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**ASSIGNMENT**

Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

**REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC**

**INTRODUCTION:** The COVID-19 pandemic has become one of the most talked about issue since its outbreak on December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The COVID-19 virus is one that has not been previously recorded in humans until late last year. This has caused increased Panic and fear among several people. Since its outbreak, the number of confirmed cases has increased geometrically as well as the number of death. The disease is highly contagious and so people that have come in contact with infected people are advised to isolate themselves for a period of 14 days which is the incubation period of the virus. The pandemic has thrown the world into a war like situation. Scores of millions of death have being recorded worldwide. Health care systems are been overwhelmed by the increasing number of cases. The economies of so many countries are at their worst and some have given into recession. How then, would a country like Nigeria survive the impacts of the deadly COVID-19?

**COVID-19 IN NIGERIA**: The first confirmed case of COVID- 19 was reported in Nigeria in Lagos on 27th February 2020. It was an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and had recently returned from Milan, Italy. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control; (NCDC) immediately activated its national emergency operations centre and partnered with the Lagos state health authorities to implement firm control measures. However, few weeks after the first case was reported, there was an outbreak which led to the spread of the virus to several states within the country. This forced the country to go into a lockdown for 2 weeks to contain the virus. However, all efforts were futile as the number of cases continued to increase. Prior to the outbreak, there have been several speculations that it would be difficult for a country like Nigeria to maintain the COVID-19 virus. Some reports also stated that the country would only worsen the situation if a lock down is issued. So far since the lockdown, there have been some visible effects on the citizens and also the economy of the country.

**EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA:**  Currently, there is no known cure for the deadly COVID-19. This led to the current lockdown situation in several states across Nigeria. In subsequent paragraphs, I shall expatiate on the effects of this lockdown on Nigerians.

Firstly, the lockdown and restriction of movement could lead to loss of job which could in turn increase the rate of unemployment in the country. As a result of the restriction of movement, most people would be unable to carry out business transactions especially as most business transaction requires face to face communication. The self-employed would have to shut down their business permanently and the individuals who are employed by others might be dismissed in a bid of the employee to save money. While young investors lose their capital having little or no profit. A research conducted by National Bureau Statistics in 2019 revealed that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria was 23.1%. The minister of labor and employment said then, that the rate of unemployment could hit 33.5% by 2020. Based on that prediction, it can be assumed that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria as of now could hit above 40%. Just recently, the national president of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) , Saratu Aliyu disclosed that 23 million Nigerians are currently unemployed. She had said that the unemployment rate had hit 23 million as of 2019. This gives us further insight that the rate of unemployment would be at its highest. As the rate of unemployment increases, the rate of poverty and starvation is also increasing. The citizens of Nigeria are forced to live under high standard of living with little or no income and/or savings.

Furthermore, this lockdown leads to introduction of virtual learning system in the education sector. Just as there are two sides to a coin, this can serve as a positive or negative effect. This can positively impact on Nigerians by making them more evolved and connected to the digital world. It causes students and teachers alike to develop solid technical skill. However, as a result of the instability of power supply and network connection in underdeveloped parts in Nigeria, some students would miss out on academic works as a result of limited or no access to resources. Research has shown that students who miss three days of one month teaching are seven times more likely to drop out of school. This could increase the rate of drop out and threaten our future generation as the number of hooligans and thugs terrorizing the peace of Nigerians are also likely to increase.

Notwithstanding, the lockdown and restriction of movement could lead to a breakdown of law and order and lead to an increase in the crime rate. People who are not well to do and are having a hard time feeding during this lockdown period would have no other choice to resort to stealing in a bid to feed. Some restless hooligans would even turn to terrorism in other to let themselves be heard and also release excess energy. Just recently, a group of brutes who refer to themselves as the “awawa boys” raided several communities in Nigeria and this led to loss of lives and properties. Severe damage was done and these communities are still recovering from the attack. The brutality of these miscreants did not end there. Another group called the “ one million boys” decided to take another route. They sent a threatening broadcast message to majority of Nigerians. This sent panic and fear to the hearts of many causing unrest across the nation.

Another effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement in Nigeria is the control of the spread of the virus. One of the major reasons of this lockdown is to prevent further spread of the virus. The lockdown serves as a means of preventing contact with infected persons and increasing the number of cases. A research shows that the without the lockdown, there would be an increase in mortality in approximately three months. The lockdown is a measure used to distance and protect those more vulnerable to the disease; people with low immune system.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 is a deadly disease that should be controlled rather than taken lightly. The effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement in Nigeria includes: increase in unemployment and poverty rates, introduction of virtual learning system, breakdown of law and order and the reduction in the number of infected cases and deaths.

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