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 ASSIGNMENT

A report on the Corona virus pandemic and the effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

 Coronaviruses are types of viruses that typically affect the respiratory tracts of birds and mammals, including humans. Doctors associate them with the common cold, bronchitis, pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and COVID-19. They can also affect the gut.

These viruses are typically responsible for common colds more than serious diseases. However, coronaviruses are also behind some more severe outbreaks.

Over the last 70 years, scientists have found that coronaviruses can infect mice, rats, dogs, cats, turkeys, horses, pigs, and cattle. Sometimes, these animals can transmit coronaviruses to humans. Common signs of the infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties in more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Standard recommendation to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and egg. Avoid close contact with anybody showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing. Coronavirus infection, which has caused thousands of deaths in China, Spain, Italy and hundreds of deaths in the US and some other parts of the world was recently reported in Nigeria. The rate of spread, its pattern of infections and mortalities are reasons for government’s lockdown instructions, seen as one of the most effective ways to reduce and slow down its spread within the country.

One of the few positive effects of the shutdown is that there seems to have been a drop in pollution in some parts of the world.

Levels of NO2 in the atmosphere fluctuate widely with factors like wind speed, and satellites trying to measure these levels can be hampered by cloud cover.

This may explain some of the variability seen over Wuhan and northern Italy between January and March 2019 in the maps below.

But in these places, shutdowns have been stricter and in place for longer than elsewhere, and the change in NO2 levels between 2019 and the months of 2020 in which the shutdowns have been in effect appears to be significant.

 Another effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigeria is that the cost of living is very high, people who are self employed are affected because the restriction of movement have made them jobless therefore making them and their families suffer hunger and lack of basic amenities of life. It reduces the rate of buying and selling of goods and services . In the short term, a lockdown might have some effect, but it would not prevent more severe corona outbreaks in the long term. Neither the expected increase in corona deaths in the Netherlands nor the fact that other European countries are ordering a stricter - but equally unchecked - regime are reasons for a change of course. ... Of course it's conceivable that in an unpredictable crisis like this the government might change its course of action, but this must be based on new insights from the experts, not on the vague assumption that the more radical interventions are in principle the better ones.