



Living in the 21st Century World: Perspective on Climate Change, Pandemic, and Digital Transformation

Chapter 8 – The Corona Virus Pandemic: Health and Economic Implications – Priscillia Okunji

Hospitals and healthcare facilities all over the world are facing health, financial burden and other predicaments posed by Covid-19 pandemic. Research studies have estimated a financial impact of \$202.6 billion in lost revenue for America's hospitals and healthcare systems, estimated as average of \$50.7 billion per month. It has been calculated that the impact on low-and middle-income countries could be estimated at US\$52 billion (equivalent to US\$8.60 per person) each four weeks to provide an effective healthcare response to Covid-19. In the setting of the largest daily COVID-19 new cases in the US, this burden will influence patient care, surgeries, and surgical outcomes. From a global economic standpoint, The World Bank projects that global growth is projected to be reduced by almost 8% with poorer and underdeveloped countries feeling most of the impact, and the United Nations projects that it has already cost the global economy around 2 trillion dollars in 2021. Overall, a lack of preparedness was a major contributor to the challenges experienced by healthcare facilities around the globe. Items such as personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, hospital equipment, sanitizing supplies, toilet paper, and water were not sufficient. These deficiencies were exposed by Covid-19 pandemic and have prompted researchers and investigators around the globe to investigate and disseminate articles on covid-19 including the emerging variants (Delta and Omicrons) that would enable inventors to strategies on new essential plans for pandemic preparedness. In this chapter, we will discuss the economic impact of Covid-19 on the United States and international hospitals, patients' health and comorbidities, surgery, and surgical outcomes. In the future, the US and countries around the world will benefit from advance preparation of a plan of action to use as a guide in the event of future disaster or pandemic. Page 111 – 124