Journal of Risk & Crisis Management
Volume (4), Issue (2) : 30 Sep 2022
P: 52 - 58
ISSN: 2664- 6293
مجلة إدارة المخاطر والأزمات
المجلد (4)، العدد (2) : 30 سبتمبر 2022م
ص: 52 - 58

Reflecting on the COVID-19 crisis and lessons learn for a better future

Qusai Alkhawaldeh
Architecture Faculty || Istanbul Okan University || Turkey
Güliz Muğan
Department of Art, Design, And Architecture || Istanbul Okan University || Turkey

Abstract: The growing COVID-19 pandemic has become a global emergency. At the time of writing, it has resulted in more than 510 million confirmed illnesses and 6 million deaths, as well as unparalleled preventative measures that have imprisoned a significant percentage of the worldwide population and established social separation as a new global behavioral norm. The COVID-19 dilemma has had a significant influence on all elements of daily life and work, as well as the global economy. Reflecting on the current crisis's issues and the lessons we may learn from them include: (i) increased phenomena and the early warnings, (ii) social and spatial disparity, and (iii) prevention is less expensive than treatment.

Keywords: Coronavirus, Crisis, Social and spatial disparity.

التفكير في أزمة COVID-19 والدروس المستفادة من أجل مستقبل أفضل

قصي الخوالدة
كلية العمارة || جامعة اسطنبول اوكان || تركيا
قولز موقن
قسم الفنون والتصميم والعمارة || جامعة اسطنبول اوكان || تركيا

المستخلص: أصبحت جائحة COVID-19 المتنامي حالة طوارئ عالمية. في وقت كتابة هذا التقرير، نتج عن ذلك أكثر من 510 ملايين حالة مرضية مؤكدة و6 ملايين حالة وفاة، بالإضافة إلى تدابير وقائية لا مثيل لها أسفرت عن حبس نسبة كبيرة من سكان العالم وأرست الفصل الاجتماعي كمعيار سلوكي عالمي جديد. كان لمعضلة COVID-19 تأثير كبير على جميع عناصر الحياة اليومية والعمل، فضلاً عن الاقتصاد العالمي. التفكير في قضايا الأزمة الحالية والدروس التي قد نتعلمها منها تشمل: (1) زيادة الظواهر والإنذارات المبكرة، (2) التفاوت الاجتماعي والمكاني، و (3) الوقاية أقل تكلفة من العلاج.

الكلمات المفتاحية: فيروس كورونا، أزمة، تفاوت اجتماعي ومكاني

Introduction.

Pandemics and epidemics have afflicted humans from the dawn of time, revealing our fatal frailty. However, it wasn't until the noticeable transition to agricultural societies that the magnitude and transmission of these illnesses skyrocketed. Widespread commerce opened up additional avenues for human-animal interactions, hastening such epidemics. During these early years, malaria, TB, leprosy, influenza, smallpox, and other diseases first arose (LePan, 2020).

Indeed, scientific methods have developed to combat such pandemics and epidemics, especially if compared to the past, when the Black Death killed more than 200 million people in the year 1300 AD (LePan, 2020). However, there is one continuous pattern throughout time a steady decrease in the death rate. Healthcare advancements and a better knowledge of the variables that breed pandemics have proven to be effective strategies in minimizing their effects. Nevertheless, there is a long way to go in terms of pandemics and epidemics and how to deal with them, so it is necessary to have lessons from the past:

COVID-19 is the most recent in a long line of pandemics that have changed history and carry lessons for us today. The 1918-19 Spanish flu outbreak is considered to have boosted worldwide collaboration in pandemic preparedness (World Economic Forum, 2020). The epidemic also resulted in the state taking on a larger role in healthcare, which COVID-19 has also caused. Pandemics are considered to have sparked significant economic and technical developments. While today's pandemic is unique, and the future is unclear, previous epidemics show how we may respond now to achieve better outcomes later (Harry Kretchmer, 2021).

