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A REPORT ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

What is coronavirus?

Coronavirus is a large family of virus that is known to cause illness ranging from common cold to a more severe disease. This virus is known to be found only in animals but due to carelessness of humans, it transferred to human beings.

The recent ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started on the 31st of December 2019 in a city called Wuhan in china. This disease was on a low profile which made it spread fast not only in Wuhan but the whole of china. On seeing that the disease was spreading fast, the WHO declared it a public health emergency of international concern on the 30th of January 2020. WHO made notice of the following symptoms round the world; cough, fever, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The period with which these symptoms would appear is between 2-14 days. In severe cases of this virus, it can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and even death. They also brought the idea of quarantine and social distancing to prevent the vast spread of the disease.

This disease brought the shutdown of many things in countries. Things like; schools, churches, businesses, sports, etc. The only activities going on are the activities done by the nurses and doctors in the various hospitals accommodating the already contacted individuals. People outside these activities are to observe safety rules to help prevent the spread of the disease. Rules like; frequent washing of hands with soap and water or use of alcohol based hand sanitizers, avoidance of facial touching and hand shaking, frequent drinking of water, eating of citrus fruits, etc. Staying indoors is another safety rule to be taken seriously as well as daily self-checkup in our various homes.

Effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to Nigerians

The virus did not take time for it to reach the African countries, where in Nigeria cases keep increasing making people panic. The major effect is the death rate in the country due to lack of required medical appliances to help prevent the deaths in the hospitals. This effect was already obvious because Nigeria on its own even without dreadful diseases already lacks good healthcare appliances. Major effects of this lock down and restriction of movements in Nigeria include; shortage of food supplies in various homes, less supply of finances due to the fact that people were told to stay home to avoid social gathering, disruption of schools curriculum, lack of shelter for people that live in group ( orphanage homes), lack of electricity, etc.

In Nigeria, people’s sources of living are outside of their houses. Most people in this country earn their living from going into gatherings to negotiate and make money for their families. For example, the market people and others that have to sell to get money, spend most of their time outside to earn money for themselves, so as these people are indoors, they are losing profit every day. The only people that are allowed to work are the workers in level 12 and above and this is not right because these people are more open to the disease if they don’t observe social distancing. In as much as we Nigerians are exhibiting these effects of this lockdown, it is very advisable that we condole to these rules and stay indoors.

In conclusion, this corona virus is a novel disease that no one knows so much about but all we know is that it has caused so much disruption round the world, it has made people lose their loved ones, it has made people so scared thinking the world will soon end, it has made people and the government to jump into conclusions which are not true, etc. This disease is indeed a serious one and we should not take it lightly.