
COVID-19 PANDEMIC: CONCEPTUALIZING CORONA VIRUS' NATURE AND EMERGING ISSUES

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ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the conceptions and misconceptions of corona virus pandemic and its natures from the perspective of the multifaceted-dimensions. Taking a basic spatial-temporal approach of spreading the virus infection, the paper used a descriptive method of qualitative nature of meta-analyses which relied on secondary data sources. The paper evaluates the different conceptions with contrast basis, and then argues that corona virus infections may be varied as the conceptions of corona virus natures are yet to be fully articulated worldwide. More importantly that emerging issues are strongly affecting socio-economic development of humanity. The paper pinpoints creation of national response centers in respective countries where Covid-19 indexes are observed as strategy of articulating corona virus natures. Nevertheless, the paper argues that more can be done in the areas of preventive measures for the curtailment of covid-19.

Keywords: Knowledge, Health, Management, People

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Introduction

Nature of corona virus that causes covid-19 pandemic has in the past months received renewed attention. Much of this has been within the context of either the strategy of curtailing virus' spread and its nature fully known by people or the upsurge in rate of infection without specific vaccines or medicines for its treatment. In more recent times, however, curtailing corona virus has begun to develop some planning oriented components. This has come in the form of various development studies and courses, such as spatial organization and processes, and temporal human interactions through transportation, leisure or hospitality, sports and recreation. This trend has brought about some boundary of the physical and human components of world.

The unifying element has been related especially to new orientation in the conceptualization and interpretation of many traditional and modern perspectives in understanding the corona virus. Therefore, our focus in this paper is to pinpoint the main features in definitions of corona virus as conception and misconception and debates on the emerging issues as a result of corona virus pandemic in a global perspective. In this regard, the paper is descriptive, adopts qualitative method of meta-analyses and relied on secondary data sources and official documentaries of World Health Organization (WHO) or institutions and experts. Our guide posts in an overview discussion shall follow this pattern: the origin and the definition of the corona virus, conceptualizing corona virus-dimensions of conceptions and misconceptions, and the emerging issues.

Origin of Coronavirus

Discovering of corona virus infection was first observed in China, around end of year 2019. Corona virus was noted among people patronizing world-famous Huanan seafood market in Wuhan, and the virus was identified to be host of an animal. More so that reports of Chinese government on February 7th, 2020, have it that virus could have been spread from an infected animal to human through illegally trafficked pangolins often used in Asia for food and medicine. In another dimension, it was suggested that pangolin animal was staging host for the virus before spread to human. Turner (2020) stated that virus originated in bats, although one animal implicated as an intermediary host between bats and human is pangolin. Besides, he asserted that viruses of this type are circulating all the time in the animal kingdom. Furthermore, Holmes (2020) asserted that origins of the corona virus can be examined by looking at its genome, particularly, looking at ways and manner in which human at the Wuhan market interacted with animals which carry the virus can be used as only one potential version of the covid-19 origin. In another way Holmes (2020) stated another possibility of the virus infection through a descendent of the virus hopped into human and then adopted as it passed from human to human. Generally speaking, corona virus that causes Covid-19 pandemic has a natural origin in probable animals-(bat or pangolin) - to- human infections. In addition, investigations by Chinese authorities have identified human cases with onset of symptoms in early December 2019, particularly as some of the earliest known cases had a link to a world famous Huanan sea food market in Wuhan.

Definition of Corona Virus : World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) defined corona virus is a member of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as “severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)” and “Middle east respiratory (MERS). Therefore, corona virus can be attributed to a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes and or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. However, corona virus is a new member of viruses, because it has not been previously identified in humans until China's exposition.

Making Sense of the Corona Virus: The problem of understanding the corona virus and its attributes traverses time and schools of thought. Health and the conduct of environmental hygiene are in themselves central to socioeconomic life. Therefore, what are the real and changing effects of the Corona virus on the health and development of our people? What are the factors and processes involved in the host-agent-vector relationships in disease situations among people? Also what are the effects of the decreasing human population and spatial behavior on the health- disease- illness equation in world today? These are some of the questions raised by the existence of corona virus. More so that the high and widespread incidence of disease and debilitating illness are prominent worldwide. Besides, Covid-19 pandemic is recording high morbidity and mortality situations in our present- day society. These are indeed sufficiently disturbing to warrant the attention of scholars and medical professional as well as the attention of other well- meaning people worldwide.

