

Editorial

This special issue of the Maldives National Journal of Research (MNJR) is dedicated to the theme of COVID-19.

The novel coronavirus global pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges upon mankind with nearly 31 million confirmed cases globally, and just under a million deaths up to the time of writing. Domestically in the Maldives, confirmed cases stood just shy of 10,000 with 33 deaths attributed to the disease.

The damage afflicted by the pandemic pervades into all conceivable aspects of life, from health to economy and everything in between, including among others, education, and business.

According to the World Bank, the pandemic has dealt much long-term damage to prospects for global economic growth. The Bank estimates that this year will experience the deepest global recession in decades, despite the extraordinary efforts of governments to counter the downturn with fiscal and monetary policy support. The Bank also envisages that the deep recessions triggered by the pandemic will leave lasting scars over the longer horizon, through lower investment, an erosion of human capital through lost work and schooling, and fragmentation of global trade and supply linkages.

This special issue comprises fifteen original research and opinion articles on the theme of COVID-19 and related areas, including on the challenges unleashed by the spread of the virus, experiences and efforts of professionals to contain the virus, treat the infected, education and academic activities, technology, socio-economic and mental health effects among others.

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Editor