

THE POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF COVID 19 IN A DEVELOPING CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

This paper sought to reveal the impact of Coronavirus in the developing environment. The study, from which this paper is derived, was informed by a qualitative approach using a case study design. The study also used interviews complemented by focus group discussions as data collection methods. The study comprised 22 participants who remained anonymous and the researcher used pseudonyms on the names of the participants, furthermore, the researcher gave an emphasis on the history on how Coronavirus entered in this country and where it started. Also, the research paper will address how people became impoverished during this Covid-19 pandemic era. Moreover the research also revealed how the pandemic relates to people's lives. This paper revealed the following thematic findings: The impact of Covid-19 on communities and livelihoods, the use of the development framework and assets-based community development. Furthermore, this paper employed a pastoral care approach as a theoretical or conceptual framework and will be made the recommendations.

Keywords: *Coronavirus; The impact of Covid-19; community development; the educational relationships;*

INTRODUCTION

The focus of this reflection paper will be on the impact of Covid-19 in a development environment. It will briefly address the Corona Virus's influence on health, education, and the socio-economic environment. This research will attempt to focus on the virus's influence in relation to three community development frameworks: global crises, the deprivation trap, and Assets Based Community Development.

1. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper sought to use the Gerkin's shepherding model on pastoral care as the theoretical framework in which the research use as lenses for the impact of Covid-19 in a developing context. This theory or method was deemed apt for this research as it relies on a triangular shape in its function. Gerkin's (1997: 23) biblical traditional method of shepherding involves the triological structure of priests, prophets, wise men and women and is based on an understanding of the way in which these individuals collectively took authority in shepherding God's people in the Old Testament.

Gerkin's approach focuses both on individual and family needs. He points out that pastoral care involves both the care of the Christian community and the care of persons:

individually, in families, and in large group relationship (1997: 113). This is in contrast to the psychotherapeutic pastoral care model common in America and Western pastoral care. Gerkin's approach to pastoral care has been advanced by many African scholars. For example, Tapiwa Mucherera argued that therapy or counselling, as taught in the West, will not always suffice in indigenous contexts since these theories tend to promote and focus on individuality, autonomy and independence (2009: ix).

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher used one of three types of research approaches, which is the qualitative research method. Researchers skilled in the use of quantitative research methods/designs face challenges when called upon to use or teach qualitative research (Stallings, 1995: 31-32).

Qualitative research entails a generic approach to research where the research takes as its exit point, the insider's perspective on action (Babbie, 2010: 229). Quantitative research, on the other hand, entails specifically measuring variables and testing hypotheses linked to general informal explanations (Mouton, 2008: 70). The mixed research method combines qualitative and quantitative research methods (Corbin 2008: 50).

Researchers have long debated the comparative value of qualitative and quantitative inquiry (Patton, 1990: 1189). Qualitative research uses a naturalistic approach that seeks to understand phenomenon in context-specific settings (Patton, 1990: 1190 a).

The quantitative research approach is crucial in the evaluation of the impact of a programme. In the qualitative approach, one collects numerous forms of data and examines them from various angles to construct a rich and important picture of a complex situation. The qualitative component of the research which involves re-telling and analysing data from members that are interviewed is helpful because it is, in fact, these people who gave the researcher an opportunity to examine strong features of Practical Theology especially on the Pastoral Care approach in the context of people's life experience during Coronavirus pandemic era. The research opines that the qualitative research method on this paper will give think and dense information on how he is researching. Therefore the qualitative research method is selected as the research methodology for this paper.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new lung illness found during an epidemic investigation in Wuhan, China, but has since spread to other parts of the world, including the United States. The idea of an airborne virus that may be spread from one person to another and end in death was unheard of until a tone of dread and anguish, death and misery could be heard from the city of Wuhan in China's Hubei Province.

