

The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Economic Life of Moroccans

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ABSTRACT

The world has experienced a significant spread of the Covid-19 pandemic from then December 2019, a health, social and economic crisis. The objective of this study is to assess the impact of Covid-19 and confinement on the economy of Moroccan families through an online survey. This study is based on the use of data collected by the online survey. The analysis of these data was carried out by a descriptive method which made it possible to give the results in the form of tables and figures. This analysis shows that 352 participants answered the questionnaire, a male predominance was recorded with a sex ratio of 2.26 and almost half of the respondents were between 20 and 30 years old. More than 79% (P-value <0.005) of participants Soumaia Hmimou; Aida Soulaymani; Youssef Azami Idrissi3; Maroua Barha; Ali Kayedalemad; Abdelmajid Soulaymani, Volume 9 Issue 2, pp 72-77 February 2021

believe that the national and global economy is negatively impacted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and 82.7% of participants believe that employees of factories and companies investments are also negatively impacted by the pandemic and more specifically by containment. Covid-19 could have a negative impact on Moroccan GDP growth with a loss of competitiveness between companies.

Keywords: Impact; Covid-19; Economic Life; Morocco.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the announcement of the first case of the new coronavirus registered in Wuhan, China, the Covid-19 epidemic has spread at a dizzying speed. In just

three months, the epidemic has returned to 210 countries, illustrating the darker side of globalization. This led the World Health Organization (OMS) to declare the global pandemic and to recommend that states take the necessary control and prevention measures [1]. However, these measures are more or less drastic from one country to another. Morocco following the example of several countries in the world adopts important measures such as the closure of borders, awareness on hygiene measures and partial containment. The cessation of several industrial, commercial, tourist, cultural and sporting activities have dealt a hard blow, never recorded, to the world economy. Despite all these measures, the Covid-19 pandemic is still progressing exponentially.

Most economists believe that the Covid-19 crisis will be more devastating than the crisis of 2008, dubbed the Great Recession affecting every country in the world [2]. However, all economic activity has been in decline for several weeks, the few jobs that existed in the economic sector will be in jeopardy. Thus, we can ask ourselves what is the impact of Covid-19 on the family economy?

The objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 and containment on the economy of Moroccan families through an online survey

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

An online questionnaire was developed with several questions that could answer the main objective of this work, these questions were mostly related to the demographics of the participants and others related to the impact of the pandemic on the family economy.

The questionnaire formulated using Google Forms was disseminated at the social network level twenty

days after the beginning of the confinement in Morocco and it was spread over two weeks, from 10 to 24 April, the average time to answer the questions was 5 min.

The objective of this work was well inscribed at the level of the questionnaire and focused on completely anonymous answers, the statistical analyses were carried out with the statistical software package of the social sciences (SPSS, version 21) and Excel 2010. As well as the answers of subjects under 20 years of age were excluded from the analysis.

3. RESULTS

After analysis of the collected data, 352 participants responded to the questionnaire, with males accounting for more than two thirds of the participants with a sex ratio of 2.26. The male sex ratio was 2.26. The female sex ratio was 2.26. 171 respondents or 48.6% were between 20 and 30 years of age, and 58.4% were students and educational staff (Table 1).

Figure 1 shows the distribution of participants by region. The region of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra had the highest participation with 59.9% followed by Tanger-Tétouane -Al Hoceima and BéniMellal-Khénifra with 8.2% for each one.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Participants

	Headcount	Percentage (%)
Age		
20-30	171	48,6
30-40	92	26,1
40-50	57	16,2
50-60	24	6,8
>60	8	2,3
Total	352	100,0
Gender		
Female	108	30,7
Male	244	69,3
Total	352	100,0
Employment		
Farmer	1	0,3
Free trade	37	10,1
Employee	40	11,6
Student	128	37,2
Education	73	21,2
Sector		
Health sector	9	2,6
Private Sector	56	16,3
Total	344	100,0
All calculated p-values were less than 0.05, indicating that they were significant.		

