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## Araştırma Makalesi • Research Article

### Prominent Issues About The Social Impacts of Covid-19

#### *Covid-19'un Sosyal Etkilerinde Öne Çıkan Konular*

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#### ÖZ

Bu çalışma, COVID 19 pandemisini ve pandeminin şu ana kadar olan sonuçlarını sosyolojik bir bakış açısıyla incelemeyi hedeflemektedir. Bu bağlamda, pandemi sürecinin sosyal etkilerinde öne çıkan konular üzerinde durulmuştur. Bu küresel kriz sürecinde oldukça büyük miktarda dikkat toplayan çok sayıda sosyal mesele arasında “eşitsizlikler”, “sosyal değerlerin yeniden doğuşu” ve “gündelik yaşam mekânlarındaki değişiklikler” konuları bu makalenin ana inceleme konuları olarak seçilmiştir. Bu üç sosyal mesele korona virüs pandemisi süresindeki konuları çerçevesinde ele alınmış ve yeni normal toplumsal yaşamla ilişkileri bağlamında incelenmiştir.

#### ABSTRACT

This article aims to interpret the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for now from a sociological perspective by throwing light on the prominent issues about the social impacts of this devastating problem. Among plenty of social issues which have gained a significant amount of attention during this global crisis, “inequality”, “revival of social values”, and “changes in daily life spaces” have been chosen as the core research topics of this article. These three social issues are handled in the framework of their existence through the coronavirus pandemic and their relation to the new normal social life is highlighted.

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## EXTENDED ABSTRACT

COVID-19 farklı sebep ve sonuçlarıyla birlikte tüm dünyada gündemin merkezine yerleşmiş durumdadır. 2019 yılının son günlerinde Çin'in Wuhan kentindeki kaydedilmiş ilk korona virüs vakasından bu yana, dünya genelindeki tüm haberlerin en başında gelen maddeler virüse dair bilgilerden oluşmaktadır. Bunun yanında, dünya genelini etkileyen bir sorun olmasından dolayı bu salgın Dünya Sağlık Örgütü tarafından pandemi ilan edilmiştir. Her ne kadar “salgın” kelimesi öncelikle sağlığa ilişkin konuları zihinlere getiriyor olsa da karşı karşıya kalınan bu küresel problem pek çok farklı alandaki etkileriyle yalnızca bir sağlık sorunu şeklinde nitelendirilemeyecek kadar geniş etki alanına sahip bir durumdur. Bir diğer ifadeyle, COVID-19'un pandemi olarak ilan edilmesinden sonraki zaman dilimi sağlığın yanında, ekonomi, psikoloji, tarım, politika vb. şeklinde sıralanabilecek olan farklı disiplinleri yakından ilgilendiren konuları gündeme getirmiştir.

Küresel çapta etkili olan problemler ortaya çıktıkları zamana ve mekâna göre farklı sebeplere dayanıyor olabilmekteler. Fakat bu görünen sebeplerin altında yatan farklı dinamiklerin olduğu da bilinmektedir. Buzdağının görünmeyen kısmı şeklinde nitelendirilebilecek olan bu üstü örtülü nedenler çoğunlukla insanoğlunun hatalarından kaynaklanmaktadır. Sosyolojik bir bakış açısından yaklaşıldığında, pandeminin gölgesinde yaşanan zaman dilimi Ulrich Beck'in “risk toplumu” (1992) teorisi kapsamında analiz edilebilecek özellikler taşımaktadır. Küreselleşmenin de etkisiyle dünyanın her yerine yayılan bu virüs, geleneksel risklerden farklı olarak ortaya çıkan modern risklerden biri şeklinde nitelendirilebilir. Bunun yanında, pandeminin ilanından sonraki süreç, klasik sosyoloji düşüncesinin ana isimlerinden olan Durkheim'in “anomi” tartışmasını da hatırlatmaktadır. En yalın haliyle, norm yokluğu şeklinde tanımlanabilecek olan bu kavramın hâkim olduğu zamanlarda hem birey hem de toplumlar kendilerini oldukça belirsiz, karışık ve baş edilmesi zor bir durumda bulmaktadırlar. COVID-19'un etkilerinin her yerde hissedildiği günümüz dünyasının içinde bulunduğu belirsizlik bu noktada anomi dönemi özellikleri göstermektedir.

İlk vakaların ortaya çıktığı başlangıç dönemlerinden bu yana korona virüs kaynaklı yaşanan bu küresel krize dair ekonomik, politik, sosyal vb. meseleler farklı disiplinlerden araştırmacılar tarafından farklı bakış açılarıyla ele alınmaktadır. Bu çalışma, konuyu sosyolojik bir noktadan ele almaktadır. Bu bağlamda, salgın süresince ortaya çıkan toplumsal konulardan üçüne odaklanmaktadır. “Eşitsizlik”, “sosyal değerlerin canlanması” ve “gündelik yaşam alanlarında değişim” şeklinde sıralanan bu üç sosyal mesele, uzun zamandır var olan ve korona süreci ile birlik-te daha belirgin bir şekilde görünür hale gelen tartışma alanlarıdır.

