



The economic effects of COVID-19 on local artisan livelihood in Iringa District

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Article Info

ISSN (online): 2582-7138

Volume: 03

Issue: 06

November-December 2022

Received: 05-10-2022

Accepted: 21-10-2022

Page No: 176-182

Abstract

This study was conducted to examine the economic effects of COVID-19 on local artisan livelihood in Iringa District, Tanzania. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative approach with Cross-Section Research Design. The sample consisted of 51 participants who were selected by using simple random and purposive sampling techniques. The data were collected using questionnaire and interviews. Quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed by Statistical Product for Social Solutions (SPSS) version 25 and thematic analysis respectively. The descriptive analysis involved calculation of percentages and frequencies. The findings of the study were presented using tables in which frequencies and percentages were utilized whereas content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data in accordance to the study objectives. The results shows that the eruption of COVID-19 created barrier to the society in term of social interaction, decrease rate of purchases, closing of shops, stopping their daily routine, burn the availability of reliable markets, decreased of income rate, absence of stable marketing, and raw materials. Moreover, the findings found that artisans decided to find loans to boost their business from different institutions either to improve their business or starting a new business to sustain their life during COVID-19 Pandemic period. The study further recommended that Artisans should think on alternative way of broadening their business even if there is no calamities like eruption of COVID-19 to afford their life in hardship situation, Tanzania government policies should be improved so as to make small businessmen such as artisans run their business through entrepreneurship education and there should be availability of credit facilitators so as to get loans and improve their business.

Lastly, the government should play an effective efforts to safeguard the policies of local artisans and protection in their working places, being aware of the achievements and progress of their work, supporting local artisans regardless of the pressure from powerful people, parties, interest groups and organizations, fostering the development in cultural development, ensuring funds are continually allocated to enhance local artisans protection system, consulting relevant stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive policies, and involving artisans in policy decision that affects their lives towards development of their life standards and businesses.

Keywords: Economic effects, COVID-19, local artisan, livelihood, Iringa district

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 is highly contagious, spread globally in a short period of time, and was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. As of 18th April, 2020, WHO reported more than 2.1 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 142,229 deaths in 213 countries, areas or territories WHO report (2020). The most-affected countries with more than 30,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 are the United States of America, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, China, Iran, Turkey, Belgium, the Russian Federation, Canada and Brazil. However, the number of cases continues to rise throughout the globe and became a serious risk to public health (WHO, 2020).

In Africa like other continents in the world, COVID-19 pandemic has devastated impact to the lives of millions of the people. As per WHO (2020) it was revealed that, pandemic caused the death of 1,017 people from 19,895 number of confirmed cases and 4,642 recoveries from 52.

African countries, while two countries (Comoros and Lesotho) were still virus-free (WHO, 2020), The continent's weak health care system and a large immune compromised population owing to high prevalence of malnutrition, anaemia, malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and poor economic discipline, make it distinct from the other continents that have experienced COVID-19 to date. According to World Economic Forum (WEF) of 2020, experts anticipate that under these circumstances the pandemic in Africa could be challenging to control, and the consequences could be dismal. On the other hand, previously in Africa there were no drugs/vaccines available to treat COVID-19. The implementation of precautionary measures to contain the spread of this virus is being practiced throughout African countries like other continent in the world, which includes social distancing, isolation and quarantine, community containment, national lockdowns, and travel restrictions. So far, these measures are helping to control and reduced the spread of COVID-19 but subsequently hit the Africa economy and thereby pushing the nations towards recession (Binns & Nel 2020).

