QUESTION

Write a report of not less than two pages on the Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians

ANSWER

The 2019/2020 coronavirus pandemic is a disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International concern on 30 January 2020 and recognized it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 20 April 2020, more than 2.41 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 185 countries and territories, resulting in more than 165,000 deaths. More than 632,000 people have recovered, although there may be a possibility of relapse or reinfection. The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact. People may become infected by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching eyes, nose or mouth as the virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72hours. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically five days but may range from two to fourteen days. There is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment. Primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy. Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering one’s mouth when coughing, maintaining distance from other people and monitoring and self isolation for people who suspect they are infected.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS

Due to the pandemic disease, the whole world has been on a lockdown and movement has been restricted in a lot of places, Nigeria included. Using Nigeria as a case study, as good a measure of prevention this is, it has had some negative effects on a lot of people. I will concisely discuss economic hardship as a major effect.

Economic hardship: Nigeria with 200 million people is Africa’s most populous nation. Some 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major coronavirus outbreak, warning that the country’s unprepared and underfunded health care system could quickly become overwhelmed. The extension of the lockdown is expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth. The vast majority of Nigerians depend on daily wages; unfortunately, they have no way of feeding for the next couple of weeks as they would have to stay at home with no work and no chance of getting any money or even food for themselves and their families.

As a result of this, a lot of Nigerians, especially youths have resulted to armed robbery, breaking and entry, kidnapping and some of them even stop vehicles carrying food items on the road and take everything for themselves and their families. “Can we blame them?” This is just a glimpse of some of the effects of the lock down and restriction of movement on Nigerian as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic