

The pandemic of COVID-19 is testing whether humans can become social animals or not

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Abstract

COVID-19 has created a crisis for the entire world. Since it began, so many things have happened. The pandemic is a great challenge to humanity. It highlights the vulnerability of humanity, inequality in the society, politicians' incompetence and power structure in the distribution of corona vaccine. It shows the vulnerability of the service industry like tourism, transportation, bars and restaurants. Financial compensation for workers whose wages are not fully paid are the policies of many countries which are not sustainable. Many workers have lost their jobs, and no nation can compensate for the economic loss in the long term. We will not find a cure for the disease any time soon. We must live with COVID-19 and its variants. The global economic situation will be shrinking. Unemployment rate is growing and poverty for those at the bottom is severe. We need to make structural changes of political and economic systems for better and secure lives. We should seriously aim to be a social animal to bear the burden commonly and globally. The popular words like "Homo Deus" and "Anthropocene" are nothing than the hubris of human beings. Solidarity with entire humanity and ecology should be a common good for us all.

Keywords

true crisis management instead political manipulation, pandemic of poverty, infodemic, solidarity with the entire world, pandemics cannot be contained by unilateral nationalism

1. Introduction

COVID-19 has created a crisis for the entire world. City-lockdowns, calls for stay-home, social distancing, overseas flight suspensions, financial compensation for workers whose wages are not fully paid, loans for companies with declining sales etc. are the policies of many countries. Those policies are not sustainable for the long-run as easily assumed. No nation can compensate for the economic loss in the long term. Even though we will not find a cure for the disease any time soon, we must be prepared for another wave of pandemic in the future. The global economy is shrinking almost in the entire world, as news from America, Europe and Asian tells us. The pandemic hits almost all economic sectors, especially severely service sectors and production sectors. The unemployment rate is growing and poverty for those at the bottom in the society in each corner of the world becomes severe. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening further during the pandemic-induced period of economic turmoil. The number of infected people and the death toll are soaring. On September 1, 2021 at 14:54 GMT, coronavirus cases were 218,794,845 and the death toll was 4,538,277 according to the worldometer (<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>).

However, there are huge differences in the statistics. Why does the number of infected people vary from country to country? Why is there such a big difference in the death toll in the world? Why are there different policies against the pandemic? Why will some countries fight against COVID-19 with different measures? Which public health policy is effective in a short period and in the long run? Why is there a big disparity of

vaccination among the countries? There are so many questions about diseases.

2. No country can stop economic activity for a long period of time due to the corona pandemic

Novel coronavirus is an unknown virus. Even though various vaccines are produced to fight this coronavirus, it has mutated quickly and produces variants so that there is no secure even for vaccinated people. To avoid physical contact and to wear high-qualified masks are recommended. Restraining the flow of people and controlling the entry from outside are common policy but such measures are not possible and recommendable for a long period of time even though it is an efficient measure to counter the corona pandemic. So, gradually it has been decided to take steps to resume economic activity. This means that the number of infected people is unavoidable. An increase in human contact can inevitably lead to an increase in the number of infected people. Protection from pandemic is without doubt essential but economic activities are also important. Politicians will not dare to say openly that human causalities are to a certain degree acceptable, but they argue that the number of suicide deaths will be increasing if the economy comes to a halt. Many people will take their lives as economic recession in the past shows. There is a limit for the financial stimulus that can be provided for business and store owners in crisis. There is no alternative. We must take two fundamentally different measures at the same time. We need to keep the economy running while calling for restraint.

Remote-working is a good example for a solution. This way of working can be applied only for certain working types. There are many fields in which essential work cannot be remotely but only directly conducted. Agriculture, fishing, nursing and healthcare belong to such direct work just to name a few. Even many manufacturing fields cannot be done by remote

work. Some office work can still be done remotely, but in the long run, those jobs will be outsourced or subcontracted, and full-time positions will be cut and wages will be reduced if the situation under corona pandemic continues.

As the world is linked by supply chains, many services in the developed world are provided by foreign workers. Restaurants, hotels, agriculture, fisheries, construction sites, nursing and nursing care are partly provided by foreign workers. In the EU, these foreign workers are suddenly categorized as essential workers. They are exempted from the regulation for foreign workers who are not permitted reentry into the EU. In Japan there are many foreign workers who are no more permitted to stay in Japan but they cannot leave Japan for financial reasons.

