

Crisis Management in a Pandemic

Description

1. The outbreak of the novel corona virus in 2019 triggered a global pandemic that is reminiscent of plagues and pestilence of the past. Recent epidemics like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MARS), bird flu and Ebola gave the world a preview of what might happen in case of a health crisis of biblical proportions. But COVID19 came with unique challenges. It found the international health organizations and the national governments caught on the wrong foot. The governments were found struggling with policies. The policy planners had to place travel restrictions, order lockdowns and quarantines, organize testing, procure Personal Preventive Equipment (PPE) and most importantly convince the public at large to adopt social distancing, wearing a mask and frequent washing of hands to flatten the curve and contain the disease. There were exceptions of opting for herd immunity. Countries with advanced technology raced to invent a vaccine or come up with reliable medicines to cure the disease. The COVID19 was a time for international leaders to cooperate in the larger interest of humanity. This unfortunately did not happen, and wars and conflicts raged unabated.

Educational Objectives

2. To introduce the students to the dynamics of a pandemic and the skill to handle it in a manner that a situation of conflict is avoided.

3. To expose students to nexus of pandemic and social discrimination and how such situation can further steer the climate of grievance and by extension conflict behavior an attitude.

4. To familiarize students with the history of pandemic and the different approaches undertaken to combat them and how well these approaches can be recalibrated for future occurrence

5. To groom future policymakers, whose knowledge and skill in the dynamic of a pandemic can instrumentally help shape the discourse of combatting natural disaster and the attendant pandemic situation.

Input Obtained from Industry/Corporate Sector/Subject Specialists/Academia

6. The course content is prepared and based on the outcome, gathered from a panel of experts (webinar) held during the lockdown. In addition, it is complemented by the research outcomes of researchers assigned to the different nuances of covid-19 pandemic in the context of Pakistan. In future as the course gets formalized, the panel of experts will be gathered and subsequently invited for in-house (FTF) and (virtual) discussion with the students.

Course Contents

7. Give details of the course, on the following lines:

- a. **Course Code:** PCS-825
- b. **Title:** Crisis Management in a Pandemic
- c. **Credit Hours:** 3hrs
- d. **Objectives.** To
 - (1) Introduce students to the dynamics of a pandemic and approaches of handling it in a manner that a situation of conflict is avoided.
 - (2) Help scholars understand the politics of pandemic management at the national and international level.
- e. **Outcomes.** The students of this course should be able to:
 - (1) Advise the government in handling a pandemic at the policy level.
 - (2) Write policy papers on managing a pandemic.
 - (3) Suggest solutions to handle pandemic from the angle of peace and conflict studies.
 - (4) Study leadership models during a health crisis.
 - (5) Set up a suitable command and control center for crisis management.
 - (6) Study the working of international and domestic health organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO) <https://www.who.int/>, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/>, National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad www.nih.org.pk/, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) <https://www.ccohs.ca/> etc.
 - (7) Disaster management models for a pandemic.
- f. **Contents with suggested contact hours:** This will be a 3 credit hours course. Following topics will be covered in this module:

- (1) History of pandemics.
- (2) Pandemic awareness.
- (3) Leadership models in a health crisis.
- (4) Health management crisis models.
- (5) Disaster management in a health crisis.
- (6) International and national health management organization.
- (7) International relations: National and international conflicts during a pandemic.
- (8) Shaping public attitudes through innovative such as the nudges theory.
- (9) Prediction of health pandemics
- (10) Problems faced in higher education institutions during the time of pandemic.
- (11) Case studies of pandemics: Black death plague, Spanish influenza, bird flu, SARS, MARS etc.
- (12) Case studies of national policies: China, US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, New Zealand, South Korea, Sweden, India, Pakistan etc.

g. **Details of lab work, workshops practice (if applicable).**

The course requires no lab works, but will involve workshops and seminars, through which experts in crises management and other related subjects will be invited to sensitise the students.

h. **Recommended Reading (including Textbooks and Reference books).**

Articles written by the students on crisis management during a pandemic.

Rand organization report on pandemic,

<https://www.rand.org/topics/pandemic.html>

Regester, Michael and Judy Larkin, *Risk Issues and Crisis Management: A Casebook of Best Practice* (1998).

Gottschalk, Jack. *Crisis Management* (Capstone publications, 2002).

Gilpin, Dawn R. & Priscila Murphy, *Crisis Management in a Complex World* (2008).

Penuel, K. Bradle. *Encyclopedia of Crisis Management* Volume one

St. Pierre, Michael, Gesine Hofinger & Cornelius Bueschafer. *Crisis Management in Acute Care Settings: Human Factors and Team Psychology in a High Stakes Environment* (2010).

Fagel, Michael, J. *Crisis Management and Emergency Planning: Preparing for Today's Challenges* (Taylor & Francis, 2013).

Lægreid, Per. *Societal Security and Crisis Management: Governance Capacity and Legitimacy* (2018).

Allen, Pauline. *Crisis Management in Late Antiquity (410–590 CE): A Survey of the Evidence from Episcopal Letters* (Cambridge, 2015).