



## RISK SOCIETY : COVID 19 TO OMICRON

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### ABSTRACT

*This research paper discusses risk society: the COVID 19 to Omicron. Today, social risks have become part of our daily lives as human beings. From one risk to another risk we are constantly facing the issues. On the surface, the COVID-19 pandemic appears to fit into the risk society framework as a threat posed by globalization's modernization process. Coronaviruses, on the other hand, represent a very specific type of risk that risk theory fails to adequately describe. Recently the example of COVID 19 can be taken as a major risk to the world. If we find the solution we are facing another problem and it creates another COVID 19 can be considered as a global risk.*

**Key Words :** COVID 19, Risk Society, Pandemic, Ulrich Beck

### INTRODUCTION

What kind of risk is the COVID-19 pandemic? Ulrich Beck who has given the concept of Risk Society. He argues that the risk which is inherent in modern society would contribute towards the formation of a global risk society. In a modern society, there is technological change. Risk society is applying to the real issues such as COVID 10 and its variant. On the surface, the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be a threat posed by globalization's modernization process, which fits into the risk society framework. Coronaviruses, on the other hand, are a very unique sort of risk that risk theory fails to capture well. Risk is the most important part of today's society. We can't find any factors without risk.

### Risk Society by Ulrich Beck

The concept of Risk Society is given by German Sociologist Ulrich Beck. According to **Beck** "A society in which the unknown and unintended consequences come to be a dominant force

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in history and society. In the risk society, the past loses the power to determine the present. Its place is taken by the future, thus, something non-existence, invented, fictive as the 'cause' of current experiences and action. It is a 'Catastrophical Society' in which the exceptional condition threatens to become the norm."

According to **Pramod K. Nayar** Contemporary critical theory has had to negotiate with massive environmental disaster, industrial disaster, 9/11 and other cataclysmic events. Much contemporary social theory examines the role such events play in culture. One of the most influential of such theories is that of the risk society.

According to the British sociologist **Anthony Giddens**, a risk society is "a society increasingly preoccupied with the future (and also with safety), which generates the notion of risk"

### **COVID 19 in "Risk Society"**

The German sociologist Ulrich Beck defined them as the systematic way of dealing with the perils and insecurities resulting from modernization Beck gave this term to find out the risk in society.

Mansouri Fardin in his article described that Beck attributed this issue to a broad change, which he called "reflexive modernization", where the unintended and unpredictable impacts of modern life on modernity take place. (**Mansouri Fardin**) Modernity is also a part of risk society.

In the risk society, the people's concerns are shifted from natural disasters to the perils resulting from human activities, which are often global and widespread (**Turner 2002**). Human activities play a vital role in creating a global risk. Risk society does not merely arise from the reality that daily life has generally become more dangerous; the problem is more about fading the borders of uncontrollable risks.

In the context of pandemic diseases, and in particular, COVID-19, which can be defined as a disease of the risk society, this uncontrollable border fading is noticeably visible—from all developing to developed countries. Based on Beck's theory, such interconnectivity is full of risks that the society has failed to identify and act upon proactively. For example, pollution and health hazards and terrorism show that the tools to proactively tackle such risks are not available or are not well developed.

In addition, risks from social interconnectivity and interdependence continue to happen largely because they are not easily visible and calculable, but more importantly, there is no

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accountability. Social progress and the development of risks without being able to localize responsibility reflects Beck's reference to a "boomerang effect" in the sense that the consequences of social progress are backfiring and strike all people regardless of social class, even those who actually produced them.

As **Lash and Wynne** write in the introduction of Beck's book on risk society, "We are therefore concerned no longer exclusively with making nature useful or with releasing mankind from traditional constraints, but also and essentially with problems resulting from techno-economic development itself."

### **The Management of Covid-19: Power Relations, Visibility, and Responsibility**

In the context of Covid-19, governments mostly depended on epidemiologists, virologists, and public health professionals to keep the virus from spreading. Staying at home, working at home, cleaning hands, and using antiseptics were among the strategies. These policies did not try to address any additional implications, such as socioeconomic and psychosocial ones, and they were established by professionals without involving people in conversations, despite the fact that they could be easily comprehended by individuals with little experience in pandemic control. Controlling COVID 19 cases was a difficult task. The process of designing and executing measures is central to risk society.

A previously invisible risk became obvious through the process of creating and executing the measures, ownership and accountability now had an author, and two contrasting groups were symbolically established.

The threat of Covid-19 became obvious in the notion that this was a virus that occurred in the wild and might spread with the help of those who did not follow the rules. As a result, the invisible foe was transformed into a foe with allies, whose expansion accelerated as people's sociality grew.

### **CONCLUSION**

Beck's theory of risk society were used to explain the production, distribution, and management of Covid-19. Covid-19 was produced and distributed by social progress due to globalization and it has been managed by experts without the involvement of lay people in decision making and without taking into account structural inequalities. We can not stop the spreading of the variant of COVID 19. Recently the cases of Omicron is spreading like anything. The risk is still going on the global Beck's concept of Risk Society is still connected with one and another way to the world.

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