3. International common measures against COVID-19 are nationwide PCR-tests, vaccinations and financial measures

On June 29, 2020 Macron and Merkel agreed with EU's €500 billion bailout fund. For this financial help, no repayment is required. Within the framework of the plan to rebuild the European Union, the EU also agreed plans on 17 July for €1.8 trillion in EU budget over 7 years plus €750 billion in bailout funds. Even some of the EU member states, which have always insisted on balanced budgets, have for once decided to take the plunge. Another measure is to conduct PCR-tests as much as possible aiming at discovering infected people. Figure 1 from Our World in Data shows the relationship between the number of infected people and the number of PCR-tests. What could the global statistics on coronavirus deaths, infections and severe cases tell us about the world?

The statistics are a complex mix of factors, including a country's policies, its health care system and its economic power. When we look at the number of deaths from coronavirus in the

statistics, it is hard to know whether it really reflects corona deaths. In South Africa for example, there are not enough ventilators and doctors. Not all patients can be treated in a hospital. If they develop corona symptoms and die after being carried to the hospital, then they may be counted as a corona death. Many slums are densely populated. When dwellers die, they are not always posthumously tested for corona. The causes for those people's deaths are therefore not determined. In such a case, corona infection and corona transmission cannot be ruled out, so they put an eye on the coffin and bury them without corona tests. We cannot know therefore the true number of deaths from coronavirus, unless PCR-testing is compulsory conducted for all those who died. It is not hard to imagine that there are cases in which the authority wants to hide the true number of people infected by corona from the outside world. Especially in a country where there are few doctors per 10,000 people, as a matter of course, not all corona patients can receive treatment. The number of unreported cases of corona death must be higher.

The same can be said for the number of infected people. A fair comparison is impossible between the number of infected people in a country where PCR-tests can be widely conducted with cheap money or for free and possible as often as people want, and the number of infected people in a country where they follow mainly the clusters of infected people and tested only persons who may have direct contact with the clusters. Nobody can explain rationally why Japan, a developed country with a well-developed medical system and financial basis, has conducted so few PCR-tests in an international comparison. It should be described as political manipulation to have released a fewer number of patients every day than the real number and at the same time to claim that Japan will hold out the pandemic

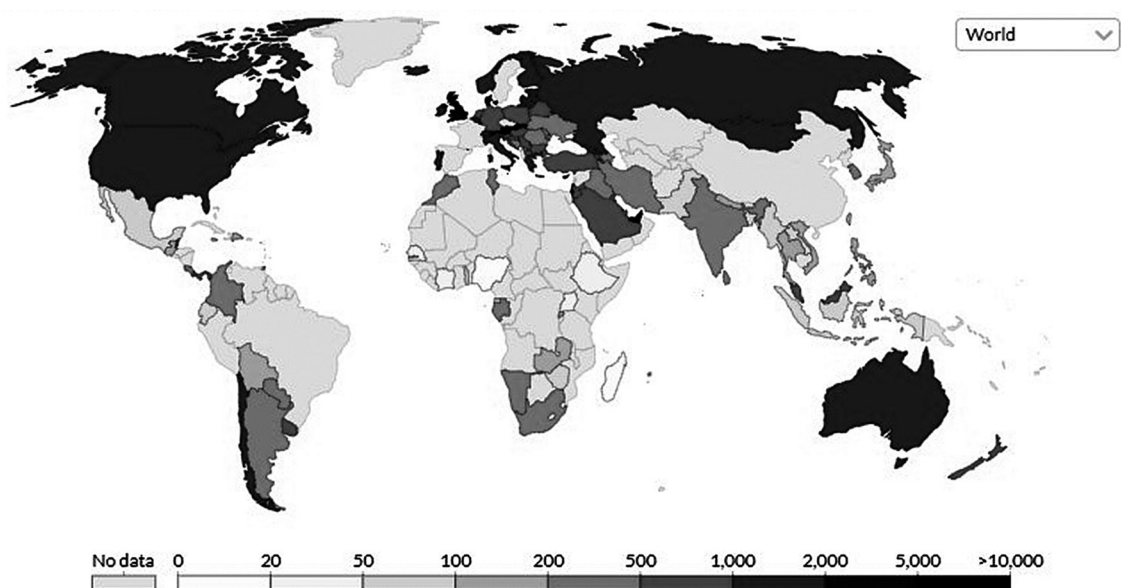


Figure 1: Total COVID-19 tests per 1,000 people, August 31, 2021

Notes: Comparisons of testing data across countries are affected by differences in the way the data are reported. Details can be found at our testing.

