



A Resilient China Amid COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis: Innovative Lessons for Other Countries

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ABSTRACT

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic deteriorated the paradigm of the global economy as the whole world had come to a standstill because of massive destructions being caused by this virus. Although the virus originated from China, but it soon spread across the world with its ability to infect the millions of people. The economic destruction, healthcare devastation, and political unrest caused by the pandemic were met with a critically tailored set of policies being designed by Chinese government. The pandemic resulted in a countrywide lockdown of China which led to the economic and political downfall of the country. Millions of people were infected within a short span of time leading to imposition of healthcare emergency by the government. Interestingly, China did not undergo a period of recession during this pandemic, but instead it underwent a prolonged period of economic stagnation as it did not suffer much like other economies of the world. Months after the pandemic had wreaked havoc, China started to gain stability as its efforts towards diffusing the situation proved successful in containing the virus. China being the first country to be struck with this pandemic naturally provides a foolproof plan for other countries to imitate in their struggle towards disease containment. This article has attempted to highlight the impact of the coronavirus pandemic upon China and how the government managed to control the transmission of this deadly virus to a great extent. Furthermore, what innovative and imitating lessons can be learnt by other countries from a resilient China.

Keywords: China, Lockdown, Economic Stagnation, Healthcare Emergency, Innovative Lessons

JEL Classifications: H51, I10, I18

1. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus pandemic, also known as the SARS-CoV-2 has altered the entire dynamics of the world economies. The virus was initially mistakenly considered as a rare case of pneumonia as, but soon Chinese medical professionals realized the novel nature of the disease. Eventually the highly contagious nature of the virus was recognized after further scientific investigations regarding the causes, symptoms, treatment, and the effects of the virus. By January 2020, the virus was identified as epidemic as it had spread all over China. Just within the first 3 months, Covid-19 had affected more than eighty thousand people along with the deaths of over three thousand individuals (Worldometer, 2021). The contagious nature of the virus was such that it had the ability to infect all those who come in direct contact with someone who had contracted it.

In case an individual escape being getting infected, but still he might be a carrier and would potentially put everyone else at the risk of being falling prey to this deadly disease. Due to very high rate of transmissibility, the virus soon proliferated to regions and countries even outside of China as well. Within few months, the whole world got victimized by this monster virus, resultantly, World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as pandemic.

COVID- 19 is not only a public health threat, but it is also a serious economic threat to the whole world (Aysan, 2020).The spread of coronavirus has seriously affected the businesses, economies, and daily operations around the world. According to reports garnered by the professionals, total coronavirus cases have exceeded 200 million, and more than 4 million people have died till today (Worldometer, 2021). Owing to the rapid spread of the

virus and alarming fatalities, a health emergency was declared all over the world. China being the epicenter of the outbreak was the first country to implement the necessary policies needed to limit the devastation being caused by the pandemic. Chinese government realized that the situation needs to be resolved upon war footings to abstain from committing the same mistakes as they did in the previous pandemic. As a result, complete lockdown, consistent monitoring, and nucleic testing all over China became the new normal (Yu et al., 2021). China succeeded in its efforts for developing a vaccine to weed out the existence of the virus. While the vaccination does not guarantee absolute prevention from the disease, it does play a major part in reducing the severity of the symptoms and keeps the health of infected individuals from deteriorating to further extent.

In addition to these measures, awareness among the public also continued to grow as mass social media campaigns were carried out to inform the people about the adverse consequences of the virus. As a result, people religiously followed the standard operating procedures devised by the government. Within few months, “flatten the curve” started making rounds as a primary slogan for tackling coronavirus aimed at instilling in people a social responsibility to help contain further transmission of the virus (Lee et al., 2020). The slogan actively demonstrated that one of the effective ways to combat the spread is to ensure that new active cases should rise at slower pace per day. However, the effect of the pandemic on the lifestyle of individuals is multifaceted. Students all around the world suffered a great deal as all educational institutions were shut down effective immediately. Restaurants and event halls were sealed because of which thousands of people were out of jobs for a long period of time. The rising unemployment put a huge strain on the world economy and poverty started to accelerate around the world. The pandemic resulted in an exponential increase in the demand for safety equipment like PPE clothing, masks, and gloves because of which these businesses flourished at massive level. The inevitable climate regeneration that was experienced because of halted production is also a worth mentioning positive aspect of the pandemic.

