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 **THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN**

 **AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON THE NIGERIANS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

A novel coronavirus (COV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. Detailed investigations found that SARS-COV was transmitted from civet cats to humans in China in 2002 and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans. As surveillance improves around the world, more coronaviruses are likely to be identified.However the strain of Corona Virus in which Nigeria and the world at large is dealing with present times is one known as (COVID-19).

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment.  Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available.

**BODY**

The lockdown in Nigeria commenced on the 30th of March and it also included the closure of all school in the country. It was enforced in three major states, Lagos, Ogun and Abuja. Although most states later joined in with the measures later on, the restrictions which was placed arent as stringent as the three states mentioned above.

The effects of this lockdown can be addressed as such. Nigeria being a developing country comprises of majority of its citizens as lower working class, meaning they highly rely on what they make for the day to live on. as such, their jobs require constant and daily activeness. Workers such as bus drivers, market traders, vulcanisers are drastically hit by the lockdown period as they have no other means on which to feed. Due to this reason has the government set up palliatives in order to take care of people with such issues. These palliatives include the provision of food items and money.

As a result of the reason above, another affect of this virus is on the Nigerian Economy. Due to the inactivity of the labour force which contributes largely to about 6% of the GDP there is most likely to be a drop in the productivity of the country during this time. In a country that is struggling to get out of recession, the toll with which this lockdown measures take is something worth worrying about.

Another main problem in which the lockdown has caused is the rise in social unrest. As a result of the fact that people cant normally participate in their jobs there is there6a shortage of cash cleaning people are getting poorer. As it is essential for man to eat and probably provide for his family, some people take matters into their own hands rather that wait for government palliatives and decide to rob the innocent. Various cases of the rise in robbery in Lagos and other states are on a rise and this is as a result of the lockdown.

**CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS**

As a result of the facts above it is fair to say that the effects of the lockdown placed on certain parts of the country due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus have adversely affected the usual way of life in the country and in the same vein, the economy of the country. However, it is possible for such issues to be stemmed so as not to get out of hand.

First and foremost it is highly recommended that the Government should find better ways in which to distribute these life saving materials such as food stuffs and cash. Most areas of the country complain of these materials never getting to them. I believe this is the time to get the local government involved more than ever before as they are the only ones who will be able to provide to families and individuals house to house services. This solution is like killing two birds with one stone as it provides for the labour force and also reduces the rate of acts of violence due to insufficient provision.

Secondly, it is advisable that the work of the security agencies should be heightened so as to reduce the risk of a larger scale of social unrest in the country. Roadblocks are heavily recommended and the availability of a police force in every local government is essential.

The effect of the lockdown on the economy cant be something that can be curbed easily as it( the economy) requires regular activities for it to function, the main thing that can be recommended is the relaxation of the stringent lockdown measures on citizens of the country especially the labour force.

The government should also encourage people to remain at home by providing stable electricity and water supply. Such should be easier at this point since factories which are said to consume a lot of electricity are inactive.