

Tourism and International Borders: Global Health Security Measures

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Abstract: *After facing an unprecedented pandemic, the world strives to return to pre - pandemic normal life and tourism is the most affected industry with a massive decline of demand because of the global restrictions hence increasing tourism activities are in a wide spectrum on a global scale. Prior to the pandemic, tourism movements reached to 1.5 billion while according to the UWTTO (UNWTO World Tourism Barometer), global tourist arrivals fell almost 70% during the pandemic¹. Two important problems have emerged in terms of physical safety systems of states. The border structures are variable and countries are not able to establish a common and effective health system against epidemics. There are two global concerns: reaching the normal tourism financial revenue and on the other hand, taking effective and sufficient health security measures. In the current study, by pointing these concerns, according to analytical data an evaluation will be conducted on the measures to be taken at countries' border crossings and solutions will be proposed.*

Keywords: Tourism, Pandemic, International Borders, Health security

1. Introduction

Through history, the pandemic has been a threat that could destroy the human civilizations and Plague was the most important one, which is estimated to have emerged in the Nile geography of Egypt in the 300s BC, progressed by massacring the masses in the East and West. Plague outbreak destroyed 70% of the total human population with same symptoms in both Persian and European lands. According to historical documents only animals survived in the period of plague outbreaks and today, after 2500 years, two issues have not obviously changed.

Firstly, the various types of epidemic have been spreading due to human movements. Secondly, effective health security systems have not been establishing in any period² so that Plague continued to kill people terribly until the last quarter of the 19th century. Meanwhile, it was realized that human movements were highly effective in the outbreak so that countries began controlling of their territory borders and applied quarantine to ships from the East at ports. However, some countries didn't participate in the agreements made in Europe.

For example, England did not apply quarantine in its ports in order not to disrupt the East India commercial system, where it made huge profits so that people who entered the Europe via England spread disease³. Consequently, the inability to create common health safety measures at the borders caused outbreak to spread rapidly. Despite the importance of cutting off the contact between people living in the diseased areas and those in not yet infected areas, they have been in contact during the epidemic periods for reasons such as trade, travel, work and war.

For example, around 400 BC, Plague (the famous "Plague of Athens") had been carried to Greek territory by soldiers captured by the Persian army, which destroy spreading almost all of Greece⁴. Therefore, controlling borders (land, sea and air) is a critical issue preventing pandemic expansion and it can only be achieved through joint measures taken on health security.

The concern for conducting current research is the difficulties of controlling the global society movements due to various country borders structures, the inability to provide the same security systems at borders and to implement common protocols on health security issues. Therefore, by considering the borders' structures and the health safety threats posed by human movements, we will discuss how to carry out touristic activities by considering health security issues. To conclude, the pandemic problems and tourism activities will be analysed.

The borders' structural Features and health safety issue

Throughout history, people have aimed to protect their own habitats for their social interests and communities have put self - unique descriptive signs on their domain of influence and have taken measures to protect their borders. Over a long period of time, boundaries were protected only to prevent other groups to penetrating where they live then later in history, the human population increased and societies began to develop cultural, political and economic relations.

In that time, by perceiving the significance of borders, communities have considered some security dimensions to protect their borders. However, as progressed, the societies transformed to states, kingdoms and empires and thus, the boundaries had further been expanded and uncontrollable. However, during history, border security has been the top of concern for the capture and seizing of limited resources so that even for plague pandemics, in the end of 19th century, states tried to establish control systems at the borders.

Today, in COVID 19 pandemic situation, borders' controlling rules has changed and how to hold security for the global transboundary and health safety are two important issues have to be considered.

The borders' conditions shaped by international norms. For example, two legal issues have been emphasized for air borders landing/taking off within the country' borders and passing directly through the area designated as the country's airspace. In both cases there are important justifications for requiring controlling and monitoring. Within the framework

of international agreements, the closure of air borders or seeking and seizing of aircraft can be carried out under certain conditions⁵.

Although the lack of land border in Islands such as England seems to be an advantage but there is much more density of human movements on air and sea borders.

Today, Because of containing important variables and due to differentiation of control measures (according to countries' political relations) land borders are the main source of spreading pandemic. Therefore, reasons such as protection, expansion and clarification of borders have been one of the most significant issues that governments have been constantly engaging in. Especially, due to trading development, Eurasia (East West axis), Africa - Middle East and Europe (North - South axis) have become significant routes. Hence, over time, the Mediterranean has been the center of mobility in the transportation.