Source: Official sources collated by Our World in Data.

relatively very well but there must be a large number of potential patients who are infected without PCR-tests, but who do not develop the disease and remain unaware of it. The most important anti-corona measure should be nationwide corona tests.

4. How can the resumption of economic activity and anti-corona measures be harmonized at the same time?

An increase in human contact leads inevitably to an increase of the number of infected people. Is certain loss of lives unavoidable in order to activate the economy? Some will even say that many workers will take their lives if they have lost a job for a long time. Some will say that there is a limit to the amount of fiscal stimulus that can be provided with tax money so that we need to keep the economy running. Temporary benefits and employment support payments cannot counter this pandemic in the long term. The workers with stable working conditions may live relatively well even with the corona pandemic, but workers with unstable working status are likely to be at risk of losing their jobs. Corona will make the poor class poorer and poorer. The disparity will become therefore wider after the corona disaster. It is only a privileged group that can work remotely. Even this group seems not to be safe in the long run. Remote work leads to increased job outsourcing and fewer full-time employees. Self-responsibility is an irresponsible policy and it is similar almost to no-policy. Amazon and delivery services like Uber are flourishing despite of the corona pandemic, while restaurants and shops are suffering. Many contract workers, temporary workers, part-time workers have become jobless. Without a change of the social and working system, there is no secure life for many working class people.

5. A pandemic cannot be stopped in one country

It is self-evident that a pandemic is a crisis that will spread throughout the world. It is not just a matter of protecting our own country. The world is connected and the flow of people and logistics cannot be stopped. Japan is dependent on import of foods, fuel, machine parts and so forth from abroad. The situation of many countries in the world is deteriorating with a lack the infrastructure, health-care and general insurance. Even the most developed countries are not able to properly combat the novel coronavirus. Explosive infections' waves occur all over the globe, with time differences. If it is impossible to completely stop the flows of people and goods over a long period of time, then even if one country can control the infection and curve spreading infection to a certain extent by urban lock-downs, stay home policy, avoidance of three Cs (confined and enclosed spaces, crowded places, close-contact settings), another wave of infections will attack sooner or later this country. Some measures may work very well but mutated variants of coronavirus go through such counter-measures. We should not be blinded by the security of our own country alone. If developed countries do not actively support countries with economic weakness and poor medical systems, it will sooner or later come back to developed countries. The G7 summit in

Cornwall in England was held between 11 and 13 June 2021. It was decided through COVAX to donate two billion of vaccine doses. We all are a community of the same destiny.

6. Impact of COVID-19 on tourism

There are no earthly paradises, but they are sometimes created by large-scale land development and investment. Tourism is then activated by advertisements and campaigns at the expense of environmental impact. Tourism has two sides, the destruction and creation of culture. On a tourist island built far away in the Southern Ocean, everything consumed there is carried from the mainland and the original agricultural production of the area is neglected and shifted to tourism. In order to maximize profits, many people working in the tourism industry are maintained by temporary workers, freelancers, part-time workers, students, housewives and foreign workers. This is the same even in the top-most airline industry and giant travel agencies. The hotels, inns, bars, restaurants, taxis and so forth cannot be conducted without such people who work in a precarious employment relationship. To such industry belong restaurants, hotels and inns, buses, taxis, tourist guides etc. whose status is unstable. It is the tourism industry that was most damaged by the corona disaster because people think they can continue for a little while without sightseeing. The tourism industry was so severely hit by COVID-19 that it has been pushed to the brink of survival. Many tourism-related companies have already become bankrupt or fired employees.

