

THE CORONA PANDEMIC STORY: WHEN HOPE APPEARED ELUSIVE

by George Mburu

**Correspondence: -
mburugeorge2002@yahoo.com*

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ABSTRACT

The author undertakes a descriptive and synthesis and analysis of the novel COVID-19 Pandemic dubbed as the Corona disease or the "Wuhan Virus". Essentially, the author explores six objectives and points to the effects of the pandemic psychologically, health-wise, economically and even socially. Quintessentially, the author contends the untold value of prior planning in disaster preparedness and mitigation, a glaring challenge to all nations across the globe. Thirdly, the need for research as well as integrity and being resolute and forthright in the wake of disasters is being highlighted. The paper also highlights some statistical on the continuous rise and trends of the Covid19 which started in China in November 2019 spreading into all continents and most countries the world over. Towards the end vital lessons have been pointed out and recommendations made on the need for more research, impressing the need for the input of the key players and or stakeholders in response and mitigation of such a pandemic now and in the future.

The Corona Pandemic by George N.M buru March-August,2020

When the World came to a Stand Still on Account of the Corona Pandemic

By George N, Mburu, KE100653, M. Div. (author)

When the World almost lost hope on the Covid an unprecedented PANDEMIC of the 21st Century

The author undertakes a brief synthesis and descriptive analysis of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The paper takes cognizance of the imminent challenges at a global level paused by the disease. Towards the end, vital lessons have been highlighted and recommended.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- I) The paper seeks to address and inform the publics and the academia world about the unprecedented scourge-COVID-19
- II) To isolate specific cases and gaps in the course of the Covid virulence.
- III) To identify some possible effects upon individuals and society occasioned by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- IV) Some specifics on statistics on the disease spread between March to May, the year 2020 in specific global outlook (and some later updates as appropriate)
- V) To deduce several vital lessons learnt from the Covid19 Pandemic
- VI) To alert citizenry and authorities on the need for funds and disease preparedness.

KEYWORDS: *Corona, Covid19, Pandemic, misnomer, economic, social, psychological, economic melt-down, losses, hope, resilience, fundamental, mitigation, virulence, globalization, advent, Spanish Flu, Kenya, United States, UK, effect, control, containment, measures, crucial, research, analysis, synthesis, challenges, government, governance, medical, academia, universities, recommendation. Conclusion*

Justification/Rationale of the Paper

There is a crucial appeal to all humanity especially those in health sector and in governance on the need to inform, sensitize, caution and thus protect even save her citizenry, from any potential risk or invasion or attack such as the Covid-19 Pandemic. The phenomenal onset and emergence of particular diseases happen overtime and some like the current Covid19 stands unprecedented shaking nations, the world over, and health institutions to the core. That said, there is an ardent need to both investigate, research on trends, possible cure and or effective vaccines, and general to specific information to publics. And also, for the Academia world, and for history students, not to mention medical researcher seven public-health, such a paper and perhaps more refined holds untold significance. Therefore, this analytical descriptive research paper seeks to inform and challenge the relevant bodies and or individuals to act decisively. The author hails from Kenya East Africa but captures a global view of the pandemic in a summarized form.

SCOPE

The thesis covers duration of several months (1-12 or slightly more as touches trends) and zeros on isolated cases which reflect a global outlook on the COVID-19 pandemic. The author cites sources and acknowledge and also a personal endeavor on day-to-day follow ups and updates on the disease. The need to keep more updates is crucial and highly recommended.

Limitations

Time and money negates the precision and widening of the research scope on the endeavor but recommends more research on the subject matter. However, the author is convinced that vital lessons and observations even conclusions and recommendation are being drawn.

PREAMBLE

In the year 2020 the world came to a standstill due to an unexpected sickness herein referred to the “Covid-19” or the Corona Pandemic. The disease started in China in the year 2019 in the city of Wuhan around the month of November-December. Within months the disease turned pandemic spread like bushfire so much so, towards March the second week it had reached Kenya and around then, around 7 cases were announced. The author remembers vividly while on a trip to address a secondary school in Mwea in Kirinyaga County (Kenya Africa) on the topic “The role of parents and students in achieving Academic excellence” but was not to be. The author had just spoken to a secondary school at Nyahururu precincts precisely in Mairo-Inya location, Githungucu sub location (rural Kenya East Africa) on positive culture and “The one thing I do” being the suggested mantra.

A Descriptive analysis of the initial and progressive Corona Story

The author had his motivation talk suspended that would mark a beginning of numerous challenges economically, socially, health-wise and even psychologically in the succeeding months. The shock from Covid-19 hit headlines as many a “BREAKINGNEWS” and the world was never prepared for the pandemic hence caught unawares. The policy makers, health practitioners, technocrats and corporate world were caught by surprise and none had prepared or the iota of truth or perhaps a grim of reality about what was to unfold and bring the world to a standstill.

