

QUESTION - Write a report of not more than two pages on the corona virus pandemic and the effects of lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

REPORT OF COVID-19 AND THE EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

A disease which has already ^{cost} over a hundred and seventy four thousand lives, ~~etc~~ with more than two million cases reported worldwide, the corona virus is one to be feared. The 2019-20 corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 ^{originated} from Wuhan, China in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared it as a global pandemic on 11 March 2020.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing or talking. 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. It is contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread may be possible before symptoms appear and in the later stages of the disease. Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The time from exposure to symptoms is typically around five days. There is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment. Primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy.

The pandemic has caused global socioeconomic disruption including one of the largest global recessions in history. It has led to the postponement or cancellation of sporting

religious, political and cultural events, with a ~~wide~~ ^{wide} spread of supply shortages exacerbated by panic buying. Schools, Universities and Colleges have closed either on a national or local basis in 197 countries, affecting approximately 99.9% of or 99.9 percent of the world's student population.

The first confirmed case of coronavirus in Nigeria was revealed on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On 9 March President Muhammadu Buhari established a Presidential Task force for the control of the virus in the country. The country at first was put on a 14-day lockdown which was extended in order to curb the spread of the virus. This act has in no doubt had some ^{negative} effects on citizens of Nigeria, the lockdown has left many people hungry because many people in the country live from hand to mouth. Apart from its medical professionals who are overwhelmed with their work, most people aren't receiving salaries and wages and therefore cannot cater for their families. Loss of income will be the immediate concern for individuals who contribute to their entrepreneurial activities and engage in hard to make self employment. There are many people who can not cope with the situation and tend to break the rules of the lockdown in order to survive, putting themselves in danger of the virus. They are also in danger of being physically abused by policemen and other armed forces that have been directed to ensure ~~that~~ the enforcement of the lockdown.

One can only hope that the situation in the country gets better elseways could have catastrophic implications for the country and the world at large.