Bilindiği üzere, sosyal eşitsizlik neredeyse her toplumda var olan önemli bir sorun alanıdır. Bununla birlikte, tarihsel süreçte yaşanan birtakım büyük kırılmalar hâlihazırda var olan bu problemlerin daha canlı bir şekilde görülmelerine ve deneyimlenmelerine yol açarlar. Korona virüs pandemisi ve etkileri hem dünya çapında hem de aynı ülkenin farklı katmanları arasında dengesiz bir dağılım göstermektedir. Bir diğer deyişle, görülmektedir ki küresel bir problem olmasına rağmen, korona virüs toplumun farklı açılardan dezavantajlara sahip üyelerini diğerlerine göre daha fazla etkilemektedir. Düşük gelir grupları, yaşlılar, siyahi vatandaşlar, göçmenler vb. gruplar yaşama, çalışma ve barınma koşulları başta olmak üzere pek çok açıdan virüse yakalanma açısından daha büyük bir risk altındadırlar. Bu gruplara ek olarak, kadınlar da pandeminin olumsuz etkileri ile mücadele yükü altında ezilmektedirler. Bu nedenle, toplumsal cinsiyet eşitsizliği ve aile ilişkileri konuları pandemi sürecinde sıklıkla gündeme gelmektedir. Ayrıca, yaşanan bu küresel salgın eşitsizlikler alanında iki yönlü bir etkiye sahiptir. Pandemi süreci var olan toplumsal adaletsizlikleri yeniden gündeme getirmenin yanında özellikle ekonomi alanında yaşanan sorunlarla birlikte dezavantajlı grupların durumunu mücadele edilmesi daha da zorlaşan bir hale getirmektedir.

Pandemi deneyimi bünyesinde barındırdığı zorlayıcı durumların yanında birtakım olumlu gelişmelere de sebep olmaktadır. Yaşanılan bu küresel krizin toplumsal yaşama olumlu etkilerin-den bir tanesi bazı sosyal değerlere verilen önemin artmasıdır. Bu durum çoğunlukla işletmeler için kullanılan “krizi fırsata çevirmek” deyişini hatırlatmaktadır. İçinde bulunulan bu karanlık atmosferin olumlu bir etkisi olarak nitelendirilebilecek olan sonuçların başında, bir toplumun özünü oluşturan unsurlardan olan sosyal değerlerin yeniden hatırlanıyor olması gelmektedir. Ötekini düşünme, empati, yaşlılara, fakirlere, ihtiyaç sahiplerine yardım etme, israf etmeme ve paylaşma gibi sosyal değerler bu süreçte en öne çıkanlardır. Virüsten korunmak için birbirlerinden uzak kalması saik verilen bireylerin bu zaman diliminde toplumun diğer üyelerine dair farkındalıklarının artması toplumsal yaşamda meydana gelen değişimlerin farklı boyutlarının olduğunu göstermektedir.

Korona virüs pandemisinin öne çıkan sosyal konularına dair bir çerçeve çizen bu çalışmada ele alınan son başlık bu zaman diliminde gündelik yaşam alanlarındaki değişimlerdir. Pandemi kısıtlamalarının olmadığı dönemlerde kamusal alanda yerine getirdikleri vazifelerinin ya da yaptıkları eylemlerinin neredeyse hepsini evlerinden yürütüyor olma hali gerek birey gerekse toplum yaşamı için önemli bir değişimdir. Toplantılar, dersler, kurslar, konserler, sergiler, tiyatro oyunları gibi pek çok etkinlik internet teknolojilerinin sunduğu imkânlarla ekranlar aracılığıyla düzenlenmekte ve yürütülmektedir. Kişilerin aynı ortamda bulunmalarına dolayısıyla virüsün bulaşıcılığının artmasına engel olmak için yapılan bu düzenlemeler gündelik yaşam alışkanlıklarını büyük ölçüde değiştirmiştir. Yüz yüze etkileşimle yürütmeye alışık olunan toplumsal yaşam, farklı bir boyuta taşınmış ve bu bağlamda pek çok alanı ile hayat internet ortamına taşınmıştır. Bir diğer deyişle, gündelik yaşam etkinliklerinin gerçekleştirilebileceği sanal mekânlar oluşturulmuştur ve bu süreç tüm dünyada devam etmektedir. Toplumsal yaşamın merkezlerinden biri olan gündelik yaşam alanlarındaki bu değişimin gelecek dönemde ne gibi yansımaları olacağı da bu süreçteki ana tartışma konularından bir tanesidir.

## Introduction

World history is bundled with drastic happenings which served as turning points on a wide range of realms. Several wars, disasters, revolutions, contagious diseases and so on and so forth have had devastating impacts on the lives of numerous people and places. Beyond so many other events, the year 2020 will probably be remembered by COVID-19 which is the name of a virus that turned the world up side down.

