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The Covid 19 Pandemic and The Effect of Lockdown on Nigerians

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious, respiratory disease which can be transmitted through droplets from an infected person, via the eye, nose and mouth. This disease started in Wuhan, China and has resulted to over a hundred and fifty thousand deaths worldwide. Presently, there's no cure for this dangerous pandemic; although precautionary methods have been given such as constant washing of hands, frequent use of alcohol based sanitizers, practising of proper health hygiene and social distancing.

Nigeria is one of the countries which is has been hit by the corona virus. Presently, a total number of 627 cases have been recorded with 21 deaths and 170 been discharged. In line with the guideline provided by the WHO, the Nigerian Government has imposed lockdown and restrictions on most states in the country. This measure though part of the means to stop the spread of the COVID-19, has had its effect on Nigerians, and many are starting to feel the impact of the virus. One of the effects which includes the halting of non- essential and local businesses. Nigeria as a country is yet to reach a stage where the number of jobs available is almost equal with its working population and as a result, the level of unemployment in the country is extremely high. Due to the virus, many of this business have been forced to close by the government in an effort to control the virus. This means that the working population has been indirectly suspended from earning salaries which will result in hunger for the citizens.

Also, shortage of food supplies is another effect of this lockdown and restriction. Now that everybody has been told to sit at home till the virus is controlled, they have to eat constantly from

the stock of food in reserve. This reserve might not be enough to satisfy everyone and it also has its limit, and once it is depleted, hunger sets in and a man can go to any length to satisfy his hunger, which can lead to another issue. This might lead to stealing and armed robbery as there are already reports of the "one million boys" that are carrying out armed robbery in various parts of the mainland in Lagos state. Many whom for one reason or the other, be it hunger have this opportunity to steal from others to satisfy their own needs

In the same vain, brutality from law enforcers such as the Nigerian police and army is not far from the effect. Though they have been given the order of making sure that people stay indoors, this does not give them the right to brutalize citizens. Many have suffered and are still nursing their wounds from such brutality all in the vain of trying to avoid the spread of the virus. There are also reports of cases where the police and army have killed people in an attempt to ensure that they obey the lockdown rule. Also, the lockdown and restriction comes with different false information and conspiracy theories which cause panic in different homes, and those worst hit are the illiterates and those who are uninformed about the virus. These are some of the effects of many Nigerians are facing during this lockdown and restriction on movement.

As it is for every situation in the world to have both negative and positive sides, the lockdown and restrictions has its negative and positive sides, but it is a strategy to stop the spread of the virus, as it is better to be indoors than dead. It has also made it possible for families to bond and rediscover themselves. If the government look into some of these issues and try to contain them, then these effects can be reduced. All this is to ensure that the deadly pandemic is brought to an end and that the safety of humanity and the world is assured.