The Figure 1 is reflecting the GDP growth pattern in China. Moreover, massive development in the digital sector was observed because of which businesses were able to cut down substantial amounts of costs since most operations were conducted online (Bai et al., 2021). Digitization has further empowered businesses

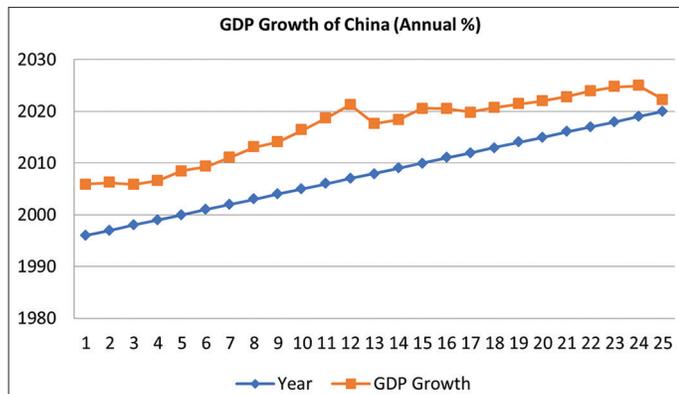
worldwide to reinvent their sustainability agenda paving their way towards high productivity even during a crisis. Despite the noteworthy positive externalities, there are also social repercussions in the form of lost work, disrupted supply chains, and political unrest all around the globe. In addition, Covid-19 has not only high transmissibility rate, but it can also mutate rapidly which enables it to become more stronger and powerful with time. Therefore, the imperative nature of the precautionary measures is what the paper seeks to establish by discussing the response mechanism of China being the first country to be struck by this pandemic. The paper further outlines the lessons that other countries can learn from the massive and successful struggles of China to contain this pandemic.

COVID-19, a new coronavirus infection, has been reported and recorded globally. With the exceptional regulations in place in China, the percentage of newly confirmed as well as suspected cases has been steadily falling over the last 2 weeks. According to the WHO-China Joint Mission report, China has launched one of the most comprehensive, adaptive, and proactive disease-containment programs ever. Outside of China, on the other hand, the number of reported cases are still rapidly increasing, with an exponential pattern of growth. China’s strategy to halt the virus’s spreading has altered the pandemic’s course. The country’s attempts to suppress the new coronavirus can provide other countries important lessons, such as how to contain the spread of the virus and how to take control measures, if they are undergoing fast transmission (AlTakarli, 2020).

Initially, the outbreak was mostly in China whereas several nations including the United States and Australia, enacted harsh restrictions preventing the admission of Chinese and non-native tourists into the respective countries. However, due to the pandemic characteristics of COVID-19 and its worldwide dispersion, there is presently no actual evidence that it originated in China. Since March 2020, the pandemic has steadily spread to over 150 nations, and China’s prized potential for disease control and prevention is being broadened internationally, as it has now become a guideline for other countries to follow. „China has pulled out possibly the most ambitious, nimble, and aggressive disease control campaign in history,” according to a WHO assessment (Shen et al., 2020). According to present epidemiology statistics, the Chinese government has successfully taken several steps to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, with a remarkable decrease in incoming cases in the country. These steps, which were implemented in China, allowed to „buy time” for the pandemic to spread to different parts of the world, and other nations were able to learn from China’s effective efforts and adapting methods towards their own circumstances and the coronavirus’s variants. In nations where COVID-19 is still spreading, the greatest emergency response plan should be implemented right away (Chen et al., 2020).