The impact on tourism is a universal phenomenon, but there are many countries in which their economy is even more dependent on tourism than Japan. The corona disaster has brought those countries to a terrible state of poverty. 'Yet it is clear that billions of people across the world will run into poverty as a result of the ongoing halt of economic activities. Especially service economies which are mainly based on intangible economic activities such as outsourcing, financing, tourism and hospitality are predicted to be rigorously affected. Thailand, Maldives, Seashells, Caribbean islands, Cambodia, Laos and many more island economies are at risk due to the continuing impact of the pandemic [Ranasinghe et al., 2020].'

The global tourism industry shrinks due to the pandemic. According to the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), the estimated number of foreign visitors to Japan in April 2020 plummeted to 2,900, down 99.9 percent from 2.92 million of the previous year. The same tendency continues in the same way still now. The Japanese 'Go to Travel Campaign' aims to reactivate tourism domestically. This is because foreign tourists are not expected to visit Japan for some time due to corona infection. At the very least, it was hoped to stimulate domestic tourism. This campaign is criticized because the Japanese government announced once that such a campaign would be launched only after corona infection is somehow under control. The campaign will not work well because Japanese people prefer to stay at home, even though domestic travel is financially supported by the government. This is because the fear of co-

rona infection outweighs the merit of subsidized travel.

The EU also has eased intra-EU tourism in an effort to save its exhausted tourism industry. Popular destinations are Italy, Spain, Croatia, Majorca and so forth. People, previously stressed out by the city blockades, seem to have enjoyed a sense of freedom. Humans will no longer tolerate prolonged restrictions, or perhaps they are loosening up. As these tourists returned home, the number of infected people increased, and some countries introduced city lock-down again. Many countries in the EU have introduced fines to make sure that people observe the wearing of masks. Hotels and other accommodations are requested to ensure safety. As this example shows, stimulating the economy through tourism and anti-corona measures are contradictory. The mandatory wearing of masks and fines for violators as well as another lock-down is inevitable. In Japan, many of the regulations are only requests, not legal regulations, so they cannot be pursued any further even if they do not comply. In Japan, where group pressure is strong and everyone is watching everyone, resorting to insidious acts of policing and gossiping about violators are reported. It is better to regulate such things by legal orders. The legal system would make human relations more transparent.

With globalization of the economy, supply chains have been built and low-priced goods are transported to and from the entire world at the cost of ecology. Most people accept it as a necessary evil, even though they are aware of massive energy consumption, global warming and climate change. Global tourism is a part of such global chains to which the aviation industry, tourist bus and taxi companies, cruising ships, tourist agencies, hotels and ryokans, food and beverage industry, souvenir shops belong. However, once there is a pandemic, the first to be dismissed from employment are many of these casual, temporary, part-time and freelance workers. No government can continue to provide guarantees for these people. In the internet age combined with economic neoliberalism, the middle class has fallen. People at the bottom work poor while a handful of wealth monopolizing executives and technocrats earn huge money. The disparity of wealth is endorsed in the name of diversity of work styles. The low-cost workers from the developing world move around the world in search of wealth and luck. Many of those are working in the tourism industry. People working in the tourism industry are in unstable employment. Some people have been put on leave or forced to be laid off. Many hotels have become bankrupt. The aviation industry can only exist with the support of the state. The irony and danger of the tourism industry is exposed by the pandemic.

The number of tourists is declining and the occupancy rate of hotels and inns across the country is declining. The hotel rooms that have been reduced in occupancy have sometimes become temporary places of stay for corona-infected people. People coming back from abroad or entering Japan will be tested for corona and will stay in the hotel until the results are available. If they are found to be positive, they will stay in a hotel unless they are moderately or severely ill. It is ironic that

the government is renting out empty hotel rooms. Such a measure alone can help only a few hotels. Many hotels have become bankrupt during this time.

7. Pandemic induces infodemic

Populists use pandemic to manipulate people for their political aims and deepen the division of society and this creates enemies. Some groups may incite an irrational anti-mask movement. Dr. Dani Rodrik, who teaches international political economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, wrote an article, 'Corona will not change the world for the better. Populists rule even more authoritarian and progressives continue to be in a difficult situation' in IPG on 13 April 2020. He warned that populists misuse the corona crisis to their advantage.

