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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.

ANSWER

REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS EPIDEMIC AND ITS EFFECTS ON NIGERIANS

-BY OGUEJI HANNAH EBUBECHUKWU

 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, though not all. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is 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 rub frequently and not touching your face. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that we 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.

 The first confirmed case of the [pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) of [coronavirus disease 2019](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus_disease_2019) in [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in [Lagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) tested positive for the virus. This is how the virus is believed to have gotten into Nigeria. On 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in [Ewekoro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewekoro), [Ogun State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogun_State); a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. Since then, the virus has spread rapidly in some parts of the country, especially Lagos. As of now, there have been six hundred and sixty five (665) cases, one hundred and eighty eight (188) recoveries and twenty two (22) deaths recorded in Nigeria. Of course it is much worse in some other countries such as the USA and Italy, who have recorded shocking amounts of cases and deaths.

 The Nigerian government, like most other governments, in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus all over the country, imposed on us Nigerians a lockdown and restriction of movements in some states. There are a lot of effects of this lockdown on Nigerians, both negative and positive. In my opinion, mostly negative. First of all, all schools and educational institutions have been shut down and students sent home. This affects me directly as my learning and exams for this semester have to be put on hold because of a pandemic. And then all social activities which involve a large gathering of people has been prohibited. This means no birthday parties, no huge celebrations, no church, offices have been closed and so on. In places like Lagos, soldiers have been stationed everywhere to ensure that citizens abide by these lockdown rules. People cannot go to shops and markets as frequently as they used to. When the lockdown was first imposed, everyone rushed to shops and markets to buy food in bulk, food that will last them. These are the outcomes of the lockdown.

 Like stated earlier, some people may see the lockdown and restriction of movement as a beneficial thing. A time for families to bond, people to rest from work- some people even see this period as a mini holiday or vacation. But these are the people who have money stashed up in banks and at home. Unfortunately, there are those, the less privileged, who live on what they get from day to day. That is those people who go out every day to hustle and feed on whatever they get for the day. This period is very difficult for them. Due to the restrictions and lockdown, such people are not able to go out and make money. And even if they go out, they will not have customers due to lockdown. They are forced to stay indoors with no way to get money to feed. And honestly, the government is not doing much to ensure that such people have food to eat. I have seen what other countries are doing and Nigeria is doing very poorly compared to that. This is why some people may be forced to disobey the lockdown rules and the virus will spread despite all efforts of the government. And I can’t blame them. I have read numerous articles and stories of such people and they are not pleasant. It makes us wonder what the government is doing with the huge sums of money donated to them by the rich citizens. Thankfully, some people have taken it upon themselves to help the less privileged by sharing food and necessities to such people.

 These are some of the effects of this lockdown and restriction on various Nigerians. Personally I enjoy this period as I rest more but I would love to resume school.