To minimize the immediate transmission of the disease in and among the communities, all essential actions should be implemented, such as restricting the gathering up in big numbers especially in enclosed places, shutting down schools and educational institutes and public spaces, enforcing social quarantine, and maximizing the rate of vaccinated individuals. Using big data and innovative technology, cases should be verified

Figure 1: GDP Growth of China



and tracked swiftly and accurately, further reducing and containing the spread of the virus. Medical emergency supplies must be made available in every way possible. In order to handle patients of all sorts and degrees, a new batch of specialists and dedicated medical centers and transportable cabin clinics should be built if required (Altakarli, 2020). To make the citizens conscious and realize the implications of COVID-19, the pandemic prevention and treatment publicity activities must be enhanced on a much broader scale. Individuals are compelled to use face masks and maintain a required social distance when they're out.

Uninfected nations should be prepared to activate emergency response plans at any moment and promptly increase their capacity to discern COVID-19 quickly, isolate large-scale cases in specific quarantine centres, and replenish medical resources promptly. To prevent the development of outbreaks caused by imported cases such as foreigners entering a country, temperature surveillance and virus detection of international visitors should be improved at each entry port. More crucially, despite the fact that each nation has its own unique institutional framework, legislation, and culture, the COVID-19 disease has no national limitations. To combat the urgent public health crisis, countries must put their differences aside and communicate ideas and collaborate, to counter this global outbreak efficiently and effectively.

Faced with the epidemic and the ever-changing scenario, China moved quickly and implemented a series of solutions, such as the formation of an administrative team, structural adjustments, and special provisions for clinical visits, hospital admissions, and routine surgical operations. Advanced data technologies were also used to increase medical staff development training and patient engagement in these unprecedented times. These actions, China believes, contributed significantly to the effective containment of Covid-19 in-hospital growth while preserving important healthcare care operations and activities. The challenges and insights learned in planning for and managing the infection are presented in this document and therefore should be valuable to the management body, infection prevention and control teams, and any health practitioners who are confronting or will face the virus (Zhang et al., 2020).

Despite a wide range of research and data demonstrating COVID-19's epidemiology, ecological, radiographic, and clinical characteristics, there are still many disagreements. With its widespread distribution, it's quite conceivable that this new coronavirus will infect people of all nationalities. The primary mode of transmission is yet unknown, however, the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in the bloodstream and feces suggests multiple infection routes. Up to 29% of hospital-associated infections amongst the medical staff were observed at a Wuhan hospital. It warns that uncontrolled transmissions in medical institutions not only exacerbate the scarcity of workers but also hasten viral propagation (Zhang et al., 2020).

Extensive screening has become the first and primary line of defense against cross-infection. SARS-CoV-2 screening now depends mainly on RT-PCR of viral nucleic acid and ultra-high-resolution chest CT. RT-PCR, on the other hand, had a sensitivity

of just 30–60% in the initial evaluation. Its validity is being questioned as multiple relapsing cases with recurrent negative PCR findings have been reported in China and Japan. Challenges with specimen collection and processing, as well as a scarcity of testing kits, further hindered its use on a broad scale. However, because of the risk for increased radiation exposure, chest CT should not be used on a regular basis. Chest CT is used as a crucial diagnostic instrument in hospitals attributed to the prevalence of RT-PCR()/CT(+) cases and the update of the Chinese CDC's Clinical Practice Guidelines (Shen et al., 2020).

The threat of a Covid-19 disease outbreak is now greater than it has ever been. Although a vaccine has been developed, both developed and developing nations, containing the uncontrollable pandemic is a top most concern. This report aims at discussing strategies to stop transmissions and contamination by reacting, coordinating, and controlling hospital operations as done in China and other countries which have emerged as winners of the pandemic. During the pandemic period, investigations found no hospital-acquired Covid-19 infections, demonstrating that a quick and systematic reaction is critical for infection control practices. Therefore, it is important that experience and hurdles are exchanged and addressed in order to help other countries to combat the virus effectively.