In Tanzania, COVID-19 has affected almost all sectors of economy including tourism sector which has big contribution nation economy and major provider of employment opportunities to local Artisan also has major contribution to the growth of countries' revenue through various segments, including the sales of handicrafts to tourists (Binns & Nel, 2020). The effect of COVID-19 became more apparent when major international airlines including Turkish Airline, Emirates, KLM, Qatar, Swiss Air and others were forced to suspend their services in the country. Cancellation of flights, closing down of hotels, lodges, restaurants, among other businesses in the sector can be widely felt. Considerable number of jobs have also been lost due to the fall of business (TCN newspaper, 2020). Due to these pandemic local artisans who have been employed themselves for doing hand craft were affected after being neglected by government and private sectors institutions on employment opportunities. This has led to many challenges which impede the realization of tourism industry's potential, such as lack of foreign clients/customers and capital to expand their businesses, poor strategies to develop new markets, marketing skills, fear and stress, health instability.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Iringa District. Specifically, in five handcraft markets such as Kalenga craft market, Neema craft market, Maasai market, Idodi crafts and Tungamalenga craft market. The markets have selected purposively because of large number of tourists who resided for variety purposes such as leisure and heritage and the presence of souvenir products that attracts tourist. The district is located in Iringa Region within Latitude 70 South of the Equator and Longitude 340 East of Greenwich Meridian, with the elevation of 1625m above sea level and it covers 162 Square Kilometres. The council borders Iringa District Council to the North and West, Mufindi District council to the South and Kilolo District Council to the East. Administratively, Municipal has 18 Wards, 162 streets (MAR, 2016). According to National census count of 2012, the Council is estimated to have a total population of 146,762 with annual

growth rate of 1.6% per year, whereby 70,333 (43.12%) were male and 76,429 (56.87%) were females. Moreover, the area was chosen because of the higher prevalence rate of COVID-19 compared to the other places of Iringa region. It was about 32,920 confirmed cases and 778 deaths by Technical Working Committee (TWC, 2022) but also Iringa District is receiving guests daily from all over the country and outside, where by interaction between people is higher compared to other places in the region.

2.2 Research Design

The proposed study used a cross-sectional research design. The selection of this design was basically on the ground that, a cross-sectional research design allows the researcher to study different groups of respondents at one point at a time, it is simple to use and easy to collect various information from respondents based on a particular study that a researcher conduct with great degree of accuracy and quick results.

2.3 Target Population, Sample Size and Sampling techniques

2.3.1 Target population

The target population of the study were local artisan and other stakeholders from Iringa District such as community development officer and tourism officer

2.3.2 Sample size and sampling techniques

A sample size is simply a subset of the population. The sample must be representative of the population from which it has to be drawn and it must have good size to warrant statistical analysis. The sampling frame engage the list of all people and households who has to be involved in the study. In this study the sample size were 41 as obtained from the following formula for unknown population Ludhiana, (2021).

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{e^2}$$

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

$$n = \frac{(1.96) \times (1.96) \times 0.05(1-0.05)}{(0.067) \times (0.067)}$$

$$n = \frac{0.182476}{0.004489}$$

$$n = 40.6495878815$$

$$n = 41$$

Where by 'n' is required sample size; 'Z' is confidence level at 95% (standard value of 1.96); 'p' is population proportion, expressed as decimal and, 'e' is margin of error at 6.7% (standard value of 0.067).

Moreover, the study employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques to obtain respondents from the population. Simple random sampling was used to select 41 respondents from local artisan of Iringa District and Purposive sampling was used to select 10 key-informants who are community development officer and tourism officer. The reason of using simple random sampling is because it gives every member in the study to have an equal chance to represent the entire community, applied to the respondents

who perceived to be knowledgeable on the study topic respectively.

2.4 Data Collection Methods and Instruments

Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. Quantitative data were collected by using questionnaire with both open and closed ended questions, whereas qualitative data were collected using semi-structured interview. The questionnaires that consisted of both close and open-ended questions were used to collect data from local artisan. Semi-structured interview method was used to obtain data from community development officer and tourism officer

2.5 Data Analysis and Interpretation

A Statistical Product for Social Solutions (SPSS version 25) was used to analyze quantitative data. The descriptive analysis involved calculation of percentages and frequencies. Findings were presented using tables in which frequencies and percentages were utilized whereas content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data in accordance to the study objectives.

2.6 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

2.6.1 Validation of instruments

Validity refers to the degree to which a study accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept that the researcher is attempting to measure. The validity of the instrument is the extent to which it does measure what it is supposed to measure (Jonathan *et al.*, 2012).

To ensure validity of the study, the internal validity approach was applied. This was done through establishment of trust between researcher and respondents, give respondents awareness of the research topic and initiating interview and questionnaire through the specified themes of the research topic.

