**A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC: EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA.**

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**SUMMARY**

When the corona virus started, people around the world, including Nigerians, thought of it as a joke but little did they know of what was coming ahead. Presently there has been a large outbreak of the pandemic and numerous cases of death. There has been the implementation of lockdown in various countries, Nigeria included and this has caused both positive and negative effects on Nigerians.

**INTRODUCTION.**

There has been sadness, depression and a deep outcry on planet earth for a couple of months now. The reason for this problem, emanates from an enemy, a virus, which is popularly known as, “COVID-19”or “CORONA VIRUS”. The outbreak of this pandemic was identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 but it was declared as a public health emergency of national concern on 30th January, 2020 and recognized as a pandemic on the 11th of March,2020. As of today, there are more than 2.5 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 185 countries and territories, resulting in more than 171,000 deaths. Although over 659,000 people have recovered, the disease is still fast spreading and there is a possible chance of relapse or re-infection.

**MEANS OF SPREAD AND PREVENTION OF THE VIRUS.**

The virus is primarily spread through close contact with the bodily fluids of infected people via coughing, sneezing or talking. Sometimes, these infected fluids which serve as outlets containing the virus, may drop on surfaces or on the ground and sadly, this virus can last up to 72 hours on these surfaces. As a result of this, an individual may contact the virus by touching his/her eyes, nose or mouth after touching contaminated surfaces. It may spread even before the infected victim starts to experience symptoms. The symptoms may include fever, cough and shortness of breath which in the late life span of the virus may lead to complications such as pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome and even, death. Sadly, there is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment.

Preventive measures have been recommended by health professionals to control the spread of the virus. Such measures include: hand washing, social distancing, covering one’s mouth when coughing and monitoring and self isolation of people that suspect to be infected. Nigeria like other countries has contributed to the prevention of the spread of the corona virus by closing its borders, implementing travel restrictions, quarantining infected people and stay at home orders. This contribution is really good and effective to some extent but the lockdown/stay at home order has had a great effect on Nigerians.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCKDOWN AND ITS EFFECTS ON NIGERIANS.**

The lockdown was formally implemented by President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday 30th of March, 2020 for an initial period of 14 days from 11pm in Lagos state, the F.C.T. and Ogun State. All activities apart from the medical activities were placed on a hold until further notice as the lockdown was extended again for another 14 days because of the rising number of cases and the volatility of the disease in the entire world. Other states of the federation have closed their borders preventing free exit and entry.

While this lockdown is advantageous in curbing the spread of the virus, it has also had negative effects and some positive effects on the people. The negative effects are as follows: 1.It has led to starvation and hunger: Most people depend on daily income for their feeding and survival especially the hawkers and traders. As the lockdown has been set, these people are not able to make money and provide food for themselves and family.

2.It has led to unemployment. Profit in various industries has dropped and to prevent loss, industries have laid off their workers to prevent loss.

3.Uncertainty of students: Students are really uncertain on when academic activities will continue especially the students of public universities as they do not have good facilities for the online classes some private universities are having. Final year students are not sure of when they would graduate and the SS3 students are not certain on when they would write their West African Senior School Examination (W.A.S.S.C.E.).

4.Crime rate has increased as people go out to steal food items and money as they are not able to work in order to attend to their personal and family needs. The positive effects are:

1. The spread of the virus is being controlled as social, cultural and academic activities have been placed on the hold as people are required to stay at home.
2. The bond between family members has begun to grow as they tend to understand, tolerate and learn certain things from each other.
3. A lot of workaholics have been given a time off to rest and this is really helping people with health cases like high blood pressure.

**CONCLUSION**

Although a lot of people have died, Nigerians are still hopeful as the experience of the survivors told, serve as a source of inspiration, motivation and encouragement that those infected will eventually get healed. A survivor, Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi who is a 29 year old activist on rape talked on the encouragement, support, through medical aid and prayers by doctors and nurses. This shows that the medical team is working and there is hope for all Nigerians.

**REFERENCE**

Mbah, F. 7th April, 2020.Nigerian Survivor: ‘An experience I don’t wish on anyone’.https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/Nigeria-covid-19-survivor-experience-don- 200406152458618.html.Accessed 21st April 2020.