Nevertheless, on the following day on a Friday we had a board meeting after which I got the surprising news that all school games and events that could see students congregate were banned. After a few minutes, news on developing story were aired. In a few days, case after case, started being screened and sadly enough we did not have the much needed kits since this was a surprise disease unknown before or “novel virus” as it were. Various schools of thoughts about the cause of the Pandemic, dubbed “Wuhan Virus”

The theorists have it the animal origin from either bats-eaten in parts of China and or snake (still a delicacy there). And the argument submits that some genetically mutation was deliberately or accidentally done, on the premise of DNA sequencing which became counter-productive. Another school of thought blames the virus on manufacture either a chemical or biological weapon against who to destroy this or that, which is yet to be verified but hitting the social space and have been going viral. In fact, at some point the CNN was quoted reporting the prosecution of a Dr. Leon of Harvard University who had dally and dalliance with the Chinese government, though the motive remains foreign now to the author (at the time of authorship). Yet, a third school of thought argues of a well calculated move rumored and spoken both in hushed tones and in social space is about the G8 or G20 having a strategy on population control to control the world especially the third world countries. Did the high and mighty know something on labelling 2020 and beyond “The Era of Vaccine?” as early as 2011? That alone is more disturbing than is assuring, spurring doubt and question than inspiring hope and optimism, but be as it may. The question that begs for an answer, whether to negate or repudiate this view might be: why use such a dangerous strategy against mankind? And again, much as some pundits theorize, that, the well calculated move went awry and the worst happened. Even some glaringly allege

that China has an antidote. Lately (in April, Donald Trump and the White house informers and or FBI and Britain at the behest of Boris Johnson were mad with China from where the disease originated or at least first cases were traced. They argue China has been economical with the truth and at least that is in the public domain, to the chagrin of them (China)not furnishing WHO (World Health Organization) with true details of the Covid-19 hence help the people. And that way, people and experts charged with Disease treatment and control, at least to manufacture or research on cure or vaccine. The shocking details as at second week of April 2020, is on the over13,800deaths in Italy alone, over 9,800 deaths reported in Spain and over 23,000 deaths in the USA. In Kenya East Africa some 225cases had been reported as at April fifteenth by the Health Cabinet secretary: one Mutahi Kagwe, (In the President Uhuru's government)so zealous and articulate to have received a global acclaim and quoted by a popular Wall street Journal in April,2020.The babbly and energetic minister briefed his country daily and giving shocking, awe causing but vital news, and pre cautionary measures and perhaps directives and reprimanding those who ignore or break the set ministerial directives and guidelines. However, a really shocking and marvelous sight of over six hundred coffins in Italy and so many in a single place both in a church and in another instance in an open place before internment. Worth stating, both the pope and fellow clergy not only appeared worried but shaken and in tears. Amazingly, the prime minister of Italy appeared live on a telecast, and confessed to the helplessness of Italy, at that rate and juncture of hitherto. By then, then over 9,000deaths had already been witnessed in Italy, and pleaded for prayers and crying to God for mercy. I (the author) witnessed a video clip twice of Italians poured in the streets, crying to God, repenting sins and pleading for mercy the best way anyone knew-a really devastating state.

In Nigeria several cases had been witnessed, and higher case reported in the Maghreb region with Egypt and Algeria with several hundred as at end of March, year 2020; while in South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a lockdown. The worrying trends revealed the rate at which the pandemic was spreading, since at the 14thof April the Citizen TV and other TV stations reported over two million Covid-19 cases globally, some126,000 deaths and slightly above 484,000 recoveries. Kenya at that time had reported about 9 fatalities from corona allied cases. Agonizingly, one of the cases that sparked public uproar is that of one "Ogot Ochieng" from Siaya, a worker at the Kenya Port authority who is said to have succumbed to Corona, though some talked of accident. The internment left a lot to be lamented since burial was done devoid of coffin and the clip ran in both social media and the TV cast, one aired by Jeff Koinange and one Victoria Rubadiri (popular news anchors in the author's Country-Kenya) on that Sunday following the death and ceremonial burial, aired on Citizen TV and in another instance in N TV among other stations. Actually, the government defended the sad action in view of the veracity of the dreaded disease. The lamenters' quipped, "Why at night, why not give a respectable sendoff? Nevertheless, after the matter took a legal dimension and, when a respectable senior counsel cum senator, one James Orengo threatened to sue for the family behalf, later the minister made a public apology, affirming that needful guidelines and at least some decorum was not adhered to. But, impressed on people on the need to take utmost precaution, argued that; this is my disease, it is your disease," caution mantra; at least shedding some light on the attitude people should look at the Co id19. And yet, in another statement that went viral sounded: "if we continue to treat this disease normally, it will treat us abnormally!", the minister warned. However, the announcement of tough measures by different government is very telling all for precautionary measures. Several countries announced lockdown totally or partially. In addition, the declaration of curfew from dawn to dusk toward the end of March shook the nation, especially the first days of police brutality met with uproar and cursing. In fact, some cases ended up in Independent Police Oversight Authority(IPOA)office and court, indeed the president appeared on TV during the state of the nation address and apologized publicly on behalf of the government. The partial lockdown posed adverse effects on businesses and civil servants put on stand still. The call to work at home doesn't help matters either-the health precaution notwithstanding. On the people who live on less than a dollar a day; things appears a nightmarish. The president chose a team to manage a fund to mitigate the pandemic and help the needy and vulnerable persons. Some frustrated persons Quipped-Could this pandemic be avoided in Kenya? Conversely, did the government especially the ministry of transport take too long to act and stop the international flights: So, were the questions the minister of transport had to contend and painstakingly respond to asked by a Mr. Waihiga Mwaura-a news anchor with Citizen TV-in televised newscast, the anchor asking on behalf of concerned Kenyans. That pointed to the devastation and apathy the pandemic caused among many people. Sad enough, one Gare the whistleblower was blamed for reporting an Ethiopian Airline plane that landed aboard some248passengers said to be from China. That really sparked controversy and public uproar protesting more Corona threat. Another agonizing fate is that of desperate hungry people ravaging from C corona lockdown in India and some other nations, pouring into the streets, stoning police teargassing them. Subsequently, the agitated hunger-stricken almost famished masses forced their way into a supermarket and rob commodities to fill their rumbling stomachs. Dare I say, disease and hunger are two ferocious monsters-great enemies and threat to mankind? OH! Corona, get out of our way, one may even soliloquize!

