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**A REPORT ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND THE RESTRICTION OF THE MOVEMENTS OF NIGERIANS.**

The corona virus disease (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus (SARS-COV-2) which emerged in Wuhan, china and spread around the world. Recently at the end of 2019, Wuhan an emerging business hub of china experienced an outbreak of a novel of corona virus that killed more than eighteen hundred and infected over seventy thousand individuals within the first fifty days of the epidemic. On December 31, 2019, the world health organization (WHO) china office head heard the first reports of corona virus. The Chinese government responded to the initial outbreak by placing Wuhan and nearby cities under a de-facato quarantine encompassing roughly 50 million people in Hubei province. What started as an epidemic mainly limited to china has now become a truly global pandemic. There have now been over 2,406,745 confirmed cases and 165,273 deaths. The disease has been detected in more than 200 countries and territories, with Italy, the US and Spain experiencing the most widespread outbreaks outside of china. The COVID-19 virus affects different people in different ways. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and most people will develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without requiring special treatment. People who have underlying medical conditions and those over 60 years old have a higher risk of developing severe disease and death. Common symptoms include: fever, tiredness, dry cough. Other symptoms include: shortness of breath, aches and pains, sore throat, and very few people will report diarrhea, nausea or a runny nose. Currently there is no vaccine or cure for corona virus but as our elders say “prevention is better than cure”. We can prevent corona virus by washing ones hands regularly for twenty second, maintaining physical distance from others, the use of face masks and hand sanitizers. Presently the pandemic has been the ravaging the earth and the whole world is a state of health emergency.

**CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA**

The first confirmed case of the pandemic corona virus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on the 27th February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARA-CoV-2. On the 9th march 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. And since then the number of COVID -19 cases has increased drastically. The government has made an effort through the Nigeria center for disease control (NCDC) to curb the spread of the corona virus. They have created awareness on the precautionary measures people should take to avoid being infected and also release the update on the coronavirus cases daily. The president declared that some vulnerable states should lock down. Such states include: FCT, Lagos, Ogun, osun, ekiti states.

**Nigeria Centre for disease control (NCDC)**

Nigeria Centre for disease control is Nigeria’s leading national public health institute. The NCDC is a Nigerian federal government agency under the federal ministry of health and is headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria. The agency is currently headed by chikwe ihekweazu. The main goal of the agency is to protect public health and safety through the control and prevention of communicable diseases in Nigeria. The agency is also responsible for coordinating surveillance systems to collect analyze and elucidate data gathered on diseases of importance to the Nigerian community.

**EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS IN NIGERIA**

Lockdown is an emergency protocol that usually prevents people or information from leaving an area. The federal government has ordered lockdown in Nigeria and this prevents movement among the Nigerians. There are positive and negative effects of the lockdown in Nigeria. The positive effects of the lockdown in Nigeria are:

. It allows family to bond together and do things together

. It helps parents correct their children’s mistakes and adjust him/her

. It helps an individual to spend more time with God

. It reduces the rate at which the virus spreads around the country

. It helps people to develop new skills like cooking and even setting up online businesses

. It helps an individual to reflect on his or her life more so as to make wiser decisions in the nearest future.

The negative effect of the lockdown includes:

. It creates opportunities for the youth to involve in crime or it increases crime rate in the society, such crimes include: stealing, kidnapping, armed robbery.

. It affects the country’s economy, it can lead to economic recession in the country.

. It leads to the increase in the prices of limited goods and services in the country.

. It makes the poor become poorer and hungry

. People struggle to survive due to inability to procure food due to high prices

. School students can’t go to school because the schools have been shut down which leads to the disruption of academic activities and increases the risk of some students not being able to return to school

. The school academic calendar is extended, which causes students who are supposed to graduate to graduate late.

In conclusion, we are advised to stay safe and stay home because the rate at which the corona virus is spreading in Nigeria is becoming scary. The federal government and NCDC have been working hand in hand to curb the spread of this virus but there is little they can do if Nigerians do not listen and follow the safety precautions given. In countries like the USA, Italy and Spain they have suffered great loss as thousands of people have lost their lives due to this virus. Just two days ago it was announced that president Mohammed Buhari’s chief of staff died of corona virus, this should be enough warning to Nigerians that corona virus can infect anybody and kill anybody that is why we are constantly advised to keep social distance with everybody and anybody. The NCDC has been activated in national emergency operation center in different states in Nigeria. Medical personnels are risking their lives daily to ensure that those who are already infected with the corona virus survive. Therefore we should consider those who are risking their lives to ensure that we are not infected and practice the safety measures. Stay home and stay safe.