2. CHINA'S RESILIENT EFFORTS TO TACKLE THE PANDEMIC

The Pandemic adversely affected the economic and social lives of Chinese citizen. The aftermath of the rapid transmission of the virus was economic devastation, lost lives, deteriorated health, and a daunting environment overall. At international level, China faced a lot of criticism and was even accused of being indulged in biological warfare instead of sticking to conventional warfare (Nie, 2020). To strengthen these allegations, United States resorted to attack the China's leading position in the global leaders' framework. The backlash grew so intense that people started to put the entire blame of Pandemic upon China and they started to refer the virus as 'China Virus'. However, they did not demotivate China from addressing this issue and it made use of all available platforms to defend itself, including Twitter and Facebook. It is worth mentioning that these social media platforms are banned in China, yet the Chinese diplomats used them to defend the People's Republic of China and the Communist party's course.

China's plan of action was quite different when a similar pandemic erupted a few decades ago. Back then, the Chinese Government refrained from adopting harsh measures and took the situation lightly which resulted in a heavy strain upon the whole country (Porcheddu et al., 2020). Initially, a similar course of action was appropriated by the Chinese government in the case of coronavirus pandemic, but the gravity of the issue was realized instantly during the early stages which allowed ample time for the government to devise policies and enforce them in a timely fashion. Accordingly, most of the affected cities were put under lockdown, intercity travel was suspended, and millions of people were put under strict quarantine. These efforts can be attributed to the reflection of their previous experience of the SARS pandemic in 2002. Owing to their misfortune earlier, draconian measures were taken in the case of the current pandemic as the plans were foolproof, strict, and

abrupt with a significantly much shorter and applaudable response time (Akon and Rahman, 2020).

Due to the huge spike observed in the number of cases, hospitals in Wuhan were soon overfull with no available capacity to accommodate more patients. A lack in the availability of health care workers was also experienced as the patients kept on increasing at exponential rate. As a result, doctors from all over the country were sent to the city and many new hospitals were also immediately set up to accommodate everyone in need (Li et al., 2020). China immediately activated all its health protocols in response to the rapid spread of the virus. Medical students were encouraged to volunteer in assisting the healthcare workers to meet the dramatic rise in the demand for medical services all around the country. The employment of a massive workforce in the health care sectors allowed all patients to receive prompt and quality treatment. Frontline healthcare workers were provided with essential PPE kits to keep themselves secure when treating patients infected with the coronavirus. In addition, necessary vitamins were included in their daily diet to strengthen their immune system in case they contract the virus. Volunteers were appointed at various hospitals to lend a helping hand in a time when healthcare institutes were running out of capacity and the number of patients greatly exceeded the number of doctors available to treat them.

China instantly predicted the likelihood of a pandemic erupting during the early stages of the disease outbreak, which made it possible for them to enforce the right policies at right time. Accordingly, the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market which was believed to be the place from where the virus emerged was closed as the immediate response to the virus outbreak. In addition, a travel quarantine was first imposed in Wuhan, the city of China where the virus emerged, on 23 January 2020 (Du et al., 2020). Public gatherings including events, wedding ceremonies, parties, and celebratory conventions were all put to a halt in response. Public transportation was also suspended to prevent public crowding. Even though tourism is a major contributor of China's annual GDP, the government immediately put a ban on all domestic and international flights to prevent people from leaving the country while simultaneously making sure that no one from outside can enter China. These efforts were aimed at restricting human mobility and limiting social interactions to impede the further transmission and in turn social and economic destruction. Hence, a country-wide health emergency was declared whereby all citizens were banned from leaving their homes unless otherwise necessary (Qi and Hu, 2020).

