

CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT INFLUENCE THE STATE OF HEALTH

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Abstract

The present time brings a lot of controversy and issues on economic, social and political ground. Time did not pass leaving opportunity for taking a breath from the Covid-19 pandemic, because the Ukrainian-Russian war started. This conflict unbalanced the commercial frame of Europe and prices started to go up, inducing reasons for insecurity fear for the well-being of tomorrow. Many people started to be anxious, and their symptoms included tachycardia, dyspnea, insomnia, headaches etc. All these symptoms are exacerbated by interfering with news from the media regarding the above-mentioned socio-economic problems. Usually women are tented to be more influenceable and more alert, presenting themselves for evaluation in a medical cabinet.

Keywords: pandemic, war, issues, symptoms

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INTRODUCTION

Today the world faces many kinds of complex issues relevant to safety and security, which create different kind of pressure on people, different socio-economic problems and they may increase poverty (Buheji, M., 2019a). The issues of health and social-economic security are a serious problem to any population or community and to the whole connected world, since these current issues can negatively influence the economy, the healthcare, the energy, the environment and the education development (Bujemi, M., 2019b). Despite the expectation of a better world, higher socio-economic level for each individual, great decrease of extreme poverty by 2030, as the overall global welfare level is increasing; the deep gap between the richest and the poorest is expected to create other types of socio-economic problems (Wadhwa, D., 2018).

There are now many important events that the world had to witness, relevant to the socio-economic state of every country. This events that affected the world are: the Covid-19 pandemic, the war (Ukrainian-Russian war) and the crisis of energy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide, determining a real challenge to the medical system/public health, food systems and employment. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic was of great dimension: tens of millions of people were and continue to be at risk of extreme poverty, while

the number of undernourished people could increase by more than 100 million.

Many enterprises faced an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce was threatened by the loss of jobs and livelihoods. Informal economy workers were particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many were unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food.

The pandemic has been affecting the entire food system and has laid bare its fragility. Border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets. The pandemic has decimated jobs and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. As breadwinners lose jobs, fall ill and die, the food security and nutrition of millions of women and men are under threat, with those in low-income countries, particularly the most marginalized populations, which include small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples, being hardest hit (www.who.int). Two years might not be enough to have a full understanding of all that took place due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

pandemic since 2020, especially as the pandemic is still not over (unctad.org)

The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on 24 February 2022 has led to the loss of lives, property, assets and infrastructure in Ukraine, resulting in a severe refugee crisis in Europe since World War 2 (Leon D.A., et al., 2022). It has disrupted agriculture (both countries are globally important producers of agricultural commodities), and this has impacted the food supply chain, particularly those nations dependent on sunflower oil, maize, and wheat.

Since the second half of 2021, there has been a sharp hike in energy prices in the EU and worldwide. The price of fuels has further risen as a consequence of Ukrainian-Russian war, which has also led to concerns related to the security of energy supply in the EU. Russia's decision to suspend gas deliveries to several EU member states has further impacted the situation. Taking account of the EU member states' different energy mixes, conditions and circumstances, EU leaders called for: further diversifying energy supply sources and routes, accelerating the deployment of renewables, further improving energy efficiency, improving interconnections of gas and electricity networks. On 6 October 2022, EU countries adopted an emergency regulation to address high energy prices and help citizens and businesses that are most affected by the energy crisis. The rules were adopted in record time. The regulation includes three emergency measures: reducing electricity use, capping revenues of electricity producers, securing a solidarity contribution from fossil fuel businesses (Jagtap, S. et al, 2022, Berkhout P. et al., 2022)

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Today there are lots of question marks about the real impact of these events on health, welfare, and the measures needed to apply to be consider sustainable and of a real positive impact. There is a need for well-planned national policies that can lead to annual economic and social growth.

This study targets to investigate the effect of present social-economic issues on people state of health; how people react to news regarding pandemics and war and the measures/programs that need to be

implemented or emphasized from today, as the world is transforming. (Leathers, H. D., & Foster, P., 2022).

The study took place at the polyclinic of the Emergency clinical Hospital of Oradea, Bihor County. For these targets to be reached, 162 patients were examined, between September and November 2022. Out of 162 patients, 70 were men and 92 were female, all with the age above 18 years. Demographic characterization on the studied cohort is presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

Age, gender, and living environment of the patients

Gender	Women		%	Men		%
Environment	Urban	Rural		Urban	Rural	
Age (years)						
18-30	9	3	7,4	2	1	1,8
31-45	22	8	18,5	16	8	14,8
46-60	27	8	21,6	14	8	13,6
Over 60	9	6	9,2	12	9	13,1
Total	67	25	56,7	44	26	43,3

These patients presented themselves for a medical evaluation accusing different kind of symptoms. Their medical and familial history was analyzed, completed by a body examination and a paraclinical investigations (blood samples, EKG, pulmonary radiography etc.). The study emphasizes the importance of future foresight strategies to ensure that patients health state is improved and disruptors of their health (including their psychological health) would be staying at a minimal level and will not come in different type.

In this study, we use statistical calculations (t test) to investigate the direct and interactive effects of social, economic and political events on public health. The p value was considered statistically significant if $p < 0,05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Patients presented for a checkup presenting the following signs and symptoms: tachycardia, dyspnea, pressure on the chest, headache, insomnia, asthenia (Fig. 1).

After rigorous anamnesis and medical evaluation (cardiologic, pneumological, endocrinological, infectious, internal medicine): 23 patients were diagnosticated with high blood pressure, 20 with thyroid disorders, 9 with post Covid-19 complications, and 2 patients with asthma.

