Air pollution and an attempt of improving situation

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World Economic Forum recently published an article titled “Air pollution can increase the threat posed by COVID-19” [1]. The article mentioned that those who exposed to low air quality were more susceptible to the threat of COVID-19. Indeed, the immune system might be harmfully affected due to breathing toxic air, ultimately resulting in increasing risk of chronic health conditions and susceptible to respiratory diseases. More importantly, COVID-19 is one of the respiratory diseases. Hence, the immune systems weakened by air pollution were more fragile to the attack of COVID-19 virus.

Developing successfully COVID-19 vaccines does not mean we can totally protect the people [2]. Reducing air pollution is the next step to achieve sustainable development goal 3 (SDG) – good health and well-being. The most noticeable solutions can be switching energy sources from fossil fuels to cleaner ones, which also helps achieve SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy. Policymakers need to enact legislations that discourage the use of private cars. Hanoi, for example, attempts to improve the situation through introducing public transport systems.

The example needs to be scaled up to reach sustainable cities and communities’ status – SDG 11. Otherwise, the consequences might be costly, such as the loss of workforce [3, 4]. Enacting effective policies requires evidence-based research to inform policymaking, ultimately resulting in achieving these goals [5, 6].

Reference:

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