The situation in democratic countries seems to be no better. Politicians repeatedly present convenient information and figures to emphasize the correctness of their policies. Some mass media work orchestrated with politicians. Anxious citizens begin to gather information desperately through SNS and other sources. They often encounter fake and incorrect news there. With so much conflicting and contradictory information, it is difficult for people to judge what is right and what is wrong. Leftists and rightists repeat over and over their opinions. Opinion pages of the internet cannot always be sufficient to trust because professional opinion manipulators used bots. They are sometimes paid by opinion factories and opinion companies. Automatic programs of bots will try to spread certain opinions and squash opposing views.

Withholding necessary information and telling inaccurate or unsubstantiated information or sometimes utter lies are common phenomenon of authoritarian states. Pandemic is increasingly dividing the world and countries so that people begin to think and act egotistically. Politicians misuse nationalism. People have turned back to nationalism as a result of the shock of the pandemic. People become mistrustful of each other. They are distrustful and anxious towards foreigners. They think, it belongs to their duty to stop the influx of foreigners just because they will bring the coronavirus into their country. Despite the fact that there are many or more infected people per million population already in their own country, this hostile attitude towards foreigners is neither rational nor objective. Japan is one of such countries.

The corona pandemic requires the ability of people to gather necessary information, not to become nationalists. They can then behave correctly even though collecting trustworthy information is time-consuming. The civil society should rather aim for more solidarity with the world. We should make a bigger commitment to the rest of the world.

8. The nature of the black lives matter movement

There was an interesting article, 'The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus' in the New York Times on 5 July 2020. This article shows the relationship among infec-

tion rates, mortality rates and races. The NYT sued CDC (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) because the latter would not disclose detailed information on COVID-19. The CDC gave the data to the NYT in response to the lawsuit. The NYT analyzed the data put out by the CDC and published its findings in the newspaper. According to the article, black and Latino people are affected ‘disproportionately’ by the coronavirus ‘in a widespread manner that spans the country, throughout hundreds of counties in urban, suburban and rural areas, and across all age groups’. Per 10,000 people, there are 23 cases among white residents, while 62 black and 73 Latino people are respectively affected by coronavirus. ‘Latino and African-American residents of the United States have been three times as likely to become infected as their white neighbors [Oppel et al., 2020].’ Black and Latino Americans mortality is twice more than that of white Americans. The article states that there are three reasons for their high infection rate. Firstly, this group works more likely face-to-face. That means they cannot work remotely, for example working on a construction site or a production site, working at shops and in restaurants. Secondly, they use more frequently public transportation for commuting. Thirdly, average living conditions are worse than that of the white group. They live more likely in cramped or multigenerational housing. These factors are conducive to infection.

In this sense, the coronavirus exposes problems in society that have been covered up until now. When economic activity becomes stagnant, the pandemic is producing unemployment. The low-income people have more often lost their jobs because of the corona pandemic. Companies, stores and restaurants that have suffered a decline in sales caused by corona will lay off employees or put them on temporary leave. They cannot quickly find jobs. They go to a pawn house or other alternative financial services to borrow money to survive. The pandemic hit most temporary workers, housewives, unskilled workers, foreign workers, freelancers, students with part-time jobs, etc.

What is the essence of the black lives matter movement? It did not start with a social incident where a black man was shot or struck in the back by a police officer. It is a critique against hundreds of years of prejudice towards blacks and colored, neglecting to correct educational and economic disparities, disdain for immigrants and refugees, and white self-affirmation that such disparities are the result of hard work or ability. The

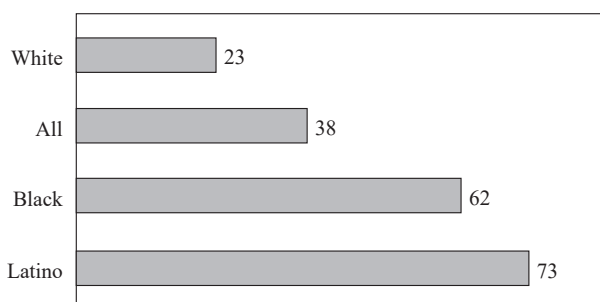


Figure 2: Coronavirus cases per 10,000 people
Source: Oppel et al. [2020].