COVID-19 dominates world's agenda in the guise of different facts and causes. Its first recorded emergence was in the last days of 2019 in Wuhan, China. Since those days, it has portrayed a hasty spread all around the world. The exposure to the virus happens so quickly that not only regular citizens but also the experts of the field have been watching through and commenting on the daily updates with a great sense of ambiguity and confusion. Tragically enough, the doctor who was the first to detect the virus and tried to warn the public against it also died because of being infected to COVID-19.

Countries have been working hard to formulate the optimum strategy in their struggle against COVID-19. There exists no such limit on earth which fits each and every culture or individual. Therefore, the social precautions against the virus are being adopted in different ways by different cultures and people. In other words, as it is true for several realms, the strictly determined struggling ways against even a global health problem finds holes to leak out from their boundaries under the comfort of sociocultural differences. For instance, some governments took severe precautions whereas some others chose to wait for some time before applying strict limitations. Some countries decided on applying the method of herd immunity which is "also referred to as 'indirect protection' or 'herd effect' and implies that the risk of infection among susceptible individuals in a population is reduced by the presence and proximity of immune individuals" (Fine, Eames and Heymann, 2011, p. 911).

There may be several different causes of a global crisis including a virus but underneath these global problems there appears to exist much more deeper ones which are results of human beings' wrong deeds. In the modernized and capitalized world of ours, a lot of places are facing with ecological problems; different kinds of migration, many types of inequalities such as economic, social etc., sharpened social divisions, people no longer feel themselves secure; racist attitudes have become stronger; gender problems still exist and people are nervous about their future (Scambler, 2020, p. 142). Giddens also identifies modernity as a vehicle which is driven by human beings to some extent but on some occasions it is out of our control. Even at times when it gives the feeling of moving forward on a secure direction, it may go astray which is a feeling of being open to risks (Giddens, 1990). From a sociological point of view, the days that today's world is going through brings to minds Ulrich Beck's renowned theory of "risk society" (1992). As he perfectly puts forward in his work, modern industrialized societies are prone to face different risks than the ones experienced in premodern times. He describes these risks from different angles and attributes important features to them one of which is their acting like a boomerang. Living in a global world brings about a bunch of disadvantages aside with several ways easing human life. Any kind of move is so much easier than the premodern era in the global world which is a fact that enables anything including a virus to be moved from one location to another in a very easy and quick way. Additionally, in this world which can be described as a "global village" (McLuhan, 1968), risks bear the property of traveling all around the world and turning back to its place of birth just in the case of Covid19. The virus have been carried all over the world by people and it also affects its country of origin which is China.

Apart from the risk society aspects of COVID-19, period after the outbreak of the pandemic shows the characteristics of anomi which is a term coined by Durkheim, one of the fathers of classical sociological thought. In its simplest way, anomi can be defined as the absence of norms which is a confusing situation for individuals and societies. Since there has not been

found a universally accepted cure or vaccine for this illness, scientists of all branches just keep on saying their individual comments or forecasts about the virus. No doubt, they are building all these upon scientific truths and facts but still they can not go very far from saying blurred words since there doesn't exist a certain cure for the illness nor an accurate foresight of the upcoming days. This atmosphere makes life hard for human beings especially because of the fact that daily life issues are facing several problems at times of uncertainty.

This article aims to interpret the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for now from a sociological perspective by throwing light on the prominent issues about the social impacts of the corona virus. Among plenty of social issues which have gained a significant amount of attention during this global crisis, "inequality", "revival of social values", and "changes in daily life spaces" have been chosen as the core research topics of this article. These three social issues are handled in the framework of their existence through the coronavirus pandemic and their relation to the new normal social life is highlighted. Through this analysis, it is aimed to show a glimpse of three important sociological debates of this period and furthermore to give ideas for upcoming studies.

### **Social Inequalities**

A period of pandemic is related to the field of health in the first hand by its nature. However, there exists a long list of subtitles which are in co-existence with that problematic phenomenon. As it is well known, each and every happening that take place on earth bear strong links with many different issues and the case of corona virus is a lively example of this fact. Apart from reasons and solutions related to health, there are several significant social dimensions of this crisis. The problem of inequalities is one of these prominent social issues that should strongly be highlighted in Covid19 researches. The term inequality is defined as "unequal rewards or opportunities for different individuals within a group or groups within a society" (Marshall and Scott, 2009); "the unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, money, etc. than other people"; "a lack of equality or fair treatment in the sharing of wealth or opportunities"; "a situation in which money or opportunities are not shared equally between different groups of society" (Cambridge Dictionary, 2020). As it is cleared through the definitions, inequalities may result from a big bunch of different reasons. Additionally, it usually gains more visibility during and after crisis whereas inequality is a social problem which has a long way back in history. In other words, the times of crisis, perpetuate the already existing problems such as social inequalities and "a defining characteristic of poor households is lack of a cushion with which to weather a crisis" (Food and Culture Organization of United States [FAO], 2020, p. 5).