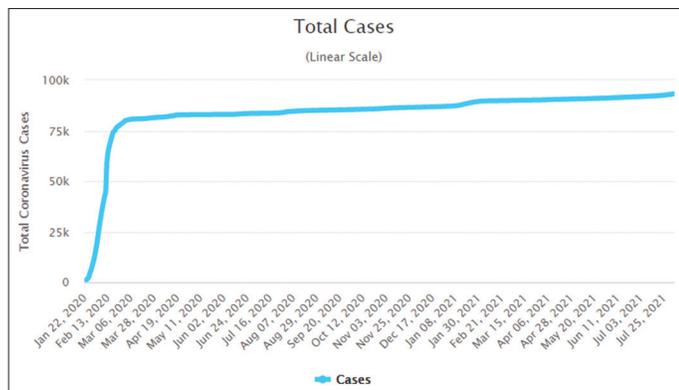
In addition to this, all public locations in China were put under strict lockdown, and surveillance by the government was carried out effectively throughout. Moreover, gatherings of large groups of people were restricted and all public places were shut down until further notice. Furthermore, the citizens were ordered to stay inside their homes and all necessities were provided to them at their doorstep. All these efforts initiated by the government were solely aimed at restoring people's health and deescalating the severity of the situation. Amongst the several policies introduced by China was critical surveillance of the entire population. Temperature measuring units were set up in all public places including but not

limited to railway stations, bus stations, traffic hubs, and several other locations (Eržen, Weber, Sacchetti, 2020). Any individual found to be tested positive was immediately put under strict isolation to keep others from contracting the virus. An artificial surveillance system was built through which the government managed to closely monitor the compliance of rules and regulations by the public. The relevant personnel were designated with the task to patrol the commercial areas and streets to ensure that no individual was in any way violating the lockdown protocol. Such strict measures were necessary to be taken to prevent the country from further falling victim to this deadly disease.

On the other hand, at the community level, the communist structured society also played a vital role and was significantly responsible for mitigating the impacts of the pandemic. The health institutions, bureaucracies, and other actors involved collaborated at greater level which allowed the groups, communities, and individuals to address the underlying challenges together. The communist society is a firm believer in equality therefore each member of the society actively fought back as a community to the threats and inconveniences caused by the pandemic. One of the praiseworthy steps taken by China to contain the pandemic is its efforts towards making crucial information available not only for Chinese citizens but for the people outside China as well. The primary motive of information sharing was to keep everyone aligned on the same path in the battle against the pandemic. In addition to broadcasting crucial information worldwide, China also took necessary steps to ensure on-time diagnosis and treatment of the virus. Their efforts included the countrywide distribution of PCR kits which allowed people to conduct rapid tests at the comfort of their homes. Regular follow-ups were conducted to make sure that all those exposed to the virus were eventually quarantining themselves to keep everyone around them safe. Making the use of applications like WeChat and Alipay, the Chinese government tracked the movements of individuals to ensure that all rules and regulations were followed religiously (Lu and Zhang, 2020).

However, when the pandemic was wreaking havoc all around the world, claiming the lives of millions of people and deteriorating the economies around the globe, China was slowly progressing and recovering from the destruction caused by the pandemic owing to their strict planning and management. To further limit the spread of the coronavirus; the government-run health ministry of China pushed ahead with the project that was set forth by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC garnered relevant information to predict future trends portrayed by the virus and to make informed decisions regarding the policy procedures. In addition to efforts aimed at controlling further transmission of the virus, China also invested a great deal in its research and development department. The efforts of the team proved to be of great success as China managed to develop a vaccine within a year of the spread of the virus (Peter et al., 2020). The medical advancement and combined efforts of the professionals proved to be successful as, after months of hard work and experimentation, an effective vaccine was finally developed. Then massive distribution and administration of the vaccine took place soon after it was approved. The Figure 2 is reflecting the covid-19 cases starting from January 22, 2021 to Jul 25, 2021.

Figure 2: Number of COVID-19 Cases



Source: Worldometer, 2021

China’s success in tackling the spread of the virus can be depicted in the above graph as it shows the achievement of their primary target i.e., of flattening of the curve. A sharp spike can be observed in the early months of the onset of the virus until March 2020 when the country was adjusting to and recovering from the massive destruction caused by the virus. By the end of February 2020, however, China managed to achieve a reduced rate of transmission as it actively acted upon the slogan of the fight against the pandemic. A flattened curve was achieved within the first three months as can be seen in the graph above. The successful containment of the virus by the Chinese government can be attributed to their timely identification of the severity of the issue and in turn effective implementation of preventive and precautionary measures. A low transmission rate, however, does not necessarily guarantee an escape from the pandemic, it only helps in diffusing the situation to some extent. Therefore, the preventive measures devised by the policymakers need to be followed even after achieving the flattened curve to keep the situation under control.