It was in December 2019 that the world became aware of a deadly sickness, Corona Virus, when individuals became afflicted and died in Wuhan as a result of the disease. At first, the world assumed that this was a Chinese problem. As people died and disease spread, the world remembered that China had experienced the predominance of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) between 2002 and 2004. (Gwaxaza 2020: 13)

As infections and deaths rose, the illness began to spread across China. As more and more patients were turned away from hospitals, the infrastructural problems became clear. China had made advances to prevent the spread, but the expanding tourist business provided a challenge, as many people from all over the world had travelled to China for the Chinese

New Year, one of the most important calendar events in the Chinese tourism industry. As the illness progressed from epidemic to pandemic, the event provided a chance for it to spread to other regions of the world. The virus swept around the world in less than three months and was labelled a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11th of March, 2020. (Gwaxaza 2020: 13)

People are thought to be most infectious when they are ill; however, recent research suggests that COVID-19 can be transmitted by individuals who are ill but do not display symptoms. Coronavirus proved that everyone is a potential victim, regardless of race, colour, gender, or financial status. People who tested positive for the coronavirus were isolated and treated for their symptoms. The 14-day quarantine was designed to show that the virus's spread could be controlled. (Gwaxaza 2020: 14-15)

The virus may also persist for extended periods of time on some surfaces, making it possible for people to develop COVID-19 if they come into contact with contaminated material and then touch their mouth, nose, or eyes. As a result, it is important to take preventative steps to avoid being unwell. So far, the ongoing epidemic has severely damaged the world's most industrialized countries and poses a serious threat to low- and middle-income countries.

The present COVID-19 epidemic has the potential to have a significant impact on Africa's poorest, who are the most vulnerable to infectious diseases. However, the number of cases continues to rise globally, posing a serious threat to public health.

COVID-19 is causing havoc on a number of countries throughout the world, with Africa being the most recently affected. Africa, on the other hand, is expected to be the most vulnerable continent, with the development of COVID-19 having a substantial influence (Moore, Gelfeld, Okunogbe, 2020). The event gave an opportunity for the sickness to spread to other parts of the world as it moved from epidemic to pandemic. According to Gwaxaza (2020: 14), the virus began spreading to Europe, with three confirmed cases in France and the United Kingdom investigating suspected cases.

The officers were entrusted with locating around 2000 people who were alleged to have flown from Hubei to Britain. Surprisingly, the most of COVID-19 cases in Africa have been reported to have been imported from Europe and the United States, rather than China, the original COVID-19 centre (Ruth, 2020).

Precautionary methods include social isolation, isolation and quarantine, communal imprisonment, national lockdowns, and travel restrictions. So far, these measures have helped to limit and reduce COVID-19 spread, but they have also had a negative influence on the world economy, driving nations into recession (Counterpoint 2020). South Africa's economy is already in trouble, and the COVID-19 throws the country even deeper into a slump, increasing the problem.

Coronavirus has become a worldwide monster, and South Africa's President has been obliged to take drastic measures to stop the virus's spread. The country was also placed under lockdown, with residents instructed to remain indoors; all business, school, and non-essential functions were suspended, with the exception of crucial services. "The goal of the shutdown was to prevent the disease from spreading" (Gwaxaza 2020: 14).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data Analysis

Table 1 Demographic information for the Respondents

Pseudonyms	Age	Gender	Marital Status	Level of Education	Socio-economic Status
Mathebula	45	Male	Married	Tertiary	Employed
Malungi	46	Male	Single	Tertiary	Employed
Matyata	26	Male	Single	Tertiary	Employed
Langa	60	Male	Married	Tertiary	Employed
Zoleka	61	Female	Widow	Secondary	Pensioner
Zolisani	47	Male	Married	Tertiary	Employed
Simamkele	35	Female	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Zondeka	29	Male	Single	Primary	Self-employed
Sinenhlanha	37	Female	Married	Secondary	Employed
Nosisa	55	Female	Widow	Primary	Unemployed
Avumile	18	Male	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Achuma	18	Male	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Sikhona	17	Female	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Zingce	16	Male	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Elethu	18	Female	Single	Primary	Unemployed
Nonjabulo	16	Female	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Naledi	17	Female	Single	Primary	Unemployed
Ezethu	17	Female	Single	Primary	Unemployed
Sonke	18	Female	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Sinako	16	Female	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Olon	16	Female	Single	Secondary	Unemployed
Sisonke	18	Female	Single	Primary	Unemployed

Study findings

Theme & Sub-theme No.	Theme description
1.	The impact of Covid-19 on communities and livelihoods
2.	The use of the development framework
3.	Assets based community development

5. THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

South Africa was on the edge of a main socio-economic disaster as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. In a country where around 18% of the population already lives below the poverty line, the extent to which COVID-19 has escalated the poverty issue is still developing. To control the spread of the epidemic, a countrywide lockdown was imposed in April 2020. This had a negative impact on the South African economy, which was already in a fall. Not alone is the COVID-19 pandemic causing havoc in the country; a developing poverty epidemic is also posing new problems. (Teressi. N.d.)

