

That is a very interesting piece that the quote is taken from and Betsy McCaughey does a nice job of articulating the serious issue of unemployment related suicides. With Covid-19, without doubt, we have a major global humanitarian disaster on our hands. Also, I absolutely concur with your point about not casting stones at politicians. Now is certainly not the time as it would only serve to be an unwelcome distraction from trying to get on top of the pandemic crisis. That said, I did find the rhetoric in Betsy's article comments section disappointingly politically motivated and occasionally cynical with minimal thought to the wider humanitarian issues.

But it's what the article doesn't say that is arguably as much an issue. For me, there are two things missing:

Firstly, it does not make any attempt to compare the anticipated number of Covid-19 unemployment related suicides with the projection of infections and fatalities if a lockdown policy had not been followed. In fact, it seems rather dismissive of what it refers to as "academic and public health concocted models". I feel that this is a missed opportunity as a comparison of the two would have provided a more balanced argument.

Secondly, it looks to both the Lancet Medical Journal articles and the National Bureau of Economic Research in supporting her argument. As a researcher, I am disappointed that, so far, I have not been able to find any trace of relevant articles in either. If you are aware of any, I would appreciate any appropriate links that you can include in this conversation chain.