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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF NOVEL CORONA VIRUS: THE POLICY SOLUTIONS.**

**Abstract**

Fear abounds regarding the novel corona virus pandemic and the consequences. There are increasing numbers of confirmed deaths. These numbers are increasing numbers of confirmed deaths. These numbers are expected to surge when indirect costs due to lost productivity and comorbidities are taken into consideration. The economic implications are thus detrimental not only to public health systems but to trade and travel, food and agriculture industries, various market types and retail chains, among others. Among the suggested policy suggestions are: proactive management approaches, health policy framework addressing many of the social determinants of health, education and health literacy, national and international shifts in investments, public and private partnerships and the establishment of the World Technical Council on Coronavirus. Effective implementation of these policy solutions will require full support of all stakeholders, including governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, health professionals, communities, and individuals.

**Introduction**

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) is a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus namely severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are normally transmitted between animals and people. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that has not been previously identified in humans. It was first reported to WHO (World Health Organization) on the 31st of December, 2019 in Wuhan, China. Scientists and public health officials are working hard to identify the source of the SARS-Co-v-2 which is the virus that causes COVID-19. The initial transmission appeared to be from an animal source, but there has been person-to-person transmission in countries. Symptoms range from fever, flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue, and shortness of breath. When a person with coronavirus exhales, droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch the virus by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose, and mouth. People can also catch coronavirus if they breathe in these droplets. This is why it is important to stay at least 2 metres away from a person who is coughing or sneezing. There is evidence that it spreads from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection. According to a report by WHO, the speed of transmission for COVID-19 virus is estimated to be 5-6 days; the reproductive number is said to be between 2 and 2.5; children are less infected than adults, currently, the crude mortality ratio is between 3-4%. While a number of therapeutics are in clinical trials in China and more than 20 vaccines in development, there are presently no licensed vaccines or therapeutics available. Presently, as of today, 16th April, 2020, in Nigeria, there are 407 confirmed cases of coronavirus, 128 recovered persons and 12 deaths. Worldwide, there are 2,081,969 confirmed cases of coronavirus, 525,884 recovered persons and 138,487 deaths.

Health is fundamental to a prosperous productive society, whereas panic and illness can stifle production, consumption, recreation, travel, and overall well-being. Health disasters such as the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) not only have global health impacts but wide-ranging socioeconomic disruptions. The incidence of the COVID-19 is growing at a disturbing rate with significant impacts on global economies and public health. According to Bloomberg, the whole world will lose over $280 billion in the first quarter of 2020. The impact of COVID-19 is central. The incomes have dropped significantly during this outbreak; consumption by households decreased and the prevalence of under nutrition has risen. Closure of schools, resulting in weeks of lost education, thereby rendering the present WAEC candidates to be in a confused state on when they are to write their examinations, terms on hold, semesters halted. It could as well expose children to several types of child abuse (including sexual exploitation). The implications of the COVID-19 is detrimental not only to public health systems but to trade, travel, food and agriculture industries. The Coronavirus disease has basically put a hold on the whole world. In due course medical science needs an enhanced understanding of the pandemic emergence spillover, and postspillover evolution so that the virus can be better diagnosed and prevented. Enhancing education and health literacy can help humans to fight more deadly diseases. Thus, enhanced education and health literacy have the potential to synergistically fuel reduction in cases of the virus.

Considering the grave societal and economic consequences, it is vital that health professionals and policy makers recognize the magnitude of COVID-19 and the potential socioeconomic devastation. To fully curb the coronavirus pandemic, it is crucial for international organizations and national governments to take the leadership role in governing and implementing wide-ranging policies that make the diagnosis, therapeutics and vaccines for a virus a global and national priority.

**References:** Wikipedia, The Brookings Institution, Unicef.org, QuartzAfrica, Researchgate.net.