Table 2 shows the distribution of responses according to the degree of economic impact on plant and investment company employees. 82.7% of participants believe that employees in factories and investment companies are negatively impacted by the pandemic and more specifically by containment, while only 2.1% of participants believe that there is no impact on employees.

Figure 2 presents the results of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy of Morocco and the world economy according to the respondents.

According to the results of our survey more than 79% of the participants believe that the national and world economy is negatively impacted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, moreover 3 and 5 participants estimated that this pandemic has no impact on the economy of our country and on the world economy respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of Responses by Degree of Economic Impact on Plant and Investment Company Employees

	Headcount	Percentage (%)
Quite less	40	11,9
Many	278	82,7
Just a little	11	3,3
Not at all	7	2,1
Total	336	100,0
All calculated p-values were less than 0.05, indicating that they were significant		

The government of Morocco decided to adopt alternatives to alleviate the economic problems of the population following the spread of covid-19, in our survey 42.6% of the participants felt that its alternatives were rather less sufficient since it was not widespread and 11.5% felt that they and were not sufficient.

In addition, 73.3% of participants report that the pandemic is having a negative impact on the family economy (Table 3).

Table 3: Distribution of Responses by Degree of Impact on the family economics

	Headcount	Percentage (%)
Quite less	70	21,2
Many	242	73,3
Just a little	13	3,9
not at all	5	1,5
Total	330	100,0

All calculated p-values were less than 0.05, indicating that they were significant

