

19/MHS11/034  
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## THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT ON NIGERIANS.

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### ABSTRACT.

The present text explores on the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic since its emergence in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The coronavirus disease is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. It was recognized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in which it had been reported in several countries, Nigeria included. The pandemic is ongoing and the disease has no known cure. This has resulted in the issuance of lockdown and restriction of movement in almost all countries, Nigeria included, as it is in our own interest that we stay safe. However, this has led to diverse effects on the Nigerian citizens and its economy among the benefits.

### INTRODUCTION.

The coronavirus disease is an infectious disease caused by coronavirus. Due to its spread across the globe in just few weeks from its first outbreak in China, it is considered a pandemic. The first confirmed case of the pandemic in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On 9 March 2020, a second case was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. This virus is spread primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. In order to protect ourselves, who instructed that the hands should be washed frequently with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub, face mask and gloves should be used and social (physical) distancing of at least 3 feet from others. Hence the Nigerian government issued lockdown in Lagos state, Ogun state and Abuja. Several other state governments, including Rivers, Kaduna and Ekiti have also initiated full or partial lockdown with the aim of reversing epidemic growth and reducing case numbers to low levels by social distancing the entire population indefinitely and closing schools, universities and most work places. Amongst the positive effects, the lockdown and restriction of movement has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of the country's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

### **EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

Mainly in Lagos which is the country's major economic center as well as financial, the informal economy is far larger than the formal one; 'everybody has a hustle' and much of that activity involves face to face contact which is now threatened by the lockdown. Own account self-employed workers and employers usually work in the agricultural, services and manufacturing sector. It is hard for such individuals to participate in the lockdown as they are depended on for consumption.

The government outlined some measures to ease the hardship, a payment of monthly \$13 to the poorest of the poor but millions of self-employed Nigerians have been left without financial aid. While many workers have not been paid their march wages and even does trying to work from home face the difficulties of unreliable electricity supply and poor network. There is an increase in generation usage, hence increase in noise and air pollution.

In 'face me I face' rooms mainly in Lagos, social distancing cannot really be enforced despite the lockdown, clean water is not readily available and the people would rather go out, fearing hunger not the virus instead of observing a lockdown that is not effective for them.

Many Nigerians live hand to mouth and it is rather impossible for them to stock up on food and other essentials. The lack of reliable electricity supplies also has an effect on this.

The criminal rate in the country has also increased, more reports of theft, armed robbery and rape.

Security forces enforcing the lockdown in parts of Nigeria have killed more people than the coronavirus itself

However, people are using the period to relax, reinvent themselves, refurbishing love for self and family, enhancing their spirituality. learning online businesses and going into network marketing.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.**

The summary of this is that the coronavirus pandemic has major effects on individual apart from being infected by the virus itself. Nigerians should focus on the positive and stay safe.

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