Covid-19 has prompted extended shutdowns and increased the economic consequences of the pandemic, raising current estimates of extreme poverty in South Africa. Because low-income employees are more likely to lose their jobs as a result of COVID-19, low- and middle-income communities have been hit the hardest by extreme poverty. The

impact of COVID-19 on extreme poverty in South Africa (Mahler, Laknerr, Aguilar, & Wu, 2020). Poverty and inequality in the social development sector have increased in the context of COVID-19. The World Bank has performed a series of analyses and studies on the impact of COVID-19 on global extreme poverty, the most recent of which was in June 2019 (Mahler, Laknerr, Aguilar, & Wu, 2021). This tragedy has led in a food security dilemma in the surrounding area. Some personnel were employed on a contract basis at work; however, as a result of the outbreak, the contracts are no longer in force. Time poverty is frequently more severe than money poverty, because the poor in any society have insecure frameworks within which to live and work, surviving from day to day or week to week, with little time or energy to prepare for and invest in their own, their families, or their community's future (Mullainathan, & Shafir, 2013). Many companies that were forced to close due to the lockdown were unable to reopen, leaving millions of breadwinners without a source of income.

The coronavirus has compelled them to devote more time to their families. On the other hand, it has led many families to go through the anguish of removing the parents and abandoning the children. Because both parents are no longer there, some children assume responsibility for household management. Poverty, unemployment, loss of livelihoods, and gender-based violence are some of the negative effects, suggesting that there is a significant deprivation trap, which is still a huge problem that we may face in the future. As a result of the corona virus outbreak, worldwide poverty has grown. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on communities, daily lives, and livelihoods in developing countries.

The pandemic might have three main effects on family food security. The first is that the food supply chain looks to be reasonably steady; the second is a decline in food purchasing power and job opportunities. Food instability and nutritional insufficiency are pandemic concerns on the rise, posing a threat to the South African diet's protection, particularly for vulnerable immigrant groups. School closures may have increased the number of meals that parents had to prepare at home when they would otherwise have depended on food programs. Meanwhile, many African immigrant women work as domestic servants and may get one or more meals each day at the homes of their customers. Because of the socio-economic situation, many food sources are no longer available (Teressi, N.d.).

The International Labour Organization anticipated worldwide employment losses of around 305 million in April 2020, with an estimated 1.6 billion jobs in jeopardy for the "most vulnerable within the labour market." According to Simone Schotte of the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, the pandemic's shock will not be transitory. The pandemic's long-term impacts considerably burden the function of job acquisition within the South African economy, which Schotte contends may be a major issue in upward mobility for those attempting to escape poverty. (Teressi, N.d.)

The South African government's underestimate of the cruelty and validity of COVID19 led in a weak pandemic response strategy and a delayed response. Since the World Health Organization designated COVID19 an infectious illness, preventative and timely intervention has been substantially enhanced universally. To minimize the impact of COVID19, South African authorities implemented lockdown limitations in the form of physical distance, self-isolation, and shutdown of non-essential services, schools, travel restrictions, and recursive national lockdowns. (Teressi, N.d.)

The South African health system is struggling and under enormous strain as a result of a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), rising death rates, status issues, abuse, and

the return of Non-Communicable Diseases. International border closures, a worldwide demand breakdown, supply interruptions, and a severe reduction in human and industrial activity during the lockdown all contributed to socio-economic difficulties. The continuous effects and impact of the lockdown on psychosocial support and non-physiological assistance resulted in outbursts of uncertainty, acute panic, fear, depression, obsessive behaviour's, social unrests, stigmatization, anxiety, increased cases of gender-based violence, and discrimination in the distribution of relief food aid. (Mbunge, 2020)

6. THE USE OF THE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

David Korten introduced us to the notion of threefold global crisis, which proved to be quite beneficial. This framework suggests ways to give support for everything; it is a supporting structure; it is a structural framework. We've reached a moment in time where the community is worried about the Covid19. The David Korten framework has assisted us in gaining a better understanding of the circumstance we are in. The impact of what mankind has done through processes centred on economic development and expansion, as well as wealth generation and manufacturing, has placed a significant load on the Earth. This mental condition has nothing to do with the proper and sustainable management of the environment in order for natural regeneration to occur. Profits and power are at the centre of all development attempts that culminate in a three-fold global crisis. These include an alarming rise in poverty, social disintegration, and ecological degradation. (Korten, D. 2001)

This paradigm assists us in comprehending the devastation caused by Covid19 to the community. The community is having a tough time dealing with this issue. Covid19 has introduced fear into the lives of the community, and it is impacting individuals all over the world. The devastation inflicted by this epidemic is immense in terms of the community's ability to cope. One of the most serious repercussions of the pandemic is poverty. Unable to go to work meant no income for many workers and their families. (Mbuge, 2020). A large number of companies that were closed due to lockdown were not able to re-open, leaving millions of breadwinners without a source of livelihood.

Korten framework addresses two types of poverty which is absolute and relative poverty. Covid19 is a contributing factor of poverty in our society nowadays. Covid19 has brought doubts to many people about their workers' salaries, position, and working conditions whether will be improved after the COVID-19 crisis has passed. The vast inequities that such circumstances highlight have had a negative impact on society, weakening trust, raising anxiety and sickness, and encouraging excessive consumerism. It is apparent that in more unequal nations, whether wealthy or poor, results are considerably poorer across a wide variety of health and social problems like crime, violence, GBV, parent death, and child well-being. (Wilkinson, 2009)

Social cohesiveness and communal life as we know it have to be addressed differently or entirely transformed. Poverty is at the foundation of some of Covid-19's negative consequences, particularly for women and children in our societies, who experience higher levels of marginalization. According to De Beer and Swanepoel (2016), women and children feel intimidated by the males on whom they rely for a living. As seen in the deprivation trap, there are five clusters of disadvantage connected with poverty. Poverty, Physical Weakness, Isolation, Vulnerability, and Powerlessness are examples of these.

Poverty and inequality are highly complex and multi-dimensional, typically resulting in multiple forms of deprivation, including the concept of relative poverty, which

leads to exclusion from the mainstream and inability to participate in normal community/locality activities, even in developed countries. Because they are living hand to mouth, the family is vulnerable. Job loss increases the risk of not being able to support oneself. Families are vulnerable to exploitation by the affluent because they lack political clout to influence laws in their favour. They are deeply reviled in their society (De Beer and Swanepoel, 2016).

7. ASSETS BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As a church, we must prioritize empowerment and community development. The world is facing a Covid19 problem; what can we do to help people grasp the situation? Rather of focusing on the problem and requirements, the ABCD framework is used to apply viable solutions that will push the community out of the dilemma. Covid19 and poverty are long-term issues that will affect our community indefinitely. The ABCD framework will help us identify the problem, but first we must follow the procedures outlined below.

Collection stories

Organising a core group

Mapping the capacities and assets of individual association and local institution

Building a community vision and plan

Mobilising and linking assets for economic development

Leverage activities, investment and resources from the outside of the community.

This framework must instil confidence in people's abilities and motivate them to take action. To solve the issue of unemployment, we should all work together as a community to assist the unemployed in finding work. Too many social and economic programs address poverty and inequality by focusing exclusively on increasing the poor's "agency" through training and so-called "empowerment," rather than tackling the fundamental reasons that impede the poor from making the most of their own efforts. Technology must be carefully integrated into both conventional and creative activities in order to support current and enable new kinds of social development (Millard, 2017).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The addressed the impact of Covid-19 in a development environment. The paper also discussed the Corona Virus's influences on health, education, and the socio-economic environment. This paper attempted to focus on the virus's influences in relation to three community development frameworks: global crises, the deprivation trap, and Assets Based Community Development. Those frameworks helped to analyse the insights of the respondents that were interviewed as Covid19 contributed a lot in disadvantaging us. We have learned many things during the lock down and experienced bad and good thing in that process. We are still learning even now, the Covid19 taught us to love each other while we living because it takes few minutes for a person to die.

The researcher recommends that people should observe the Covid19 restriction and be serious on them for the safety of their lives. People must take care of the gift of life because it takes seconds to die in these days. We as South African people we need to work hard in fighting against the immoral and unethical acts that has been done by government stewards during this period. The Church have a huge responsibility of encouraging people to go back to God and the Church should come up with strategies to give people courage of fear and anxiety that they have in a process.

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