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A Report On The Coronavirus Pandemic And The Effects Of The Lockdown And Restriction Of Movement On Nigerians.

Coronavirus Pandemic

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed of the virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from the infection by washing your hands or using alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from nose when an infected person coughs and sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a reflexed elbow).

At this time, 2,472,295 people have been tested and confirmed to be positive for the coronavirus disease, 645,738 people are said to have recovered and a total of 169,986 deaths worldwide. There are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available

Effects Of The Lockdown And Restrictions Of Movements On Nigeria

Over the weeks, Nigeria has 665 confirmed cases , 188 people are said to have recovered and 22 deaths have been recorded. Nigeria has announced a lockdown of three major states, Lagos, Ogun and Abuja. Though this will help curb the spread of the coronavirus disease, it is no new thing that her citizens will be highly affected. Those that will be affected the most will be household that rely on day to day activities of self-employed individuals for consumption. In President Muhammadu Buhari `s speech to the nation, he acknowledged that the restrictions may make it hard for people to feed themselves and so “relief materials” would be distributed to communities around affected states.

Economic Circumstances

Nigeria has a very high self-employment rate. In terms of occupational proportions from a household perspective, my research showed that 41.4% of the household members reported being own account self-employment, 26.5% in paid employment , 2.8% reported that they were employers of labour, 15.7% indicated that they were unemployed while 13.6% reported being non-active in labour force.

This generally agrees with the figures from National Bureau of Statistics, although it should be noted that the unemployment rate in Nigeria has recently gotten worse and the national unemployment rate doesn’t reflect the situation in individual states.

There will be significant consequences for household consumption in the cities under lockdown. Losses of income will be the immediate concern for individuals who have been contributing to household consumption through their entrepreneurial activities and engaged in hand-to-mouth self-employment.

It will be hard for such individuals to participate in the lockdown when their households depend on them for consumption.