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COLLEGE : SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Matric Number : 19/SMS11/004

COURSE : GST 122

COVID-19 Pandemic Report

The world is experiencing a pandemic that is set to claim millions of lives and it just began five months ago. This report is written and presented for the purpose of defining the causal organism of the viral disease, expatriating on its medical, social and economic effects and proving feasible solutions to this dire global situation.

A pandemic, according to WHO, is an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people”.

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause disease in animals. Seven, including the new virus, have made the jump to humans, but most just cause cold-like symptoms.

Covid-19 is closely related to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) which swept around the world in 2002 to 2003. That virus infected around 8,000 people and killed about 800 but it soon ran itself out, largely because most of those infected were seriously ill so it was easier to control.

Covid-19 is different to these two other coronaviruses in that the spectrum of disease is broad, with around 80 per cent of cases leading to a mild infection. There may also be many people carrying the disease and displaying no symptoms, making it even harder to control.

So far, around 20 per cent of Covid-19 cases have been classed as "severe" and the current death rate varies between 0.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent depending on the location and, crucially, access to good hospital care.

The source of the coronavirus is believed to be a "wet market" in Wuhan which sold both dead and live animals including fish and birds.

There are over two million confirmed cases worldwide with six hundred and forty three thousand recoveries and one hundred and sixty eight thousand deaths.

On the 27th of February,2020, the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control(NCDC) confirmed the first case of Covid-19 in Lagos. The patient was an Italian returning from Milan. Two weeks later, recovery became a reality for the index patient but still a far fetched prayer for the country as a whole.

On the 30th of March, the Nigerian Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 announced a lockdown on Lagos, Abuja and Ogun states which was to last for two weeks. This is nationally accepted as a necessary way of curbing the spread of the deadly virus. This lockdown included closing down of schools, markets, shops and restriction of movement except necessary. However, Nigerians continued to move in light numbers. Socially, the lockdown resulted in the cancellation of all events, weddings, concerts and whatnot. It also introduced socially distancing and the use of face masks. Religiously, the lockdown resulted in no holding of services and most Nigerians took to worshipping in their homes with their families. The cancellation of events in Lagos state was enforced by law enforcement agencies with the legislative backing of a bill called ‘A Law to Combat and Stop the Spread of Corona Virus Pandemic in Lagos State and for Connected Purposes’ which has 25 sections. Under this bill, a person found guilty “is liable to a fine of N100,000.00 or one month imprisonment or three months Community service”. Economically, the global economy has suffered a 10% recession out of which Nigeria has not been left out. Nigerians suffer most in this regard because many Nigerians love hand to mouth and a lockdown has left many in hunger and joblessness. This has led to security tensions, increase in crime and formation of violent gangs. Furthermore, the total number of extra judicial killings by enforcement agencies, as a result of the lockdown, totals eighteenn. The lockdown was extended for another two weeks for two extra weeks and also has pronounced inter state lockdown

Coronavirus in Nigeria has nine hundred and eighty one cases with one hundred and ninety seven recoveries and thirty one deaths. Several government and private relief programmers have been created towards the distribution of food and funds to ameliorate the hardships created by the lockdown.Hopefully, it all ends very soon.