Conceptualizing Corona Virus: Conceptions and Misconceptions: In this section we shall present evaluation of conceptualizations of Covid-19, and its discussions which have expositions as it affects conventional wisdom in biological and medical parlance, thereby examining some of the perspectives on the understanding of corona virus nature. Meanwhile, nature is a sum of physical and material existences, more so it is a character, constitution or essential traits of living or non-living things. In essence, it is a system of natural or real existence that can be used to juxtapose some claims in position of nature of corona virus in the paper.

a) **Corona Virus as the converse of Health or Hygienic conditions:** There is a tendency in health and disease studies to conceptualize health as the converse of illness. Thus, we often hear of health and illness being two sides of the same coin. In this case we can define health as the absence of illness or disease, and by logical extension, illness as state of being out of health. It is tautological and circular in logic from our discussion that there is health because there is no illness and disease and there is illness because there is

no health, going by this definitional approach, there is clear suggestion that we need to start by first defining health. Thus, health is comprehensive state of effectiveness or goodness of any living organism that indicates general condition of body, mind, vigor and perfect working condition. However, even common sense would suggest that health does exist independent of illness. Thus, there cannot be health when there is illness. While illness is state of disordered in physical condition and baneful. For instance the corona virus and its index person can be use to establish the justification. Therefore, hygienic conditions are quite important and essential for healthy life. Consequently, it is quite possible not to have illness or disease when there is health.

- b) Biological Definition of Virus:** Many biologists see virus of which corona is a family as an invisible infection agent that replicates only inside the living cells of an organism. Broadly speaking, viruses have active ways of infecting all types of life forms. Viruses are parasites and they depend on the host call for raw material and energy necessary for nucleic acid synthesis protein synthesis, processing and transport and all other biochemical activities that allow the virus to multiply and spread. One might then conclude that even though these processes come under viral direction, still viruses are invisible organism that lack the capacity to thrive and reproduces outside of a host body. In this regard, viruses are simply nonliving organism of living metabolic may exist between what is certainly alive and what is not. More so, that modern era of biological science has had an unintended categorization of viruses as non-living.
- c) The World Physical Climatic Regions:** We can also evaluate conceptualizations of corona virus pandemic based on world physical/ climatic regions. From this perspective standpoint, is looking and

examining the most affected countries and their climatic characteristics and global position or location. Evidence of world health organization (WHO, 2020) indicated that USA, Brazil, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom, Italy France, India, Chong and generally Taiwan, New Zealand, Ireland, Finland, Norway and Denmark. These countries are located in the tropic of cancer where temperate and ice climates are prominent. This implies that the corona virus is friendlier in the cold, ice and humid climatic environment. By contrast, another important climatic dimension is that higher temperature is not friendly with corona virus, because the heat at 56°C kills the SARs corona virus at around 1000 unit per minutes (WHO, 2020). However, while corona virus incidence relates to the climatic region and most infection of human beings, this can be used to address issues of nature in context. In such a contest, there can be conceptualization of corona virus.

- d) Personality Infection Dimensions:** Like normative approach in the climatic region, personality infection dimension of corona virus addresses the favourable and severe context among human beings. In this regard, favourable context addresses who are the people more prone or susceptible to the covid-19 disease. There are two groups of people at a higher risk of getting Covid-19 disease. These are older people from fifty (50) years and above. Secondly, those with underlying medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetics, chronic respiratory disease and cancer). Meanwhile, it is important to know state of severity of medical condition, particularly as severity refers to stages of conditions or symptoms in the affected person. Although, Covid- 19 affects humans in different ways, therefore, infected person can develop mild, moderate and serious or severe illness. The symptoms of mild are fever, dry cough and tiredness, no doubt these are most common symptoms of

diseases. However, the infected person can recover without hospitalization. The symptoms of moderate illness of Covid-19 are aches and pains, sore throat, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, headache, loss of taste or smell, a rash on skin or discolouration on fingers or toes. While symptoms of serious or severe are associated respiratory diseases. Although Covid-19 infects people of all ages and races. In reality, however we can use the basis to conceptualize corona virus.

e) Corona Virus Infection Manifestation:

The importance of portraying Covid-19 simply as disease or illness could also be a way of perpetrating and perpetuating mode of infection in the people. This is because corona virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose of an infected person coughs or sneezes. It has been established that it takes up to five days for its symptoms to manifest in a newly infected person show on mild level, however, full manifestation starts from fourteen days. Therefore, Manifestation period of Covid-19 in the infected person can be used conceptualization for the Corona Virus nature.

f) Corona Virus Treatment: Virus causing Covid-19 disease is infectious, therefore, it is a newly identified member of virus family. According to World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) there is no specific vaccine or medicine for the treatment of Covid-19 disease. This implies actual nature of the corona virus is yet to emerge fully, or is not yet really or fully captured in the health or medical world and as a result, more researches are to be carried out with focus on the conception and nature of the corona virus. Therefore, actual treatments of covid-19 disease are under investigation and will be tested through clinical trials.

