

Corona virus and its effects

The oxford advanced learners dictionary defines the corona virus as “any of a group of RNA viruses that causes a variety of diseases in humans and other animals”. This newly discovered coronavirus causes an infectious disease known as coronavirus disease (COVID-19). At present COVID-19 has no known cure. The COVID-19 was first identified amid an outbreak in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. BBC news recorded an increasing national total death toll in china to more than 4600. Coronavirus is transmitted by contact with infected person via respiratory droplets generated by sneezing and coughing.

Due to lackluster attitude of the government of countries all over the world to the virus, the virus spread at a rampant rate. The index case of COVID-19 in Nigeria was recorded on the 27th February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. The second case of the virus was a man in Ewekoro, Ogun state who had contact with the index case, this was reported on the 9th of May. Many other cases in Nigeria have been reported with Lagos as the epicenter with about 200 cases and over 600 cases nationwide presently. There are quarantine centers in Nigerian to curb the spread. Also, the federal government issued a lockdown and restriction of movements on Nigerians and this has affected the people greatly.

The lockdown has affected the nations economy. All federal and state parastatal are shutdown. This has reduced drastically the income generated by the country. Huge sums of money are spent on the health sector and provision of palliatives for the vulnerable persons in the country. If care is not taken the country will go into recession as a result of a drop in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Emem Essien, chief operating officer, Crop2cash limited, who spoke with PREMIUM TIMES said: “I have a farm of over acres under personal management, because of this pandemic and the government response to it by locking down, I find it very difficult to navigate to the farm”. He added that “there would be hunger in land if this continued”. Demand has exceeded supply. This has increased the prices of food and commodities. Individuals who get their source of income from daily “hustle” find it difficult to afford commodities in this period because of the increase in prices. People can hardly feed because of the restriction.

Another effect is hunger and strife. Individuals especially the youths have taken it upon themselves to engage in theft and other crimes in order to survive. This is commonly reported in Lagos and Ogun states.

The academic sector has also suffered greatly. At present, all schools are shut down in the country for fear of the spread of this disease. As a result, children who are supposed to be in school are at home engaged in all sorts of vices. Some students wrote jamb and others have not written. Even the annual SSCE is yet to be written. The children now engage themselves in social media and going to sites not right for their age.

Staying at home, social distancing, washing of hands, the use of hand sanitizer and wearing of face mask are some of the things one has to indulge in to stay safe and avoid contracting the disease (COVID-19).

Aminone Oghenvwakpo Alexander.

100 Level, Mechatronics Department.

