Policy Response to the Tourism Crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Meta Policy Analysis of Select Countries

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has cracked the fragile mold of what was decided as the norm and has pushed countries to resort to various ways for survival. Tourism, a mechanism proven to bridge gaps between cultures, was worst affected on a global level, and the only flotation device utilized was policies. Yet, for states with different political ideologies, how have they responded in reality? Which ideology has become a tool to design the policy to address the tourism crisis caused by the pandemic? This has remained an unexplored field of research. Therefore, to address these questions, there is a need to look at the policies initiated by selected countries representing varied political spectrums to analyse the pragmatically working ideology during/after the pandemic. Therefore, this study aims to observe the complexities of crisis management and the shift of ideology between the usual state of government to the adoption of a foreign, even opposing ideology to rebuild after an unprecedented catastrophe. Hence, to enunciate its shift, the methodology divided its countries into ideologies based on liberal, socialist, and conservative categories and selects two countries, each of which is contributing a major portion of GDP share to the tourism industry. The study has adopted the ideological

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approach to examine the select policies formulated by the respective countries to revive their tourism industry,such as what are the bail-out programs, financial aids, etc. The present study relied on a meta-analysis approach to identify, summarize, and analyze how the selected countries adopted different models to identify and define policy problems. Based on the findings of the meta-analysis, the study established that countries adopted ideologies that pragmatically worked and rejected ideologies that are inherently adopted as the state's

Keywords: Tourism crisis, policy response, pandemic, political ideology

governing principle.

1. Introduction

Travelling is embedded in our most primal human desires, and as everything gets easier with modern technology, so does the transmission of unforeseeable cotangents such as invisible enemies that pose as the biggest threat to humanity like COVID-19. The COVID-19 has been the most consequential event in recent human history that has catapulted and touched almost every living being. Epidemics and pandemics pose a serious threat to unsuspecting travelers, and they end up not only becoming victims but also carriers of the contagionas passengers play a serious role in the transfer of epidemics or pandemics between locations(Hollingsworth, Ferguson, & Anderson, 2007). This caused proactive and reactive damage control from every industry, and as every human had to resort to basic human needs to survive the diseases, there was an increase inthe need for responsibility and leadership,which was boiled down to the government and its policies.

The policy response is considered as a potent tool towards the hospitality and travel industry's censorious crisis caused due to COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the policies that governments focused on were mainly travel restrictions and social distancing

orders for the citizens already present in the country. Further, governments across the world immediately executed partial or complete border closures, which negatively obstructedtravel (Davahli, M. R., Karwowski, W., Sonmez, S., &Apostolopoulos, Y., 2020). Moreover, the uncertainty of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and its future waves led to the unemployment of millionsamong various industries,such as the hospitality industry,which was one of the first industries affected, and it will be among the last industries to recover [ibid, p.7].

Thoughthe pandemic negatively affected the global tourism industry, the hospitality industry in India had experiencedcriticism on the grounds of health and sanitization. The issue of sanitation has been well reiterated in tourism and hospitality literature (Jauhari, 2009; Tripathi et al., 2010), but for a developing country such as India, the threat is tenfold (Nath, 2003). Threats are only fought effectively with ideologies that form a foundation for policies, and it is a tried and tested method for consequential change on a global as well as domestic level. Besides, travelling works in similar pollination, and also conduce threatening activities, it only fitsthose policiesthat are formed within these spheres of pragmatism. The most adopted ideologies are liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and hybrids. The study will compare the policy responses and their ideological basis to understand shifts in perspectives and their pragmatic-based solutions.

The United Nations curated a structured foundational framework for disaster management to reduce collateral damage and save response time, and its core concepts of risk reduction are risk assessment, informationdepartment, public relations, and general measures. Ritchie (2008) and Sawalha et al. (2013) modified the framework of the United Nations (2004) and restructured it towards the hospitality and tourism industry. Another study on the same aspect has identified the mitigation, preparedness, response, signaling, recovery, and learning phases(Lettieri et al.,2009). In this regard,the 'onion model' for strategic crisis planningfocuses on factors and resources at the individual, organizational, and environmental levels form the onion system (Wang and Ritchie, 2010). Another approach thatemphasisesthe partnership among variousstakeholdersis explored asa disaster management

framework emphasizing the collaboration of public-private stakeholders (Nguyen et al., 2017).

