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**WRITE A REPORT OF NOT MORE THAN TWO PAGES ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA.**

**INTRODUCTION**

The coronavirus belongs to a family of viruses that may cause certain symptoms such as pneumonia, fever, breathing difficulty and lung infection. The World health organization (WHO) used the term 2019 novel coronavirus to refer to a coronavirus that affects the lower respiratory tracts of patients. The COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans, it is highly infectious and communicable.

The coronavirus disease( COVID-19) has been identified as the cause of an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The coronavirus started in China in December 2019 and as of 31 January 2020, the epidemic had spread to 19 countries and it is now a pandemic. Coronavirus has been identified with various symptoms, the most common symptoms are fever, sneezing, tiredness and dry cough. Most people( about 88%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment, rate of recovery depends on how strong their immunity is. Older people, and people living with other medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill.

The incubation period of the virus ranges from one to fourteen days. Most infected people show symptoms within five to six days. However, infected patients can also be asymptomatic, meaning they do not display any symptoms despite having the virus in their systems. About 2,014,046 cases, deaths of 127,595 people and recovery of 419 841 people has been confirmed globally as of 15th of April 2020.

The coronavirus disease spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose or mouth. You can protect yourself by washing your hands frequently or using an alcohol based sanitizer, avoiding touching your face, and avoiding close contact( 1 meter or 3 feet) with people or are unwell.

**CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA.**

The first case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease in Nigeria was announced on 27 Febuary 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. The NCDC( Nigeria center for disease control) confirmed 407 cases, 128 people discharged and a total of 12 deaths on the 15th of April, 2020 and due to the fact that the disease is highly communicable, the number of cases would increase daily. In an attempt to control the spread of the disease, the Nigerian government has enforced a lockdown policy and restriction of movement on her citizens. This will enable social distancing and self isolation would be carried out probably.

**EFFECT OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

The lockdown and restriction of movement has proved to be doing more harm than good on average and poor Nigerian citizens. It is very glaring that they are suffering at home because they cannot work, they cannot feed properly because most of them don’t have food supplies and the government isn’t providing for them adequately, educational disruption and many others.

The effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement will be explained in the paragraphs below:

**Hunger and starvation:** Most Nigerian citizens that feed on their daily income find it very difficult to feed during this period because they have been restricted from working. They have little or no money to eat and they have resorted to begging from people. If the lockdown extends further and the government doesn’t provide for the masses, it is very possible that the hunger will kill them faster than the coronavirus disease.

**Increased crime rate:** There is an increase in crimes such as theft and armed robbery, the people engaging in these crimes are hungry and have no source of income, therefore, they have chosen to rob people of what they have in other to eat. People’s lives are endangered and they live in fear of the robbers. A gang of robbers called “ One million boys” have decided to rob each street in Lagos, they steal money and food items and most times, they hurt their victims. These criminals have taken advantage of the lockdown to perpetrate evil.

**Disruption of economic activities:** A lot of people have lost their jobs, many businesses have crumbled, prices of commodities skyrocketed. In addition, the salaries of workers have been threatened because they haven’t been working and most sectors cannot pay them for that. “ The vast majority of people outside the formal system are hit devastatingly by the lockdown,” said Felix Morka, executive director of the social Economic Rights Action Center, a Lagos-based nongovernmental organization. The lockdown has affected a wide range of individuals in the informal sector from street traders, taxidrivers, tradesmen, artisans to food vendors and hairdressers. They have lost their source of income.

**CONCLUSION.**

The government has promised to send food and relief packages to vulnerable households affected by the lockdown. Nigeria’s federal government has developed a plan to deliver social and economic assistance to the tens of millions of people who will lose their income due to COVID-19 issue. Philanthropists and non-governmental organizations have made donations during this lockdown period to help people survive. In addition, the NCDC hotline as been made available to Nigerians who need to report an issue or need emergency assistance. Necessary precautions should be taken by Nigerians and together we will beat this.