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COURSE TITLE: **COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH**

**QUESTION:** Write A Report, Of Not More Than Two Pages, On The Corona Virus Pandemic And The Effects Of The Lockdown And Restriction OfMovement On Nigerians.

**CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND ITS EFFECTS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Covid-19 Virus was discovered last year and as at January 2020, the organism was isolated and by March, it was in 185 countries which is why it’s called a pandemic. Globally speaking, there are over 2 million cases now. Between 200,000 -300,000 have died. USA has 677,000 cases of Covid-**19** and a record of 33,800 deaths. In Europe; Spain, Italy, Germany and UK have the highest cases of Covid-19. Coming to Africa, South Africa has the highest number of confirmed Covid-19 cases with over thirty deaths. Cameroon, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt and Ethiopia also have a lot of Covid-19 cases. Nigeria has 627 cases, 21 deaths and 170 people have been discharged. Coming down to states in Nigeria, Lagos has the highest Number of cases (376); then Abuja (88), Kano (36), Osun (20) and Oyo (16), Edo (15), Katsina (12), Ogun (12), Akwa Ibom (9) followed by the other states which may have 1, 4 or 5 cases. WHO (World Health Organization) and CDC (Centre for Disease Control) give these reports.

**DISCUSSION:**

**What is lockdown?**

Lockdown is one of the safety measures taken by nations to curb the spread of the pandemic. Developed countries such as UK, Italy and Spain are in total lockdown. Some states in Nigeria like Abuja, Lagos and Ogun States are experiencing total lockdown as well.

**Measures taken under lockdown:**

1. People are expected to stay at home.
2. Government owned offices like public service are closed and this caused workers to stay at home, except essential services providers like police stations, hospitals, etc.
3. Private owned businesses, organizations and companies are closed except banks.
4. Markets, shops and malls are closed except those selling food stuffs.
5. Schools are shut down as well as higher learning institutions such as universities, polytechnics, etc.
6. Churches, mosques and other religious gatherings have been banned.
7. Meetings, parties, seminars, sporting activities have been banned.
8. There are travel restrictions and border closure on airports and seaports; this applies to both the nation and states.

**Effects/impact of Covid-19 Lockdown**

1. **Social:**

1. The principle of social distancing is being followed as a preventive measure due to Covid-19 pandemic. Because of this, banning of gatherings of any sort have been banned.
2. People go to eateries to pick up what they've ordered.
3. Public places like parks have been closed.

2. **Psychological/mental:**

1. Staying at home has psychological impact varying from boredom to depression. In the western world, the rate of suicide has gone up.
2. Molestation of women and children are happening.
3. Over-eating/gluttony leading to obesity is an effect of staying at home.

3. **Economic/financial:**

1. A lot of businesses have collapsed due to the impact of Covid-19.
2. Travel restrictions have made air travel almost impossible leading to the collapse of the air-line industry. Most of their workers have been laid off due to inability to pay salaries and these results in not being able to provide for their respective families.
3. Other businesses are temporarily affected due to closure of shops, markets and plazas from lockdown, unemployment rate increases due to the lockdown period.
4. Many are unable to feed themselves due to lockdown. They save money made from daily petty sales.
5. Governments are forced to give social security, palliatives, stipends and intervention funds to cushion the effect of unemployed individuals and Businesses.
6. Prices of food have increased due to panic buying prior to lockdown.
7. Economies of nations have collapsed. Output from economy is low and the rate of unemployment has increased. A lot of loans have been cancelled or given moratorium and intervention funds by organizations such as IMF, World Bank. UN and EU gave countries in Africa including Nigeria 21 billion each to cushion and fight against Covid-19.

4. **Socio-economic**:

1. As a result of the collapse of economies, vices have come up. Links which are fake are being spread abroad. Youths are the ones engaging in such vices. They break into shops and steal what they can find. Armed robbery is another socio-economic vice.
2. There's also insecurity due to the economic situation.
3. Fraud may be perpetrated among law makers through misappropriation of funds given to fight against Covid-19.

5. **Political:**

1. Little or nothing is happening politically.
2. Bye elections have been suspended in states nationally.
3. Gatherings of the national assembly have been suspended.

6. **Emotional:**

1. This leads to rejection, isolation, loss of self worth and stigmatization.

7. **Religious:**

1. Religious gatherings have been halted throughout the nation; online services are being done through the use of cable network, etc.
2. Churches have been involved in corporate social responsibility.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, people should try as much as possible to stay safe during this period and adhere to all the safety precautions given by the Nation. People should also endeavour to avoid touching unsterile objects and wash their hands regularly. They should try to avoid all the fake links of getting money as mentioned above. Finally, people should consistently pray as there's nothing God cannot do.