The following suggestions were given by the author in March 2020 directed to the Cabinet secretary for health and internal security Dr. Matiangi Fred-very thorough and zealous in his execution of duties.

- In view of the COVID 19 Pandemic and resulting effects, these suggestions could help:

- Closure or restriction of flights from Corona-prone or infested zones quoting IATA rules.
- A must does quarantine and a screening to ascertain the sick on the arrivals (if flights had to continue jetting in)
- Lockdown then government feed the people for a fortnight to three weeks
- Triangulation and trace monitoring to get the possibly infected cases and those in contact
- Mass screening at zonal, county, neighborhood/estate level as a sure way to identify and isolate the infected just as Polio vaccine is done
- The use/ utilize/consult of stakeholders and think-tank. Quintessential, this message motivated by patriotism and my love for mankind and my motherland drive me to author the precautionary and advisory message. The author believes somehow reached the authorities and some of the recommendations were effected as pertains containment and easement measures respectively as touches COVID rules. The hope and prayer is positive response and arrest even exterminate the pandemic finally.

Surely, no one knows at the time of writing, when exactly the pandemic would abate. Some theorists predict a development of natural immunity after a certain peak the covid flu becomes like any other. The other misnomer pertains to the lockdown of worship places and all gatherings for precautionary measures. At least the gathering is understandable but locking churches appears unprecedented with the cue borrowed from Korea and Italy where reportedly over 400 people were infected from church gathering in early months of the Pandemic spread. A unique way of reaching out has become popular-the social media and or internet and telecast, Platforms of Facebook, twitter or YouTube and Television not to mention Skype have become lucrative. Maybe the biggest winners are the social media owners indeed this reflects the information age therefore, the techno savvy wizards stand to win big. This leads to the fourth theory that has attracted cursing, laments, defiance and blame-shifting. There stands some school of thought that blames the whole menace on the upcoming 5D or 5G network and allegedly already tried in Wuhan where the pandemic emanated, also allegedly in Italy and the USA. In fact, some people have been reportedly destroyed telecommunication gadgets in parts of China and some other nations. But which is the gospel truth about the global scourge. There yet others who favor the religious mindset saying that mankind sins have reached a peak inviting a divine hand of retribution and judgment. In fact, some prophets prophesied about the pandemic one in Africa and another from the USA in 2016 and 2017 and 1986 respectively. The bold step of one John Pombe Magufuli of urging prayers and hard work among Tanzanians was daring perhaps his greatest undoing. He insisted that "Corona won't go to affect the body of Christ the church, yet it is in church where faithful's and find strength and hope", he advised. And many agreed with him, but critics ranted and sarcastically reacted to his conviction and pronouncement hence attracting both hate and congratulations in equal measure. Much as the author partially agrees with the late President John Magufuli on the reverence and praying to God, some of his opponents feel it was abit wreckless not being decisive on mitigate and preventive measures. Sadly enough by the third week of April, 2020, some 240 people had already been infected with the COVID-19 virus in Tanzania.

