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ASSIGNMENT

Social media narratives about covid19

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus.

The Covid-19 pandemic is the most recent and most trending occurrence in Nigeria and the world at large. The Covid-19 is short for “Coronavirus Disease 2019”. It is an influenza related disease as it has symptoms like sneezing but more like an upgraded version which is communicable through fluid contact from an infected person infects the lungs of the host which it resides in causing breathing abnormalities. The disease has said to be first found in China and on the 31st of January, 2020 it’s first case in Nigeria was confirmed in Lagos. Yes, the Covid-19 sure poses a big threat to the Nigerian economy but on a closer look there are a few positive effects. As it is often said, “For everything that happens, there is a good and bad side to it” and so is the case of the Covid-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding, the negative effects will still be considered.

First, fear rises in the heart of Nigerians as the number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 increases daily owing to the fact that it is a deadly disease especially when not detected at an early stage. As at now, Nigeria has recorded a total number of seven deaths which is quite alarming. However, this is comforting especially when compared with the cases of developed countries like the USA, Spain Italy and South Korea which record three digits death cases on a daily basis.

Second, it is obvious that Covid-19 pandemic is indeed a big blow on the economy at large. It has affected the Small andMedium-scale Enterprises (SME’s) as well as large industries.The lockdown imposed by the federal and state governments to contain the spread of the virus has crumbled business activities in small shops such as kiosks and public markets and has drastically touuched on the means of livelihood rendering the economy bare and the people in suffering.

More so, there is academic shutdown and lockdown. Unlike the ASUU strike which affects only public schools, the Covid-19 pandemic shakes the bases of both public and private schools. Thus, all schools (from the basic to tertiary) across the country have closed in compliance to the order given by the government to reduce the spread of the virus. This has resulted in an indefinite pause in normal school activities. Students are at their various homes idle not knowing when next they will continue with their academic work. Although some private schools have resumed lectures via the internet, that is online classes, some other schools cannot afford such platforms. This is indeed is a great setback in the nation's academic progress.

There is hunger and poverty in the nation; Nigeria on her own has a lot of unresolved issues on poverty alleviation and fight against hunger and yet this Covid-19 pandemic. The issue of hunger and poverty has been a thorn on the flesh of many Nigerians for years now. As markets and other small businesses are on suspension; many Nigerians find it hard to get food as not everyone has enough money to stock up their houses. The government has not made any adequate provisions for the low income Nigerians who lack food during this lockdown period. If much attention is not paid to this issue, more Nigerians may die from hunger and poverty than the Covid-19 itself.

Conversely, it is ironical that a pandemic of this magnitude can still have some positive effect. The incident has revitalized the local industries. The people of Aba have always been popularly known to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way especially in the area of creativity and commerce.

Apart from the negative aspects of this pandemic, there are also some positivity in it

For example; The advent of the pandemic has brought families together. Many families who barely have a bond are made to build one in this period not by choice but because of condition. Parents have jobs that occupy them and keep them away from home for hours, days, weeks and even months for those that have to travel. Fortunately, due to this lockdown, parents and children are all at home and at one point get to know each and get involved with themselves.

 Apart from this, There is unprecedented upgrade of the health facilities and  health institutions. The emergence of this pandemic has made an impromptu call for reawakening to the doctors, lab scientists and other medical related workers to wake up to creativity. The Nigerian doctors, who have also been neglected owing to the fact that many of the wealthy people go medical trip abroad for proper health care services. This has given a chance to Nigerian doctors and medical personnel to prove their relevance and ingenuity of which they are making impressive progress. This is evident since there has been a consistent increase in the number of discharged casesI of COVID-19 patients.

This will be over real soon all We need to do is obey the directives of the government, take the safety precautions which are; washing of hands often under running water, social distancing, constant drinking of water, avoid touching your face, mouth and nose, practice self isolation and before we know it

It will be over.