black lives matter movement is in a sense similar to the once growing leftist movements of the sixties and seventies. They have fought against racial discrimination, human rights, elimination of disparity. The movement this time also questions the relationship between labor and capital. They demonstrate for more equal rights for homosexual and transgender people. They shout loud to reduce the wage gap between poor and rich people. They are also against the budgets of the “violent” organization called the police. They think rent payments for poor people are inhuman. The problems of society which have for a long time been unresolved and suppressed, have been brought into focus without doubt by the corona pandemic. In other words, the insecurity caused by corona begins gradually to change the consciousness of the people.

9. Pandemic of inequality and pandemic of poverty

It is difficult to predict when corona vaccines will be produced in large quantities and become available to everyone. It will still be a couple of years before a definitive corona control measure is realized. Until these things happen, there will not be a real recovery in the economy. We need to be prepared to fight for a long time. The corona pandemic hit vulnerable social strata and states harder. At the occasion of the annual general assembly commemoration of Nelson Mandela international day on 20 July 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres stated, ‘COVID-19 has been likened to an x-ray, revealing fractures in the fragile skeleton of our societies, and it has laid bare risks we have ignored for decades: inadequate healthcare; gaps in social protection; structural inequalities; environmental degradation; the climate crisis.’

When we think of it in such a way, we should have been fighting environmental and poverty issues that we have ignored for so long. It is therefore a matter of course that António Guterres, along with three senior officials, launched a \$2 billion global humanitarian response plan to fund the fight against COVID-19 in the world’s poorest countries. Pope Francis also called on 30 May 2020 for a ‘more just and equitable society’ in the post-coronavirus world, and for people to act to ‘end the pandemic of poverty’. He continued, ‘Once we emerge from this pandemic, we will not be able to keep doing what we were doing, and as we were doing it. No, everything will be different’.

Pandemics in the past and now do not hit humanity equally. It hurts the poor people more severely. In the U.S. and elsewhere, economic disparities match the difference in mortality rates from corona. People of the poorest class are more likely to lose their jobs than the upper class. Their children are more likely to miss out on higher education because of the poverty. Disparity in education creates disparity in wealth. We are increasingly trapped in a spiral of poverty.

Larry Cooley and Johannes F. Linn who belong to the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC, published on 4 June 2020 a paper, ‘Developing countries can respond to COVID-19 in ways that are swift,

at scale, and successful'. They wrote, 'The COVID-19 crisis presents the world with a huge challenge: Everyone and everything is affected, and the response has to be both quick and global. While it is first and foremost a health crisis, it is also an education crisis, an employment and economic crisis, a crisis of hunger and a poverty and, in some countries, a crisis of governance and political stability.'

The pandemic brought the problem of global poverty into focus. The same is true in low-income countries as well as in developed countries. However, it is not deniable that it hits developing countries in a more radical way. There are not enough medical treatments. Even fundamental goods like foods and water are not available there. There are many countries which are not 100 % self-sufficient in foods. If imports stop, partly because of quarantine and partly because of entry-ban, there will not be an adequate supply of foods. The Japanese public TV news, NHK [2020] reported on 18 July 2020 how closely poverty and infection of coronavirus are linked. In Brazil, where the new coronavirus is rapidly spreading, more than 30 % of the 2,500 people in the poorest areas of the country's largest city, Sao Paulo, have been confirmed to have tested positive for the virus after intensive testing of residents. The situation in the slums is particularly severe. This shows that the pandemic is a marvel to humanity as a whole, but in particular a marvel to the poor. The same is true in developed countries such as the United States and Europe.

10. Basic Income and International solidarity tax

The pandemic reveals what has been covered up in the past. It reveals the fragility of the current system. Even in Japan, it has been criticized for being a distraction, but why was the grant of 100,000 yen per person carried out? The fact that such a scheme is generally accepted without much resistance and that payments as income guarantees are paid for shop- and company-owners who are keeping the workers, makes the idea of a Basic Income thinkable. The idea has been criticized for too much idealism and is always dismissed as pure fantasy. Some doubt who will work if such Basic Income is introduced. People lose motivation to work and there must be a shortage of labor etc. Under the corona pandemic, even politicians who were so skeptical of Basic Income are willing to issue deficit bonds to help those who have lost their jobs. The EU is not afraid to loosen the minimum deficit rule not to issue deficit bonds beyond its limit as a condition of membership. What we learned from the corona pandemic was that self-responsibility, fiscal discipline, small government, economic system etc. are inadequate to meet the needs of the emergency.