The happenings during the pandemic have shed light on the inequalities in the society. In general understanding, discriminative attitudes towards some group of people on the grounds of economic properties, race or ethnicity, age, and gender occupies the first steps on the ladder of social inequalities. In addition to that, the experience of inequalities may be different in each era which is an issue that can be witnessed in the differences between modern and pre-modern times. As Beck (1992) puts it forward, the modern risk societies embodies changes in terms of social inequalities. He asserts that the focus of social inequality has shifted from "wealth distribution" to the one of "risk distribution". When the debate of social inequalities that have been faced with during the corona virus pandemic is examined in the light of this hypothesis, it is seen that certain dimensions of societies are seemed to be disadvantageous in terms of being exposed to or infected by the virus. For instance, excluding and undervaluing black people, the poor and the old in societies has turned out to be more visible during the corona virus pandemic. Apart from that, these features, which are parts of individuals' and societies' identities, also appear as reasons to be stigmatized during a crisis. As Goffman puts it forward clearly enough, stigma acts as an obstacle to an individual's being accepted by the society or physical

or social characteristic or a sign that deprives an individual from his/her social identity (Goffman, 1963). As of corona virus pandemic, this happens because of the fact that people falling into these categories are evaluated as being more prone to be infected by the virus and as a result, as the ones that should be kept away in order to keep safe from the virus.

United Nations (2020, p.7) presents a long list of the vulnerable groups which are under the threat of being affected by the pandemic on unequal terms with the rest of the population and includes the elderly, women, migrants, the poor etc. in this list. The disparities exist not only on individual level but also on the country based one. That is to say, countries on a higher level of economic welfare are less likely to be effected by the devastating outcomes of the virus whereas the picture is vice versa for the poorer ones (Schellekens and Sourrouille, 2020). That is to say, inequalities stand there as one of the most important social dimensions of the corona virus pandemic and in direct relation with that several news agents (Fisher and Bubola, 2020; Sandoiu, 2020; Vesoulis, 2020), and international institutions have been producing articles and reports to draw attention to this issue (Ostri, Loungani and Furceri, 2020).

As it was asserted earlier this section, among all the inequalities, the ones related to economic status, race, gender, and age are the most prominent ones that have been moved to the surface along with the debates of COVID-19. This is actually a problem which is in direct connection with social determinants of health. "The term social determinant of health is often used to refer broadly to any nonmedical factors influencing health, including health-related knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors (such as smoking). These factors, however, represent only the most downstream determinants in the causal pathways influencing health; they are shaped by more upstream determinants" (Braveman, Egerter and Williams, 2020, p. 383). Surprisingly enough, the upstream ones which are not given attention on an adequate level, bear quite strong impacts on individuals' of different socio-economic status access to health services. These determinants can be listed as educational background, discriminations of race, economic sources etc. (Braveman, Egerter and Williams, 2020, pp. 392). As it is already known, income inequality diminishes the ability to lead a healthy life (Kawachi and Kennedy, 1999; Preston, 1975). The days of COVID-19 has proven a no different picture from this argument. That is to say, people who do not work under formal standards and the ones who do not have a permanent job have been bearing the hardest economic burden of the crisis. Loss of income comes along with other problems in social life (FAO, 2020, p. 4). Moreover, the precaution against corona virus that is highlighted at the utmost level is social distance which require people to stay home, is another situation that moves economic inequalities onto the surface. People of low or no income usually do not have the luxury to stay home and work remotely or have a social life through the screen since all of these require different kinds of capital (Yancy, 2020, p. 1891). Governments have taken precautions on different levels in order to support low income families but still there exist wide gaps among different social classes in terms of economic sources at times of crisis and lock downs. Additionally, there exist some occupations that have no choice of working from home and are much more busier than before during times of crisis such as health workers, security workers, cargo workers, and workers of food and beverage stores. This segments of societies have to continue working and do not usually have the chance to keep away from the public, stay home and protect themselves from the virus (Blundell, Dias, Joyce and Xu, 2020, p. 301).

According to this distinction, racial discrimination is among the upstream factors that are among the reasons of inequalities in terms of issues related to health. Corona virus' time line is continuing to be a proof of this assertion. Black people's unequal status regarding to the struggle against COVID-19 is one of the most lively examples of this situation. In other words, black people's being exposed to the corona virus disproportionately is a serious problem which constitutes for the social facade of the crisis (Caplan, Stewart, Smitteneer and Sgaier, 2020). Reports have shown that there exists a big gap between the deaths of black and white citizens

in the USA. It is shown that, black or African American people's death ratio is 2.4 times higher than the one of white people in addition to that, among the deaths because of COVID-19, black people's ones account for %21 of all (Ledur, 2020). The places where black people live are usually poor settings in which the number of residents are high, illegal activities are common and having a healthy diet is a low chance. This frame of inadequate socioeconomic level itself is an indication of risky occasions even without a virus or so (Yancy, 2020, p. 1891).

