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GST 122 Assignment: Forms of Writing

Corona virus and the effects of the lockdown on Nigerians

The corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered virus, the “corona virus”. The first of this case was recorded in Wuhan, China on December 2019. The cases then rapidly increased in china and before they knew it by January 2020 they already had thousands of cases. People suffering from this disease were seen to experience mild to moderate respiratory illness, but most people recovered without the need of any special treatment. It wasn’t the same case for old people and people with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, etc. though, they were seen to develop serious illnesses which most times lead to death. By 30 January 2020 the World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and as at February 2020 most of the countries in Europe already had several cases of COVID-19, France and Italy are some countries that took heavy hits from COVID-19. The WHO recognized COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

The first COVID-19 case in Nigeria was recorded in Lagos on 27 February 2020, an Italian consultant for a cement company. Although it wasn’t until 30 March 2020, when the total cases in Nigeria was 131 people and 2 dead people, that Federal Government ordered a lockdown in Lagos, Abuja and all neighboring states. So basically, most people in Lagos, and Nigeria generally, can’t go outside their houses either to work, school or any other occasions. Certainly this locked down has had some effects on the citizens of the nation.

Firstly, all the schools in the region have been closed down and the academic calendars of various learning institutions have been disrupted, the exams have been postponed and graduations too. The students who were currently sitting for the Joint Administration Matriculation Board (JAMB) Examination can no longer continue with their examinations so they probably won’t be able to get into school till God knows when.

Also, most offices have closed down so people can’t go out to earn a living for their families for their families for the time being. This doesn’t only apply to office workers though; it also applies to lower civil servants, musicians, actors, MCs, large scale and petty traders, etc. The petty traders and small business owners are actually the ones suffering the most in comparison with other workers because they more or less eat from hand to mouth so when they can’t go out and work they wouldn’t be able to care for their families or get food or anything.

Furthermore, the markets and stores have been closed down so people can’t go out to purchase food items. People complain everyday on the news that they are starving. People who even have some money can’t go out to get food not to talk of the people who don’t have money and don’t have food too at the same time. Frankly, if the virus doesn’t kill them first they’ll probably die of starvation.

Lastly, since no one can go out to trade and Nigeria has banned importation of goods and materials from other countries, the Nigerian Economy has significantly declined so they’ll probably not be able to purchase the equipment that’s needed to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Honestly, I don’t believe the lockdown is being as effective as expected because as at 21 April the number of cases was 782 people with 25 deaths and 197 recovered people. That’s 560 active cases that we are aware of. The government should rethink the continuation of the lockdown and search for a more effective method of dealing with the pandemic.