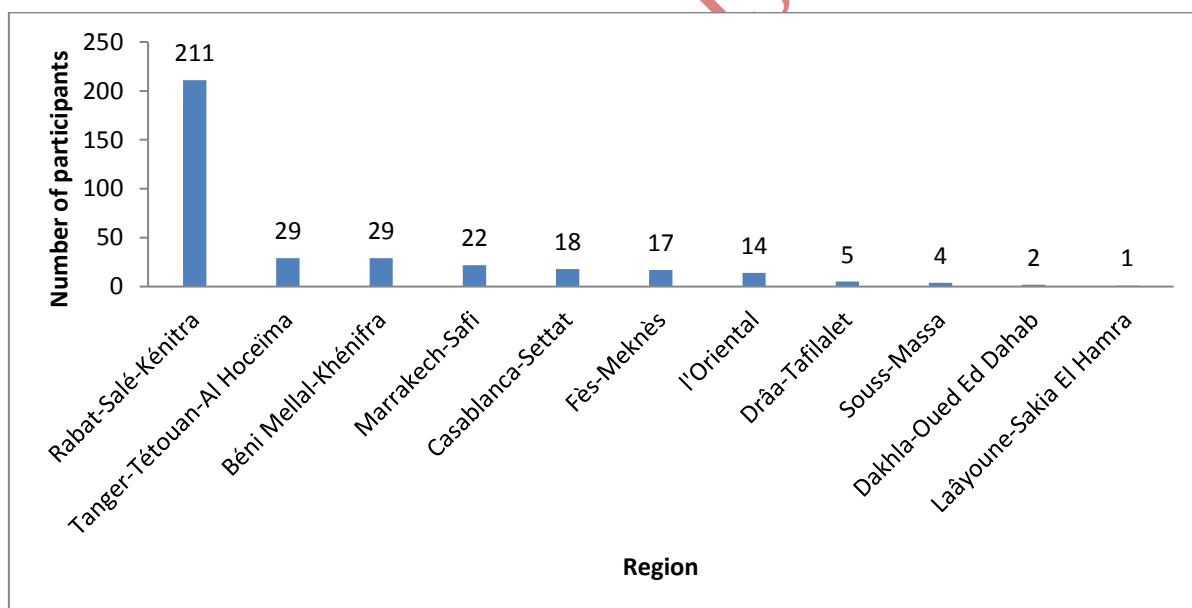


Fig 1: Distribution of Participants by Region

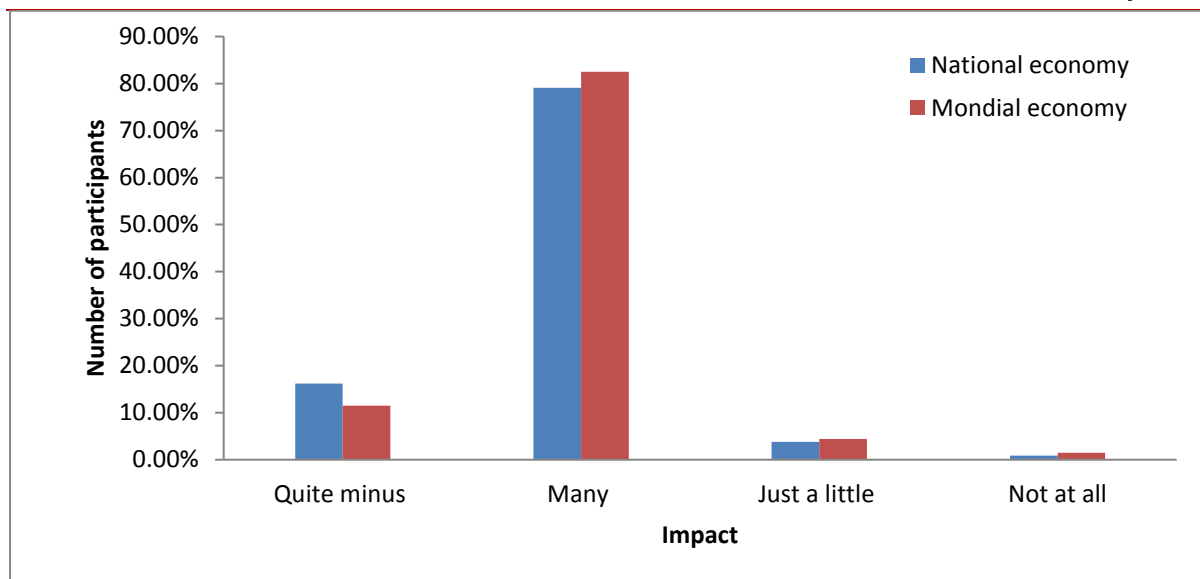


Fig 2: Distribution of number of participants according to the impact of Covid-19 on the national and global economy

4. DISCUSSION

The first case in Morocco infected with Covid-19 was registered on March 2, 2020 [3], on May 5, 2020 Morocco declared 5,219 cumulative cases infected and 181 cases of death due to Covid-19 [4], these cases are the cause of many social, human, mental and economic problems.

Our study aims to assess the impact of this pandemic on the economy of Moroccan families through an online survey.

This rapid online survey is a method to assess the knowledge of a population in the midst of rapidly evolving infectious diseases [5].

According to the results of our study, more than 79% of participants believe that the pandemic is having a negative impact on the global and national economy, and 82.7% believe that it has also impacted employees in factories and investment companies, Its results confirm the forecasts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of a 3% drop in GDP worldwide under the effect of a double shock, of supply (drop in production due to the shutdown

of certain production activities) and demand (drop in consumption due to the confinement of individuals) [6].

This economic impact would be at the origin of the contraction of formal and informal employment [7].

The Moroccan government's efforts to combat the spread of the virus and to save the national economy. The consequences of this pandemic on the economy of Morocco is very difficult to assess since no one can know when it will end [8].

A study on the impact of the pandemic on the Moroccan economy was made by the High Commissioner for Planning showed that national economic growth would be cut by 8.9 points, this decline represents a loss of several billion Dirham, 57% of the economic fabric have stopped their activities, a decline in foreign demand, global uncertainty on the labor market leads to the loss of jobs and income more than 27% of companies have reduced their workforce, representing 726,000 jobs outside the financial and agricultural sector [9].

The alternatives proposed by the Moroccan government to alleviate the problem were less sufficient according to 42.6% according to our study, since they do not affect all of the poor and middle classes of the Moroccan population, whereas according to the HCP study, one household in five received state assistance [9].

5. CONCLUSION

The general objective of this study which focused on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economic life of Moroccans was to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 and containment on the economy of Moroccan families. The exploitation of the data leads to the following results: covid-19 could have a negative impact on Moroccan GDP growth with a loss of competitiveness among firms.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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