A global urban revolution has dramatically impacted the dissemination of viruses including Sars, Mers, Ebola, bird flu, swine flu and others. For example, what the world is suffering now due to Covid 19 virus. The virus originated in Wuhan province in China, spread almost all around the globe and as of 26 April 2022,there have been over 510,270,667 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including over 6,233,526 deaths, reported to WHO (WHO, 2022). The virus until this moment still not contained where the numbers still increasing day by day, it has taken over all the activities of people around the globe. Nothing in the world without paralysis or "pausing", while specialists are trying to find a radical solution to eradicate this pandemic all over the world.

The effects of the outbreak of the new Corona virus 19-COVID in most countries of the world continue to expand and expand to include many public places, economic activities, financial markets, and others (Zainab Al-Sadi & Salwa Morsi, 2020). In addition, many major events in the public spaces have been canceled to limit the spread of the virus. It should be noted that the longer this health crisis lasts, the more difficult it will be to sustain many public spaces activities and their ability to continue. (Esam Mohamed, 2020).

The globe entered the Covid-19 outbreak age, and it's required to apply a new notion to the utilization of public spaces: social distancing, which really refers to the 'physical distance' between individuals. A safe distance was determined to be between 1.5 and 2 meters. With people isolated or quarantined in their own homes for months, and even asked to maintain this distance in public spaces, one issue became very clear to city residents.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The Corona pandemic, the world was floundering with decisions, as life was paralyzed, public places were closed and others, so it is necessary to study pandemics throughout history and learn from them. And that the most important lesson is that pandemics and epidemics can occur at any time-place, even though it might not be as covid or the Black Death but still, the global has to be prepared and ready for any scenarios.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Reflecting on the problems that have arisen because of today's crisis can assist us in better preparing for the future and see the role of the community of architects, designers, and planners in this crisis. Begin by formulating the paper with three aspects: (i) increased phenomena and the early warnings, (ii) social and spatial disparity, (iii) prevention is less expensive than treatment.

1- INCREASED PHENOMENA.

Ignoring early warnings of the specialists caused this pandemic crisis(1). it is too late to avoid it in such cases. Scientists have long warned about the risks of a new pandemic, stressing the necessity of immediate and drastic action to avoid the worst effects. However, much needed early action has not been taken, as with the muted response to early warnings of Coronavirus spread in Wuhan, and even earlier warnings of the pandemic potential of SARS-CoV-like viruses (Cheng et al., 2007). The pandemic increased phenomena social and economic impacts Figure 1 , because of its long incubation time, the Coronavirus's expansion dynamics are difficult for humans to comprehend (Linton et al., 2020).

For that, the community of architects, designers, and planners must listen to the specialists and must be the most dedicated, eager to bring together energies, talents, and ideas to bring forward visions of the future. The opportunities that spaces can seize to return stronger after the end of an era of unprecedented social, physical, and economic turmoil caused by the epidemic. By revise the concept of the public spaces, how it should look like!

(1) like the call of Bill Gates warns on a future disease epidemic in 2015
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Af6b_wyiwI&ab_channel=TED

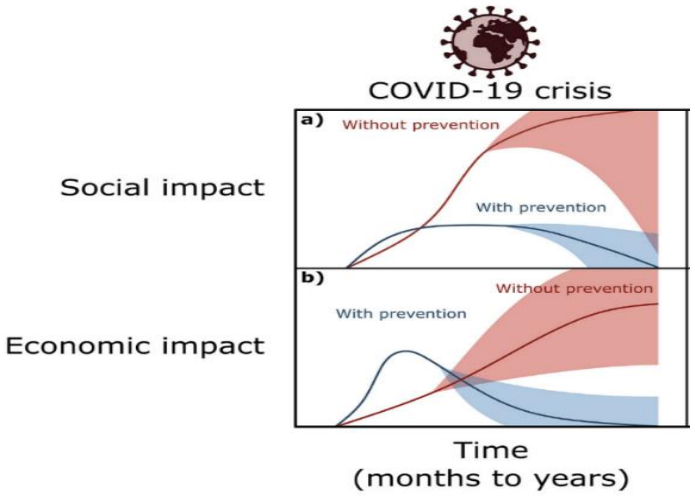

Figure (1) social and economic impacts of the COVID-19

Source: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140563

Figure 1 shows the various time scales of social and economic impacts of the COVID-19. a) The social effect (as a strain on the healthcare system) of 'flatten the curve' methods is reduced. Early preventative measures like lockdowns or quarantine can come at a high social cost. b) Early intervention may have a significant initial effect but have a lower long-term economic impact, whereas inaction can be less costly in the short term but have a greater long-term impact.