As soon as the country regained stability to some extent, the lockdown was lifted, and businesses resumed the operations. Shopping centers and educational institutes were also reopened but the government maintained strict surveillance to make sure that no standard operating procedures were violated. Consistent disinfection and sanitation drives were held all over the country with sanitation centers being set up in malls, railway stations, traffic hubs, etc. In addition, environmental sanitation protocols were also followed to wipe out any remains of the virus in the air. Even when the travel ban was lifted after the cases began to drop i.e., the curve started flattening, passengers were still strictly screened at all airports in terms of covid test reports, temperature checks, and ensuring completion of a two-week quarantine period.

Apart from allocating resources, implementing control measures, creating awareness, and managing risk, the underlying driving force behind such astonishing containment is the determination and willpower held by the government of China. The Communist Party of China is applauded for preferring people’s lives over the economy in their endeavor to manage the deadly outbreak. Strict compliance with the policies and procedures is the primary cause of such a tremendous victory being achieved by China. As a result,

the country was able to pick up where it left off and managed to recommence domestic traveling. Although global tourism may still be dormant to an extent, domestic tourism has been recovered to a great extent (Wen et al., 2021). In addition to that, schools and universities became functional again ultimately leading to literacy and employment restoration in the country. China was able to regain stability after months of integrated efforts and determination of the Chinese government which enabled people to finally return to their normal daily routine.

Moreover, along with the traditional economic practices in place, the increased digitization has accelerated the economic pace and has allowed the Chinese economy to restore its economic health at an extraordinary pace. These measures have not only contributed towards further economic development of the country but have also helped to improve the living standards of the public to such an extent that the country is gradually returning to its pre-crisis circumstances. Hence, China seems to have made its way out of the turmoil, as many researchers report that the Chinese economy is hitting its stride. It would not be wrong to claim that the economy of China did not undergo a period of recession, it instead underwent a prolonged period of economic stagnation because of which it did not suffer as much as the economies of other countries did. It was also evident that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the foreign direct investment in China has not been as affected as it has been in other parts of the world (Aysan et al., 2020). Increasing inward flows of foreign direct investment leads to higher levels of economic growth, which is evident from China’s consistent economic growth over recent decades (Kayani, Ganic, 2021). Historically, China has treated the foreign firms preferentially to attract foreign direct investment (Kayani, 2017). This all is majorly owed to the effective and efficient implementation of the correct schemes and strategies by the Chinese government that has earned them this position in the global framework.

3. INNOVATIVE AND IMITATING LESSONS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

World Health Organization termed China’s containment of the virus as the ‘most ambitious, agile, and responsive’ which provides valuable lessons for other countries to follow. China being the first country to be struck with the pandemic naturally provides a foolproof plan for other countries to imitate in their struggle towards disease containment. The response mechanism employed by China provides substantial knowledge for other countries to learn the strategies that need to be put into practice to tackle the consequences being posed by the current pandemic. The preparedness of China is reflected in its early detection of potential repercussions of the coronavirus as the WHO was immediately informed of the probability of a disease outbreak. In addition to dealing with the virus itself, the Chinese government actively participated in sharing important information at international level to warn other countries of the deadliness of the disease (Wang et al., 2020). The country broadcasted updates regarding the self-protection strategies that could be employed by the public such as wearing masks and maintaining a reasonable distance when interacting with other people. Such responsible behavior

exhibited by the Chinese government is praiseworthy as they offer a full-fledged response mechanism for all other countries to follow.

