

Larionets A. E.
**IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON GLOBAL PROCESSES AND MEDICINE
IN PARTICULAR**

Scientific supervisor: senior teacher Mitereva G. V.
Department of Foreign Languages
Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, has affected almost every sphere of our world, including politics and economics, the environment, and the social field.

The impact of the global pandemic on politics has been mostly negative. International relations between states and unions suffered or were even torn, as many countries declared a state of emergency and closed their borders. People have raised questions about the serious flaws of democracy because local authorities could not take effective measures to prevent the spreading of the virus and the collapse of economics.

Besides, the coronavirus pandemic has caused the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression, which affected negatively many branches: manufacturing, agriculture, financial markets, sport, restaurant business, tourism, and transport. Though there have been some positive effects, like the popularity growth of online services and shopping, television, and telecommuting. Also, computing science was developed to maintain the growing demand for online services all over the world.

The environmental impact of the global pandemic was mostly positive. The emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere was reduced by 17 per cent, which was caused by lockdowns and the closing of borders that prevented travelling. Water and soil quality also was improved. But despite the positive effect, the pandemic has induced a massive wave of plastic pollution. Most personal protective equipment is disposable, so a lot of masks and gloves got into seas and oceans.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social sphere has been enormous, affecting religion, psychological wellbeing, even causing the spread of racist views. Also, education: lockdowns led to massive closures of schools, colleges, and universities up to 90 per cent during the first wave. It led to such issues as lack of technologies to attend online classes, the downgrade of education quality, and irregular attendance. Besides, the unemployment rate during the first wave grew by 7 per cent, according to the International Labour Organization, which meant the loss of about 200 million jobs.

Medicine was the sphere to be affected the most. The pandemic revealed major flaws in the healthcare systems of many states around the globe: lack of necessary equipment and beds, incompetence in questions of quarantine and lockdowns, shortage of personal protective equipment, and deficiency of healthcare personnel in some countries.

Overtasking of doctors and nurses and constant exposure to contagious factors turned out to be a problem. Due to these factors, many medical workers around the world developed stress, irritability, and other mental health issues. To stimulate healthcare workers during the pandemic governments increased their salary and offered various employee benefits packages.

The COVID-19 infection affected the transmission of other infectious diseases as well. Because of the quarantine measures, the spread of influenza, other common respiratory viruses, and some sexually transmitted infections was registered to fall. At the same time the death rate of heart attacks, acute appendicitis, strokes increased. The aid was not rendered in time, as the coronavirus infection was of the top priority. Moreover, the process of vaccination from some other diseases was slowed down, so now epidemiologists are beware of measles or chicken-pox outbreaks.

Against the background of the pandemic, governments of many countries declared that the medical sphere will be sponsored more and developed further to avoid such accidents in the future.