Apart from racial differences, gender constitutes another point which appears as a prevailing factor which leads to inequalities during corona virus pandemic. That is to say, the social atmosphere of the pandemic haven't affected men and women on equal terms. As it is widely known, gender based discriminations is a prevailing problem worldwide. However, times of crisis are perfect occasions for gender inequalities to exarcabate. As of corona virus days, the most highlighted issues that have a strong influence on women are listed as in the following points:

- Greater burden of domestic and care work
  - Higher rates of job losses
  - Reduced financial independence and future prospects
  - Increased risk of pregnancy-related deaths and teen pregnancies
  - Spikes in sexual, physical, and domestic violence and exploitation
  - Increased risk for front-line health workforce
  - Reduced access to vital health services and exclusion from potential COVID-19 treatments
- ([https://www.fsg.org/sites/default/files/7%20issues%20affecting%20women%20during%20covid-19\\_0.pdf](https://www.fsg.org/sites/default/files/7%20issues%20affecting%20women%20during%20covid-19_0.pdf))

Lock downs are one of the most widely taken precautions against the quick spread of the virus and a lock down means people's being stuck at home with all the family together. The reflections of being at home together with all family members for a long time is a totally distinct area of research which is beyond the aim of this article. This manuscript handles the issue only from gender inequalities perspective which sheds light onto mostly the problem of sharing house chores in daily life. Whether they work outside or inside home, it constitutes a great burden for the female to carry the whole responsibility of housework. The situation have transformed into a harsher face during the lock down periods since every member's being at home means more housework even for the least crowded families. In addition to the house chores, women are expected to take care of the ill, the old members of the family, and the children who are at home and being educated online. At times when this work is not shared among the family members, women's burden becomes much more bigger and harder. In addition to the issues related to private place there exists some other inequalities between men and women that have emerged from the happenings during the pandemic. McKinsey Global Institute has published a report digging the details about the pandemic's impacts on socio-economic issues regarding gender differences. According to that data, one of the most prominent negative effects of that period on women is related to labour life. That is to say, women are not equally represented in industries that are most likely to lose capacity because of corona virus in 2020. These industries are listed as accomodation and food services; retail and wholesale trade; services and it is added that the jobs that usually are occupied by females are at %19 greater risk than the ones of men. Other studies also have found out that at time of reductions, women are the group of workers which are to be fired in the first hand in the cases in which both parents are employed. Additionally, schools' and day care services' being closed during COVID-19 is another factor that may obliged women to leave their jobs as they are accepted as the main caregivers of children (Collins, Landivar, Ruppanner and Scarborough, 2020, p. 10). Moreover, women constitute the largest group of health workers worldwide which is a situation makes them working hard in the struggle against the virus. It has been estimated that %70 of all nurses around the world are females (FAO, 2020, p. 6). Therefore, women are likely to lose their jobs and fall in a disadvantageous position on economic terms as an outcome of this global health crisis. Moreover, the

outcomes of such inequalities towards women have the potential of continuing to exist even after the virus is over (McLaren, Wong, Nguyen and Mahamadachchi, 2020, p. 1), which will probably be a serious societal problem in the long run.

The third and last category of social inequality which has gained importance along with the corona virus days and which is in the framework of this manuscript is the one directed to the elderly. The elderly are most of the time evaluated as the segments of populations which are in need of social connection for their minimum requirements of living (Leland, 2020). The physical, psychological, and socioeconomic needs of old age makes people be dependant on others. Health specialists have been emphasizing from the very first days of the pandemic very affirmingly that people older than the age of 65 are more vulnerable to the virus than the others. This data was followed by numerous warnings of different sources and several restrictions regarding the elderly's daily lives. The restrictions differ from their being bound to stay home and not allowed to go out for an unlimited time to being allowed to leave home on certain days and hours. This situation has paved the way to several kinds of discriminative attitudes towards the elderly. There happened and is continuing to exist examples of ageism which make the older ones of populations feel themselves as being not wanted to be seen in the public place or as a burden to society which is an already existing feeling for many people after a certain age because of the physical, psychological, economical and social dimensions of old age. Being stuck at home reduces social contact which is a basic need for human beings since we are social by nature. However, the period of pandemic have obliged governments to take precautions in order to minimize social contact just because of the virus' uncontrollable spread is much more worse when people are in close physical contact with each other. Having not enough social contact in daily life may have several different effects on different age groups. However, for old people who mostly have difficulty in fulfilling their daily life needs such as shopping for basic needs, taking their pills, using house utilities etc., being in social contact with others is a matter of vital importance. Therefore, the compulsory precautions against the corona virus have made life harder for the elderly. The ageist attitudes towards them is worsening this already harsh situation for them (Kendall-Taylor, Neumann and Schoen, 2020). In addition to that, the elderly are prone to psychological and psychiatric risks of the corona virus period which have risen because of being isolated and feeling of loneliness. Feeling of being lonely diminishes the strength of the immune system which is already not that strong in old people (Solomon, 2020, p. 1). Another problematic situation related to the being isolated of the elderly because of limitations on travelling is that, it is really hard for people who have old relatives with serious illnesses such as cancer and are in need of help, to reach these elderly and take care of them. Moreover, this may give the feeling of being a threat to the wellbeing of the family and society to the elderly (Koon, 2020, p. 91). In return, the already fragile bonds of old people with the society will get even looser day by day.

