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MATRIC NUMBER:19/MHS01/147

DEPARTMENT: MEDICINE AND SURGERY

COURSE CODE: GST 122 ASSIGNMENT

“The COVID-19 pandemic is straining health system worldwide. The rapidly increasing demand on health facilities and health care workers threatens to have some health systems overstretched and unable to operate effectively. Previous outbreaks have demonstrated that when health systems are overwhelmed, mortality from vaccine-preventable and other treatable conditions can also increase dramatically. During the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak, the increased number of deaths caused by measles, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis attributable to health system failures exceeded deaths from Ebola. As of April 19, more than 161,000 people worldwide died of COVID-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by coronavirus.” The WHO says.

According to the WHO, the Coronavirus disease(COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. They also mentioned that in order to prevent infections and to slow transmission of COVID-19, that people should wash their hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rob and also maintain at least one metre distance between you and coughing or sneezing, practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.

To help our country, Nigeria, navigate through these challenges, the Federal Government announced a lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians on the 24th of March. This was said to be done to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Buhari said that he was fully aware that this lockdown is going to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often or less than one dollar a day and that great difficulties is experienced especially by those who earn a daily wage.

“Millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack the food and income that their families need to survive” said Anietie Ewang, Nigerian researcher at Human Rights Watch. “The government needs to combine public health measures with efforts to prevent the pandemic from destroying the lives and livelihoods of society’s poorest and most vulnerable people.”

“The lockdown prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from travelling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors and traders have expressed fears over their ability to feed their families during the lockdown with their daily earnings being their only source of sustenance. An increase in food

process as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities.” Al Jazeera’s Ahmed Idris, reporting from the capital, Abuja, said.

“The informal sector, in which more than 80 percent of Nigerians work, include a wide range of occupations, from street traders, taxi drivers, tradesmen, and artisans, to food vendors and hair dressers.” said Felix Marka, executive director of the Social Economic Rights Action Center, a Lagos-based non-governmental organisation. In Lagos alone, according to research by non-governmental organisations, 65 percent of the estimated 25 million people work in the informal sector. Informal workers have lower incomes, often do not have savings, health insurances, or pensions that provide a basic social safety net and 72 percent are poor.

Emeka Onyekadu, a trader in the Yaba area of Lagos, does not think things will change in Nigeria. Onyekachi, who faces uncertainty over the future of his business, is scared as he does not understand when things will get better. “I have rent and other bills to pay very soon, but the government that is locking down, the government does not say they will help us out,” says Onyekachi.

Caleb Olorunmalye, a policy analyst explains that there will be an uptick in crimes in Nigeria and particularly the spaces that are under any forms of lockdown because the Nigerian economy isn’t made for things like remote work. He also mentioned that there would be an uptick in domestic violence with people that will find themselves locked in with their abusers when they would normally be away from home. Abulatan, a citizen of Nigerian, suffering this hardship, said that the lockdown, will only widen the income inequality gap and make less privileged people move into crime because they need to eat. “Solutions like social distancing and self-isolation in Nigeria are for privileged people,” Abulatan explains.

There has been a vast killings of citizens by Nigerian security agents in the claim of enforcing lockdown” Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) explained. They appealed to the international community to prevail on Buhari’s administration to stop the killing of impoverished citizens under the guise of enforcing lockdowns. “We condemn all these atrocious state-sponsored killings by the police, the Nigerian Civil Defence Corps and of Nigerians hungry and desperate to buy food for the starving members of their families who are locked up without much-needed food relief is a crime against humanity,” said HURIWA in a statement

by National Coordinator Emmanuel Onwubiko and National Media Affairs Director Zainab Yusuf.