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THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

Introduction

“The World is not ready for an EPIDEMIC” said BILL GATES. Who knew the 2015 TED talk of the second richest man alive would come to reality.

The Coronavirus has been in existence since the 20th century and it was a belief that it affects only animals(e.g Bats, Pangolins) but it is said to have mutated to the Coronavirus 2019 popularly known as COVID-19 and changed the fate of mankind.

Findings

The coronavirus pandemic is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, and recognised it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 21 April 2020, more than 2.53 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 185 countries and territories, resulting in more than 174,000 deaths. More than 665,000 people have recovered, although there may be a possibility of relapse or reinfection.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, or talking within a distance less than 1 metre. 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 this is because it has been identified to occur as Asymptomatic (doesn't show signs of symptoms). Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days, but may range from two to fourteen days. There is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment. Primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy.

Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering one's mouth when coughing, maintaining distance from other people, and monitoring and self-isolation for people who suspect they are infected. Authorities worldwide have responded by implementing travel restrictions, quarantines, curfews

and stay-at-home orders, workplace hazard controls, and facility closures. Many places have also worked to increase testing capacity and trace contacts of infected persons.

The pandemic has caused severe 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, widespread supply shortages exacerbated by panic buying, and decreased air pollution and carbon emissions. Schools, universities and colleges have closed either on a nationwide or local basis in 197 countries, affecting approximately 99.9 percent of the world's student population.

The effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians have been both psychological and financially daunting. This has caused an increased rate in criminal activities such as; armed robbery, damage to government properties and extortion of people. People who survive on daily wages and SMEs are the most affected, because their survival is dependent on selling and buying which is done outside.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has promised palliatives to its citizens and has tried to reach the most vulnerable to the lockdown, but citizens are yet to receive any palliatives in some major areas and some rejected the help of the government because the apportioned palliatives are very small to sustain them.

Some citizens still disobey the Stay at home order of the FG and have faced serious punishment for breaking the law. From investigation about how the citizens feel towards the lockdown and the restriction of movement and why they do not believe in the existence of the Virus in the country is because there haven't been any Visual Evidence of patients like it is done in some developed and developing country.

The effect of the lockdown has a lot of disadvantages but its advantage has been to bring families together and help people learn new skills but it still isn't enough because there is Hunger in the land and low level of security and the cases of the virus increase in a geometrically manner, As of 21st, April 2020 the case was about 665 people and it is believed to still be counting.

In conclusion, the federal government needs to find a strategic manner to distribute the palliatives and citizens are advised to obey the rules and regulation so as to reduce the curve of the disease and to ensure that life goes back as it was before the virus.

SOURCES;

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019–20_coronavirus_pandemic

WHO–China Joint Mission (16–24 February 2020). "Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" (PDF). *World Health Organization*. Retrieved 8 March 2020.

INTERVIEWS WITH A FEW CITIZENS TO KNOW THEIR VIEWS.