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CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF THE MOVEMENTS OF NIGERIANS

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus is also known as COVID-19. The first case was discovered in Wuhan, a city in the Eastern part of China with a population of over 11 million. What began as an epidemic in Wuhan is now a global pandemic. There have been over 2,489,749 confirmed cases and over 170,000 deaths. Corona virus belongs to the Coronaviridae family in the Nidovirales order. It affects both humans and animals, but in humans it causes a respiratory illness that ranges from common cold to much more severe infections. The well known case of corona virus epidemic is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome(SARS). Although the symptoms of corona virus are often mild which are mostly fever and dry cough, in some cases it leads to more serious respiratory teach infections or illness including pneumonia and bronchitis. However vaccines have been tried to be created but it keep being futile, presently there is no cure for corona virus

CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA

The first confirmed case was announced on the 27th February 2020 when an Italian man was tested positive for corona virus which was caused by SARS COVID-19 virus in Lagos State. The second case was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state. It has taken more than hundred of lives presently. The government has however made effort to curb the spread through Nigerian Center for Disease Control(NCDC)

EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA

The federal government has ordered a lockdown in Lagos State, Ogun State and FCT Abuja, these three states mentioned have the highest numbers of corona virus cases and leading is Lagos state

The lockdown has however risked many people’s means of livelihood. Lot of Nigerians to be precise, more than 60% of Nigerians survive on their daily pay from petty trades and menial jobs and will find this lockdown terrible for them. The lockdown and restriction is simply making them face the wrath of hunger and them forgetting about the danger of corona virus. Due to this a lot of families don’t have enough money to stock their homes with food and other necessary resources

The restriction of movements and lockdown has also caused a massive reduction in the exporting activities of Nigeria. Already, borders of countries have been closed which is disrupting our exportation of goods. Since the country devalues the currency due to fall in prices of commodities outside the country, the goods are mire affordable thereby having a poor effect on the economy

The issue of private sector employees are the worst. They are presently on “no salary lockdown or 50% cut-off lockdown' some works s have also been completely dismissed. To add to the effects, the poor are getting poorer, people are struggling to survive, school academic calendar has been extended and other effects not mentioned here

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, one can totally agree that apart from the negative effects this lockdown has, there is the bright side of it which is to reduce the spread of corona virus and to keep is safe. The best things that can be done is to adhere to the instructions given by the federal government, pray and staying safe and perhaps if the lockdown rule is lifted, social distancing should be maintained