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ASSIGNMENT

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT AS NIGERIANS

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness in animals and humans, ranging from common cold to more severe diseases such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease known as COVID-19.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus disease. It was unknown until its outbreak in Wuhan, China in December, 2019 and has spread to over 210 countries in the world with the United State leading with the highest number of cases presently followed by Spain and Italy. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness and dry cough. Some victims of COVID-19 may have aches, pain, nasal congestion, sore throat or diarrhea while some may not develop any of these symptoms. COVID-19 can be spread through small droplets from the nose or mouth of an infected person. It can be spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes on a virus free person then the virus free person inhales in the droplet or when a virus free person touches an infected surface then touches their nose, eyes or mouth. It was also discovered that the disease is more severe in older persons and those that have pre-existing medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, heart disease, etc.

Due to this coronavirus disease that is now pandemic and spreading fast, states in Nigeria that have been affected by the disease have been declared state of emergency by the government to reduce the spread of the virus. There also has been lockdown of shops, factories, businesses, etc., to prevent the virus from spreading. The only shops that are allowed are essential services such as food stuffs, water, pharmacies, etc. Residents in the affected areas have been advised to stay home and isolate themselves so that the disease will not spread. All borders have also been shut down so that people coming from the affected countries will not help increase the spread of the virus.

In Nigeria, there have been many effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement. They include economic hardship. Citizens who are given daily wages and depend on the money they are given per day will face challenges such as feeding during this lockdown period especially those that have a family to feed. Example is a man who is a bricklayer and has a wife who sells beans cake with two sons, for them to feed will be very hard and though the government will provide them with food stuffs, it would not still be enough. Another is armed robbery. People go from house to house stealing things such as food stuffs because they do not have anything to eat and enough money to help themselves and their family. Also the increase in price. Sellers begin to increase the price of their items because immediately Nigeria is free from the virus, things in the market will be expensive. For example, a part of Lagos has increased the price of their goods.

Nigeria would not be the same after the lockdown because they would have spent a lot of money on food for their family without them going to work. It would take some month before everything will be back to normal.