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## **Effects of National Culture on COVID-19 Pandemic Control and Management**

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## Effects of National Culture on COVID-19 Pandemic Control and Management

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COVID-19, a new coronavirus, has become a global pandemic affecting society and infecting millions of people around the world (Nah & Siau, 2020; Xie et al., 2020; Zou et al., 2020). Nations have applied varying responses to this new virus and have different levels of success. This research looks at the effects of National Culture on COVID-19 pandemic management and control. National culture is the norms, behaviors, beliefs, customs, and values shared by the population of a sovereign nation (e.g., Chinese or US national culture) (Siau et al., 2007, 2010). We used Hofstede's National Culture as the theoretical background for this research. Hofstede defines culture as "the collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of a group or category of people from others." (1991). Hofstede's national culture is a six dimension model which includes power distance index (PDI), individualism versus collectivism (IDV), masculinity versus femininity (MAS), uncertainty avoidance index (UAI), long term orientation versus short term normative orientation (LTO) that is also referred to as normativeness versus pragmatism (PRA), and indulgence versus restraint (IVR). In this research, we focus on the effect of PDI and IDV on COVID-19 pandemic control and management. We hypothesize that national cultures will affect the success of COVID-19 pandemic control and management.

Secondary data is used in this study. The indices of the different dimensions of the national culture are taken from Hofstede's data. The data related to Covid-19 (from January to July 2020) by countries is from Our World in Data. We look at the total number of COVID-19 infected cases and the total number of deaths per million. Our preliminary results show that PDI and IDV have effects on the success of a nation in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.

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