NAME: NDU-UGHAMADU ADAEZE CHIDINMA

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DEPARTMENT- MEDICINE AND SURGERY

**CORONAVIRUS: THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

The world's greatest bane, the novel coronavirus or COVID-19, is a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). It was termed by the World Health Organization (WHO) a “pandemic”; as there was significant and on-going person-to-person spread in multiple countries around the world simultaneously. It was first discovered in the Wuhan city, China but there are still on going disputes on the exact origin of the virus. Looking down to Nigeria, the virus was transmitted by an Italian who flew into the country in February according to the Nigerian Disease Control Centre (NCDC). Although, at it's early stages, it was referred to as coronavirus but the World Health Organisation (WHO) changed the disease name to COVID-19; Corona Virus Disease 2019, which was the year of it's first outbreak.

The infectious is associated with common signs of fever, coughing and breathing difficulties. In severe cases, it can cause Pneumonia, multiple organ failure and death. Infected patients can be asymptomatic, meaning they do not display any symptoms despite having the virus in their system. It is also known that the incubation of COVID-19 is thought to be between one and fourteen days maximum.

Due to many uncertainties regarding the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends basic hygiene such as regularly washing hands with soap and water, and covering your mouth with your elbows when sneezing and most importantly, maintaining, “social distancing"- keeping at least six feet between yourself and others.

The statistics of the Coronavirus pandemic is gravely alarming. With a total of two million three hundred and fifty nine thousand three hundred and thirty two (2,359,332) cases worldwide with total deaths of one hundred and sixty one thousand nine hundred and forty nine (161, 949) persons and recovered patients of six hundred and six thousand six hundred and seventy five (606,675). Nigeria not excluded has a total of five hundred and one (541) cases with nineteen (19) deaths and one hundred and sixteen (116) recovered patients. These were statistics provided by the John Hopkins Hospital, America and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) respectively on Sunday, April 19.

Several efforts are being put to curtail the virus, the greatest being the “lockdown”. This is a total shutdown of social, economic and political activities: religious gatherings, market places, business meetings among others. The Nigerian government initiated a two weeks lockdown in major cities in the country of March 29 to stem the virus' spread. On April 13, the lockdown was extended by President Muhammadu Buhari for another two weeks.

To start with, the lockdown, the government and many individuals have acquired little to no revenue. Many businesses have been shut down in all cities, leaving business men, traders, food vendors among other citizens with no revenue to cater for their basic needs especially feeding in this period of hardship. The government not left behind also bears this burden as major importing and exporting activities have been halted. Situations can only turn southwards when ninety percent of the nation's revenue is from exporting crude oil. The nation's economists have predicted that the nation is about to go into a state of depression as it is currently in recession.

In addition, the educational system of the country has been disrupted. Examinations such as West African Examination Council (WAEC) which secondary school leaving students require into tertiary institutions has been put on hold and, the future is uncertain. Other professional examinations among end of semester and term examinations have been put on hold. Several tertiary institutions who were yet to have started the second semester due to strike, school that had an emergency shutdown, are among the elements of the educational system being affected by the Coronavirus.

A positive effect from this pandemic is, Doctors among other health professionals became more active as they were challenged to provide solutions to the cases in Nigeria. Before now, the nation's medical personnel were known for their inactiveness in their field but with the birth of this virus , all hands have been on deck. Recently, the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) rejected medical assistance from the Chinese government to showcase their competency.

Furthermore, the restriction made Nigerians look inwards instead of relying on foreign goods. Many individuals began to produce nose masks locally after the announced shortage worldwide. Also, food items such as local rice, popularly known as “Ofada-rice" in Nigeria, is highly patronized in this period due to disruption of inflow of goods. So, among this pandemic, reliance on local goods has been achieved by Nigerians.

Also, in many states in Nigeria, reports of crime rates reduced drastically as security has been uptight in the federation to ensure compliance which citizens have adhered to strict, in fear of contracting the virus and penalties of defying the lockdown.

In conclusion, as challenging the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown is, it has been able to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission according to the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). If there was no lockdown, the rate of transmission of the virus would have risen astronomically, killing more Nigerians than the scoreboard has already recorded.