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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.

Corona virus and effects of lockdown and restriction of movement in Nigeria.

Recently, the WHO declared Corona virus a global pandemic. According to the WHO a pandemic is the worldwide spread of a disease. China is now a case of global concern as it has been speculated that the virus started from a lab in China. Now over 210 countries of the world have the virus including Nigeria. The novel coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. The droplets then enter your body through your eyes, nose and mouth. Asymptomatic people can spread the virus and most common symptoms are fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and even death. The period within which the symptoms would appear is 2-14 days. Daily, thousands of deaths and new cases are recorded globally.

Some of the measures put in place to slow down the spread include improving hygiene (washing of hands with soap and water, use of sanitizers), use of face masks in public places, practice of social distancing and movement restriction e.g. lock down. Various countries are implementing a lockdown to flatten the curve which essentially means slow down the spread. The lockdown ensures that people stay home except to carry out essential services. This will help prevent the health care system crumbling and increase survival rate. Nigeria, a country with a growing population of over 200 million has placed lockdown on major states like Lagos with a population of over 20 million, Ogun state a neighbouring state and the seat of government, Abuja a little over of a month after their first case to control the virus spread. The lock down exempts groceries stores and medicine stores. Businesses, schools and several establishments have been closed. Movements have also been restricted as a result of this. Borders within and outside the countries have been closed.

As a result of the lock down, hunger and lack of food has increased. Nigerians especially, Lagosians who are majorly “daily hustlers” have no means of providing food for their families. Although the government with help of other contributions has made provisions for relief materials, there is no effectiveness in the distributions as most poor Nigerians have not been reached out to. This has affected the effectiveness of the lockdown as people still go about carrying out their normal daily activities. As a result of the ineffectiveness of the distributions some youths have resulted to robbery thereby threatening the lives and safety of citizens. In states like Lagos and Ogun a robbery gang known as “the undefeatable one million boys” have robbed the citizens of the country in those states, thereby causing a nightmare for the people in the neighbourhood.

The economy of Nigeria is feeling the pinch of the lockdown. Many businesses and establishments have been closed down due to the lock down and this has led these establishments to cut down the salaries of their workers during this period. The country's jobless rate, already at 23 percent, is expected to climb even higher. According to the IMF, the economy is expected to shrink to 3.4 percent this year and the economy could face a recession lasting until 2021. Also, the price of oil, (the backbone of Nigeria’s economy) has dropped to zero as at Monday 20th April, 2020 as a result of the low demand for oil during this period.

In conclusion, more effective measures need to be put in place in Nigeria. The government also needs to provide for the needs of her citizens, it will prevent the disobedience of the lock down. We also need to ramp up testing so that asymptomatic people can also be discovered and isolated quickly. An effective lockdown will reduce person to person transfer. We also need to remodel our lock down implementation according to the situation in our country. States without any cases should test more and lock down all their land borders. So that gradually the lock down can be lifted first in states that have no cases then other states will follow as the virus will reduce.