The shaking of the G8

The Corona pandemic spread fast and furious and seemed not to discriminate between rich and poor, neither class nor status. In fact, even Prince Charles reportedly contracted the virus and the Prime minister of Britain Boris Johnson who was at ICU at some point but luckily survived not to mention Donald Trump but all survived. On the 22nd April 2020 media reports reflected some 759 deaths in a day in the UK alone. On the other hand, alarming figures of some 834,858 infections in the USA alone with some 45,849 deaths, shockingly in some days up to 2000 deaths being reported, while the global tally stood at 2,611,182 (CNN figures echoed by other Media too like Citizen, K24 and NTV). Even the American president was abit perturbed amidst political opposition and endless critics, some blaming him on not doing enough while some felt the state was not being candid and forthright about facts and figures and working rapid response measures. By the third week of April, 2020, Italy was reported having flattened the curve but not out of the woods yet since some 600 to 700 deaths are being reported and projected fear of successive waves which was projected and did claim millions more people globally.

All said and one, the Pandemic is monstrous and lethal. While the Americans are projected to die in their thousands and the rest of the world is not spared either. The whole world is worried and for once unnecessary war being paused. The amount of money injected and directed towards fighting the Corona pandemic is alarming but worth the agony in hope of salvaging lives across the globe. The impact on sectors of economy is devastating. In Kenya by, April-the first week-over 46 B Kenya shillings had been lost economically speaking; and, the then minister for finance, one Ukur Yattani, in a televised newscast by Kenyan media predicts about 193 B loss per annum or more, in view of this pandemic, in Kenya alone those who believe in God like the author, called to pray and really did pray more and more, preaching a message of hope and encouraging the fellow human race.

Divided theories and conclusions

Many different theories were put forward ranging from socio-cultural on numbers and rate of infection, religious standpoints and prophecies and yet medical and political grounds all formulate particular hypothesis. But what really caused the Covid virus. Reportedly, on the 22nd April the state of Missouri reportedly sued the China government for not being truthful about the virus and withholding information. The world seemed to some extent to be at wait-and-see mood while some nations fought neck and tooth to salvage their citizenry. Media briefings infiltrated with Corona updates amid fear causing clauses will linger long in the minds of many.

Psychological effects versus the Corona Pandemic

Psychology being the study of the human mind, then one appreciates how the mind behaves amidst different states and conditions. There is alertness during daylight hours and the natural sleep tendency when night and darkness falls, as per the biological psychological conditioning. The Corona Pandemic is presenting unprecedented scenarios psychologically, socially and health-wise not to mention economic wise. The four months have been unprecedented in the history of people in the twenty-first century. Accordingly, cases of anxiety, domestic violence, tension and even murder and increased crime has been noticed and some reported across the globe. According to Psychology Today International, points in part about the virus and the workings of the health professionals in attempt to crack the novel corona virus mystery and syndrome. The argument reflects the nature of the virus belonging to and associated with “common cold, SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-MERS. Since the virus is believed to have existed in animals, as the author earlier alluded, and later mutated, undergoing transmissions in humans” (www.Psychologytoday.com).

Impact of the Covid19: In an attempt to dig into the Corona disease also known as the Covid19 pandemic, a lot and really much can be said, have already been said and lamented, at closed doors and in public places, in both print and electronic media. One will be amazed at what many journals hereafter will write and continue reporting, such as Journal of Medicine, Psychology Today, Journal of economic and Statistics to mention but a few.

Psychological effects as aforementioned, and as reported by several media, pertain sundry effects and fronts. Increased cases of domestic violence in both the third world, and the first world, indeed, several cases were reported in Kenya and the USA for instance.

Effects of self-isolation and social-distancing even quarantine attracting noise, sorrow and apathy, a truly psychological effect. Thirdly, social and cognitive effects for instance among people used to social gatherings, weddings, funerals, school environment among others. There holds a need a study on learners right from elementary to tertiary and universities on the effect of being absent from school-class environment for longer than usual holidays. And similarly, to the teachers, tutors and dons the effect of disconnection from the daily undertakings, which must be unfathomable.

The social life interference in site of curfews and lockdowns are telling and also need an investigation even research on the effects thereof on the individual, families and nations. Indeed, the social-economic and psycho-social effects is worth investigating.

Religious effects: The humanity is social and spiritual being too, and the isolation brings devastating effects. John Brown Ikenye, in his book, African Psychological Anthropology, published by Parkside Counseling, Researchers and Publishers, (2015) argues “Religion in African Psychological Anthropology has a collective and functional role, thereby arguing for the religious rites and gatherings where people congregate for prayers and fellowship and benevolent action”, Prof. Brown contends that, “Religion is redemptive and a coping device in dealing with stress in life and in establishing psychological equilibrium lessening anxiety and associated effects in individuals and communities, in one’s lifetime” (John Ikenye, 2015). The argument then reflects the untold stress and psychological effect perhaps imbalances occasioned by the Covid19 Pandemic. And, that caused the clergy to protest the unprecedented decision to interfere the irreligious right for gathering and association in many countries, eliciting heated arguments and debate. In some countries certain compromises have been reached or prescribed with requisite medical protocols.

Economic effects: Truthfully stated, the economies of the global nations have been hard-hit, and the down spiral effect is more real than before, with workers indeed labor-force or human capita bearing the brunt edge. The corporate world suffers unprecedented and unanticipated losses and some have closed and operations halted while some intermittently gradual re-opening. The shocker thus brings a ripple effect pitting the employer and employees and reports have been aired on massive job losses and the psychological effects. The need for the input of the counselor psychologists and pastoral counselors has never been so vital and a priority if not urgent matter. The challenge, however, is when people, thoughtlessly and hind is stress shy away in fear and perhaps the fear of being ostracized or stigmatization. Nevertheless, the psychological effects appear

glaring and may last quite a longer duration during and pot the COVID-19 pandemic periods. The hope being, things will look better someday; so everyone hopes and pray.

Wreck less behavior

Humanity sometimes acts funny because even with all the scare and fatal statistics some reckless party animals throw care to the wind and continue partying as if nothing has happened. In Kenya East Africa, certain persons were arrested in Nairobi, Kiambu too. In the Kenyatta University quarantine facility some fifty men escaped but were later traced. And some people in Spain, Italy and America and elsewhere ignored the lockdown and carried on their life as usual. Surely, in desperate times, desperate measures are taken. The tough issue of food shortage, poverty and anxiety not to mention curiosity would at times push even the genuine to act otherwise to make ends meet.

There will be victory at last, a ray of hope burns aflame somewhere but only a hopeful eye of faith dare sees.

Author's Reflection Note:

Take heart mankind for one time it will be said, "Once upon a time, there was Corona pandemic. The sad news will be the sad nostalgic memory of some grannies, fathers, mothers, siblings by some, loss of business by others, economic meltdown by nations of the world. But happy and hopefully still, the remnant will say, "Am glad I survived" and "we overcame the corona menace". I pray you live to witness these prophetic words. Surely, year 2020 was a year like no other, to some double blessings and to others double trouble. The historical Spanish flu of 1918 is akin to the pandemic which killed over a million people globally. Am glad we overcame, our mesmerizing some optimistically, I dare enthuse!!

By George Mburu (Rev Dr.) M.Div. (Ongong 2020, completed graduated First May, 2022), MTH (NU-Louisiana), MCCP (USA), B.Th., TWM (Moi, CTGA-cttr (Nairobi)-Author of 8 books, Let's Talk, Easy and Realistic Approach to Counseling, How Am I Living etc.

The author purposed to continue and further the research on updates and analysis on the novel virus.

Additional updates April/May, 2020 Tricky issue on some alleged misnomer-

In the month of April, some speculations were rife about a Chinese scientist labeled as the "Batwoman" (a matter in the public domain of different media outlets both print and electronic) who was said to have known the genetic formula or composition of the Corona/COVID-19 virus. Sadly, enough the China government was blamed for not revealing the truth to the other nations in line with WHO guidelines and protocol.

Africa Covid response

Some good news surfaced in April about certain Madagascariense herbalist who formulated a concoction which could treat covid19 and had no fatalities. The American president (then POTUS Mr Donald Trump) gave some support to help produce the cure drug in plenty to succor the lives of many. In the same breath, it was understandably reported that President Donald Trump spoke with a few African presidents about Covid-19 responses and promised to assist some. In Kenya for instance some aid amounting to a staggering sh.2B was to be delivered for rapid response and shield the ravages and effects from the COVID-19 virus.

Statistical figures in April-first week of May

USA 1.779M, deaths 68,560

UK 186,600 COVID cases and over 66,000 reported deaths owing to various national and international media like CNN and Citizen TV not to mention Al Jazeera and internet updates.

Africa-Selective figures from particular regions

South Africa—most hit with 6,336 with 123 deaths. The Northern African region were also hard hit with Algeria and Egypt with high figures comparatively with the rest of the African continent. In East Africa Kenya had led with over 435 cases by 3rd May but soon overtaken by Tanzania whose response seemed lacksadaical and no decisive nor firm action like lockdown as at the writing of this updates. The trends led to the extension of the curfew and partial lockdown in specific counties like Nairobi (metropolis, Mombasa, Kilifi and Mandera. In Rwanda over 170 cases had been reported with a little reprieve being in the neighboring Uganda with only 70 reported cases, at that time, after a total month-long lockdown.

EUROPE

Like earlier noted the UK as at first week of May had a staggering 186,000 cases and feared to rise exponentially. However, the curve is hoped to flatten if the lockdown measures are being strictly observed. In Italy which was most hit in February and March had 210,717 confirmed cases with 28,884 reported deaths while Spain had escalated cases reaching a high of 247,122 as at 3rd May 2020 and 25,264 fatalities while Germany had a reported 165,183 cases with some 6,812 deaths. On the other hand, Sweden had 22,317 cases of Covid-19 and some 2,679 deaths. In addition, Philippines had 9,223 Covid-19 cases as at 4th May updates and some 607 reported fatalities from Covid-19 allied illnesses. Finally, globally some 3,526,584 cases had been reported with 246,491 fatalities from the Covid-19 pandemic (CCN News; Citizen TV Kenya,

2020).

