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***A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKODWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS.***

**BACKGROUND:**

COVID-19 also known as Corona virus started in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei, an emerging business hub of China on the 31st December, 2019. They experienced an outbreak which killed more than eighteen hundred and infected over seventy thousand individuals within only about fifty days of the pandemic. Anybody with this virus shows symptoms in five days mostly, but can range from two to fourteen days. They show symptoms such as fever, dry continuous cough, sore throat and headache mainly. Most old people and some with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely get this virus.

The virus is easily spread in crowded places, all beginning from one sneeze or cough from an infected person. Presently there is no cure, but nevertheless, there are certain preventive measures such as washing hands and using alcohol based rub frequently; maintaining social distance and so on. As it is said, prevention is better than cure, but even at this, the pandemic is ever so spreading very rampantly and hence placing the world at a standstill.

**CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA**

Ever since our first confirmed case of the pandemic on the 27th February 2020, the numbers are ever increasing by the second, with Lagos in the lead. Due to the widespread of the cases, the Government has made an effort through the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to help curb and reduce the spread of the pandemic. The government also helped by declaring complete lockdown of some susceptible states like Lagos, Ekiti, Ogun, Osun and Abuja.

**THE NCDC:**  They are a government agency with the authority to coordinate the surveillance, detection, and response to infectious diseases control. So far, they have supported the states for improved coordination of outbreak preparedness and response.

**EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS.**

Complete lockdown of the country and some states as a separate entity, was ordered by the federal government in Nigeria. This indirectly put a restriction on the movements of the people. There are advantages and disadvantages to this lockdown on the people of Nigeria.

Advantages:

* It slows down and prevent the spread of the pandemic
* It encourages family bonding
* It gives the working masses a period of time to relax
* It helps people to gain initiative and gives them room to think about new ideas that could make themselves and the country at large more productive

Disadvantages:

* Hunger and starvation rates have increased. More than 60% of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. Hence, a lockdown means a means of daily living has been locked down.
* Pangs of hunger lead to wide spread anger which introduces vices such as stealing and armed robbery.
* Students remain idle at home.
* It disrupts school calendar.
* People are forced to go to work in spite of lockdown, as labour demands pay for survival, which in turn could risk the spread of the virus.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, this fast spreading pandemic has disrupted the country and its citizens in many ways. The federal government are trying their best to stabilize and curb the situation in the ways they can, most especially through the NCDC and various medical units in the country. As the outbreak has shown no signs of decrease but rather goes in the opposite, preventive measures should be taken seriously to play our part in this crisis.