

**POLICY MAKING AND GREEN RECOVERY IN
AFTERMATH OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
RESTRICTION DUE TO THE PANDEMIC IN
GERMANY, ITALY AND FRANCE**

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Synopsis

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic situation introduced the Global Health emergency in 2020 that originated in China. As per the research, the World Health Organization or WHO has declared these diseases to be a major Global Health Emergency, and the focal point drastically changed to the European nations, especially Italy, France and Germany (Jackson et al., 2021). Due to such a health crisis, the economic and political impacts noticed in the European region have been identified. The research has focused on establishing and developing the road map for future policy development during the crisis. The three nations have different types of political impact. As stated by Schengen (2023), France is a semi-presidential republic, whereas Italy has a parliamentary republic, and Germany is a federal parliamentary republic nation.

Nagy & Šiljak (2022) also stated that lockdown interventions were also integrated as possible solutions by restricting mobility so that the spread of the virus could be controlled due to such interventions of the policy and changes in mobility habits that had economic implications. The government systems were majorly impacted and had different limitations within the economic and political systems that laid a huge range of impacts on the democratic system. Different policies were integrated due to the public health response to examine all the possible possibilities. The financial system was also very restricted, and it has been acknowledged by Vet et al. (2021) that the policymakers had a great impact on the financial analysis so that the Global crisis could be controlled while generating economic growth so that the requirements could be made of the population. Moreover, it has been identified from the findings of Grasso et al. (2020) that every European country was possibly impacted, which also impacted the social group and the societal realms. The necessity of developing different interventions was required so that economic growth could be supported by policy integration.

The research has been performed through the following secondary qualitative method to analyse the data that have been gathered related to the research topic. The researchers have analysed the data related to economic restrictions after the Covid-19 situation in Germany. The thematic analysis has been implemented to determine the interpretation of the research in this chapter. The chapter includes the future preparedness related to recovering the loss due to the pandemic situation. Apart from this, the future initiative that the government of Germany has taken to adapt to the economic changes. In addition to this, the research has analysed the future initiatives that the Italian government has taken to improve the economic crisis in the country. Theories have been applied to understand the importance of future initiatives in the adaptation

of the economic changes in modern times. In this context, political initiatives have also been discussed related to the monetary fund and actions taken by the France government.

Literature review

Comparative analysis of the three European nations

As per the reports of Su et al. (2021), the pandemic situation has been considered to have a drastic impact on the Global population by decreasing economic development and creating different disruptions in the healthcare and political systems. The pandemic especially impacted the eurozone Nations like Germany, France, and Italy, which had a direct influence on the political systems by disrupting the healthcare programs. The catastrophic event reduced the GDP growth rate by 8.1% along with an 8% employment rate and 0.5% inflation rate in the year 2020 (Su et al., 2021).

Again, Greer et al. (2021, p. 242) stated that the challenges in the European Nations were exposed during the pandemic situation. Tremendous criticism was faced by the democracy and autocracy that turned out to be repressive. Moreover, the laying of the local and national elections were also confronted which restricted the selection of leaders that was considered to be a matter of supreme importance (Brown et al., 2020). It made the European Union face much criticism, which is the lack of action and also created an impact on the functioning to achieve the mutual goal.

The transformation in the Italian economic and political system

As per the findings of Bull (2021), the Italian government has been affected dramatically by the emergence of the pandemic; Italy's GDP had reduced by 8.3%, which impacted its overall growth. The nation was imposed to lockdown that changed the economic circumstances of Italy (OECD, 2021). It is a major fact that was confronted by the nation and revealed that the entire economy was facing a terminal situation due to the Global supply chain disruption. Apart from this, it was also noted that a significant decline in the production in the industrial chain was observed to reduce to 11% due to the lockdown. The risk of bankruptcy also increased, which caused the financial crisis. Managing such issues became significant so that an extension of introducing economic support to the population can be provided.

Mazza et al. (2020) stated that the government systems also posed different obstacles due to the outbreak that exposed significant danger in the early phases of the crisis. Gardini (2020) mentioned that the healthcare system of the nation also was vulnerable to the situation of the government to make significant investments and changes so that improvement in the quality of healthcare in the nation to protect the population can be introduced. Also, it can be

noted that a requirement of open and responsible leaders was required so that disappointment could be eradicated and positive results could be acquired.