The major benefit of imitating China's roadmap to victory against the pandemic is that other countries would not be wasting the resources in experimentation as the results of all the experiments are readily available for other countries. China's response to the virus serves as a comprehensive guide to the dos and don'ts of the pandemic that the other countries can effectively make use of it. By following the Chinese protocols and policies, majority of the countries can regain the stability and can get back to the track of economic development. The developing countries which have been hit the hardest can substantially benefit from these lessons and can essentially keep their economies from deteriorating any further. Apart from efforts undertaken by the governments to control the spread of the virus, it is necessary to inculcate a social responsibility into the minds of citizens as well. It is worth mentioning that society's resilience does not only depend upon the formal and disciplined societal institutions or institutions of law and governance. Rather it also equally depends upon the behavior of the concerned community in terms of the organization in tackling a crisis like the coronavirus pandemic. The social services that Chinese neighborhood communities extended towards the people of China during the pandemic serve as a role model for all other countries. The Chinese community services are a textbook example of a well-functioning social group and increased social resilience (Enos, 2020).

The concerned Chinese quarters reported that the neighborhood communities carried out several significant duties, such as monitoring people's temperature levels, supplying food and other necessities, providing medicinal and health care facilities, and maintaining reports that helped in making the analysis and predictions. Moreover, following China's footsteps, awareness programs should be launched to inform and warn the society about the gravity of the issue and what social rules need to be followed to mitigate the spread. Besides government, the Chinese citizens also actively participated and contributed to help diffuse the situation as they stayed inside their homes. The Chinese society understood their social responsibility towards controlling the spread of the virus to keep themselves and everyone around them being safe from this deadly virus. Such responsibility should be showcased by citizens of other countries as well to deal with the critical ongoing situation at hand. Efforts should be devoted to educating the masses regarding the self-preventive measures that need to be followed. Wearing masks, using gloves, maintaining social distance should be made mandatory in all public places to prevent the virus from spreading any further.

China immediately adopted the right measures being needed to tackle the destruction caused by the virus. Shutting down schools, restaurants, cinemas, shopping centers, and other public places was the first step towards the containment of the virus. Other preventative measures include the termination of all social gatherings and events where the transmission of the virus was most likely. With the virus constantly mutating and becoming stronger, the number of cases is rapidly increasing throughout the world. In such a case, emulating the strategies of China is

the key for attaining the health stability in all countries. The new variants, that the virus is mutating into, need to be detected immediately for the policymakers to identify the gravity of the situation and devise policies accordingly. Such rapid detection techniques employed by China are what allowed it to regain stability within months of getting stuck with the pandemic. China's use of innovative technology to maintain a proper record of the number of active cases, casualties, and recovered cases allowed it to track its progress in real-time (Wu et al., 2020). Similarly, all other countries should adopt efficient record-keeping practices to make a proper analysis, suggest strategies according to the current situation, and predict future trends. Thus, the adoption of required technology and equipment is essential in controlling the spread of the virus.

The COVID pandemic is expected to worsen both the economic and healthcare situation of developing countries due to insufficient required resources (Zhang et al., 2020). Researchers argue that the rapid transmission capability of the virus will cause the number of active cases to rise in massive amounts in a relatively short span of time. If the trend continues, those countries would be at risk of running out of medical supplies needed to tackle the rising number of covid contracted patients. To reduce the misreporting of virus infection by individuals, the government of China conducted free-of-cost tests all around the country and provide free-of-cost health treatment to those who tested positive. Following China's footsteps, all countries should provide free testing and treatment services to the common public to promote accurate reporting. Researchers argue that while these measures have proved to be quite successful in containing the spread of the virus in China and other first world countries, many low-income countries may never be able to act upon these strategies in a similar manner due to cost constraints and lack of resources (Olufadewa et al., 2021). Unfortunately, many low-income countries lack the resources and funds to do so which results in most people choosing to remain untested to avoid having to pay huge sums of money (Sambridge and Jackson, 2020).