Over time, borders' protection perception in the destroyed and new established countries has undergone constant change according to the laws, agreements and the authorities. Therefore, governments struggle to protect their territories against the invasion and intervention of physical forces and after 1990, fight against terrorism has become the priority for border protection.

Since, Travel and trading are carried out by terrestrial boundaries, the countries have agreed to intensify security and control systems on certain entry and exit points. But the question of "In which extent has to be the intensity of controlling" creates a paradox here. Because while countries try to make tightly controlling, millions of refugees are uncontrollably breaching the borders.

In this regard, there are three main varieties.

Firstly, countries that they do not sign any border crossing agreement with their neighbours and they carry out passport control at entry and exit points. Such countries prioritize terrorism and illegal activities for border security. Secondly, the borders where passport controls are not enforced within the framework of bilateral agreements and at entering and exit points using their own citizenship document. For example, border agreements between Georgia and Turkey, Turkey and TRNC, TRNC and GKRK. In accordance with the agreements are supported by many countries third type has shaped by countries that their citizens enter and exit multiple countries as they wish. For example, EU citizens can travel across Europe without being controlled or stopped.

The same process is operated at the air and marine borders. On the other hand, it is necessary to mention the borders of the country in the geographies with lack of regular state. The first is ghost boundaries, which they are not controlled in any way. For example, the borders of African countries in sub - Saharan regions. It is notable that before pandemic, they were only considered dangerous in terms of terrorism. Another is a permeable boundary such as border structures between Iraq and Syria⁷. These were formed by people who fled to the borderlines due to civil wars and tried to live by

taking advantage of both sides' resources. All people, whether both countries' citizens or refugees can easily cross the borders and Iraqi security forces have limited controlling.

Generally, it is seen that the border structures are shaped according to states' economic activities and because of being costly there are various controlling system' types over land, air and sea in different countries.

However, COVID - 19 has literally changed all previous theoretical security perceptions and become major priority requiring the reassessment of boundary perception⁶. On the other hand, to generate revenue, states are looking to host people who travel by different purposes such as trade, treatment, education and tourism. Thus, in the pandemic situation, there is a serious paradox in the intensification of the control systems and closing the borders.

This is the main reason why Britain did not sign the quarantine agreement in European ports in order to stop the plague epidemic in the 19th century. But it had dire consequences. The plague continued to spread both in UK and on the European mainland. Therefore, control measures, which countries take according to their own economic power, cannot prevent the pandemics. Because security measures taken by developed countries become ineffective due to the weak measures taken by another countries. Therefore, to solve the problem, countries with the first type of boundaries should make agreement at the United Nations level to establish international norms by providing joint financial support.

For the countries with uncontrolled, ghostly and permeable borders it should be solved through global efforts. In this regard, stable administrations compatible with the international community should be created and international border security norms should be implemented.

Health security threat posed by human movements

Although in early history, humankind were immobilized but because of his curiosity and thanks to their instinct to multiply over time it drive them to explore their surroundings to making relationship. Then these relationships developed based on cultural characteristics and possessions that define their strength. By formation and development of civilizations, movements started over long distances and trading was the first step in this concept.

For trading, large groups have now embarked on a long social journey from a small community to the tribe and then to empires. Among many ways offatal diseases' transmission, two are more effective, the wars, to expand and enrich territories, and the connection between different geographies due to the formation of trade networks.

For example, Plague, which have emerged in the Nile delta, entered Central Asia by commercial activities on the Egyptian - Persian line, then spread to Europe by the sale of Persian soldiers who captured in the war (between Greece and Persia) and being taken to Greece that caused terrible fatality.

The rapidly spreading diseases such as Cholera, Typhus and Fever, were common in India during Alexander, the Great's Asia expedition and appeared in Europe caused hundred thousands of deaths at a certain period of time. Moreover, commercial activities were other reason for spreading of various diseases causing the destruction of human civilization. Ships to different ports of Europe transported the goods that caravans brought them from china to Mediterranean coast. Merchants, slaves and contaminated goods have penetrated different ports then to crowded cities.

From this point of view, it would not be wrong to say that maybe the people who died due to health security and pandemics are hundred times more than people who died in the wars. Although in that time medical technology were not be able to develop remedies, they have taken some precautions as they realized that the mobility is very effective on the spreading trend of the diseases and the first measures were created against it.