The transformation in the French economic and political system

In French society, the economic aftershocks were different from Italy. It has been found by Or et al. (2021) that the nation had struggled with different challenges, and the lockdown created great pressure that increased government expenditure. Economic challenges like recession and reduced production have impacted the demand and supply within France. Apart from this, it has also been noted that around 500,000 jobs were taken away during the first wave of 2020, which made the French industry suffer from significant losses. Sulun, (2020) identified that the tertiary sector caused minus 30% and construction cost 60.5% reduction. The initial phases of lockdown also caused the population to suffer significantly due to strict social distancing norms and restrictions on international travel. Apart from this, Geels et al. (2021) identified that the GDP also declined by 8.1% in 2020, which has caused political chaos in France. It has also been identified that the poverty rate began rising in the middle of the decade, which increases the concern of French society.

The transformation in the German economic and political system

The pandemic situation has also impacted Germany, but it had a record of the lowest number of deaths in comparison to any other European country. The federal structure of the nation permitted it to provide top-rated and advanced healthcare services to its population with exquisite medical equipment and tools, ample medical staff, and testing facilities. Schneider et al. (2020) identified that the complexities of the situation were able to be handled appropriately by the government due to decentralised health administrative officers. However, it has been noted that the nation has faced different issues due to the economic impact. Dao & Mineshima (2021) noted that the downturn within the nation had been expected to impact different regions of the nation. A dramatic reduction in the number of employees, such as a reduction of 2.3 million to 2.9 million from March to June, had been observed.

Moreover, the financial corporate crisis has also been noted to where required for the nation to remain in anticipation so that they can recover in the upcoming years (Merkel, 2020). The German government has been identified as experiencing the complexities by forming an urge to they can bring transformation by increasing transparency in decision-making to give political opportunity by handling crisis management measures. The government crisis was also noticed during the pandemic situation, although it had the presence of cooperative federalism supporting the political game. The fight for democracy that was associated with the federal

government and the state government was also required to remain transparent so that strong decisions could be made and supported to keep Germany intact.

Objective

The research has been focused on identifying the economic and political challenges of the COVID-19 crisis in the European countries of Germany, France and Italy. It is required to be understood that the pandemic situation has created great challenges to human health that have impacted the economic situation massively by creating a destructive impact. It has impacted severely on the political situation along with the economic circumstances. Therefore, the examination of the impact of the pandemic and government policies to understand the economic condition is necessary. Therefore, the initial objective of the research is to examine the performance of the well-established governments in these Nations during the crisis. Moreover, the evaluation of the government policy in response to the pandemic has also been made so that the challenges and the mitigation strategies can be understood.

Methods

The research has been completed by selecting the research onion Framework that Saunders has developed. As identified by Snyder (2019), the framework assists in accomplishing the work by understanding the goals and objectives of the work with the selection of different techniques. The study has incorporated the use of interpretivism research philosophy that has been described by Zhang, Gong & Brown (2023) to be useful in understanding and analysing subjective thoughts and perspectives. The research needed to gain a subjective interpretation with the introduction of this research by combining it with an inductive strategy so that constructive results can be obtained. This research approach has been very beneficial for the overall research work in providing appropriate interpretation with a variety of explanations.

Apart from this, it has been assumed by Patel & Patel (2019) that the incorporation of a cross-sectional research design has helped in accumulating the repeated data so that the relevancy of the research topic with the subject can be maintained. However, Guest, Namey & Chen (2020) confirmed the fact that all this combination has helped in gaining the secondary data by combining with the qualitative method so that the investigation of the research topic can be done appropriately. The selected methodology has, therefore, helped in gaining different information regarding the impact of the pandemic in the three nations of Germany, France and Italy in Europe. The research has been focused on gathering the data utilising peer-reviewed journal articles so that information regarding the different European nations can be acquired

by maintaining the reliability and validity of the systematic literature review. Apart from this, this has helped in gaining increased knowledge about the political and economic circumstances that have been impacted due to the introduction of the fatal disease.