Among the most difficult parts of the COVID-19 crisis is that once the virus has reached a certain degree of abundance within a population, it is extremely difficult to manage. The spread of COVID-19 within society causes a chain reaction of exponential development. the early steps to control COVID-19, which would help to avoid worst-case scenarios and reduce the economic and social costs (Manzanedo & Manning, 2020). The community of architects, designers, and planners has a huge responsibility to rethink their design during such a crisis, especially in our case where the focus on the public spaces, architects must rethink and evaluate the shape and the norm of the public spaces.

2- SOCIAL AND SPATIAL DISPARITY.

The COVID-19 has a wide variety of implications for various countries and social classes. COVID-19 is much more dangerous to the elderly and those with other risk factors, such as existing respiratory illnesses (J. Yang et al., 2020). Moreover, a country's healthcare system's ability to control the virus and provide intensive care units are important factors in determining the virus's spread and mortality. In many of the world's richest nations, the amount of new COVID-19 infections has recently decreased, while infections in economically poor countries have risen rapidly. The lack of economic potential, social unrest, and infrastructure have placed these communities at greater risk, not only in the short term as they bear the brunt of the current health crisis but also in the long run as the potential effect on their economies is likely to be greater and recovery slower, widening economic disparities. less developed countries will once

again bear the brunt of the effects, exacerbating the disparities caused by Coronavirus (Manzanedo & Manning, 2020).

Moreover, the lockdowns increasing unemployment, and unexpected medical costs would disproportionately affect low-resource communities, such as those living paycheck-to-paycheck, and underrepresented groups. Which cause creating local, regional, and societal crises that involve forethought and social coordination to handle. To ensure that the most vulnerable and powerless are adequately shielded from the effects of the pandemic, safeguards, and strategies must be established to reduce social inequality when the crisis hits (Manzanedo & Manning, 2020).

Everyone must do their parts and especially the community of architects, designers, and planners must be the most dedicated, try to design, and create an environment that can avoid the lockdowns during such a crisis, to ensure that the most helpless and powerless individuals are sufficiently protected from the pandemic's consequences. People's interactions with their public spaces have changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Clearly, public spaces must be a part of the virus solution, whether to restrict the virus's spread or to offer places for people to rest or earn a living (UN Habitat, 2020).

3- PREVENTION IS LESS EXPENSIVE THAN TREATMENT.

The pandemics need immediate action to prevent worst-case scenarios (Horby, 2018). Effective preventative measures, on the other hand, are likely to be viewed as wasteful until the risk has been eliminated, and effectively avoided risks would be viewed as unimportant in hindsight. Previous pandemic warnings, such as the one sparked by the SARS outbreak in 2003, have shown that some members of the public may view preventative measures as unnecessary spending posteriori. The experience gained in 2003, on the other hand, aided faster DNA sequencing and the creation of rapid response strategies, which have aided some countries in the current crisis (Y. Yang et al., 2020). Similarly, during the current crisis, some countries that implemented early and successful preventative measures, such as Germany, have seen strong anti-lockdown protests, fueled by the public's inability to recognize the averted danger, highlighting the value of risk communication and public participation.

The pandemics mitigation can be framed as an investment with no guaranteed return, like how most of us frame individual healthcare coverage, where the embrace a cost in exchange for protection against potentially harmful consequences that might never occur. In a similar way to a pandemic prevention investment, it is important to ensure that the public understands that the cost of these investments is appropriate to avoid much greater costs later figure 1

The proof from the Coronavirus pandemic shows that countries that communicated straightforward, consistent, and serious warnings to the public about the pandemic's effects and risks were more effective in containing the disease than countries that ignored or downplayed risks and communicated inconsistently with the public. While it is too early to draw firm conclusions, it is likely that

this proactive approach has reduced long-term health, social, economic, and reputational damage (Inman, 2020). Nonetheless, the COVID-19 crisis can aid in the development of effective communication strategies. Working to preserve public confidence in scientists gained during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as building on increased public awareness of risk aversion.