As per the estimates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), it was expected that there would be a 60 percent decline in global tourism in the year 2020, which might reach 80 percent by the end of the year, subject to continuity of pandemic. In the context of domestic tourism,this loss accounts for 75 percent of the tourism economy among OECD members, but they are expected to recover more quickly, which potentially incentivised domestic travel among adjacent states.

Most of the developed and predominantly capitalist countries are adopting socialistic methods to combat the crisis. The United States of America implemented this by allowing tourism sectors and facilitators to benefit from economy-wide stimulus packages, with many capitalistic governments also introducing tourism-specific appraisals.

Hong Kong initiated "Holiday @ Home" in June 2020, a platform to encourage social distancing,and delivered over 15,000 offers in dining and retail places and other attractions. This public relations campaign was mutually beneficial for the industry and the public, and it got 3.7 million hits on the campaign website. Communist countries,such as China, hand-worked on a modelthatindicates its policy problem identification method. Principally, the government has identified the crisis as a national problem and thus located under the disaster management category. Yet, responded with Public-Private Partnership. Cuba effectively encouraged local tourism, andfrom July 2020,with an effort to establish safe tourist zones, where tourists would be transported to 1 of 5 quarantined all-inclusive resorts. Countries with mixed economies such as India and Iceland had promoted a COVID-19 tracing app,which was installed by 38 percent of the country's citizens.

The present study focuses on analysing the current literature on the hospitality industry in the phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cartographic shift of ideologies in policies of selected countries. The primary purpose of meta-analysis is to identify, structure,

recapitulate, and critically review the findings of all relevant and selected research studies.

2.Statement of the problem

Policy formation, in general, is deeply influenced by ideology. Nevertheless, policy problems and their solutions have been intrinsically customized to their individual political climate and crises. The addressing of the pandemic in the tourism and hospitality industry was particularly a challenge because of the social distancing rules and also the quarantine containment of the citizens in their home countries. The policies formed as a proactive reaction were expected to have a holistic approach by pushing the boundary and blurring the lines between their adopted ideology and including an adjacent or opposing ideology to their policy formation. Isolation was the general guideline every government and citizen was encouraged to adopt, and this pushed the deficit in the hospitality industry and left capitalist countries to adopt socialist ways to minimize the effect of the virus and salvage the economy and its citizens. Contrarily, the socialistic countries adopted business models and public-private partnerships to offer a policy remedy to conduce more revenue to the hospitality industry. This difference in policy response demands an inquiry into how policy problems, i.e., the tourism crisis was identified, defined, and formed in the respective countries. There exist various methods involved in pursuing policy problems. However, it can be assumed that different governments with varied political ideologies adopted different methods of defining policy problems.

This study aims to identify this change in the pattern of shifting ideologies, disparage between the proactive and reactive statuses, and broadly understand how the tourism industry is affected, and identify its drastic changes through meta-analysis.

3. Policy problem identification and defining: A Theoretical Framework

'Policy problems' that playa predominant role in policy designand processes with twosteps. This is a divide and conquer mentality to break down the problem to its root cause and attempt to curate the

best solution. Initially, the process is fundamentally determined by the identification of agencies in government and role allotment in resolving the problem. However, if an anerroneous definition of the problem is made by the agency concerned which eventually delays the process of finding a definitive solutionfor the problem. Another identical challenge that is commonly involved indefining the policy problem is they themselves are less evident, which obviously causes difficulty in defining it. In the second step, while mapping the dimensions to depict problems. Administratively linking a problem with an agency or ministry and functional naming to the problemmaybe too early at the stage of policy designing. "However, the problems that are defined as being within the control of one agency or ministry themselves be very different" (Guy B Peters, 2005).

The difference in approaching the policy problem caused concerns,especially with wicked policy problems,and it is argued that "there is a need to structure problems to enable their ongoing governance" (Hoppe, 2010). The aforementioned argument is specifically applicable to problem identification with regards to the tourism crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, it may remain undefined or require continuous review as the tourism crisis is the result of a virusthatis continuously mutating with its unpredictable nature, thus ultimately affecting the tourism industry.