China 82,877 with reported 4633 deaths thought the figure is discounted. Around 21st May some clip appeared online about a resurgence of Covid-19 in Wuhan China where the virus started. And allegedly another lockdown of about 100m people.

Subsequently, by the third week of May some 4.8M cases had been reported with over 303,670 fatalities globally. The USA had reported over 90,000 deaths from Covid related deaths.

The POTUS, Mr. Donald Trump ordered re-opening of worship places and labeled them as “essential services” and reacted to how some proponents of abortion and bars taunted essential services and isolating churches and mosques as well as synagogues was wrong”, he said. The president indicated that they knew the clergy men and religious leaders cared for their flock not wishing any ill against them and hence will advise them on taking healthy precautions. Similarly, near home in East Africa the Tanzanian president stayed on course and adamant about his conviction, wanting to salvage economy. He said they trusted and put their trust in God and thus said he would even re-open schools for healthy life thus reduce Covid effects and better still open institutions of learning. However, his opponents felt that was not the wisest thing to do.

A diplomatic row arose between Tanzania and Kenya about testing and restraining infected truck drivers which did not go well with Tanzanians. The drivers from both countries complained on long queues occasioned by delay in being tested and losses encountered from delay and being restricted from crossing the border, if sick. There was however sorted between the two president: His excellence’s Uhuru of Kenya and John Pombe Magufuli (the later now deceased), and ordered their trade ministers to sort the differences. Actually, around the same time Kenya had some 1192 covid cases and about 60 deaths from covid-allied cases. The Madagascar herbal concoction said to cure the covid-19 had received mixed reactions. Indeed, some countries supported it and even ordered enough dosages, and it was reported even Russian government gave it a thumbs-up and commended Africa especially Madagascar for the cure. Surely, the covid-19 brought a rude shock to the entire globe and affected most sectors of the economy.

This is a very tough flu and unprecedented in the 21st century. The economic meltdown is worrying and anxiety fascinating. However, the vaccine by various nations and the tireless work of scientists coupled with the prayer of the faithful not to mention precautionary and rapid response measures could yet bring a brilliance of hope in both mitigation and control.

Progressive updates about the COVID-19

In Kenya East Africa, the Covid cases started an upward trajectory from the third week of May and by the first week of June sometimes triple digits ranging from 100-140, new cases reported. This was attributed to the increased number of mass testing per day. Actually by the 4th June the total cases had exceeded two thousand and thirty cases and some 78 deaths due to covid allied effects. Two years later since Covid than four thousand Kenyan succumbed COVID complications. Interestingly, those underlying conditions diabetics, blood pressure most risk. The available vaccines Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The people mostly receiving two jabs and a booster shot would give them the much needed protection from ravages of the Corona disease. Kenyan researchers are at a high gear too their efforts hoped soon to pay dividends probably earliest at 2023.

Lessons and Efforts of Science Reportedly: In fact, by the first week of June, over 124 vaccines were being worked on by scientists and researchers’ indifferent parts of the world. Some of the researchers include Americans, Europeans, Israelites and Africans. At some point WHO had to admit the possibility of the herbal concoction from Madagascar possibility to cure and admitted to working with them if requisite threshold is met.

Challenges on Test Tracing

The premise on contact trace and testing relies on accurate data and triangulation and perhaps rapid response in which ever place. In some countries, some people feared quarantine and perhaps the unknown, and withhold information. In some countries like in Kenya, for instance, the issue of stigma and fear of quarantine has been causing some people to give false information and contacts. And some even had guts to escape from quarantine centers prompting man hunt and follow ups by government authorities.

Reportedly, the prime minister of Britain, Boris Johnson (now resigned) talked in favor of easing restrictions on lockdown if the scale of four (4) is attained but some thought strict guidelines ought to have been followed perhaps relaxing the same once at 3, according to New Scientist.

Models of relaxing restrictions

There has been a raging debate on the model to follow about relaxing lockdowns viz a viz the economic effect. The sudden or gradual relaxing has its pros and cons whereby, some would have preferred a gradual relaxation and easement staggered over a 12-month period. Others, however think a sudden, easement of restriction could

work and perhaps lessen the current economic effect on global losses on GDP by between 10-20%. Surely, a global economic meltdown has been witnessed, and millions of job losses. In the USA alone 30 Million JOB LOSSES while in Kenya a staggering 3million plus job losses was projected. Much business closure has led an apathy and disappointment among many.

