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

OVERVIEW OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Coronaviruses are a group of related viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, coronaviruses cause respiratory tract infections that can range from mild to lethal. Mild illnesses include some cases of the common cold (which has other possible causes, predominantly rhinoviruses), while more lethal varieties can cause SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. This report shall be centering on the 2019/20 outbreak of the corona virus disease, popularly known as COVID-19.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.The First confirmed case of what was then an unknown coronavirus was traced back to November 2019 in Hubei province. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle pain, diarrhea, sore throat, loss of smell, and abdominal pain. he virus is primarily spread between people during close contact,[a] often via small droplets produced by coughing,[b] sneezing, or talking.[6][17][19] While these droplets are produced when breathing out, they usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than remain in the air over long distances. People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. The virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours.It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread may be possible before symptoms appear and in later stages of the disease. To prevent further spread of the virus the Nigerian government, following the example of several other countries, has issued a lockdown order in several states.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN

The lockdown and 'stay at home' order issued in Nigeria has several far-reaching effects. These effects mainly affect three entities; the individual, the society and the government.

Effects on the Individual;

1. Hunger and malnutrition.

2. Poverty and loss of life savings.

3. Loss of self confidence and esteem.

4. Dependence on others for sustenance.

5. Derailment of life plans.

Effects on the Firm;

1. Reduction in profit margins.

2. Cessation of production activities.

3. Fall in stock prices.

4. Loss of revenue.

5. The firm might end up falling into debt.

Effects on the Society/Government;

1. Increase in crime rates.

2. Increase in unemployment rates.

3. Unexpected expenditure to offset the effects of the lockdown on firms and individuals.

4. Derailment of future plans.

5. Loss of revenue.

Although the effects of the lockdown are debilitating on the individual, firm and society at large, the necessity of the order is unquestionable and cannot be denied. This lockdown is necessary, as our health remains our wealth and all other concerns are secondary, as the economy can be revived but lost lives are lost forever.