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Report On Coronavirus And Effects Of Lockdown In Nigerians

Coronavirus also known as COVID19 is a global pandemic affecting the world.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome(MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome(SARS).The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) started out as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and ended up as a pandemic(affecting the whole world) has thrown the world into a war-like situation. As of 12 April 2020, the overall statistics of COVID19 is now over 1.8 million mark for all cases in 203 countries and territories across all continents of the world – Asia, North and South America, Europe, Australia and Africa. As of 12 April 2020, the united states became the country with the highest number of COVID 19 confirmed cases with incidence of over 500,000 cases and more than 23,000 deaths. Italy has fatalities with about 20,000 deaths from 160,000 cases, Spain with 17,000 deaths and 170,000 cases. France recorded almost 12,000 from 118,000 cases while china had 3,339 deaths from 82,883 cases.Sadly over the last one week the number in deaths and confirmed infected individuals have increased astronomically by every ticking minute. Africa has confirmed 19 cases in 52 countries as of 9 April, 2020 . South Africa accounts for highest number of confirmed cases at 1,934 with 11 related deaths. Most of the cases and deaths in Africa occurred in four North African Countries: Algeria(1666) , Egypt(1699) , Morocco(1374) and Tunisia (643) with 80% of the total COVID 19 related deaths in Africa. On the Other hand,, Nigeria which is the most populated country on the continent with an estimated population of 200 million (15% of Africa’s 1.3 billion people) has 323 confirmed cases of COVID- 19 (2.5% of Africa) and 10 deaths as of 12 April, 2020. These numbers are, however far from the true reflection of the situation in Nigeria, based on the fact that testing is not being carried out on a large scale. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) stated in earlier months that the present testing volume is 500 tests per day and hope to increase these capacity to 1000 or more per day in the coming weeks. Thus far, less than 5000 tests have been carried out in a population of 200 million. It is now very evident that there was really no preparation to arrest the earliest cases of importation of COVID 19 into the country, especially at the international airports. Effective quarantine of travelers coming into the country since the Chinese outbreak became news in January could have been done. It was not until much later, by 18 March 2020, that Nigeria eventually placed a travel ban on 13 countries with high incidence of the disease namely : United States, United Kingdom, South Korea, Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, China , Spain, Netherlands, Norway, Japan and Iran but was later effective on the 23 March 2020 by then the returnees had already melted into the communities. As part of the efforts to curtail the COVID- 19 pandemic, the Federal Government ordered a lockdown on Lagos, Ogun and the FCT Abuja. Many states are already applying the stay-at-home policy. However, locking people down at home in the Nigerian context is like asking people to go hungry for the duration of the lockdown. More than 60% of Nigerians survive on daily menial jobs which without affects the daily livelihood of people. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employees have maintained a no salary during lockdown stance, or at best a 50% pay cut. Protest in different forms have been seen within communities, people are protesting against a lockdown due to hunger and lack of money to provide for themselves, which results as an effect of the lockdown and restriction being placed.