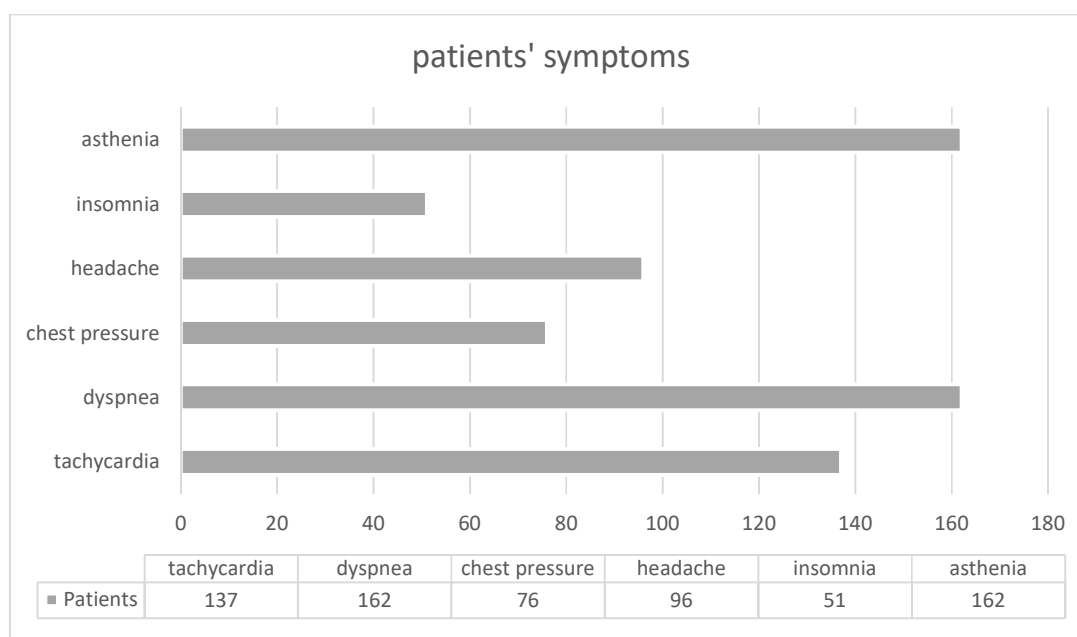


Figure 1. **Patients` symptoms when presenting for medical evaluation**

For the rest of the patients, no organic or functional pathology was found. Out of 54 of patient with a diagnosis, 33 were men and 21 women, meaning that men tend to present themselves at a doctor when the problem is evolved. The two-tailed P value equals 0.0498. By conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be statistically significant. Confidence interval: the mean equals 54.00. 95% confidence interval of this difference: From 0.09 to 107.91. Intermediate values used in calculations: $t = 4.3097$, $df = 2$, standard error of difference = 12.530. Women ask for a medical opinion more frequently if they feel something is not ok. According to Harvard and Rutgers, men who self-report traditional views on masculinity are also less likely to get consistent health care. There appears to be a correlation between holding the belief that men should be strong and self-reliant (and slow to show emotion) and resisting routine exams (www.health.harvard.edu).

Following a more detailed anamnesis, it was found that the other patients started to manifest the symptoms in moments of conflict or stress. Many of them are still stressed about the Covid-19 pandemic, they are scared by the war that is close (near the northern border of Romania) or by the rising prices for the elementary daily needs (fig. 2). When watching news on tv, when discussing or reading in the media about these aspects, patients admit having tachycardia, sensation of constriction on their neck and become short of breath, can't sleep, have headaches or chest pain.

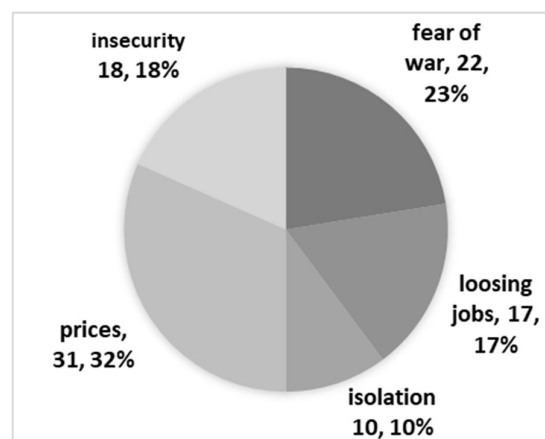


Figure 2. **External issues interfering with the health state of the patients**

The impact of socio-economic status has a powerful impact on public health and become a lively topic for social economists and environmental researchers across the world. Despite a lot of research, there is still a lack of clear understanding of the spatial heterogeneous impacts related to public health.

The research results show that more than half of the patients do not suffer of an organic or functional problem, but they are dealing with a great amount of anxiety caused by the current conjunctures. This phenomenon is more evident in women then in men. Aggravation of the actual economic, political and health problems may significantly damage local public health status. The increase in per capita income can significantly leads to a significant positive effect on public health. Improving the level of education per capita

significantly improves public health. As per capita education level increases, the impact of increased social issues on public health damage will be diminished gradually (Zhang, Z., Zhang, G., & Su, B. (2022).

Uncertainty quantification is also a way to put error bars on projections, increasingly seen

CONCLUSIONS

The current social-economic and political situation is unbalanced in the entire world.

The main problems active on Romanian media are: Russian-Ukrainian war, the Covid-19 pandemic, high prices. All these have a great impact on peoples' mental state. Sometimes their anxiety is somatized, and they feel tachycardia, dyspnea, headaches, lack of powerlessness, etc. Usually, women are more influenced about these events and come to see a doctor.

There is a need for ameliorating actual circumstances, there is a need for governmental actions to maintain health, political and economic security. The last 3 years become a scenario that implies to be pushed from being a complex issue to being more of a complicated problem that needs to be codified, classified and then stratified with solutions for more specific cases and based on detailed demographic data or matrix.

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