Since there is no ascertained cure for the Covid-19 disease, it is imperative to embrace or

practice preventive measures such as maintaining adequate personal/ public hygiene, stay home to avoid unnecessary contacts, keep a safe distance, wash hand with soap or sanitizer often, wearing of face mask, cover your cough and sneeze through the practice of respiratory etiquette of flexed elbow or using tissue paper with immediate disposal into bin. More importantly, if you are feeling symptoms of covid-19 disease or sickness- you should rest, drink plenty of fluid or water and eat nutritious food to boost your immunity, stay in a separate room from other family members and use dedicated bath/ toilet room. Also, more often clean and disinfect frequently used materials and touched surfaces. Finally, call medical attention for consultation testing and screening.

Emerging Issues in the Context of Covid-19

Pandemic: One thing that extant conceptions of Covid-19 have in common is that there is a state of affairs in thought, nature and society. In this case, our thought focuses on medical or health and disease, nature deals with global perspectives and characteristics and society concerns with people and their interactions. While extant conceptions of Covid-19 are not necessarily wrong, they are inadequate in understanding the entire reality of corona virus. One problem is that corona virus is invisible object which is subjecting the whole world into more visible issues and situations. One of the emerging issues is lockdown of socio- economic activities in the most affected countries, although non-affected countries or less affected countries also took the precaution as proactive measures of the covid-19 pandemic curtailment. No doubt, this partially or wholly jettison economic development and growth worldwide, because this constraints every economy to raise its production capacity to bring about flow of goods and services. More so that both manufacturing and services industries technically experienced the lockdown in their

operations.

The second issue is creation of national response centers in respective countries where Covid-19 indexes and incidences are observed by world health organization in order to manage and collaborate especially following a realization of the strong interdependence between the two in development efforts for global strategy of curtailment. In this regard, this entails finding uniqueness and peculiarity in the nature of corona virus incidences in the countries. The third is closure of borders and suspension of both local and international transportations and travels, with exception of essential services. This also hampered socio- economic activities as movement of people, goods and services is temporarily put-on- hold for a while. The implication of this is that massive resources are immobilized for investment in the economy globally.

The fourth is people's perceptions of the Covid-19 pandemic and their responses which either positive or negative. The positive perception focus on cooperation enjoyed by people through palliative measures and incentive gift, education and explanatory variables for the sanitation levels and expectation of compliancy as well as obeying the rules and regulations of Covid-19 curtailments. While negative perceptions focus on doubting Covid-19 existence or its reality and discomforts arising from its incidence such as various social, economic and psychological factors and behaviours exhibited to people infected by corona virus. However, perceptions of covid-19 can be on a generally speaking level of modes of infections and people in countries and societies at large such as races, travelers, celebrities or well-meaning-people and low income earners/poor peoples.

Conclusion

What we have tried to do in this paper is to conceptualize corona virus and its nature and impacts worldwide. This implies that while existing definitions are not entirely wrong, also they are inadequate for understanding full nature of corona virus as well as characteristic exhibitions in the spatial dimensions of the world. Although this inadequacy is principally expressed in their healthy and synchronic presentation. Many of them are healthy because they see corona virus as an emergent disease as a result of unhygienic

condition fundamentally characterized by bat- to-human infection. While others are synchronic because they see corona virus as an infectious disease which can be easily transmitted and contagious if hygienic conditions are not strictly observed.

In putting forward emerging issues in this paper, we tried to focus on the limitations of Covid-19 pandemic to existing socio economic situations, principally driven by humanistic interactions and what standards do we set for good health? It has become necessary, for instance, to discover the nature and determinants of human's roles in the processes involved in the curtailment of Covid-19 pandemic, especially through scientific discovering of vaccine and fast reduction in the rate of spread. Besides, the conceptions and misconceptions of corona virus pandemic may likely cause variations in the universal treatment of virus infections, since the natures of the virus are quite emerging. This entails understanding the complex nexus between human interactions and nature of corona virus, both in specific countries and in the larger global environment. However, it is quite important for everyone to maintain a healthy lifestyle at all times, keep a healthy diet to boost immunity, sleep well to stay active and make social contact with loved ones through the phone or internet or practice physical social distance conditions.

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