What is Basic Income? Guy Standing wrote, 'At its core, it would be a modest regular payment to each individual to help them feel more secure and able to purchase necessities for living [Guy Standing, 2019]'. The notion of Basic Income is very new and at same time very old. One can find the same notion in The Charter of the Forest of 1217. Standing has listed some reasons why Basic Income is necessary. 'The primary justifications for a Basic Income are ethical or moral'. Secondly,

'a Basic Income would enhance personal and community freedom. It would strengthen the ability of people to say no to exploitative or oppressive employers and to continuation of abusive personal relationships, and it would strengthen what is often called republican freedom, the ability to make decisions without having to ask permission from persons in positions of power.' Thirdly, 'it would provide every recipient, and their families and communities, with basic security'. The fourth reason is, it can strengthen 'social solidarity'. Society has lost the bondage of people and become too much individualistic and egoistic. Putnam described the social situation as bowling alone [Putnam, 2000]. Standing states that the introduction of a Basic Income does not require any dramatic increase in income taxation. This is because this income guarantee is basic, and that does not mean that many people are satisfied with it and will not work at all for more income. However, without Basic Income, when push comes to shove, they must seek for new jobs, and if necessary, take two jobs at the same time. They must work days and nights and the risk of death from overwork cannot be excluded. Some people may commit suicide in despair. In the opinion pages of the internet, we read often such debates such as: Anti-corona measures are important but the economy is even more important. If the economy becomes sluggish, there will be more unemployment. High unemployment can cause more suicides. The number of suicides is much higher than the number of the deaths caused by corona. For this reason, some people argue that we should accept a certain degree of risk by corona. Such an argument is an inhumane one. It does not deserve the name of discussion.

As mentioned, pandemic does not hit humanity equally. It hurts the poor people more strongly. In the rest of the United States, economic disparities match the difference in mortality rates by corona. People of the poor class have a strong tendency to lose their jobs to corona. Their children are more likely to miss out on higher education because of poverty of their parents. Educational disparities create wealth disparities that lead to an ever-increasing spiral of poverty. The fall in poverty is occurring in developed countries, but the same is true in developing low-income countries. The Pope's words, "pandemic of poverty" has a strong message for humanity.

11. What has pandemic brought to humanity?

Many countries in the world lack infrastructure, healthcare and insurance systems, and systems to share the right information to resist pandemic. It is doubtful that even the most developed countries are able to properly combat it. If explosive infections occur all over the globe, with time gaps, and it is impossible to completely stop the flow of people and goods for long periods of time, then even if a country can control the infection curve to a certain extent by vaccination, by urban lock-downs, or by avoiding three C-densities, or staying home policy and so forth, the peaks of infections will return like a ping-pong ball. It is likely to hit us. We need to support our

own businesses and workers, including the self-employed, informal and freelancers, especially those who work in the basic infrastructure that supports society. It is also essential to provide support for continued employment so that people are not laid off if the economy slows down for a time. Supporting the healthcare and lives of workers is to protect our own country.

Increasing the social fragmentation of nations and classes cannot be a fundamental solution. The world has reported on the conditions that push people to the bottom and leave them unemployed, returning to their homes and retreating to the slums, but when corona spreads to these people, a medical collapse will occur and the society will be destabilized. Strong authoritarian leaders to curve pandemic are long awaited. The people have suspicion of each other, fake news is spread and our political sensibilities are thrown off. The public looks at each other with suspicion, excludes infected people from society, antagonizes young people who do not follow the rules, and attacks those who work in entertainment districts in the evening such as host clubs and girls' bars.