Another way of defining the problem can be through the perspective of the stakeholders and the most affected section of the policies. Defining the policy problem may impact policy interpretation and evaluation. A policy evaluation should also facilitate the interpretation of policy in a broader context. Besides, an important question that needs to be considered is "what values and order do the policy or program promote?"(Anders Hanberger, 2001). If the policymaker confines his/her focus to the formal authority structure, there is a risk of not understanding the associated informal complications involved in the problem. Non-state actors/informal institutions can be helpful in giving an incisive definition to the policy problem. Thus, the participatory approach argues that key actors must be heard from the formal

authority. Also, problem analysis needs to be done to crosscheck whether the policy problem is clear or unclear. For example, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some countriesresponded by developing a specific medical information system that can keep track ofthe spread of the virus byempowering the citizens towards responsible behavior.In India, AarogyaSetu, a mobile app initiated by the Government of India for the purpose of "contact tracing, syndromic mapping, and self-assessment." Nevertheless, an informal policy problem also surfaced while analysing the perceptions among the stakeholders, which involvedthe privacy of the users.This is due to the fact that the government officials confined their focus towardsformal issues such asthe technical durability of the information storage. They did not bother so much about the originally defined problem and the goal of empowering the citizens towards responsible behavior. Moreover, it is informally treated by the citizens as a surveillance multimedia information system.However, itdoes notmean to say that the participatory approach is free from limitations. Defining problem situations is bounded byconcerting conglomerations of policy actors, political interests, social values, informal bureaucratic laws, and legal interpretations.

There exist various limitations to the process of problem identification as well (Iris Geva-May, 1997). In this regard, the role of policy analysts cannot be ignored. One of the primary focuses of analysts is locating the setting and situation of the problem. However, practical implications to locate the problem are multifold. Situating a problem comes alongwith convoluted between needs versus wants, expectations, and possibilities. In some cases, variableness of problem situations, when it is equated with causes, it appears to have multiple problems to a cause or multiple causes results ina single problem. The want here is to open businesses and countries for tourism after the initial decline, but that is not possible without vaccination being provided to the people of the country. Second, symptoms may get highlighted as situation problems rather than the problem itself. This, inturn, hinders the coherent analytic way of formulating the problem that eventually inhibits solution-finding. As COVID-19 blindsided humanity, its nature is highly unpredictable, and its solutions

might vary and are dynamic in nature, whichmight make the policies varied, and they might not have a unilateral solution. Therefore, the present study fundamentally focuses on defining what the problem is about and the problem of the tourism crisis during the pandemic period. Further, the study keeps political and practical implications that shape the government's policy response.

4. Methodology

The current research is qualitative in nature and relies on secondary data. In order to examine the trajectory between the selected countries that have completely moved away from the existing ideology from the initial state or they stick to the existing ideology they believe in or adopt a mixed approach. The countries were carefully curated from each section of ideology and were divided into three big sections: liberal, conservative, and socialist countries. Figure 1 indicates a curated list of countries that relatively have more Gross Domestic Production (GDP) share from tourism and adopt socialist approaches to stimulate the industry. They were selected by the parameters of the methodology they adopted to identify policy problems, and they were compared on these grounds. The study also considers the by-products of the said government's decisions on its citizens.

The second step in policy response is policy definition, and this was divided into two criteria in the study: A) From the expectancy point of view, the countries, in an attempt to handle unpredictable futures, devised both anticipated and unanticipated tourism crises to lay a solid framework for managing the pandemic. (Policy problem is defined as an anticipated or unanticipated crisis in tourism) B) The aims of this paper are to determine if the countries have adopted management in the time of crisis based on how the crises are defined (policy problem is defined) from the impact point of view that is short term or long term.

Fig 1: Country-wise GDP

Socialist/Communist countries	Liberal/Capitalist countries	Conservative

| China-11.3% | New Zealand-5.8% | Egypt-12.00% |
| India-9.2% | USA-11% | Lebanon-19.5% |

The methodology also relies on meta-policy analysis. However,meta-analysis is considered astatistical analysis that integrates the results of multiple scientific studies. Meta-analysis can be conducted for the qualitative studies when numerous scientific studies address the same question, with each outcome recording measurements expected to have some degree of fallacy on the grounds of culture, political ideology, and administrative literacy of the public.