Apart from the issues mentioned above, there exist some other inequalities in terms of new ways of socialization between the elderly and the rest of the population. People under a certain age for instance the ones that were born after 70s are more or less acquainted with technology at least on a certain scale and in parallel with their friendship with especially devices that use internet to communicate, they have the chance to continue their social life online. However, on the reverse side of the coin is the people above a certain age who are not that good at using devices in order to see their loved ones or who do not have adequate economic sources to possess such devices. These people are having difficulties to find ways of socializing other than face to face contact and this make the results of the pandemic being scattered disproportionately among different age groups.

Above all, even the warnings against the vulnerable groups themselves may act as sources of discriminative attitudes towards them. This situation is in a strong linkage with the neoliberal understanding which gives all the responsibility of his/her deeds to the individual including the

ones related to leading a healthy life or vice versa. As of today, body is a private entity beyond question and its owner is the sole responsible for its care and wellbeing. Individuals no longer have someone to put the blame on for the unwanted weeds or broken fountains in the garden. This situation throws human being in a position which is very scary and open to all kinds of threats (Bauman, 2018a, p.165). In order not to cause new inequalities under the disguise of protecting oneself and the society, one should be aware of neoliberal traps which lay the whole burden of one's well being on the individual himself/herself and fail to evaluate each and every person in his/her own social standards.

### **Revival of Social Values**

Apart from the inequalities that have become more visible during the COVID-19 pandemic, revival of some social values have appeared to be another social impact of the situation. It may be named under a term which is used in business life mostly and that is "turning the crisis into an opportunity" since reminding people the unique values that make them a real society is something that should be evaluated as the positive reflection of this gloomy atmosphere. Surprisingly enough, the virus has played two different roles at the same time which are just the opposite of each other. That is to say, the period of corona virus crisis has been reinforcing the practices that are against social inclusion whereas it has revived some forgotten social values fighting with social injustices such as helping the poor and elderly, consuming less and sharing one's belongings.

Values are essential- particularly in times of crisis. As the fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate people, organizations, and communities, they provide a basis for social justice and belief in necessary institutions. They also express personal and collective judgments about what is important- influenced by culture, religion, and laws. Values can potentially spur purposeful action aimed at increasing equality, decreasing harm to the environment, and improving global health (World Economic Forum, 2020).

Before going further through the linkage between corona virus pandemic and the social values, it should be enlightening to give a brief information about the notion of value. Spranger (1914) classified values in 6 main groups which are listed as; theoretical, economic, aesthetic, social, political and religious values. To understand the important place of values for societies it is useful to look at the functions of values. Mondal (2020) classifies the functions of values under four main category;

1. Values provide goals or ends for the members to aim for.
2. Values provide for stabilities and uniformities in group interaction. They hold the society together because they are shared in common. Some sociologists argue that shared values form the basis for social unity. Since they share the same values with others, the members of society are likely to see others as "people like themselves". They will therefore, have a sense of belonging to a social group. They will feel a part of the wider society.
3. Values bring legitimacy to the rules that govern specific activities. The rule are accepted as rules and followed mainly because they embody the values that most people accept. The Americans for example, believe that the capitalist organization is the best one because it allows people to seek success in life.
4. Values help to bring about some kind of adjustment between different sets of rules. The people seek the same kinds of ends or goals in different field of their life. Hence, it is possible for them to modify the rules to help the pursuit of this end.

As it is clear from these points, values have a unique place for a society. Moreover, studies assert that especially during crisis, if the social network mechanisms are not strong or tight enough, people are more open to the negative effects (FAO, 2020, p. 4).The days of pandemic has reminded modern man the importance of these social glues and this can be evaluated as one of the most prevailing social impacts of the Covid19 phenomenon. Additionally, studies



have asserted that empowering the economical factors is not enough in diminishing the inequalities regarding health issues. What is recommended is that social values such as social cohesion (Kawachi and Kennedy, 1999) is very significant in fighting with the remnants of the pandemic.

A hallmark of the virus is the way it has revived some social values and studies have shown that social values are required on international level to mitigate the effects of the virus more successfully (Jarynowski, Kempa-Wojta, Platek and Belik, 2020). The virus and its effects follow a disproportionate distribution both around the world and in the same country. It has been asserted numerous times that falling into certain social categories makes you more vulnerable to the risk of virus. UN's following statements are enlightening enough to summarize the situation.

The COVID-19 outbreak affects all segments of the population and is particularly detrimental to members of those social groups in the most vulnerable situations, continues to affect populations, including people living in poverty situations, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, and indigenous peoples. Early evidence indicates that the health and economic impacts of the virus are being borne disproportionately by poor people. For example, homeless people, because they may be unable to safely shelter in place, are highly exposed to the danger of the virus. People without access to running water, refugees, migrants, or displaced persons also stand to suffer disproportionately both from the pandemic and its aftermath – whether due to limited movement, fewer employment opportunities, increased xenophobia etc. (UN, 2020).