2.6.2 Reliability of data

According to Jonathan *et al.*, (2012) reliability is the extent to which an experiment, test, or any measuring procedure yields the same result on repeated trials. Reliability is concerned with the accuracy of the actual measuring instrument or procedure.

In order to control the reliability of this research pre testing of interview and questionnaire questions was done in order to check if they are comprehensive enough to collect the required data. After the pre testing modifications and improvement of research instruments was made.

2.7 Ethical Considerations

In this study, the researcher adhered to all ethical issues by obtaining necessary permissions first from the University of Iringa and subsequently from Local Authorities in Iringa District. Furthermore, the researcher explained to the respondents about the research aim, and that the study was for academic purposes only. Ethical consideration was also addressed by showing commitment to respondents and ensuring a high level of confidentiality and anonymity with no names collected and disclosed. Also, the norms and cultures of participants were respected and an individual's participation in the study was voluntary.

3. Results and Discussion of the Findings

3.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

In this study, the demographic characteristics of the respondents such as age, education level, marital status, employment status, income earner and source of income were assessed. Demographic characteristics were collected having an overview of respondents and not for association with the dependent variables.

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
15-35	15	36.6
36-45	14	34.1
46-55	7	17.1
56 and above	5	12.2
Total	41	100.0
Education		
None	13	31.7
Adult literacy classes	3	7.3
Primary education	6	14.6
Secondary education	13	31.7
Post-education	2	4.9
I don't know	4	9.8
Total	41	100.0
Marital status		
Never married	6	14.6
Married	20	48.8
Widowed	6	14.6
Divorced	4	9.8
Separated	5	12.2
Total	41	100.0
Employment Status		
House work	22	53.7
Employed	19	46.3
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

3.1.1 Age of the respondent

Table 1 show that 36.6% of the respondents had the age between 15-35 years, 34.1% of the respondents had the age between 36-45 years, 17.1% of the respondents had the age above 46 – 55 years and 12.2% of the respondent had the age between 56 and above Through discussions with community members it was found that the highest percent of age of the community members was 36.6% who were the artisans who provided the information on effects of Corona Virus Disease (COVID – 19).

3.1.2 Educational Level of the Respondents

In relation to work education level the study established that, 13 respondents equal to 31.7% were none educated while 3 respondents equal to 7.3% were from adult literacy classes, 6 respondents equal to 14.6% were from primary level of education, 13 respondents equal to 31.0% were from secondary education level, 2 respondents equal to 4.9% were from post education level and 4 respondents equal to 9.8% didn't know their level of education. Educational level was assessed to determine if education plays part in the sense of to examine the effects of Corona virus Disease (COVID-19) on local artisans' livelihood at Iringa Districts, Tanzania. This revealed that the artisans' who were not educated from secondary level of education were almost (31.7%) who affected by the impacts of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) to their business.

3.1.3 Marital status

In relation to marital status of respondents the study found that, 6 (14.6%) were unmarried, 20(48.8%) were married, 6(14.6%) were the widowed, 4(9.8%) were divorced and 5(12.2%) were separated of all the community members who were engaged in the collection of the research information.

3.1.4 Employment Status

In relation to employment status of respondents. The researcher found that 22(53.7%) were house workers and 19(46.3%) were employed of all the community members who were engaged in the collection of the research information. Both were affected during COVID-19 in term of livelihood.

3.1.5 Major Source of Income for the Respondents

Before looking on the social effects of COVID-19 on local artisan livelihood, the researcher aimed to understand the major source of income of the respondents. The findings founds that 18 craftsman equal to 43.9% depended on artefacts works, 11 respondents equal to 26.8% depended on farming and 12 respondents equal to 29.3% depended on other activities including the number of employed respondents.

Table 2: Source of Income for the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Artefacts	18	43.9
Farming	11	26.8
Others	12	29.3
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

Table.2 shows that all respondents affected by COVID-19, but 43.9% equal to 18 respondents who depended on the artefacts works were mostly affected by Corona Virus

Disease (COVID – 19).

