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ENGINEERING (MECHATRONICS)

19/ENG05/063

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the recently discovered corona virus. The corona virus is believed to have started in a small town in China (Wuhan). Unlike some other viruses or illnesses that affect a certain age group or range, the corona virus disease affects individuals of all ages. It is believed however, to have an effect mostly on individuals with pre-existing medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, etc.

The COVID-19 virus is spread primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. On an average, it takes 5-6 days for symptoms to show in a person who has come in contact with the virus. However, it can take up to 14 days. The rate of spread of the virus is very wide. According to statistics, it only takes one infected person to spread the virus to ten other people. This means that if ten people have the virus, a hundred other people are liable to get infected.

The symptoms of the virus include: fever, tiredness and dry cough. Some people may and experience runny nose, sore throat, nasal congestion, aches and pains, etc. Preventive measures against the virus include: maintaining social distance (which is the most effective), washing of hands with a hand wash under running water, or using an alcohol based sanitizer. It is also advised to cough into the crook of the elbow if the need arises.

In Nigeria, the corona virus disease has caused many negative effects as in other countries. Some of these effects are:

* **The halting of educational activities-** Due to the spread of corona virus disease, the government has ordered the closing of all schools in the country. This will greatly set back the school calendar and as it is presently, those who will be badly affected by this are students in higher institutions and SSS3 students who were about to sit their WASSCE examinations.
* **Hunger-** There are people in the country who feed based on their daily earnings. The lockdown, which the government has issued as a result of the corona virus disease outbreak, has left several people hungry. Although the government has promised to aid them, we do not know how true they were to their word.
* **Robberies-** Because people are hungry, they have resorted to stealing from other people to get by. These robberies, although seemingly harmless, can quickly escalate and can therefore lead to loss of lives.
* **Increase in mortality rate-** It is known fact that the corona virus disease leads to death especially in individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.
* **Economic instability-** In the long run, the corona virus pandemic will affect the Nigerian economy. At the moment, those who are able to leave their houses to buy food materials are faced with an increase in price which in turn increases other things like transportation in the country.

As of the 21st of April, the statistics below show the spread of the virus in Nigeria:

**Confirmed cases- 665**

**Recovered patients- 188**

**Deaths- 22**

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