Assertions such as the one above and the obliged days of staying at home give people time to think about issues related to social justice which is the starting fire of the attempt to care for the other. As it is well known, the time of modernization is named after numerous different terms most of which have some vital concepts in common such as consumption, speed, individuality etc. All of these frequently heard ingredients of the modern era have made modern self indifferent to not only the environment but also the human beings surrounding himself/herself. As Bauman (2018c) puts it forward clearly, liquid life which is another adjective to define the modern life, expects individuals to be in such a hurry that there remains no excuse to be left behind of the daily renewals of anything and everything. Moreover, liquid life is to consume life in a way which transforms the world as a whole with its living and non-living things into objects to be consumed. The urge to prioritize yourself in order to survive among the harsh winds of the competitive modern world, has created a living organism who is not able to find enough time energy, and space to think upon the underlying problems in this fast lived daily life. Just in the middle of these days of hasty life, the corona virus phenomenon fell like a meteor which has been leading to once in a life time experiences for the whole world. This shock has made people think about many things in their lives and made them decide to do some arrangements that depend on social values such as seeing the other, helping the other, questioning the belongings they have, questioning the time division of their daily lives etc. These questions have led to the erosion of importance given to certain daily life issues and paved the way to unique enlightenments for many people and they have taken some positions such as changes in expenditure from luxury to basics, looking for the poor and elderly around themselves in order to support them socioeconomically. Besides these individual and societal attempts, governments have started campaigns to collect money with the aim of making citizens give a hand to them in their struggle with the virus. Such campaigns have also revived the social values such as helping to others, being conscious about others' problems, caring for the ill, the elderly, the handicapped etc. All of these steps in the way to the revival of social values reminds the assertion that says that the essence of morals is the responsibility that individuals feels for others (Bauman, 2018b, p. 109). Therefore, the virus should act as a teacher to humanity and direct people towards the urge to understand each other on a level far from any kind of prejudices and

to look for the advantage of knowing other peoples' and countries' knowledge about COVID-19 (Acharya, 2020).

As it is the case for all social issues, time will show if this growing emphasis on social values is something permanent or is just a foam that will disappear when the virus disappears. However, the reflections by now regarding not only individuals' but also states' emphasis on social values indicates the anticipation which gives a glimpse of a long period of time during when being sensitive about social values will be a prevailing issue in daily life.

### **Differences in Daily Life Spaces**

Health is a matter of adaptation and a kind of reaction that is shaped by culture. It is the ability to adapt the changing dynamics around one's life, to grow, to get old, to heal, to feel pain, and wait the time of death in peace. Health incapsulates the future, too and for that reason it bears the spiritual power that is required to live in pain (Illich, 2014, p. 182). In parallel with that, health crisis such as the one the world is going through these days requires both individuals and societies to find new ways of adaptation in the dynamics of COVID-19 in order to pursue their everyday life. The third and last social impact of the corona virus experience that is handled through this manuscript is the differences in daily life spaces. People started to do almost everything at home whereas they used to be obliged to be in the public space to fulfill these duties. The most prominent changes in terms of space is the ones of work and education. Education of every level have started to be given online in many parts of the world. School age children have been experiencing learning at home through screens instead of one to one physical interaction with their teachers and friends. Studies have shown the deficiencies in settings of home-education which range from economic inequalities among children to the biophysiosociological effects of childrens' staying home for every activity of their daily routines (Adnan and Anwar, 2020; Viner et al., 2020). Working from home is the other leading activity that dominated the timeline after the burst of the pandemic. Home office type of work has been chosen especially for most of the white collar workers since the very first instances of the corona virus. Not only the occupation categories that are already used to the concept of working from home such as translators but also the ones that have almost no experience of this type of work such as primary school instructors have found themselves in a sudden situation which is forcing them to make all their labour time programmes be transformed into a home-office one (Kramer and Kramer, 2020, p. 2). Children's being educated online and labour force's working in a home atmosphere means a lot in a social framework which should be examined in a detailed way and is beyond the scope of this study. In addition to the change of working places many other public activities have been moved onto digital platforms. Museums, concerts, libraries, courses etc. have been started to be active online and mostly for free. This picture depicts a life that is bound to be lived indoors with all its dimensions from education to work and from personal hobbies to cultural activities. In addition to that, people are keen on shopping online even for tiny items for their kitchens or pets. Online shopping is not a brand new phenomenon of course but COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on people's inclination to wandering through internet sites instead of streets or malls. Therefore, it can be asserted that the transformations in everyday life spaces appears as a significant factor which has the potential of transforming daily habits of individuals.