12. Segregation and separation are not a real solution to corona disease

We are accustomed to take segregation and separation for granted. Such a way of thinking is itself not inhuman? What do national borders separate? Have you really reserved it that you are born in a developed country? You may have compassion with people who are born in a developing country but you may think, I am sorry, but I cannot help. What does race separate us from? Have you deserved to have been born as a white? How is it possible to be able to take it for granted that blacks live in slums? Why must a certain race take collective blame? What does wealth separate? Have you earned that you have rich parents? As mentioned above, disparity of wealth and concentration of wealth are inhuman. The same is also true for education. A higher education will be a great help in later life. Not every parent can send their children to a university. John Rawls has published, "A Theory of Justice" in 1971. Rawls' notion of justice as fairness and choice seems itself to be a pure injustice in the light of the current state of the world. There are so many people who cannot choose at all in an initial stage. Rather it would be better to try to eliminate initial differences in every society. Michael J. Sandel, a political philosopher who teaches at Law School of at Harvard University, criticized the notion of John Rawls' justice theory.

13. Conclusion

Instead of wallowing in narcissism, let the developed nations fulfill their responsibilities to humanity. If we abandon developing countries now, it will surely come back to us sooner or later. It has been suggested that mankind is a destroyer of the earth since the beginning of the anthropocene era. The number of tourists is declining and the occupancy rate of hotels and inns across the country is declining. The diversity of plants and animals is rapidly disappearing. We are responsible for

the entire planet. Humans have exploited the earth's resources, consumed energy, and brought about environmental destruction and global warming through mass production and mass consumption. We should not turn a blind eye to global warming.

Oxfam Australia published on 22 April 2020 an article, 'Beyond COVID-19: Could we create a more sustainable world?' The world situation must be unfair in which the top 1 % of the world's richest monopolized 82 % of the wealth created in one year. Simon Bradshaw wrote in the article, 'Pandemics have altered the course of human history—shaping politics, changing built environments, and bringing about new behaviours. They force us to reflect on our relationship to our environment and to each other. They may encourage us to reconnect with what truly matters. But above all, they hold up a mirror to human societies – exposing inequality and injustice, as well as strengths and human ingenuity. So, will we emerge as a fairer, saner and more sustainable world? Or having set things up for an even bigger catastrophe on the near horizon? Beyond the urgent tasks of protecting health and life, this may be the single most important question of our time [OXFAM Australia, 2020].' This is a very sharp insight into the world situation. However, there are many countries which seem to have concentrated too much on themselves, to such a country unfortunately Japan seems to belong.

Such slogans as "America First", "Tokyoites First" could not be more dehumanizing in the age of the corona pandemic. The constant creation of an image of the enemy prevents a decent democracy from functioning. We have observed in European countries that ethnocentric people shout 'go home!' when they see foreigners walking on the street. In this paper, I have emphasized that overcoming poverty is the key to combating corona. The introduction of basic income and solidarity tax is a thinkable notion. Crisis is also a chance if we are successful to change our society into a humanity one. We need to make structural changes of political and economic systems for better and secure lives. We should seriously aim to be a social animal to bear burden commonly and globally.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty goes back to 17 October 1987. In Trocadéro in Paris people gathered and proclaimed that 'poverty is a violation of human rights'. In September 2000, at the Millennium Summit and also in the foreword of the 2015 Millennium Report Development Goals Report, the agenda for eliminating poverty is one of the most important goals for humankind. In the latter meeting, 189 countries pledged unanimously to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty". The Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDGs, consist of 17 goals and 169 targets. The first goal of "The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development" is poverty eradication. The United Nations wrote, 'The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for

sustainable development.’

COVID-19 occurred while these goals were being set. As we have discussed, overcoming corona is not unrelated to overcoming poverty, as the disease specifically affects the poorest classes. A quick check of the internet shows that there is a growing awareness that corona measures and poverty measures are closely linked. The CSC (Corona Sustainability Compass) [Bieri et al., 2020] in Switzerland for example has published an article, “The virus has made it clear: The future is now”. The group of scientists that works in this organization asked, “Can we rise to the challenge of the corona-virus phenomenon with answers from yesterday? Or will we look for the answers of tomorrow which also fulfill the various challenges surrounding sustainable development?” To be able to fight against COVID-19, we need combined efforts as a social animal. Otherwise, we are not sustainable.

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(Received March 29, 2022; accepted May 11, 2022)