Fig 2: Country-wise ideologies, policy problem, and policy responses

Name of the Country	Ideology	Revival tourism policy approach	Policy Problem Identificatio n Model	Shift in Ideolo gy
China	Communist	Approach (PPP) Public-Private partnership	1.Multi actors Geva-May &Wildavsky, 1997	Capita lism
India	Socialist	1.Economic rebuild 2.Law enforcement	1.Weiss,	Laisse z-faire
USA	Liberal/Capit alist	1.Stimulus check 2.Travel regulations	1.Guy b peters	Sociali sm
New Zealand	Liberal/Capit alist	1.Law enforcement officers 2. NZ Upgradation programme a. Revival packages b. Wage subsidies	1.Guy b peters	Sociali sm

		c. Leave self-isolation support package d. Income support e. monetary policy		
Lebanon	Conservative	1.National Committee for COVID-19 (NCC) 2.PPP (Public-Private partnerships) 3.tax breaks	Elmore, 1978; Benson, 1983	Mixed approach
Egypt	Conservative	1.SAM (Social accounting matrix) multiplier model 2.Subsidising electricity and natural gas; reducing interest rates	Geva-May &Wildavsky, 1997	Socialism/capitalism

The research paper wasaimed to analyse policy problem identification approaches of selected countries' tourism crisis during the pandemic to critically look at the correlation between countries' approaches and their initial ideology. It invariably tested the pragmatic working of one ideology over the intended other in order to identify the deviation.

5. Equating tourism policies and ideologies: A meta-policy analysis

5. 1. China

China, a communist country, effectively utilised tools of capitalism and a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model and delegated the responsibility to the hotel industry as main actors to cater to

tourists with attractive deals, which aimed to boost the tourism industry.

5.1.A. Policy problem identification,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent hit on the tourism industry, China's policy response has been to retaliate with the hotel industry and delegate and guide hotel firms' actions to major strategies and employing the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) method as the base for the Chinese government to implement various strategies, and the initial response was crisis management which was handled in a delegative management style usingcollaborative planning theory. In the next phase, it treated hotels as the prime stakeholder/actor. In the next phase, the first section phases ofthe anti-pandemic process depicted major events that have affected or may affect China's hotel industry during the six pandemic phases. Further, in the last phase, anti-pandemic strategies were implemented by the hotel industry to recover from the crisis. Besides, the hotel industry exhibited care towardspeople and carried out social responsibilities by voluntarily participating in providing accommodation and food to the medical staff, construction workers, and patients. Parallelly, the basic health amenities such asaccommodation for the COVID-19 patients, arrangement of medical staff, including the construction of COVID-19 hospitals, were administered by the government. This essentially proved that the communist country depended on a capitalistic establishment to help with the management of a crisis.

5.1.B. The policy problem is defined

Policy problems as described by Geva-May &Wildavsky (1997) seems to have similarity with that of China's approach. The government has applied the policy identification method that indicates that there are defining policy problem circumstances that are conglomerates of policy actors, along with social and political interests, values, attitudes, unwritten laws, and regulations. China's primary response has been to delegate initial responses to external actors. This indicates that the policy problem of the tourism crisis is

defined by the Chinese government in the language of the PPP model.

5.1.C. Policy analysis

China is a communist country that is expected to create policies that reflect complete funding and ownership. But the method of response contradicts this ideology through its output, as the method contains a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) approach that is more evident in the capitalist countries that usually adopt a mixed economy. The ideological shift is evident as the change is from a communist to a mixed economy. Therefore, enunciating a clear problem identification gap.

5.2. India

India is a socialist country, who particularly did not use any revival or growth strategies but employed law enforcement methods by fining and arresting citizens, and after an economic hit to the economy, a harmful defensive tactic was implied by increasing the Goods and Service Tax (GST)to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the hospitality industry, therefore not adhering to the capitalistic foundation and to a regulatory medium, it adopted a laissez-faire approach towards the tourism crisis.

5.2.A. Policy problem identification methods

Tourism in India had a steep decline during 2020. The governmentof India (GoI) had a crucial role in revitalising the growth in the tourism industry.The GOI favourablytook immediate relief measures to levy reduced Goods and Services Tax, to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry.

5.2.B. The policy problem is defined

The policy structure used by India for managing the crisis is mainly dependent on organisational competence and resources, which is effective in theory. The implementation of the policy is disproportionate to the theory, and the framework was first illustrated by (cf. Elmore, 1978; Benson, 1983)."A firm may be

capable of a task or problematic.Therefore, the analyst must pay attention to both the theoretical and pragmatic shortcomings related to the decisions of the organizations" (cf. Weiss, 1972).

5.2.C. Policy analysis

India has a mixed form of government,which did not use any revival or growth strategies but employed law enforcement methods by fining and arresting citizens. After the economy took the hit, a harmful defensive tactic was implied by increasing GST prices to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry.Therefore,it did not adhere to the capitalistic foundation and to a regulatory medium and adopted a laissez-faire approach towards the tourism crisis.