One of the best terms to define this phenomena is "wicked problem" which is a problem that is very hard or impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory, and changing dimensions that are very severe to recognize (Wikipedia, 2020). One of the required practises that is constantly being emphasized all through the issues related to corona virus is the urgent need to minimize one to one interaction of people. The underlying ground of this decision is the fact that the virus is spread via the social gatherings of people (Connell, 2020, p. 3). Therefore, this period has settled in the core of daily life which is social interaction. People have been

busy trying to find different ways of intimacy other than face-to-face interaction which is a form they are used to have as an indispensable part of their daily interaction routines. Meetings are organized through screens because of the fact that being present in the same physical space have become a threat to people's health. Individuals' reliance on face to face interaction has to be changed and they have been disengaged from their social environments. Therefore, the virtual spaces mentioned above have been created and are continuing to be created. This situation is prevalent all over the world. Arranging meetings online, doing all the issues regarding professional life online, meeting friends online, doing psychological therapies online etc. have been dominating daily life since the emergence of corona virus pandemic. This new way of daily life has advantages to a certain extent most prominent of which is its being less time consuming by the help of digital technologies. However, there exist several other disadvantages of lacking social interaction in the same physical setting and being online most of the time. "Zoom fatigue", which basically is the term for being too much into technology for several occasions, is the most significant one of these problems (Fosslie and Duffy, 2020). Moving daily life responsibilities and activities to a digital platform makes people being mentally tired of this period of looking at screens.

In addition to these significant issues regarding the compulsory changes in daily life spaces, individual's understanding of and relation with space is being expected to be subjected to some changes. Whether the meaning of being outside, sparing time on the streets will take a different guise or not is also an issue of debate. Moreover, it is also being questioned if there is going to be changes in terms of space design after the pandemic is over (Honey-Roses et al, 2020, p. 2). Therefore, it can be asserted that the corona virus pandemic embodies in itself not only new ways of using the space but also different forms of building it in accordance with the so called "new normal" life style.

### Conclusion

COVID-19 entered our daily lives with devastating effects. This pandemic is continuing to effect a great number of issues of several fields. That is to say, the period of pandemic has tremendous effects not only on health but also on economy, psychology, social life etc. Therefore this global crisis has to be handled from a wide perspective with neat touches on the points which are likely to be influenced by this extraordinary timeline of the universe. First recorded emergence of the virus was in the city of Wuhan, China in the very closing days of 2019. The virus has showed a very quick spread not only in the country of its origin but all over the world since then.

From the very first days of this global crisis several political, economic, social and psychological issues have been examined by researchers from different fields from changing point of views. This piece of work handled the issue from a sociological perspective by concentrating on three main points that were already there for a long time and have appeared more lively on the surface in accompany with the events related to COVID 19 pandemic. These three topics are; "inequality", "revival of social values", and "changes in daily life spaces".

As it is widely known, social inequality is one of the prevailing problems in almost each and every society. Governments and individuals have been trying hard to fight with the circumstances paving the way to inequalities in a society but there still exist codes and practises that are feeding daily life issues in the opposite direction from the one of giving individuals the opportunity of living life on equal terms with each other. So, inequality is not a brand new problem which occurred in the course of COVID-19 pandemic. However, such turning points in world history highlight the already existing social problems one of which is social inequalities. Although it is a worldwide pandemic, corona virus is recorded and noted to have been effecting the vulnerable groups in a society much more than the others. That is to say poor people, the elderly, blacks, immigrants etc. are more open to risk of being infected by the virus because of

their living conditions. In addition to these groups, women are also under the burden of struggling with the problematic reflections of the period of pandemi.

Apart from the inequalities that have become more visible during the COVID19 pandemic, revival of some social values have appeared to be another social impact of the situation. It may be named under a term which is used in business life mostly and that is “turning the crisis into an opportunity” since reminding people the unique values that make them a real society is something that should be evaluated as the positive reflection of this gloomy atmosphere. Individuals have found time and opportunity to think about others and several other social values. Empathy, hospitability, respect for the elderly, caring for the other are prevailing social values that experienced a revival during the pandemic.

The third and last social impact of the corona virus experience that is handled through this manuscript is the differences in daily life spaces. People started to do almost everything at home whereas they used to be obliged to be in the public space to fulfill most of their daily life duties. Working from home is the leading activity that dominated the timeline after the burst of the pandemic. Home office type of work has been chosen especially for most of the white collar workers since the very first instances of the pandemic. In addition to the change of working places many other public activities have been moved onto digital platforms. Museums, concerts, libraries, courses etc. have been started to be active online and for free in most instances. Additionally, friend meetings are being conducted online through online meeting applications or programmes. All of these have changed the socialization understanding of the individual. In other words, people have started to find new ways of spending their daily lives on digital platforms rather than gathering together in public places.

To conclude with, it seems clear that people from different layers of society will have to work hard for a long time in order to mitigate the impacts of this crisis. The effects of the pandemic will probably unfold in a long timeline about what no one can anticipate even an approximate duration. This paper has tried to pose a glimpse of the prominent social issues that have been revived with the period of pandemic so far. It is for sure that rigorous studies are and will be needed to examine the diverse effects of the corona virus in detail.

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