For example, measures have been taken to keep ships from the Far East in quarantine off the port for a month, even to anchor at some ports and prohibiting arrivals to the land. During the period of starting plague outbreaks, merchants kept the goods in certain places and their movements were restricted.

Infected areas had been quarantined, and security cordons had been established by the soldiers. Also people who died were either burned or lime was poured and buried, looking for ways to get rid of germs. Considering that the religious centers are one of the most important way causing the spread of diseases, people were prohibited to go to synagogues, churches and mosques during the quarantine.

Therefore, until the middle of the 19th century, when there were no measures that could be taken with medication, it was attempted to combat these epidemics only with isolation and hygienic measures. Although It is piteous that throughout human history, especially 19 - 20 century, epidemics have been impactive enough to destroy human civilizations, thanks to the technological revolutions and the medical advances, this threat has been put into the background today.

We are living in a new modern world now and the Earth planet population has exceeded 7 billion. Because of the great communication and transportation developments, there is no inaccessible place so that trade networks are intertwined to an extent that they never be stopped. Moreover, within the dynamic international economy, tourism movements have reached a high rate of 4.5% in a global economic scale.

An incredible tourism economy has been created attracting people to constantly traveling and to engage in cultural activities so that the countries are looking to equip by competitive advantages attracting more tourists. Briefly, for each country the human motilities' revenue is an irreplaceable economical support. Therefore, the countries don't held strong controlling system on human movements.

These movements cause people to carry diseases to the destinations they go or to bring different diseases to their own lands from the other places. Considering the high rate of tourism and global trade network's revenue such epidemics have been ignored and the COVID - 19 caused high level of mortality around the world. Today, by experiencing COVID 19 outbreak, it is understood that the ease of entry and exit based only on document control is a big mistake. In this context, it is worth taking a brief look at legal and illegal human movements.

Legal mobility takes place allowed by national and international legal rules and carrying out controlling systems across borders. In other words, one who proves his identity with his passport and who is competent with the necessary permissions can travel around the world in a variety of purposes such as tourism, education, working and receiving health care and can stay in destination for the periods permitted by law.

In this general framework, named tourism, it has turned into a commercial activity supported by the leading commercial organizations of the world, providing huge revenue. Hence, countries do not want to give it up, but rather strive to develop methods enhancing it every day. Looking at the related statistical data before the pandemic, it becomes clear how enormous are the legal and illegal global movements.

In 2019, tourism movements had reached almost 1.5 billion in a global scale that was accounted as 22% of the world's population. Out of this amount, 50% for the European continent, 30% for Asian and 20% for American continent indicating it has turned into a significant commercial activity. On the other hand, illegal mobility has reached to considerable numerical rate because there are many people around the world who are suffering vital difficulties such as civil wars, political issues, misery and poor living conditions.

By taking advantage of the given opportunities they (total number has reached almost 272 million) will live in different countries as immigrants and will be included in the legal system there. Another illegal mandatory human movement is the refugee movement which reached to 70.8 million in 2020 according to UNHCR data. Of this amount, 24 million are trying to survive in harsh living conditions in shelters.

In addition, apart from this numerical detected data, 3.5 millions of asylum seekers are constantly on the uncontrolled movements while their situation in terms of global health security, should be taken into significant consideration.

As an example, during the peak of the pandemic in 2020, around 6 million people who fled the civil war from Sudan to South Sudan were exposed to harsh living conditions so that most of them were suffering from a rare outbreak of yellow fever for years. Because of their large number, They could not be taken under controlling. Some of them, reached the other shores of the Mediterranean through the coast of Algeria and entered European territory.

Although some of the unauthorized entries were stopped, some were smuggled into Europe. As a result, this epidemic was spreading around Europe. As a result, this epidemic started in different parts of Europe. Moreover, due to lack of inadequate countries' budget, it is not possible to take a high level of holistic protection measures. Therefore, illegal crossings will continue and epidemics are carried to different geographies simultaneously. Hence, it is essential to take important measures under the same protocols at the global scale system.

Precautions have to be taken in order to carry out tourism activities in a strong health security system. Outbreaks (plague, cholera, fever, etc.) and spreading persistent diseases (measles, oriental boils, hepatitis) are human threats that can affect the human continuity and it should be noted that most of these threats are still made by people movements, Spanish flu can be as the most striking example in this regard.

