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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

**A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

INTRODUCTION

Corona virus disease also known as COVID-19, was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, China and has since spread globally resulting in the 2019/2020 corona virus pandemic. Common symptoms may include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include fatigue, muscle pain, diarrhea, sore throat, loss of smell and abdominal pain. Emergency symptoms include difficulty in breathing, persistent chest pain or pressure, confusion, difficulty in waking, and bluish face or lips; immediate medical attention is advised if these symptoms are present. The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact,often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, or talking. While these droplets are produced when breathing out, they usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than remain in the air over long distances.  People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. The virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. (WIKIPEDIA)

Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent hand washing, maintaining physical distance from others (especially from those with symptoms), covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inner elbow, and keeping unwashed hands away from the face. A social distance of 1.8 meters is also recommended by the WHO.  The use of masks is recommended for those who suspect they have the virus and their caregivers.Recommendations for mask use by the general public vary, with some authorities recommending against their use, some recommending their use, and others requiring their use. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. Management involves treatment of symptoms, supportive care, isolation, and experimental measures. (WIKIPEDIA)

CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on 27th of February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On the 9th of March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. (WIKIPEDIA) As at 20th April 2020, the number of cases recorded in Nigeria as reported by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control is a total of 665 cases, with 22 deaths and 188 people recovering from the virus. In order to curb the spread of the virus the government has advised citizens to practice the preventive measures such as, washing of hands frequently, use of masks, engaging in social distancing and staying at home more often. In some states the government has declared a lockdown in order to reduce the spread of the virus. At first the federal government declared a two-week lockdown from the 30th of March 2020 to the 12th of April 2020, and later elongated it for another two weeks as of now, ie from the 14th of April 2020 to the 28th of April 2020.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

DEFINITION

A lockdown is a state of isolation or restricted access instituted as a security measure. (OXFORD DICTIONARY) A lockdown is an emergency protocol that usually prevents people or information from leaving an area. The protocol can usually only be initiated by someone in a position of authority.  A full lockdown usually means that people must stay where they are and may not enter or exit a building or rooms within said building. (WIKIPEDIA) The lockdown with respect to controlling Covid-19 spread in Nigeria was imposed by the Federal Government on Lagos and Ogun States as well as the FCT. Other states’ governments such as Kaduna, Edo, Ekiti, Delta, Rivers, etc also imposed lockdown on their states. Practically, there is lockdown in virtually the whole of Nigeria except for states like Nassarawa, Crossriver etc.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

The lockdown has both positive and negative effects.

Some of the positive effects include;

* It has reduced the spread of the virus.
* It has reduced the level of environmental pollution.
* Maintenance of a good personal hygiene.
* It promotes good healthy habits as people have waved junk food and are now taking healthy homemade dishes.
* People now have time to spend with their families and loved ones.
* It promotes e-learning and online businesses.
* Promotion of public health awareness among the citizens.
* Promotion of government and private organizations’ attention and support to national/states health matters, hospital facilities and care for the masses.

The negative effects include;

* It has a poor effect on the economy.
* It has led to an increase in crime rate.
* It has caused covid-19 induced inflation.
* People are finding it more difficult to survive.
* It leads to idleness as people are not going to school and their offices.
* It leads to delay or disruptions in the academic calendar.
* It has led to hunger in the land because people cannot go out for their daily livelihood.
* It has led to citizen protesting on the streets.
* Attacks on food delivery vans by citizens.
* It has led to depression.
* Covid-19 has led to stigmatization. When a person sneezes or coughs, people then assume that the person has the virus.
* The virus is highly contagious. Therefore, health workers are now scared of attending to people who are sick as they don’t know who has the virus.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the corona virus pandemic has affected Nigerian citizens both positively and negatively. In addition, it has also affected citizens mentally, physically and socially. However, it is better to be alive, safe and well than to be exposed to Covid-19 and come down with the symptoms. Therefore, citizens are advised to stay at home in order to avoid the spread of the disease and hopefully by following the lockdown orders and practicing the preventive measures, it will curtail the spread of the virus. Everyone has a role to play to prevent the spread or break the chain.