Physical distancing necessitates enough distance for individuals in public places. Physical distancing on pavements can be achieved by the widening of streets, particularly in developing countries where the majority of people walk. Physical distancing standards are impossible to stick to in slums and informal settlements due to frequently insufficient and overcrowded footpaths. Remedies such as putting water, sanitation, and hygiene services in strategic locations and educating people to stand as far apart as practicable while queuing are crucial measures (UN Habitat, 2020). And these measures can be framed as an investment with no guaranteed return, it is important to ensure that the public understands that the cost of these investments is appropriate to avoid much greater costs later.

Recommendation.

People of a decision should not ignore the specialists' early warnings. Scientists have long warned about the dangers of a new pandemic, emphasizing the importance of taking swift and decisive action to avoid the worst consequences. It's critical to make sure the public understands that the expense of these expenditures is reasonable in order to avoid significantly higher costs later. And early action, forethought, and trust in science are key

CONCLUSION.

COVID-19, it is obvious today, has a wide range of ramifications for different countries and social levels. The elderly and individuals with additional risk factors are substantially more vulnerable to COVID-19. Furthermore, the ability of a country's healthcare system to contain the virus and offer intensive care units is a key element in determining the virus's spread and mortality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I'd like to thank Prof. Dr. Güliz Muan, Distinguished Professor of Art, Design, and Architecture, and my research supervisor, for her patient supervision, passionate support, and constructive critiques of my study effort.

References.

- Cheng, V.C., Lau, S.K., Woo, P.C., Yuen, K.Y., 2007. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coro- navirus as an agent of emerging and reemerging infection. Clin. Microbiol. Rev. 20 (4), 660–694 Oct 1.
- Esam Mohamed Elgohary (2020). The Impact of the Emerging Coronavirus on the IT Industry in Egypt: Opportunities and Threats, http://repository.inp.edu.eg/xmlui/handle/123456789/4852

- Horby, P. (2018). Improving preparedness for the next flu pandemic. In Nature Microbiology (Vol. 3, Issue 8, pp. 848–850). Nature Publishing Group. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41564-018-0206-7
- Harry Kretchmer. (2021). lessons from past pandemics. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/01/covid-19-geopolitics-lessons-pandemics-history/
- Inman, P. (2020). UK economy likely to suffer worst Covid-19 damage, says OECD | Business | The Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jun/10/uk-economy-likely-to-suffer-worst-covid-19-damage-says-oecd
- LePan, N. (2020). A visual history of pandemics | World Economic Forum. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/a-visual-history-of-pandemics
- Linton, N.M., Kobayashi, T., Yang, Y., Hayashi, K., Akhmetzhanov, A.R., Jung, S.M., Yuan, B., Kinoshita, R., Nishiura, H., 2020. Incubation period and other epidemiological charac- teristics of 2019 novel coronavirus infections with right truncation: a statistical anal- ysis of publicly available case data. J. Clin. Med. 9 (2), 538 Feb.
- Manzanedo, R. D., & Manning, P. (2020). COVID-19: Lessons for the climate change emergency. Science of the Total Environment, 742, 140563. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140563
- UN Habitat. (2020). Public Space and COVID-19: UN-Habitat. 1–2.
- WHO. (2022). WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard | WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. https://covid19.who.int/
- World Economic Forum. (2021). COVID-19 in pictures: social distancing around the world | World Economic Forum. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/covid-19-in-pictures-this-is-what-social-distancing-looks-like/
- Yang, J., Zheng, Y., Gou, X., Pu, K., Chen, Z., Guo, Q., Ji, R., Wang, H., Wang, Y., Zhou, Y., 2020a. Prevalence of comorbidities in the novel Wuhan coronavirus (COVID-19) in- fection: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Int. J. Infect. Dis. 94, 91–95 (Mar 12).
- Zainab Al-Sadi, & Salwa Morsi. (2020). 10.التداعيات المحتملة لازمة كورونا على الاقتصاد المصري http://repository.inp.edu.eg/xmlui/handle/123456789/4840