By American continent discovery, Europeans carry the flu virus to this virgin land caused serious fatality. Over time, Native Americans also became immune to the virus. However, after a century the tropical climate of America has change. In the following periods, some of the sailors who returned to Europe began to work on the Spice route and so the new type of virus spread to Indian ocean. The aftermath of the First World War was not considerable comparing with the millions of people died by this flu and Spanish flu massacred the Eurasian continent, like the plague in a thousand years ago.

Analysing these issues will demonstrate three important points. Firstly, the people movements whether legal or illegal means will never stop increasing continuously on a global scale. Whether as a tourist, migrants or refugees, they will constantly relocate and continue to carry viruses which cause epidemics. The second issue is about boundaries. The borders controlling poses a great cost for states' budget. Therefore, most countries prefer to impose restrictions on border security and rely on the measures have been taken on the other side. This means that borders continue to be permeable. Thirdly, since states tend to continuously increase their tourism revenues, they make various campaigns for people from all over the world to come to their own countries and it causes a constant threat to health security.

The outbreak clearly reminded the world of the importance of health safety. How to deal with the large human mobility is a serious problem. These movements continue within the scope of international trade especially in the tourism sector, and the refugee movements as illegal tourists. It is obviously impossible to stop this circulation.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish a control system in which health safety is taken into account at the highest level but what kind of system can be created to ensure global health security ?. A three pillars' system has to be established.

The first pillar is the international joint health control protocols to be established within the World Health

Organization. Governments must now create a human circulation mechanism in which health safety is created with a standard practice structure at the highest level. In this way, all countries have to get equipped with the same control mechanisms hence epidemic prevention systems can be activated immediately as soon as starting another outbreak. Moreover, the weakness of the time - consuming measures which causing spreading pandemics, will be eliminated.

As the second pillar, it is essential for World Health Organization to prepare healthcare staff and specific hospitals that should be subjected to special training regarding to different types of epidemics. In this procedure, staffs will be aware of the outbreaks and different diseases occurring around the world and by interconnection they will be able to quickly diagnose an epidemic and give the specific advices to the state administrations to take immediate measures.

Third one is about people. More trainings programs should be created for people to learn that they are responsible to their family, environment and society. All travelers, should learn to take care of his health by taking hygiene measures continuously. Therefore, all people need to be raised consciously educated. In this context, health safety courses should be assigned at schools and awareness - raising programs should be carried out on social media.

2. Results

Human movements will never decrease, but rather will exceed the values obtained by the latest data. Despite developments in the field of health and healthcare, diseases will continue to pose a greater danger by differentiating and increasing threat levels. As it can be understand, the trio of health problems, country borders and human movements, as strengthening threats are the constant group of the equation.

In the past centuries, people have encountered epidemics that endangered the development of civilizations and no measures were taken against these outbreaks so that were seen at least twice in each century while passive measures such as quarantine are taken in the following periods making its progress to be slowed down.

In recent times, outbreaks such as plague, typhoid, cholera and fever have almost disappeared by vaccination. However, these experiences have been forgotten and health security, which had been thrown backward, emerged again with the ongoing Covid pandemic.

Today, by the medical development, this epidemic has not threatened our civilization like the plague did in the past. However, epidemics will always be a threat to human beings.

Tourism as a leading human mobility is both a very important activity in people's lives and a huge economic income source for countries. Therefore, stopping it will cause considerable damage to economic structures on a global scale and it is necessary to plan tourism by considering health security issues.

In this regard, each country must implement standard protocols. Because the failure to implement these protocols properly results in the lack of health security and will adversely affect international tourism. The recent success of global vaccination programmes, and vaccination certificate applications for travelers have demonstrated that these protocols can be successfully implemented in a standard manner.

Another issue is the illegal crossings at the country's borders. In this context, countries should create common border security systems through bilateral, trilateral agreements, rather than controlling their borders independently. Because ensuring border security is a costly activity and collaborative work lead to reduce it. In the first quarter of 21st century, pandemic problem that we are continuing to experience has been a significant issue for the states.

Thanks to the pandemic, numerous instructions related to health safety have been considered to be employed but countries realized that they cannot protect their communities from such pandemics by closing their borders or protecting them with high security systems. They have to act jointly and to implement standard protocols in the field of human mobilities (tourism and illegal movements), borders and health security.

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