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The corona virus pandemic

In January 2020 the World Health Organization (W.H.O) declared the outbreak of a new corona virus disease, COVID-19, to be a Public Health Emergency. In March 2020, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic. In late 2019 someone at the now world-famous Huanan seafood market in Wuhan was infected with a virus from an animal. It is a respiratory virus which spreads through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.  From there the disease began spreading all over the world.

The pandemic has led to measures such as social distancing, restriction of movement in order to control the spread. These measures have had a huge impact on the world and our everyday life. It has caused us to have a different sense of security, this crisis has created a wide reaching uncertainty. We do not know what to think or how to make conclusions of this completely unfamiliar event. Who will be affected? How quickly? Will tests be available? Will we survive? How long will this last? What about our work and income? And in all honesty there is no reliable answer to these questions at the moment as there is no available vaccine.

The lockdown is also expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, usually on less than one dollar a day. The government has pledged a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for the most vulnerable, but there have been widespread complaints that not enough is being done for those faced with hunger.

Given the unreliable electricity supply in Nigeria, having citizens staying home amid a lockdown to curb the spread of the virus likely means millions of electricity generators will be working overtime to power homes, worsening pollution in residential areas. While Lagos’ deserted highways and erstwhile bustling business districts mean lower vehicular and industrial emissions, research shows the increased use of generators likely means an uptick in air and noise pollution.

Meanwhile, police said on Monday that they were bolstering forces in Lagos and Ogun after almost 200 suspects were arrested amid fears of a spike in crime during the lockdown.

Although majority of the effects of the lockdown are negative there are still said to be some positive effects. One of them is Pollution free air ( to an extent ), factories have been shut for last four weeks in Nigeria and a lot more similar industries have also been shut down due to COVID-19 spread. Not only this, there have been minimal use of vehicles on road. All this has contributed towards lowered CO2-emissions. Not only this, the emission of nitrogen dioxide has also reduced. This indicates that air has become more pure implying that we can once again breathe pure and naturally filtered air.

Reducing pressure on resource**s** to combat corona virus, companies have asked workers to work from home. In addition to this, the consumption of plastic has also reduced as people no longer have tea or coffee in those disposable glasses. Also, they now print less and shop less. In one way or the other, all of this is contributing towards the good health of the environment.

Majority of the positive effects of the pandemic are environmental based, but this period has also given us a chance to sit back and reflect on our lives, unite us as humans not looking at our differences and also to spend more time with our families. I can say from experience, this pandemic has brought me closer to my family and given me a different perception on life.

Some might say the pandemic is a sign from God for us to change our ways and others might say it is natural, to be honest we can never truly tell but one thing we can learn from this pandemic is that alone we are nothing but together we can overcome anything.