3.1.6 Major Income Earner in the Family

In this study the major income earner in the families of the respondents were as follows, 9 respondents equal to 22.0% were themselves, 12 respondents equal to 29.3% were the husbands, 8 respondents equal to 19.5% were the wives and 6 respondents equal to 14.6% were others, while the last group includes other members of the family. Furthermore 29.3% are the major income earners in the targeted area of study. As summarized in table 3 below

Table 3: Income Earner for the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Myself	9	22.0
Husband	12	29.3
Wife	8	19.5
Others	6	14.6
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

3.2 Economic effects of COVID-19 on local artisans' livelihood.

In this objective, researcher sought to know how artisan were earning money as a source of capital in their activities before the eruption of COVID-19 and its impacts. The findings summaries below;

3.2.1 Major earning of capital

Table 8 revealed that, 17 respondents equal to 41.5% depended on own saving as their major source of initial capitals, 6 respondents equal to 14.6% depended on credits and loans as their major source of initial capital, 12 respondents equal to 29.3% depended on government institutions as their major source of initial capital and 6 respondents equal to 14.6% depended on other source of incomes as the source of initial capital.

On the other side, the findings from the interviews found that majority of artisan and craftsmen in Iringa depend on individual owning of arts and crafts activity as a major sources of income. This was evidenced by one of artisans during the interview who said that;

“A big number of artisan depend on individual business of arts and crafts activities as a source of capital to run our daily life, we don't have any assistance from elsewhere”.

Pandemic has created specific, urgent, and new financial needs. Each household of an average of five members needs minimum to survive in a village. Weavers require immediate support in accessing essential commodities, social entitlements and support for basic healthcare expenses. Once the immediate sustenance needs are addressed, the medium-term measures to sustain the business and getting the producer company back on profitable track is going to be a humungous task. Until the economy stabilizes, it is necessary to address the reduction of work, business losses because of cancellation of orders and reduced demand. At the very least. The finding of the study relate with the study done by Chitrika (2020) who found that, many artisans depended on their own saving into which respondents gets the capital from different sources hence.

Others selling asserts such as crops/livestock as the source of income and other depend on crats commodities as a sources of income.

Table 8: Major earning of Capital (n=41)

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Own saving	17	41.5
Credits and loans	6	14.6
Government institutions	12	29.3
Others	6	14.6
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

3.2.2 Flow of Business income before and after COVID-19

Researcher aimed to realize the rate of business income earned before the eruption of COVID-19. The results summarized on the table 9 below.

Table 9: Flow of Business income before COVID-19 (n=41)

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	30	73.2
No	11	26.8
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

Table 9 revealed that, the highest number of respondents agree the decrease of business income during COVID-19 pandemic. The findings found that 30 respondents equal to 73.2% sold rate of their business decreased while 11 respondents equal to 26.8% disagree on the decrees of business rate because they involved online business.

On the other side, the findings from the interview showed that the high number depends on face to face business while they affected by the outbreak of COVID-19. During the interview, one of the respondents noted during she said;

The rate of income business decreased because most of artisans and craftsmen doing business face to face. The eruption of COVID-19 led to the burning of interaction, closing market external hence, foreigners didn't travel to buy the commodities (interviewed artisan, 2022).

In regards to the above information, it denoted that the income rate in arts and craft business decreased due to the limit of interaction of people from different area who were the most dealer of the business. Though the respondents didn't say the real amount of income they earned before COVID-19 and the rate of income loosed for month after COVID-19, they elaborated that their business income decreased due the absence of stable marketing, and raw materials.

Similarly, conduct a study on the impact of COVID-19 on gold and diamond artisanal mines in East and Western Central African Republic. The findings found that Manyara tanzanite miners attest to a highly unpredictable, restricted market for their gemstone, with highly volatile prices as a result. Depending on the quality of the stones, miners used to receive around 700,000 to 800,000 TZS (ca. 300 - 340 US\$) per gram of tanzanite before the outbreak of COVID-19. In May 2020, these prices were cut down to 200,000 – 350,000 TZS (ca. 90-150 US\$). A site owner from Mererani describes the situation that the drastic fall of mineral demands has

caused malicious pricing at buyers' discretion. There is a significant change from profitability to subsistence production and trading. Miners do sell minerals at break-even price just for the sake of maintaining mining operations and to serve as subsistence in transition". As for gold, tanzanite miners are mostly still selling to the same local brokers and (master) dealers, who accept the risk of buying the gemstone as an investment for the future.

