

Call for papers, Special Covid-19 issue of AJFAND

Please send in your papers by November 30, 2020

The SPECIAL ISSUE WILL BE EDITED BY



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Submission deadline
RE-EXTENDED to
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NOTE: Approved papers for this issue will not be charged

Topic: "African scholars' challenge in valuing endogenous knowledge and innovations in a modern capitalism world – Lessons from Covid-19 "

Overview

In these times of successive pandemics, especially since the outbreak of AIDS, and this year of the coronavirus Covid-19, the question has arisen as to where an efficient and long-lasting remedy would be found or would come from? Indeed, the Covid-19 started in December 2019, and has infected 12.6m people and killed 568,587 (as of July 12, 2020) across the world to-date¹, an average death rate of 6%. Only a few cases were registered in Africa. The worldwide intensive alert and propaganda about Covid-19 was first surprising, compared to AIDS and Malaria that kills tens of thousands per day in Africa. The clue is that Covid-19 raised much attention because of its frenetic velocity and the high daily death toll in Europe and USA. Moreover, the Covid-19 is affecting 213 countries and territories around the world, virtually every corner of the world. Some governments have declared emergency state and others have imposed curfews to limit

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https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=LOfYXt6fFMWdkgWaqS4Dw&q=world+covid+19+deaths&oq=World+covid&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQARgBMgIIADICCAAyAggAMgIIADICCAAyAggAOgUIABCxAzoFCAAQgwE6BAGAEApQtRpYtERg5qoBaABWAHgAgAHJB4gB3xySAQkylTkuNS0xLjGyAQcGAAQdnd3Mtd2l6&scient=psy-ab

the spread of the virus among their populations. Raging soldiers killed innocent people for security reasons in face of the invisible enemy that was born in China and spread quickly across the whole world! Is it a real virus or a lab-creation for geo-political reasons? Various incredible and alarming information are being disseminated through social media. The world is in a turmoil never experienced since world war II. Where will the solution come from?

“The solution will never come from Africa”, the mainstream “modern science” seems to be saying so far. With its poor health care and development infrastructure, and overall poverty, there is no hope for Africa, they said. “Definitely the solution will come from Africa or Asia”, herbalists and endogenous knowledge defenders are rather claiming. And the formers reply:” We need scientific evidence before we can validate your solutions. We cannot recommend approximative solutions to the world!” After intensive debates on the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of Malagasy’s Covid-19 organics to fight Covid-19, and of Artemisia to fight malaria, most African scientists, researchers and governments seem to have adopted that position. But endogenous knowledge defenders retort back: “What is scientific evidence? Should we trust your methods or rather the evidence from tangible outcomes where people are healed in reasonable time and with minimal of no potential bad side-effects in the long-run?”

Indeed, the mainstream trend in scientific discovery and knowledge sharing so far is that of the “modern science” taught in classic schools and universities since the colonial era and the independence days up to now. It is anchored on a presumed high civilization or “modern values” of former colonizers from western and northern countries, and the International Organizations (IOs) they set up and have been funding since World War II or earlier. Most African countries have joined the IOs only recently, after their respective independence in the mid-1950s or early 1960s. As such, in spite of its endowment in various natural resource (mines, forests, lands, faunas, hydrological resources) and its dense and varied cultural heritage, Africa’s participation in decision-making in the IOs is marginal. Its scientists and researchers are confined into the mainstream “modern science” and are not getting the dedicated support from their governments to undertake and value research on endogenous knowledge. Recently, capitalistic trends in the philosophy and working approach of certain IOs have been unveiled while the whole world was thinking about long-lasting solutions to reduce the death toll of the Covid-19 pandemics. Whom should African Governments trust and for what purpose? The economic and social impacts of the pandemics should be genuinely considered, rather than the financial gains being pursued by multinationals.

Research questions

The following research questions then arise regarding the future of Africa in face of Covid-19 and other pandemics:

- What endogenous knowledge (in agriculture, nutrition, medicine, biology, industrial technology, engineering, economics, philosophy, art, etc.) are available down there, that African Governments have forgotten, refused or are hesitating to value so far?

- Are we together, with whom and why, for eradicating Covid-19 and other pandemics (AIDS, Malaria, livestock pandemics, etc.) that are constraining Africa's development?
- What new paradigm and result-oriented approach can effectively unveil and value Africa's development potential, as far as the health sector is concerned? "Ill people can't do anything!"
- To what extent have new information and communication technologies made a difference in fostering useful agendas and promoting wise decision-making in Africa?

Expected papers

Nobel Prize Norman Borlaug said: "We can't eat potential!". African scientists, researchers and technologists are called upon to take out of the lockers of their laboratories, tentative "relevant solutions" or approaches based on endogenous knowledge to fight Covid-19 and other pandemics and their bad economic and social impacts on the continent's development. Reformatting our mindsets to what should be considered as progress for the majority, out of any sort of cultural and scientific alienation, should be the first step. What we can put on the table will determine the nature and strength of our negotiations for collaboration with others. Building progressive mindsets and determination in relevant/useful undertakings will be key to Africa's development.

AJFAND would like to take stock of what Africa (including Madagascar) can offer regarding the continent's potentials for fighting the pandemics, including long-term technical, economic, social and political solutions for an effective resilience of their populations and economies. We expect that this initiative would help build a useful memory for future generations. The present special Covid-19 call for papers expect to gather evidence and prospective reflections on the impacts and mitigation and resilience measures that would help African countries build sustainable development strategies that draw from purely endogenous solutions, or alternative modern solutions that do not turn down the former but rather leaves room for valuing them.

Submissions are awaited from a few relevant areas of science, including: agriculture, nutrition, medicine, biology, industrial technology, engineering and economics. Another special issue will be devoted to philosophy, sociology, culture and art.