

ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABLE HANDWASHING WATER STRATEGIES TO MANAGE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Asayehgn Desta, Dominican University of California, San Rafael, U.S.A.
Hadush Berhe, Mekelle University, Ethiopia

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ABSTRACT

As the pandemic of COVID-19 spread across the world, Ethiopia undertook monetary and fiscal stimulus packages and also attempted to shoulder various preventive health-related measures such as staying at home, handwashing with clean water, mask-wearing, and maintaining proper social distancing to suppress the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The objective of the study was to review the effectiveness of monetary, fiscal stimulus packages, and assess the health-related preventive measures that have been used to mitigate the economic outbreaks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary questions of the study included: 1) Do monetary and fiscal stimulus packages minimize the economic shocks caused by the coronavirus pandemics? and 2) Do health-related preventive measures alleviate the damages from COVID-19? The sole sources of information for study were based on secondary data. The principal findings of study include that since Ethiopia, prior to COVID-19, was faced with a fragile economic environment and poor health infrastructure, the demand management policies that it undertook had limited impact to spark the subdued Ethiopia's economy. As the costs of the stringent health-related preventive measures applied to Ethiopian situation outstripped their benefits, their effects were less fruitful. The staying-at-home policy contributed to the deaths of poor people from starvation. Maintaining social distancing did not slow the threat the coronavirus in Ethiopia because 4 to 5 family members share one room. Mask-wearing of mouth and eyes is the only affordable and feasible device that could be implemented to fight against COVID-19 in Ethiopia. Given that Tigray has limited access to basic handwashing facilities, policy makers need to design a combination of on-site water recycling or water downcycling and rainwater harvesting to reduce water shortage in Tigray and combat the future occurrence and spread of disease like the COVID-19, while staying vigilant of the second wave of infections.

Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19, Monetary and Fiscal Policies Stimulants, Staying at home, Hand washing, Mask-wearing, Social distancing

1. INTRODUCTION

Epidemic coronavirus also known as Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), initially, flared up in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019. The then, epidemic health crisis became pandemic after the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared it to be an outbreak of global emergency health crisis on January 12, 2020.

Given the magnanimity of the coronavirus pandemic, it has constituted a serious threat to the entire world. For example, the U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has declared that the COVID-19 pandemic disease would consequently pose to "...an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the diseases" ((April 10, 2020 and see also the [Columbia Basin Herald](#), February 2, 2010). The Congressional Research Service (May 1, 2020) projects that COVID-19 would trim the global economy by as much as 2.0% per month pushing it into steep recession and possibly economic depression. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), COVID-19 has produced a de-globalization and the World Trade volume is expected to fall by 13 to 32 per cent in 2020 because countries have been forced down to lock-down borders, preventing normal flows of goods, capital and shut down of business and production (Barua, 2020, and Sibhato, Berhe, and Hadush, 2020). Being disease-driven, the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicates that low-income countries are most likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 arising pandemic diseases (2020).