


## Chapter 4

# Social Resilience and Responses to the COVID–19 Pandemic in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The current research addressed the topic of social resilience and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in both Egypt and the United Arab Emirates on a comparative basis. The research formulated a group of theatrical issues, put several goals and questions, and developed a methodological design based on combining the requirements of quantitative and qualitative research, starting with the re-analysis approach to results of literature, analyzing the available statistics and secondary data, as well as employing the participation observation tool for situations and events related to the pandemic. The research came out with several results, including the necessity to search for alternatives to create transformational resilience in preparation for future pandemics, building corporate social responsibility on the principle of humanity to achieve social justice for all, shedding light on social resilience in the family system in response to pandemics, and adding the trust variable to other variables of social resilience.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The concept of social resilience and the resilience of the health system, in particular, gained fame in the global health discourse and embodied in United Nations policies, articles, and conferences. However, this concept - as a mechanism for facing risks in modern society - is still in need of further research and attention. Perhaps this allowed us to employ this concept in addressing the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and alleviating its consequences.

The spread of the Covid-19 pandemic during the past two years - from the end of 2019 until today - has caused many risks, such as: health, economic, social, political, and psychological risks. It was axiomatic to respond to this pandemic and its consequences, to reduce and alleviate such consequences effects. However, these responses required different practices, actions, and initiatives based on the principle of corporate responsibility between the different sectors of society (government sector, private sector, and civil society), and perhaps the effectiveness of these practices depended on establishing corporate social responsibility on the principle of legal and moral obligation. Whenever the sectors of society use a degree of social resilience. It will enforce their efforts in facing the risks of the pandemic and alleviating its effects.

Based on this, the topic of the current research was determined in: “Social Resilience and Response to the Covid-19 pandemic”, which crystallized in three issues: Covid-19 pandemic risks and response, social responsibility of the different sectors of society towards the pandemic between legal and moral obligation, and Social resilience practices between economic, health, and educational systems in society.

The research has been divided into several elements: starting with a literature review and methodology, the risks of the Covid-19 pandemic and response to it both in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, the social responsibility towards the pandemic between legal and moral obligation, and finally, the practices of social resilience in the health, educational and economic patterns and alleviating the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

It was logical to review the available literature on the three research issues mentioned above, to identify the problem and objectives of the current research, formulate it into questions, reveal the research gaps in this literature, and establish the theoretical and practical importance of this research. Although it has only been two (2) years since the start of the pandemic, the available literature was abundant, and perhaps what we presented was sufficient to link the current research with these additions.

Among the previous studies related to the issue of the risks and response to the Covid-19 pandemic: What Renzaho (2021) contributed to the challenges associated with the response to COVID-19 and the pandemic in Africa. He tried to answer the question: How can lessons learned during the spread of Ebola disease (2012-2016) in West Africa, help in alleviating the severe and long-term effects of coronavirus disease. The study revealed that these countries have gone through many structural, political, economic, cultural and social challenges, including logistical challenges, inefficient laboratories, poorly equipped health systems, the possibility of the epidemic spreading on a large scale, economic deprivations, the lack of basic infrastructure, and the related cultural and social implications. The research confirmed the need for these countries for strong leadership that bears the responsibility for coordination, and direct all aspects of the response to the Corona 19 pandemic through cooperation, transparency and account-

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