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**COURSE: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH- GST 122**

**QUESTION: 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**

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

The corona virus pandemic is currently affecting the world including Nigeria. The virus is commonly known as COVID-19. COVID-19 is an infectious condition, which means it can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another.

* It involves your upper respiratory tract (nose, throat, airways, lungs)
* Caused by the newly discovered coronavirus, called as novel coronavirus, first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

Coronavirus has “high infectivity but low mortality”

* Mortality rate ranges between 2-3%. It is significantly less severe than 2003 SARS (MR: 10%) OR 2012 MERS (MR: 35%) outbreaks.
* Risk of death is only higher in older people (above an age of 60 years) and people with pre-existing health conditions.

The disease can be spread by an infected person to a healthy person through the eye, nose and mouth, via droplets produced on coughing or sneezing. It can also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces, objects or items of personal use. There is no evidence yet that the virus can be passed through food. The virus survives up to 8-10 hours over porous surfaces like paper, untreated wood, cardboard, sponge and fabric and a little more than this over nonporous surfaces like glass, plastics, metals and varnished wood.

To contain the spread the WHO (World Health Organization) has advised individuals to:

* Wash their hands regularly with plenty of soap and water.
* Keep an alcohol-based sanitizer ready for times when soap and water are not available.
* Don’t touch your eyes, mouth or nose with unclean hands
* Keep your distance at least 1 meter from anyone coughing or sneezing
* Follow no touch greeting for no germs contraction.

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus.

**THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENTS IN NIGERIA**

As more than 25 million people are placed on a two week lockdown in parts of Nigeria in a bid to curtail the spread of coronavirus, poor people in congested neighborhoods are worried about how they will cope, writes the BBC’s Nduka Orjinmo from the commercial capital Lagos. The effects of this lock down on Nigerians cannot be overemphasized especially for those who cannot provide a three square meal under normal circumstances. Also, the unemployed citizens who do not have any source of income or people who depend on wages because they engage in physical work and earn their wages each day. It is so ironic to tell people leaving under such circumstance to saty at home without coming out. There are families who do have electricity and also no water supply to at least obey the washing of hands rule. Some families are scared of hunger than the fear of virus.

The effect of the lockdown on families without a reliable income is terrible as there is no way to feed due to the shutting down of small businesses that are thriving to survive. This poor people do not have money to pile or money for foodstuffs to keep. This is the present situation in Nigeria as citizens are more scared of hunger than the virus. Most of them stand by the saying that “All death is death” emphasizing that if they stay at home they will die of hunger and if they come out to hustle they will still die of the virus.

The effects of the lock down is also very positive as Nigerian schools have created platforms for which students can learn from home and also get involved in academic work online. The reason why this is a positive effect is because Nigeria as a country was never really serious about this E-learning not up till this period that many schools started having online classes and so on. Also, this is a really positive effect as Nigerian students see more positive use of the internet than other negative things associated with the internet.

Another effect of the lockdown is heightened loss of jobs among citizens. Due to the fact that some businesses are not doing well because of this pandemic they are no longer able to pay their staffs and so they pay them off and release them from their jobs. This leads to the increasing rate of unemployment in Nigeria and also financial crisis.

The pandemic is a devastating thing as many lives have been lost due to this crisis. The pandemic has really opened the eyes of the populace how undeveloped Nigeria as a country is due to the lack of adequate facility to treat those who are suffering from this virus.