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**CORONA VIRUS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE  
LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT  
ON NIGERIANS.**

Corona virus is a zoonotic disease which could be transmitted between both animals and people. It is announced by ICTV as ‘severe acute respiratory syndrome’. This virus is no doubt more severe than flu like the seasonal influenza. While many people globally have built immunity to seasonal flu strains, COVID-19 is a new virus to which no one has immunity. That means that more people are susceptible to infection, and some may suffer severe disease. Globally, about 3.4% of reported COVID-19 cases have died. By comparison, seasonal flu kills far less than 1% of those infected. This virus whose first case in Nigeria was reported on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 in Lagos State since the beginning of the outbreak in China. As at 10:40pm 18<sup>th</sup> April, there are 542 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in Nigeria. Also with 19 deaths reported as well. The death of the former chief of staff to the president of Nigeria Abba Kyari was also reported to be dead due to this virus as well. This numbers keep increasing by day. Nigeria, with about 200 million people is Africa’s most populated nation. About 20 million of these people reside in the megacity Lagos. Health experts have raised an alarm over the impact of a major corona virus, warning that the country’s unprepared and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed. This virus has led to the restrictions of movement among Nigerians. Lockdown has been pronounced in almost all states just to ensure that this virus isn’t spread amongst the people. This restriction of movement and lockdown has its own effect on Nigerians. People are facing economic hardship as a result of this pronouncement.

Academic activities have temporarily come to a stop. Again, rights of citizens of Nigeria are violated.

First and foremost, due to the pronouncements made economic hardship is eating up people. People don't have any form of livelihood anymore because they've been forced to stop every form of business and so therefore can't make any form of capital. Regardless of the fact that this lockdown is aimed at controlling the spread of this virus, the lockdown should have a human face; enabling people to have access to vital needs and relief for those who can no longer earn a living since the majority of Nigerians are daily earners and live below poverty line. Osai Ojigho says 'as the nation observes the 14-day lockdown, the rights of citizens must be respected and protected, including the right to health care, security and access to sufficient food and water. There are also reports of violations of human right which includes beatings by law enforcement agencies tasked with ensuring compliance with the lockdown.

Furthermore, academic activities have come to a temporary stop because of these pronouncements. These pronouncements by government have made academic activities to stop indefinitely without knowledge of when it will continue. This act has proven a great loss to students because they are left with the workload of learning on their own with little or no guidance. This has disrupted the calendar of a lot of schools and institutions.

Today, the cessation of movement, physical distancing measures and the prohibition of mass gatherings remain the most efficient and effective way of reducing the transmission of the virus but the fact that it has its own effects on individuals shouldn't be neglected. People are facing economic hardship and also their rights are being violated. Academic activities also have been forced to come to an indefinite stop which will affect students who are at home due to this pandemic. Other effect such as increased crime rate is also as a result of this lockdown and restrictions of movements.