BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

A recent body of literature explores the impact of coronavirus on society. For instance, Chinazzi et al. Haleem et al. (2020) indication that COVID-19 has pretentious day-to-day life and is decelerating down the worldwide economy. They argue that the economic effects of coronavirus such as the slowing of the manufacturing of essential goods, disruption of the supply chain of products, losses in national and international business, poor cash flow in the market, significant slowing down in the revenue growth while the social consequences include the cancellation or postponement of large-scale sports and tournaments, disturbance of celebration of cultural events, religious and festive events social distancing, closure of hotels, bars and restaurants and religious places, closure of places for entertainment. Chen et al If migration increases by 0%, economic growth in the Gambia will reduces by 1.8(Ceesay 2020). Ozili (2020) analyses the COVID-19 spillovers to Nigeria and finds that the existing structural weaknesses in Nigeria contributed to making the crisis more severe in the country.Fornaro and Wolf (2020), using a simple model, show that the coronavirus trigged a negative supply shock. Ramelli et al (2020) revealed that the health predicament distorted/transformed into an economic predicament which was augmented through financial channels.

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