5.3. United States of America

The country witnesses a change as the government changed from republicans to democrats,which shifted laws, programmes, policies, and financial simulation. The policies which they implemented to address the tourism crisis were more socialistic ideas such as the 'stimulus checks'. The 'stimulus check' is a part of a larger federal-based stimulus package curated to support the economy, which was paid to its citizens as a part of the CARES Act,2020. The shift was effective from January 2021, signifying the massive change in ideals in real-time governments.

5.3.A. Policy problem identification methods

The majority of the shift can be ascribed to the change in government, and the policy reaction also drastically shifted.The pandemic broke under Donald J trump's term, and that duration was presented with a capitalistic and laissez-faire approach and a complete denial of the crisis at hand.The initial response to the pandemic was to close borders, and no other action was prescribed.

5.3.B. The policy problem is defined

The public policy identified by the United States of America has drawn parallels to the definition given by Guy B Peters. The first step is defining and describing the problem. This is particularly

difficult to answer politically and pragmatically, but the answer is usually opposite to the existing ideology that the current state and the type of government response it requires.

5.3.C. Policy analysis

The shift in government from a republican majority rule to a democratic majority rule described another form of government that not only acknowledged but also responded with the 'stimulus checks'. A stimulus check is a part of a larger federal stimulus package designed to support the economy, which was the case with the stimulus payments that were part of the CARES Act, 2020. This resonates as a profoundly socialistic feature in a deep capitalistic state that signifies an identification gap policy problem withsubjectively meaningful representations of the problem.

5.4. New Zealand

New Zealand was the first country to loosen the lockdown restrictions because of a decrease in the number of COVID-19cases, which was effectively done through socialistic means such as the government passing the controversial COVID-19 Public Health Response Act, 2020. This act adopted a socialistic medium that challenged the capitalist, laissez-faire liberal ideal of the government. Its approach was described as "crushing the Curve" (World Health Organization, 2020).

5.4.A. Policy problem identification methods

New Zealand was a pristine example for the rest of the world as it was the first country to have almost zero cases within three months of the lockdown being announced.The country's most controversial COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020, which allowed 'enforcement officers' to intrude into the houses and private premises without a warrant as part of enforcing lockdown protocols.The country's identification method was influenced by a report published on the WHO-China joint mission in 2020.

5.4.B. The policy problem is defined

The identification of their implementation echoed Guy B Peters' identification that stated that different firms in government would

be endowed with a greater or lesser role in solving the problem and other externalities of involvement to implement policy and formulate policy. As per the WHO Report, 2020, the New Zealand government realised 'the need for speed.' The government also realisedthat the implementationof this strategy would have a high cost, but so would a major outbreak.

5.4.C. Policy analysis

New Zealand has been one of the most progressive countries in the world, and it prides itself on being liberal and left-leaning. Still, their adoption of the "Public Health Response Act, 2020" to enforce lockdown restrictions resonated with a socialist ideology that doesn't adopt the laissez-faire approach of liberal governments. Therefore, isolating the identification gap. The country placed itsentire population into the mission and called it "a tams of 5 million",which indicated its rigorous plan and strict approach. However, one cannot ignore the fact that Dr. Kasai observed, "New Zealand certainly benefited from being a high-income Iceland country with an advance health system" (World Health Organization, 2020).

5.5. Lebanon

Lebanon was going through political and economic turmoil with a banking crisis and the break of a civiluprising when the first case of COVID-19 hit on February 21,2020,which pushed the country into a total economic crisis. The government of Lebanon quickly established a National Committee for COVID-19 to oversee all the responses and to manage the crisis.

5.5.A. Policy problem identification methods

A 'whole-of-government response' was initiated by the Lebanese government with the strategy of a public-private partnership, along with the Ministry of Health overseeing and containing the pandemic. The country has a low resource challenge; therefore, the strategy was focused on early containment. Lebanon compares favourably with New Zealand (243 cases per million), South Korea (248 cases per million), and Australia (299 cases per million).

5.5.B. The policy problem is defined

The policy framework employed here was to enunciate the organizations, competence, and resources. Before that 'defining what the problem is about?'can be critical to poliicaland administrative solutions that government offeres. Precisely, the problem of how to control the pandemicmerely a concern of ofpublic/provatehealth sector or municipal sanitisation department or law and order. Here, the problem is defined with a wholistic approachthus adopted 'whole-of-government response' (ShergoldP. ,2020).Accordingly different modalities of involvement is being invoked. As a resultdifferent firms in government and private would be endowed with greater or lesser role in addressing the problem.

