

## **MEDIA COVERAGE ON CORONAVIRUS: ACTUAL PROBLEMS**

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Novel coronavirus named Covid-19 has caused a destructive death toll and damaged economy of each country over the world since WHO (the World Health organization) lifted a pandemic announcement. The author noticed aggressive perceptions of people toward coronavirus such as paranoia, viral originalism. Scornful and negative perceptions are sowing hate and xenophobia over the society. This article is intended for everybody who have suffered from misinformation and invisible violence of xenophobia and aims to stand a strong position against them.

**Key words:** coronavirus; the World Health Organization (WHO); paranoia; xenophobia.

The new coronavirus, a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)–CoV-2, has caused a rapidly spreading outbreak centered in China. The World Health Organisation heard the first reports on December 31, 2019. The fast growing infection spread over the world and caused a large of people death [1].

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations' system. WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, help countries to address public health issues. WHO also supports and promotes health research. Through WHO, governments can jointly tackle global health problems and improve people's well-being [2].

The World Health Organisation named this new virus as Covid-19. It is included in a large group of viruses that are known to infect both humans and animals. If a human is infected, they suffer from respiratory illnesses, ranged from common colds to more serious infections.

No doubt, Coronavirus has caused paranoia all over the World. The scientific research on the paranoia, written by Professors Tversky and Kahneman, was published in The New York Times. They asked people to imagine that the US were preparing for an outbreak of an unusual disease that would kill around 600 citizens. To combat the disease, people could choose between two options: a treatment that will definitely save 200 people or one that had a 33 percent chance of saving all 600 but a 67 percent chance of saving none. Here, a clear favorite emerged: seventy-two percent choose the former.

Yet, in our minds, Professors Tversky and Kahneman explained, losses loom larger than gains, and so when the options are framed in terms of deaths rather than cures, we'll accept more risks to try to avoid deaths. But when the disease is real – when we see actual death tolls climbing daily – another factor besides our sensitivity to losses comes into play: fear [3].

Being overpanick is not a solution. People tend to misjudge the unknown virus, and they have negative perception – overreaction. Today it has caused xenophobia towards the Asian People, especially the Chinese.

According to Webster's dictionary xenophobia is fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign [4].

For instance, on Los Angeles subway, a man proclaimed that the Chinese people are filthy and said, «every disease has ever come from China» [5].

Rampant ignorance and misinformation about the coronavirus, experts say, has led to racist and xenophobic attacks against anyone in the US who looks like East Asian, even when those people are Americans. On Feb.3, Wall Street Journal published an article headlined «China is the Real Sick Man of Asia» [6]. The author and journalists were deported by the Chinese government with an excuse of inappropriate racism title to strengthen the stereotype.

The German magazine Der Spiegel published a commentary by Stefan Kuzmany, head of Der Spiegel's opinion and debate section, in which he used discriminatory language to describe China and the Chinese people, even saying that «a little racism is fine» [7]. The Wall Street Journal carried a recent article by Walter Russell Mead who used an outdated phrase to mock the Chinese people under the epidemic.

Some Western politicians have also made xenophobic remarks that are more dangerous than the virus, calling for their citizens to leave China as soon as possible, sowing fear and panic by using hearsay, that there might be no commercial flights taking them to other countries in the next few weeks due to possible travel restrictions.

Instead of offering solidarity and support, these politicians have chosen to spread fear and panic among people to pursue their private gains. Combating coronavirus is more than just the battle against the disease. It is a test of morality, which these politicians have failed to pass.

The outbreak of Coronavirus caused worries and fears. It is scaring to come across such catastrophe. We don't know for certain where the first case started, how to cure the virus or when the vaccine will be produced. Coronavirus became a war for the whole human kind, urged us to fight it. Viruses are merciless; viruses don't recognize people's nation or country. We are all humans, what is the most valuable thing in us? It is love and humanity. And now, when the world is in

a shaky state, when a large number of doctors sacrifice themselves, we should support them. Let's stick together, let's make the prejudice go away. The best Human qualities must and will eventually win this war.

All the press are responsible to sterilize injustice, political apartheid after consideration of ideological, differences, obscurantism, chauvinism. Newspapers must not misformulate or fabricate information to public to incite hatred. The whole world should be unified as a whole to fight bias and unacceptable racism. For minority people living in Belarus like the Asian ethnic group, society should lecture kids at school to learn to respect minorities, encourage them to close and get acquaintance with the Asian kids, to do our best to reduce the damage racial segregation brought to us. Every of us are meant to quarantine the virus, not people.

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