**NAME: NTAMU PRECIOUS TIMOTHY**

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**CORONA VIRUS(COVID-19) PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

Corona virus disease(COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered virus. Most people who fall sick with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and may recover without special treatment if they are properly quarantined.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs and sneezes. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air, so they fall on surfaces and floors. A person can be infected by breathing in the virus if he or she is within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then your eye, nose, or mouth. This disease could be prevented by:

* Washing your hand frequently or using an alcohol-based hand rub or sanitizer
* Maintaining a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing
* Avoid social gathering such as wedding, birthday parties etc.
* Make sure to put on a face mask when moving out of your house
* Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing

The COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria has led to:

* LOSS OF JOBS: some individuals have lost their job as a result of the lockdown for example farms and factories are shut down, individuals who work in companies especially private companies will suspend their jobs during this period of lockdown, but after the lockdown, not all the staff will be taken back in. Most of them will be laid off.
* DAILY INCOME DIFFICULTIES: There are some individuals in the country who earn daily like the traders in the market, newspaper vendors, tailors, etc. these individuals may not be able to meet up their needs since the income is not available as a result of the lockdown. This could lead to starvation, inability to meet up with the rent, inability to meet up the hospital bills in case of an emergency and those with chronic diseases will at some point not be able to meet up with the hospital bill or drug cost.
* PROHIBITION OF MASS GATHERING: As a result of the lockdown, mass gathering such as religious activities, marriage ceremony, social activities etc. has been suspended.
* The federal government allocation to states started dropping a few months ago which may lead to states not being able to pay salaries and provide the basic minimum public services
* SUSPENSION OF ACADEMIC ACTIVTIES: Academic activities in all institutions (Primary, Secondary and tertiary institution) in Nigeria has been suspended so as to ensure effective lockdown. This has led to backwardness in the academic curriculum. For example; the WASSCE external examination has been postponed indefinitely which has caused a great effect in the activities of the institutions in Nigeria
* HARRASMENT OF INDIVIDUALS BY SECURITY PERSONNEL: As a result of the lockdown, the security personnel (Police, Army etc.) have been authorized to ensure compliance with the lockdown directive which has led to brutality by the police and other security personnel on the individuals who disobey the lockdown order.
* INCREASE IN CRIME RATES IN THE COUNTRY: So as to keep up with the struggles of the lockdown such as hunger and increase in poverty rate, some youths go about committing crimes such stealing, arm robbery, etc. so as to survive the hardship since they are not able to make a genuine living.

In conclusion, we can only overcome these challenges when a vaccine is found for the novel Corona virus (COVID-19), and a major percentage of the global population is vaccinated.