5.5.C. Policy analysis

The selected countries completely moved away from the existing ideology from the initial statehave been highlighted. They stuck to the existing ideology they believe in or adopt a mixed approach.In conclusion, the containment strategy was the right decision for Lebanon as it did not overwhelm the healthcare system and gave the country time to build on its health sector, but the disastrous by-products were that it came at a high economic cost, plunging poverty levels from 30% to an expected 45 percent by the end of 2020.The country of Lebanon is highly conservative and has religious clashes and a vast immigration population, but this conservatism was transferred into socialism by introducing government for all and also joining an agreement with private entities initiating Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) indicate that the government had adopted mixed economy approach, clearly enunciating a gap in policy identification.

5.6. Egypt

Egypt has a massive tourism industry, and it was hit the hardest after the emergence of COVID-19. The pandemicadversely impacted tourism and as it is an informal sector, which is mainly attributed to the political and social unrest in the country. The ensuing domino effect was observed. Overall, one out of every nine jobs in the country depends on tourism. They have divided

different crises into two, one is unanticipated, and the other is anticipated. The proposal of the SAM (Social accounting matrix) multiplier model has been attempting to address the short-term crisis and short-term impact. It may be due to the reason that the COVID-19 pandemic was unanticipated, and the impacts of an unanticipated crisis require rapid onset response because the impact is short-lived. But the anticipated method was the economic strife that was already in motion before the pandemic. The countries which get relatively more GDP share from tourism have adopted socialist approaches to stimulate the industry.

5.6.A Policy problem identification methods

The policy response that the country adopted was the SAM (Social accounting matrix)that is a multiplier model that was utilised to salvage the collapse of the tourism industry and the reduction in revenue because of the Suez canal blockage and drought. The government decided to implement EGP 100 billion ($6.3 billion) and enacted tax breaks for industrial and tourism businesses, reducing the cost of electricity and natural gas to industries, along with cuttinginterest rates and providing grants to seasonal workers.

5.6.B. The policy problem is defined

The problem situation and the first component providestructure and direction of the evaluation. The context in which the policy operates can be described in many ways. May suggests that "The policy is situated within the problem situation and the socio-historical, political context, the key players and stakeholders that are identified and the evaluation unfolds the way in which the problem and strategies are defined and solved with the perceptions of the stakeholders. This creates a foundation, and other variables and outcomes are also considered." (Geva-May &Wildavsky, 1997).

5.6.C. Policy analysis

Egypt, being a conservative country, came up with economic models to salvage the economy in anticipation and implemented the SAM multiplier model. The model was built in retaliation to manage the crisis owing to the implementationsof tax deductions

for industrial businesses, decreasing the cost of essentials such as electricity and natural gas and deducting interest rates, and providing grants to season workers and increasing the cash flow to poor households, increasing unemployment benefits, and protecting specific sectors. Therefore, enacting a very socialistic approach to a conservative and economically problem-ridden country. This allowed the paper to prove a gap in policy problem identification.

5.Observations and Conclusion

From the analysis that was being made on the basis of policies initiated by the selected countries for the study, it was observed there was a problem is value judgment. Policy identification was determined by the ideology that the countries are inherently positioned for. Policy problems are circumstantial to the environment. Whether a certain condition is viewed as a problem or not depends on our perceptions and is not inherent in the condition or situation itself.(Geva-May &Wildavsky, 1997). For example, America initially undermined the reality of the situation and lost a crucial period that could have saved millions of lives, and this ideological ignorance failed the American citizens. On the other hand, New Zealand, another liberal state, identified empirically and responded immediately; besides the countries which represent the conservative ideology, Lebanon and Egypt also identified the policy problem empirically that goes against conservatism. This clearly indicates that the process of identification can hardly be connected to the ancestry ideology.

When it comes to defining a policy problem, countries such as India and New Zealand define the crisis as having a short-term impact,which can be managed through short-term solutions like imposing lockdown and regulating public mobility. With regard to India, the socialist state did not immediately respond with policy aid to handle the tourism crisis. Contrarily another extremely socialist state, China, defined the tourism crisis, which had a long-term impact and responded immediately with a long-term policy that is a public-private partnership. From the analysis, it can be concluded that there is a clear policy problem identification gap

between ancestry ideology and the pragmatic ideology across the countries selected for the study.

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