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**A REPORT ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF THE MOVEMENT OF NIGERIANS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol-based sanitizer, reducing frequent touching of face and practising social distancing. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it is important that you also practice respiratory etiquette. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.

**CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA.**

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease in Nigeria was announced on the 27th of February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On the 9th of March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. When it was noticed that the number of cases recorded were increasing by the day, the Federal Government called for total lockdown in 3 states namely; Lagos, Abuja, Ogun state after which other states followed suit.

**EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA**

Lockdown is an emergency protocol that usually prevents people or information from leaving an area. The Federal Government has ordered an ultimate lockdown in Nigeria and this leads to the restriction of movement in the country. There are positive and negative effects of the lockdown in Nigeria and even in the world at large.

* The positive effects of the lockdown in Nigeria are:
* Reduces the spread of the virus by ensuring social distancing.
* It allows families to bond and do things together.
* It allows one to spend more time with God.
* It helps the Government to easily identify the affected individuals.
* Relaxation to those who did not have time for themselves before the lockdown.
* It helps people to know how to engage themselves positively using the internet.
* It opens one’s eyes to the habit of planning ahead for the future.
* The negative effects of the lockdown include:
* It introduces vices which include stealing, prostitution, armed robbery and so on due to the desperation of Nigerians to meet their daily needs.
* It greatly affects the various sectors of the country negatively.
* It leads to the increase in the price of limited goods in the market.
* It increases the rate of poverty in the country and hunger kills faster than the virus itself.
* People struggle to survive.
* Students cannot go to school which can lead to idleness and bad practices.
* The academic calendar of schools in the country has been extended and as a result, students will not graduate at due time as the time the lockdown will be called off cannot be predicted.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control is making great effort to eradicate coronavirus in Nigeria which is the reason for the lockdown but for it to be effective, the Government has to distribute adequate food supplies and relief materials to Nigerian citizens so as to ensure they stay at home because the lockdown will not be effectively observed if people don’t have their daily needs met.