In addition, the extraordinary efforts undertaken by WHO in creating awareness regarding the repercussion of the virus also played a major role in helping other countries to prepare themselves ahead of crisis. Eventually, these countries can indulge in educating the masses through various platforms like television, posters, and social media campaigns, etc. Apart from creating awareness, the organization actively provides important updates regarding the pandemic to reflect upon the severity of the situation. Putting together a policy procedure containing the set of rules people should follow and the policies the governments should undertake is also a result of the collective effort of WHO along with countries like China who have proved to be successful in their fight against the pandemic. A Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund has also been set up by the organization to provide necessary funds to those who cannot afford testing and treatment facilities to prevent further transmission (Lancet, 2020). The success of these efforts insinuates the effectiveness of the policies employed by China allowing other countries to implement and benefit from them immediately; an opportunity that China never had.

Overall, the policies aimed at controlling the spread should be tailored according to the economic, political, and social situation of the country. No country can imitate the entire policy procedure of one country into another as each country has different circumstances and is subject to a totally different set of constraints. Thus, while China provides a full-fledged response mechanism with a proven successful track record, the right step for other countries, especially developing ones, would be to identify the right combination of policies to enforce according to the political and economic conditions prevailing in the country.

4. DISCUSSION

China's hospital infrastructure and health workers' quality have substantially increased in recent years, but they nevertheless paid the ultimate price when faced with the COVID-19 epidemic in a rush. SARS-CoV-2 has various transmission routes, significant transmission capabilities, and substantial contagious risks, to begin with. Second, the healthcare system was fatigued from dealing with the pandemic, resulting in the „broken window” impact. Third, protective guidelines and rules were incomplete, protection vigilance was not raised to the utmost degree, and protective items such as masks and PPE kits were not delivered on time. Furthermore, the following hints reveal certain underlying flaws in hospital buildings and China's public health emergency infrastructure. The size and financing of infection control sections in specialist hospitals and medical centers were inadequate to deal with a large-scale outbreak in regards to hospital development. In terms of the general health emergency framework, ongoing infection control practices training for all healthcare workers is also required (Azman and Luquero, 2020).

There are two points worth mentioning. One was the infection's true scope. Clinical signs, chest imaging changes, and nucleic acid tests are all part of the Chinese National Health Commission's COVID-19 diagnostic criteria. The total number of patients who met all three criteria was 84,451. Were there any patients who were not taken into account? Initial experts have warned that there were already incidents without fever symptoms or a straightforward and evident source of infection or immediate contact history, indicating that the SARS-CoV-2 could be lurking in the community and spreading at any time. In Wuhan, the epicenter of the pandemic, the Chinese National Health Commission recently began collecting statistics and analyzing asymptomatic infection situations as well as planning thorough nucleic acid screening. Asymptomatic illnesses in China's public healthcare system can be a ticking time bomb. Another concern was how to keep infections at bay. Medicinal countermeasures were vital in the face of the epidemic, but they have not been omnipotent. In addition to upgrading medical equipment and technology, it is critical to stop the contamination source. China caused a huge number of patients with suspected infections to be isolated in conventional facilities, interim isolation centres, and motels and required everyone to wear a mask and take temperature readings. These can lessen the strain on the health care system while also making viral transmission more restricted. Although this strategy would raise the expense of social administration and have a negative influence on the economy of the country, but it was a small price to be paid for people's lives.

5. CONCLUSION

China has rightfully emerged as a winner in its battle against the deadly COVID pandemic as it implemented the right mix of strategies at the right time. The lockdown imposition, adequate supply of food and medical resources, motivated research team, and timely development of a vaccine all proved to be quite effective in fighting pandemic. The Chinese Government exhibited extraordinary prudence and vision when they resorted to extreme and abrupt measures such as massive scale lockdowns to prevent further spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Being the first country in the world to be hit the hardest yet still retaining its leading position in the global economy reflects the preparedness and eventual success of China in tackling the coronavirus pandemic. In essence, the economic trajectory of China cannot go unnoticed and deserves acknowledgment as it has shown unprecedented growth throughout the pandemic. Unlike other countries, the Chinese government managed to gradually recover from the destruction caused by the pandemic and eventually restored its economic health in a relatively short span of time. The inspirational recovery and growth experienced by China serves as a successful model to be replicated by other countries.

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