Psychological effect

There has been catastrophic psychological effect globally across the gender divide. The superpowers, the second and third worlds be shaken, the high-class and the underdog shave all been shaken to the core. Surprisingly big globally businesses and brands are under attack and some reeling from accrued losses and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and it's not sure when and how some companies will rise. And on some establishment, owner managed or franchised on death or collapse the rise will largely depend on how sharp, willing and economic stimulus plan adopted. The issue of domestic violence is/ has been and continuous to being on the rise, husbands and boyfriends perhaps not used to stay with wives or girlfriends many hours on end. In addition, the declined in come and surplus money to spend throws everyone in different direction and leaves many confused and agitated. Actually, with such pressure economic and psychologically speaking, tension rise and only a little trigger makes the parties burst in wrath, anger and fury perhaps out of frustrations. It might be interesting to study how many deaths or injuries emanate from such domestic squabbles and the impact of economic meltdown and job losses on individuals and families. But, definitely sure, the impact remains heavy and reactions very telling.

Lessons Learnt from the COVID 19 Pandemic

The lessons could be as numerous as the students and the case by case situation on the perceived or real effect across the globe and across the gender divide. However, the author simulates and deduces the following lessons perhaps employing the cause-effect analysis.

1) Health wise –The health of citizenry of any nation comes in handy, perhaps, of more importance than security if not second. To some who may rank their wealth high may prioritize security while some prioritize health. What matters to you folks? Both are as basic as water and food, being ranked first among the Abraham Maslow's need hierarchy.

Therefore, enough research funds must be kept aside and increased in some if not all countries. That will keep any country at breast with the emerging challenges in field of diseases like virology, bacteriology study areas that need constant research.

2) Rapid response improvement in many countries especially the third world and also first world. From Covid-19 (all the controversial and contradicting theories and schools of thought notwithstanding), sluggish, pessimistic, and perhaps “below per response” might have caused needless fatalities. The question that begs for an answer, could this have been avoided? Therefore, the nations of the world must re-engineer themselves on matters rapid response and disaster preparedness from whatever angle one looks at it.

3) Food security and medical supply-The two gives people some pride, hope and dignity without which people's lives and survival stand in jeopardy. The food reserves of countries, counties, towns or at family level dwindle on constant use without replenishing. In tough times like the Covid-19 times, and with mitigative measures like lockdown the resources and reserves can only run down if not depleted. How well are our countries, counties prepared? The case of fatalities from reduced or no supply in some places of food, medicine and even clean water would be and has been devastating to say the least. The nations and administrations globally have a free lesson to learn, at times the hard way from such unprecedented pandemic in decades.

4) Learning from history-The fact that a similar though different pandemic, in the name of Spanish Flu ravished the world killing over 50 million people needed to teach all global leaders permanent lessons to make decisive rapid response and no delayed alerts on such eventualities. But, if we are honest with ourselves, given such bizarre precedence was the response in tandem with lesson learnt viz a viz development and technology? Perhaps, yes! Or perhaps no! But the author feels better response ought to have been done. Some reports point to the George Bush administration which attempted to have such a response in place but did the successive regimes plan right or fund the endeavor? This is a one grand lesson for humanity to ponder over and plan right since, some other viruses might yet strike futuristically speaking.

5) The Transport sector -Essentially, the COVID-19 pandemic affected many sectors of the economy especially the transport sector, a trillion-dollar industry whether air, water, rail or road transport. The reality of the times reveals many airlines recorded and still will record huge losses raking in billion dollars some perhaps trillions because of the law of supply and demand. And since, many world major airlines operations were crippled temporarily by the Covid-19 pandemic is very telling. What if some preparedness in terms of travel gear which could insulate the passengers and the crew? It is sad that both the passengers and the crew including pilots were

affected by the virus and some succumbed, even a Kenyan pilot, but then, researchers and technologists should research and be innovative enough to have protective gear and measures going forward to avoid such losses and crippling of economies and yet not jeopardize lives.

6) Academia VS. Noble research

The shock of our times is that some of the universities in the world lack some concrete thing to show in terms of research and innovation particularly that which changes human lives positively. That should be the premise of institution of higher learning. The researcher understands the social sciences and humanities have their value in terms of social life and sociocultural and psychologically.

But that notwithstanding, universities must invest money in research and other like-minded bodies and organization to fund very much needed research like the coronavirus vaccine. I salute the works of various scholars and researchers some known to the author who have such an endeavor but that should be a common tale if our esteemed institutions will be seen as “saviors” of mankind and not only ‘centers for brain-washing’ and at times empty rhetoric. Why do we have countless research papers and thesis gathering dust in archives and very nice sounding recommendations whose owners die without even knowing whether a fraction was ever implemented? The clarion call here is when universities will be and must be premier institutions, a beacon of hope to and for humanity (some are) which all spheres of life and sectors depend on. Then, strikes might cease and negative politicking because a potential graduate will prove their worth to the current or the next generation of learners and scholar seven their very neighborhoods. The assessment of effects occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic becomes imperative to help in all the attention needed, whether socio-economic-wise, health-wise or even psychologically. One will be glad to know what specific universities contributed to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

7) The political class, administration, and rapid response

The author/researcher/commends the various governments of the world who did a quick-rapid-response towards the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries went out of their way to give out of their ex-chequer billion dollars to cushion their citizenry and for economic stimulus like USA and Europe. Nevertheless, to what extent should human-health matters be politicized? What if someone loses or gains from it? There should be deliberately defined lines which should not be gambled with especially matters human-health and food security. What happened in most countries? Did the citizenry feel betrayed by the elected leaders and or representatives? A sound balanced survey should be carried to ascertain the feeling of citizenry across the globe versus the leadership or administration response.

