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Assignment

Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the Coronavirus pandemic and effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a group of related viruses that causes diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, coronavirus cause respiratory tract infections that can range from mild to lethal. There are yet to be vaccines or antiviral drugs to prevent or treat human coronavirus infections. Coronavirus is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their eyes, mouth or nose. People with COVID-19 generally develop signs and symptoms, including mild respiratory symptoms and fever, on an average of 1-14 days of incubation. Most people infected with COVID-19 virus have a mild disease and recover. The coronavirus is considered as a pandemic due to the rapid increase in the number of cases outside China that has affected a growing number of countries like Nigeria.

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of the coronavirus disease in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On the 9th of March 2020, a second case of the virus was confirmed in Ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigerian Citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. More cases of the coronavirus has been confirmed till now in Nigeria, but there have been few recoveries and deaths so far. According to World Health Organization, COVID-19 can be prevented by frequent cleaning of hands with soap or alcohol-based sanitizer, not touching eyes, nose or mouth, covering your nose and/or mouth when coughing or sneezing, seeking medical help whenever fever and difficulty in breathing becomes severe, and also maintaining a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing otherwise known as social distancing.

It is believed that the virus can live on surfaces touched by the infected person for hours unless the surface is being disinfected with an alcohol based disinfectant. That is why in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, social distancing must be observed and the infected people that were tested positive must be isolated, while those who might have being in contact with the infected must be quarantined for 14 days indoors. Social gathering, schools, malls, markets, offices, universities, churches, mosques and all form of gathering were closed down by the president of the country in states with positive tested COVID-19 cases.

A lockdown is implemented when there is serious security risks to building occupants. Movements are restricted during the lockdown. The president of Nigeria ordered the lockdown of states with COVID-19 cases for 2 weeks. When the information was passed on to the public, some citizens refused to comply with the rules and prevention protocols as they do not believe in the coronavirus. Some do not even have enough resources to provide for themselves to undergo the lockdown for the complete 14 days of quarantine and observation of any of the coronavirus symptoms. Some citizens refuse to comply with the lockdown rules thus resulting in the enforcement of the rule through soldiers. The prices of goods has increased, making it difficult for the low class citizens to afford the necessary requirements they need to survive and remain healthy. Due to the economic situation and the pandemic, citizens and the government are at war. A lot of people have being shot for trying to find means to survive. Innocent lives have been lost, not entirely because of the current pandemic the world is facing, but due to the aggressive nature of the lockdown enforcement.

The effect of the restriction of movement has caused a lot of conflicts, fighting, corruption, scam, disorderliness, even loss of lives. The economic situation is also making it hard for the citizens who don’t have enough money to stay indoors for 2 weeks and survive. Some do not agree with the government idea of the lockdown and thus would do everything to prove it wrong, by fighting respected authorities. Few rural areas are not aware of the COVID-19 status and hence ignore any information about it. Due to illiteracy, some citizens would believe any false news about the coronavirus vaccine which has not being officially announced yet. Citizens believe that if the government wants to make things easier for them to undergo the lockdown protocols and obey it, the government would have to provide them with the necessary needs like food, a good shelter, constant power supply, an effective way of getting information, and assurance that the country would take control over the situation and overcome it, but this, the citizens aren’t getting it. The country’s economy is capable of providing all of this for its citizens but because of corruption status of the country, the citizens are not getting the necessary. The government are not taking the citizen’s feedbacks. Instead, they believe that the citizens are just being unreasonable and have assigned soldiers to enforce the lockdown protocol using force and violence leading to chaos, fear, anarchy and more. Some citizens are using this opportunity to scam others of their cash, by deceiving them with false news and so on.