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Assignment: Write a report on the Corona Virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restrictions of movement on Nigerians.

**CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

First things first before going into the restrictions and effects of the virus on Nigerians, I will discuss intensively about the virus, what it does, how it works, how it spreads and basically every knowledge one needs to acquire about the virus.

Corona Virus, is a family of illness ranging from common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the middle east respiratory syndrome (MERS). According to WHO, they circulate in animals and some can be transmitted between animals and humans. Several corona viruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans. The new corona virus, the seventh known to affect humans has been named COVID-19.

The symptoms include; fever, cough, shortness of breath can signal any number of illnesses, from flu to strep to the common cold. The virus is spread through droplets transmitted into the air from coughing or sneezing, which people nearby can take in through their nose, mouths or eyes. The incubation period for COVID-19 is thought to be between one to fourteen days. It is contagious before symptoms appear, which is why so many people are affected. Some people are also asymptomatic meaning that they do not display any symptoms despite having the virus in their system. It can also cause pneumonia, multiple organ failure and death. This virus is said to be discovered by the WHO to cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan (china) on December 31.

The first case of the virus seen in Nigeria was the case of an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. The Government of Nigeria, through the federal Ministry of Health has been working hand in hand commanding strict measures like;

1. Regular and thorough washing of hands with soap and water, and use alcohol based hand sanitizer.
2. Maintain at least 1 & half meters (5 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing
3. Stay at home and avoid social distance to limit the spread for the deadly virus and call the NCDC to report and symptoms and so on

Currently Nigeria is a state of emergency and issued lock down on every citizen meaning no movement and social gatherings like: weddings, church services, work places and so on. The Nigerian government has even ordered all schools to be shut down with immediate effect. All this measured issues are for the benefit of all Nigerian citizens to stop the further spread of the virus but these measures have negative effect on the citizens of Nigerian.

Now looking at the effects from the point of view that working class citizens who have to work every day just to provide basic resources to live are restricted from going to work, Also this just doesn’t concern the office workers alone what of the hawkers, the traders, the self employed citizens who have to move from one location or the order just to get customers to patronize their businesses so they can feed and also feed their family members if they have one. Families are seen struggling during this period just to make ends meet, just to make sure that they have food to eat, they water to drink and basically they have the means to stay healthy. For instance in a family of seven where the both parents are self employed and they have no means of getting money if they aren’t working for it, now how do they live?, how do they get money to provide food for their children? How do they even survive? They will begin to sort for ways to live and they don’t die of starvation. The eating pattern of the family would change meaning that they either eat twice a day or once a day making their 3 times square meal a day being deprived from them, their means of livelihood would be struggled for in other words things becomes hard from them. Also this self isolation and movement restriction period, can also cause some psychological damage to people. People begin to over think, parents begin to find ways in which they and their family can survive these crises, this can also lead to a state of depression and which is really unhealthy. That is why people are advised to exercise daily to relieve them of stress, watch funny videos to divert their attention from survival struggle and so on. Also there are cases whereby students use school as a means of get away from their families because of maybe child abuse/molestation, parents fighting or one family crisis or the other, how do they cope during this lock down?.

The effect of this lock down has affected the nation’s economy drastically. Even before the pandemic, the Nigerian government had been grappling with weak recovery firm the 2014 oil price shock, with GDP growth tapering around 2.3% in 2019. Relatedly, the country’s debt profile has been a source of concern for policymakers as the most recent estimate puts debt service to revenue radio at 60%, which is likely to worsen amid the steep decline in revenue associated with falling oil prices. These factors will aggravate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and make it more difficult for the government to weather the crisis. Some the economic crisis currently is; The fall in household consumption, investment by firms would be impeded (government purchases will increase, the fall in the global demand for commodities and so on).

One also has to consider to life of those on the streets example, this lock down ha s increased the crime rate in Nigeria. Nigeria is now facing some security threats in places like Ogun state and within the borders of Lagos state. The street inhabitants have used this opportunity to rob houses and wreck havoc in the country making citizens that reside in that area be in the state of continuous fear and worry for their lives. Currently in Lagos in a town called Ejigbo, they are facing criminal attacks every night from the people that call themselves ‘the one million boys’, they have never been heard of or seen before till this lock down period and now vandalizing government properties, fighting each other to the point of death and robbing houses has turned to their daily activities because of this lock down.

Let’s not also neglect that some families have used this method to have some quality family time with each other, they engage in games, family quiz, cooking completion, story times and many other fun activities to keep themselves busy this trying times. This is a positive effect because family bonding is a good thing for families to leave in peace and harmony, some families even find out what they do not know about their family members during this period and that’s a good and wonderful thing

All these are the negative and positive effects of the rule of lock down and movement restrictions on Nigerians. No one is to blame for this but all Nigerians can do is just to hope that everything becomes alright again and produce the best out of themselves this period.