Experiments and results

Future Preparedness of the German Government

The Covid-19 pandemic situation has created a global impact on the political system across the world and it also has created a negative impact on the economic structure specifically in Germany, France and Italy. As per the statement of Hancké, Van Overbeke & Voss, (2022, p.480) Crisis management is one of the most significant approaches that can help in recovering the financial loss of Germany. It has been identified that crisis management mainly involves the implementation of policies and procedures to prevent the negative impacts of the crisis. In this context, Toplišek et al., (2022, p.645) have stated that the ***five-chart plan*** can be effective in elaborating the policies after the impact of Covid-19. As per the analysis of the first stage, the lower mortality rate has created an opportunity for Germany to recover the economic uncertainty compared to the other peer countries. In this context, a positive impact has been observed through the re-opening of the business associated with employee support. According to the observation, Vaccination has also been started, which has positively reduced the number of Coronavirus-affected patients. It also has been identified by Sava (2022) that Germany is in the top position in using the latest technology in the business. Therefore, it can be stated that digital transformation can be effective in the recovery process of this country. On the other hand, Mineshima & Dao, (2021) have stated that curative expenditure, as well as the commencing approaches, can provide a strong aspect to the businesses and households establishing the short time work.

The effectiveness of the five-chart and short-term plan of Germany

It has also been found that temporary value-added tax along with the investment related to ***green investment*** by the public also helps in recovering the financial loss in Germany. In addition to this, the Kurzarbeit scheme has been established by the German government to increase employee retention rate by starting the short time work for employees. It has also been identified that the unemployment rate has created a negative impact on the economic condition of society. Therefore, a short time work can be effective for the people to earn money for their expenses. The government has supported the business of Germany by implementing the balancing act for returning the debt. The companies are facing issues in returning the debt due to the shortage of finance. Along with that, Naujoks, Kreyenfeld, & Dummert (2022, p.70)

have stated that the fiscal policies have also lowered the taxes for the company to boost the economy in this country. It has been observed that the recovery plan of Germany is mainly based on two effective factors, including crisis management and short-term economic management.

Future initiatives by the Italian government

Italy encountered a significant difficulty as it became the initial European nation to experience the impact of COVID-19 from March to May of 2020. According to Jewett et al. (2021, p.330), a crisis response team was rapidly formed under the leadership of Giuseppe Conte, who was Prime Minister, effectively coordinating activities among various health ministries. The health matter was addressed by Minister of Health Roberto Speranza. However, Conte and other officials, such as Cultural Heritage Minister Dario Franceschini, focused on addressing the financial consequences of the pandemic. However, To mitigate the transmission of the virus, red zones were established, particularly in the regions of Lombardy and Veneto, even in the face of challenging circumstances. Based on a study conducted by Bull (2021), p.152, it has been observed that there exists an important level of public trust in the actions undertaken by the Conte II Administration in addressing the epidemic. The administration has implemented a strategic approach aligned with European objectives, as seen in its effective sourcing of €209 billion by the "Next Generation EU package" to enhance economic recovery. The commitment to healthcare can be seen with the allocation of €250 million towards funding healthcare workers for overtime work (Theguardian, 2022). In addition, the digital revolution played a crucial role in facilitating Italy's slow reopening, allowing the resumption of several social activities that had been previously suspended.

Several surveys and polls have indicated that Italian citizens have expressed widespread admiration for Prime Minister demonstrated straightforward explanation of difficult matters and systematic management of the situation by his administration. The COVID-19 pandemic showcased Italy's capacity for resilience and adaptive government, as evidenced by the country's effective and coordinated response. According to Bosa et al. (2022, p.7), the connection between the Italian government's perception of the state and its communication strategies during the COVID-19 crisis was prominent. Prime Minister Conte noted Italy's significant position within the European Union and the ***Group of Seven (G7)***, positioning the nation as an instance for countries around the globe to imitate. Conte's commitment to public recovery proved a highly effective tool, as government policies exhibited variations in resource allocation, financial regulations and recovery rates. The significance of understanding was evident in the pandemic resulting from the psychological effects and the effectiveness of

communication, as obtained in the study (Jewett et al., 2021, p.330). Italy's approach highlighted the significance of healthcare planning and the promotion of national cooperation in response to the ongoing pandemic.

