CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND ITS EFFECTS ON NIGERIA

It is not news that the entire world has been subjected to a state of emergency, owing to the outbreak of COVID-19; a virus belonging to the family of viruses known as corona virus. The virus is highly contagious and has a fatality rate of about 2%. It first started in Wuhan, China, and has since then spread to the various cities of the world. Some of the worst hit countries are; Italy, Iran and the United States of America. Thousands of people all around the world have died due to this virus, thereby making it a pandemic.

Research has been carried out on this virus and the general public has been educated on certain steps to take to slow down the spread of this virus. Some of these steps include: wash your hands regularly with soap and running water, use alcohol based hand sanitizers and use face masks in public places. In addition to these measures, a world-wide lockdown has been declared and most affected countries have since been enforcing this lock down and so has Nigeria.

The lockdown comprises of a lot of things like work from home, study from home, no gatherings, etc. Nigeria however did not see the need for a lockdown till late march when the very first case was confirmed in Nigeria. And since then many other cases have been confirmed with a few deaths. But as we know for every action there is are consequences. And we will be examining the pros and cons of the lock down and its effects on Nigerians.

While the lockdown has helped to decrease the spread of the virus, it has also left a lot of Nigerians jobless. As a developing country not many jobs worked by the general society can be done from home. Many are conflicted as to how they will keep up with the needs of their families, even the future of the country is under pressure as the socio-economic sector of Nigeria struggles to cope. Businesses are closing down and this will undoubtedly affect the revenue of the government as well as the income of the country.

Also, due to the lockdown access to markets has been restricted causing lack of food for consumption and excess hunger in the nation. Nigerians worry level has increased with the fear of dying of hunger and not the deadly virus. Many Nigerian’s that live from hand to mouth now have no means of livelihood and thus, no means of food. The lockdown which has the primary aim of safeguarding the health of the citizens is beginning to pose a threat to human life. Yes, it cannot be denied that it has brought many estranged families together, but it can also not be ignored that it may lead some families to their deaths

In addition, the lockdown has caused every activity in the nation to be brought to a standstill and education is not left out. Schools have been closed down indefinitely pending when the raging disease releases its grasp on the nation and world at large. While some schools have resorted to online teaching, most schools in the country lack the facilities to actually have reasonable teaching sessions. And even those that have these facilities and have their students actively involved are yet to recognize that they are in fact, adding a burden to these already burdened families. The cost of obtaining the mobile data required for these tasks is quite voluminous and now that they can’t even get any real work done, the source of money for this expense is hard to come by. Not just the expense, the network situation in some parts of Nigeria is really sad, and then network is also a hindrance to these attempts to educate the students.

The current situation that the world is experiencing is not all bad. It also has its perks. For instance, pollution has been decreased greatly. Less cars on the road causes less air pollution, so we have cleaner air to breathe. Then, we have the family bonding time. With the stay at home order, those ever busy family members have no choice but to sit at home and spend some quality time with their families. So we should learn to appreciate the advantages, without neglecting the disadvantages.

In conclusion, take all precautionary measures needed to combat this pandemic and stay safe. In the end we will overcome.