8) Religion, faith hope vs. Desperation

Faith and religious entities the world overserve as a beacon of hope and source of inspiration to most people globally. The existence of various faith denominations, religions and sects is a testament to this fact. However, one needs to evaluate the effect of lockdowns and non-attendance of religious meetings, devotions and communal prayers and or religious practice during the COVID-19 season, occasioned by the Corona virus fear and spread, in view of containment measures. Actually, even to the terminally ill, the words of hope and encouragement keep them going; whether the victim will eventually succumb, yet they die in hope. The writer of Romans submits, “Against hope, Abraham hoped” (ROM.4:17-19), when the patriarch had no heir but kept trusting in God, and finally beget Isaac. Similarly, also, it is those moment so full of desperation and despondency when all seems but gone and lost, when heaviness, pains and frustrations become insurmountable and everyone feels stretched to the limits, reaching breaking point, words of hope come ringing. What if, they lack or are missing altogether? And what if are strain like the lockdown times by various world administrations? The author admired President Donald Trump quip, that some abortions proponents and bar owners in America label such “essential services” but not the church, that made him give an executive order to re-open places of worship. Therefore, one appreciates the social media space which most clergy including the author used to broadcast the words and message of hope encrypted in brief sermons. It is about time worship be enshrined in many nations’ constitution as core among basic necessities of spiritual nourishment, just as medicine to a sick patient, spirituality and worship bear eternal value. One understands the debate and controversies the subject poses but the void of human spirit must need filling with the right ‘commodity’ of spiritual nuggets.

9) The technology and social media space

Whether the technology and the social media space brought more scare than information and enlightenment is a subject of discussion. However, technology has at all times been of great value and relevance to humanity across the globe. Gone are the times of the Sumerians and the early civilization reminisced in history books and archives. But then, such information bears relevance, tracking how historical development of countries and civilization metamorphosed through ages, eras and epochs. That said, technology has done marvelous contribution to humanity development through the years. Nonetheless, in the twenty-first century information age, the advent of internet indeed, the social media space is spectacular.

Accordingly, one, therefore, needs to know, just how much did the social media impact and affect the covid story positively or negatively? The issue of fake news and accurate or true/factual news and the impact on

various recipients portends a wonderful area of study. Worth stating, the social media brought the very much needed alerts and updates not to mention the messages of hope and scare in equal measure. One may need to investigate the million billion of not trillion dollars minted by the social-media owners and the internet since billions of people are utilizing it for every field of information and economy.

Finally, the author sought to demystify the COVID 19 pandemic scourge, the facts, myths and realities surrounding the pandemic. He undertook an analytical cross sectional and descriptive analysis shedding light on the effects and impacts of the Covid-pandemic globally. The author contextualized the various variables that encapsulate in what matters to humanity socially, economically, religiously and health wise, not to mention politically. Towards the end certain observations and recommendations have been drawn. The author recommends further study and research in particular areas that he addressed in questions. Ultimately when issues and unprecedented happenings like the covid-19 pandemic strike the collective and individual response really counts, but better still the integrity, swiftness, expertise and forthrightness of any nation and relevant institutions matter a great extent and will determine win or loss of the fight. And the remnant of citizenry or proponents of such nations, economies, civilization and or institutions will recount the response either fondly because of job well done or agonizingly if lacsauidical response was meted. It's a big lesson for all mankind.

Annex:1

At the time of publication of this paper the number of infections had hit above seventeen million infections globally, with the USA hitting the five million marks. Worrying trends have been witnessed in Brazil and India (Indian delta variant that claimed many lives), while in Africa the South Africa and the Maghreb region had higher numbers leading in the African continent, in Kenya East Africa by August 2020, the Covid cases had reached over 27,000 but a grim of hope on the over 12,000 recoveries and some 450 fatalities.

More research is hereby recommended to keep abreast with the information for safety, alertness, knowledgeability and historical record even planning purposes to mention but a few. The author looks forward for mitigation and amelioration of the worrying trend and global state of the COVID19 Pandemic

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- [8] Annex two **Argument: After two years overall, more than 3 million people have died globally owing to covid 19 allied complications. There is hope since vaccination is on upward trajectory and uptake since well received despite earlier resistance and apathy from different parts globally. Hopefully a long lasting solution will come by.
- [9] By George Mburu (Rev. Dr) M. Div. (-NU. USAU. MTH (Nu-Louisiana), MCCP (USA), B.Th., TWM (Moi, CTGA-ctr (Nairobi)-Author of Ten books books, Let's Talk, Easy and Realistic Approach to Counseling, How Am I Living ,among others.