3.2.3 Shortage of customers in Arts and Craft Market

The findings of the current study found that eruption of COVID-19 coursed shortage of customer and arts craft market. The findings elaborated in table 10 below.

Table 10: Shortage of customers in Arts and Craft Market (n=41)

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	31	74.2
No	10	25.8
Total	41	100.0

Source: Field Data (2022)

Table 10 show that, 30 respondents equal to 74.2% faced customer shortage in arts and craft market during the Corona Virus Disease (COVID – 19) eras while 10 respondents equal to 25.8% they did not faced customer shortage in arts and craft market during the Corona Virus Disease (COVID – 19) eras.

On the other side one of the respondents from the interview was the opinion that;

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique threat to the people. The pandemic is accelerating structural changes in the economy and disrupting labour markets. It affect the customer market because most of artisans' business were lost the customers and markets because they depend much on customers supply.

The results showed that COVID-19 forced people who were the customers to stay home with no interaction which led to the decrease the rate of purchase commodities. Moreover, COVID-19 has created specific, burning, and new financial needs. Each household of a normal life economy of five members needs slightest to survive in a village. It is necessary to address the reduction of work, business losses because of cancellation of orders and reduced demand which make shaking of business

The current study fixed with the report of Fairlie and Fossen (2021), "Did the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program Get Disbursed to Minority Communities in the Early Stages of COVID-19," examines the effect of the US federal government response to help small businesses the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the related Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). The program's stated goal is helping disadvantaged groups. The authors provide the first detailed analysis of how the 2020 PPP and EIDL funds were disbursed across minority communities in the country. The authors find a positive relationship between PPP loan receipt per business and the minority share of the population or businesses, although funds flowed to minority communities later than to communities with lower minority shares. This study acknowledges the importance of financial support through PPP loans of minority communities as a share of the population. The important evidence is that the EIDL

program, both in numbers per business and amounts per employee, was positively distributed to minority communities. This is the first study about how loans and advances from these programs were distributed between minority and non-minority communities.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

Based on the study findings, the study concludes that eruption of COVID-19 created barrier to the society in term of social interaction, which led to the poor networking in their business. Also the findings showed that trainings on how to fight against COVID-19 affects the arts and craft activities particularly in wasting their time. Moreover, it was reported that; COVID-19 affected interaction barrier/social distance among the people they depending on different transportation means. The results showed that COVID-19 forced people who were the customers to stay home with no interaction which led to the decrease the rate of purchase commodities. This barrier led people to close their shop, stopping their daily routine activities and other things.

The findings also indicated that eruption of COVID-19, burn the availability of reliable markets, this influenced by the closeness of territories all over the world, death of many people sometime the permanent customers and businessman who were used to purchase different commodities. In addition it denoted that COVID-19 led to decreased of income rate in arts and craft business due to the limit of interaction of people from different area who were the most dealer of the business due the absence of stable marketing, and raw materials.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the study recommends that: Artisans in Iringa Municipality and Tanzania as whole should make sure that creativity is their key towards escaping the effects of COVID -19. Designing new items and introduce them to their community.

Also, Artisans should think on alternative way of broadening their business even if there is no calamities like eruption of COVID-19. This will help them to afford their life in hardship situation. Also, it recommended that Tanzania government policies should be improved so as to make small businessmen such as artisans run their business through entrepreneurship education. Also it recommended that there should be availability of credit facilitators so as to get loans and improve their business.

Lastly, the government should play an effective efforts to safeguard the policies of local artisans and protection in their working places, being aware of the achievements and progress of their work, supporting local artisans regardless of the pressure from powerful people, parties, interest groups and organizations, fostering the development in cultural development, ensuring funds are continually allocated to enhance local artisans protection system, consulting relevant stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive policies, and involving artisans in policy decision that affects their lives towards development of their life standards and businesses.

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