NEBOLISA CHIDINMA RITA

SOCIAL AND MANANGEMENT SCENCES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY 19/SMS09/043

GST 122: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH II

ASSIGNMENT

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

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

ABSTRACT

Coronavirus pandemic is currently the biggest story in the world. The government as well as other groups of people are using several the media to pass information to the public, to keep them informed on the various happenings in the world; most importantly, how to stay safe. The means to stay safe have been over emphasized, but people still lack information about the coronavirus disease itself, how the outbreak began, how its timeline unfolded, the aim of the lockdown and it effect on us. Answers to this questions form the bone of contention in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus pandemic is the biggest issue at the moment. The deadly coronavirus has gripped the international community by fear as cases continue to mount and world leaders struggle to contain the pandemic. Information is being passed across to educate the public on the disease and how to stay safe. However, not all information passed is true as some people are backing the existence of the pandemic with some conspiracy theories which are false. It is very important for us to have knowledge on the current happenings as the pandemic is the main global issue in our world today; affecting all aspects of society. This is why it is important for us to do our own part by adhering to the instructions given to contain the spread of the disease.

PROCEDURES

In other to achieve the aim of this report , several apparatus were used to collate the necessary information. The internet served as a major tool to gather information, helping me to reach the websites of the World Health Organisation, The Guardian, New York Times and Abcnews. Also I employed the use of social media platforms like instagram by accessing the information given by WHO and the United Nations on the pandemic; and also getting information from surveys carried out by Pulse Nigeria, a news company. Lastly, I carried out a survey myself on what people are using this lockdown period for.

FINDINGS

Coronavirus (COVID-19), 2019 Novel coronavirus is an infections disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals/humans. In humans they cause respiratory infection ranging from common cold to severe diseases like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The World Health Organisation’s office in China began to receive reports in late December 2019 of a mysterious virus behind a number of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan China. Researchers have traced the origin of the virus to a seafood market in Wuhan were wild animals like bats and snakes were sold. By the time the market was shutdown, the virus had already spread. On January 11, China had recorded her first coronavirus death. By January 30, the WHO had decleared a global health emergency as the virus began to spread to other countries like USA. On March 11, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic as it had spread to about 118 countries; informing everyone to play their part in the fight.

Since the virus spreads easily and quickly several strategies have been put to contain the spread of the virus; one of it being LOCKDOWN. This is a state of isolation instituted as a health measure to curtail the spread of the virus. The measure is implemented by reducing public gatherings that could aid the spread of the virus. This measure was geared towards stopping health services from being overwhelmed as the rate at which the virus is being spread is alarming. Although the lockdown has been of good help, its has had adverse effects on us, which could be positive and negative. The effects can also be grouped into economical and non-economical.

In the period of this lockdown, economic activities such as production, spending and income have declined. Manufacturing operations which are not crucial at this time have been shut down making production to decline. Due to the restricted movement, people are forced to only buy essential products; making those who sell luxurious goods to lose. Also since producton has been shutdown, many businesses have not made money and income cannot be received. Some workers fear that their work place- business may collapse and they may be layed off. The government attempt to mitigate this effect by using expansionary monetary and fiscal policies. However, this will lead to increase in government expenditure. Also, the government expenditure will also increase as it uses all its money to aid the health centers to fight the disease. Feeding has been difficult for those who earn money daily and do not have any savings to rely on. One thing to note is that economies of the world are connected and the economic restrictions can diffuse across other economies. There are a few positive economical effects. The restricted movement will help reduce impulse buying and purchasing of luxurious goods.

There are a few other non-economic effects which are positive. Researchers have said that the earth is healing especially the reduction in the depletion of the ozone layer. The green house gases which cause the depletion of the ozone layer emanate from factories; which have been shutdown in respect to the lockdown. Since they have not been in use for a while the ozone layer’s depletion has reduced. Cars can now take a break from bad roads and long rides.The lockdown period has help to improve family bonding as we no longer have our busy work and school schedules to attend to. Also, people have used this period to explore things that they rarely do like exercising, baking and reading the bible.

CONCLUSION

Yes the lockdown has and will have adverse effect on almost all aspects of our life, but we can all agree that the lockdown is the best measure to contain the spread of this deadly disease. It has proven very effective in several countries and such countries are now planning to call off the lockdown. It is simply a matter of time before we pass through this phase. Just as there are many who will lose from this lockdown some others will gain a lot. If one can take this period as a big break from his/her normal busy routine, one can use this time to reflect or learn new skills, begin something they have never done, read more books and even watch more movies. However, not all will be privileged to have such opportunity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the adverse effect of the lockdown on economic activities, the government is left with no choice but to support the people financially. This will make the people gain more trust in their governments. This may call for getting loans from international financial institutions and other international organizations. The government also has to ensure that the lockdowns do not occur for too long as they will have more effect on the country’s economy. They should do all they can to not keep extending the lockdown. Lastly, every individual has a part to play and not just the government. The people should adhere to the measures put in place to contain the spread of the disease. Also we should stay positive and encourage one another especially the health workers who are at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus.

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