The Italian government has managed the COVID-19 crisis with a particular focus on management and political communication. The negative perceptions of emotions have played a significant role in the emergence and growth of political movements such as Nazism and fascism, demonstrating the significance of this particular aspect. Politicians tend to prioritise the awakening of voters' emotions over the promotion of their parties' fading beliefs. Policy interventions have placed a high priority on the implementation of strategies aimed at behaviour change and limitation. It has been illustrated by Bull, (2021, p.153) that implementation of policy strategies, including geographical constraints and reforming healthcare. Childs et al. (2022, p.218) stated that the Italian government implemented fiscal measures such as "*Decreto Liquidity*" and "*Cura Italia*" in response to the economic challenges induced by the pandemic. Italy's response policy is supported by a set of eight guiding principles that place significant emphasis on decision-making processes, stakeholder engagement, and the adoption of a long-term perspective.

The Future Perspective of the French Government

It has been analysed that the COVID-19 situation has created a negative impact on the economic structure of France by causing a 30 to 40% decline in the tourism industry (Geels et al., 2022, p.9). According to the observation, the government of France has implemented policy-making strategies based on the EU level. As per the analysis of Perottino & Guasti (2020), developing camps related to educational awareness has created an effective impact on the policy-making strategy of France. In addition, the GDP of France has also decreased by 8.1% during the pandemic situation. However, the government has provided immense support to the public through providing state-guaranteed loans. In this context, Cotella & Vitale Brovarone (2021, p.415) have stated that the French Reliance has announced a fiscal package of 100 million pounds to promote innovation in the projects.

Furthermore, an agreement has been established between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and France, facilitating the country's access to expert knowledge. European foreign policies had a significant influence within the given framework, contributing to the restructuring of institutions in France to mitigate the economic crisis. As per the statement of Merkaj & Santorini (2022), the federal government's monitoring of the policies of the industries has been crucial during the pandemic. A new political phenomenon, the "Cumul des mandates," which united the federal and regional governments to address the crisis, formed

in France as a direct result of the pandemic. As a result of widespread vaccine doubt in France, the country introduced a health pass in 2021. A communication strategy was implemented to help with COVID-19's recovery. The importance of Vaccination was brought to the public's attention through the Passe Sanitaire and vaccination camps.

It has been analysed that 26% of France's GDP was spent on fighting the pandemic. This measure strengthened the next phase of the EU Recovery Funding which gave digital and eco-friendly innovation a higher priority (Merkaj & Santolini, 2022). Although they increase France's national debt, the country's recovery plans should facilitate economic reconfiguration and help keep expenditures in check. France's high vaccination rate is a result of the country's strict laws, which have also contributed to the country's powerful economic recovery.

Summary and

From the overall research it has been identified that after the emergence of the pandemic, adverse impact has been noticed that had been introduced in the political systems of the European locations of France, Italy and Germany. Different chapters have represented different theoretical information that was required to be noted so that disturbance created by the political and economic conditions can be analysed appropriately. Human security was written along with the health and requirements. The government of the Nations introduced prevention of the disease due to the Global Health emergency. Apart from this, the introduction of different financial plans with the reconstruction of funds was done by the policy makers present in the European Nations by understanding the importance of implementation. However, the lockdown and mobility restrictions as solutions were also integrated. Laying off was very common so that economic ramifications could be achieved by controlling the transmission of the virus and balancing its direct influence. As the three different nations had different types of government organisation, it has been found that disaster management was also introduced in synchronised in the Nations life France and Germany respectively whereas Italy made the central government restrict the powers of different regions.

The future scope of the study has also been identified where the application of digitalisation could be useful in constituting effective communication by the government. Moreover, it has been found that sustainable working practices can be also focused such as the kurzarbeit scheme. It is important to promote a healthy working environment for the workforce so that the risk of stress can be lowered along with frustration. Political investment, including sustainable transportation or eco-friendly agriculture with the incorporation of renewable energy, has also been thought to be very useful. Apart from this, the establishment of the

negative impact of the pandemic has been stated, but the major limitation of the research is the misunderstanding of the research questions.

Moreover, the interview is time intensive and very expensive, which has been deployed as a data collection procedure. Apart from this, the collection of secondary information has practical difficulties that are required to be understood so that the detrimental impact can be controlled, such as a time limitation or citation of different. Budget and time restrictions are also present that limit the accuracy of the data.

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