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**PHARMACOLOGY 300 LVL**

**18/MHS07/055**

**PHA 308**

Write a report on the corona virus and the effect of the lockdown and restrictions in Nigeria.

**ANSWER**

**Report on corona virus (COVID-19) and effect of the lockdown in Nigeria**

**21-04-2020**

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China beginning in December 2019. As of 31 January 2020, this epidemic had spread to 19 countries with 11 791 confirmed cases, including 213 deaths, within a short time span, it has rapidly crossed countries and continents and become a full-blown pandemic. The disease spread speedily and the first confirmed case of an infection in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. As of 20 April,2020, a total of 665 cases have been confirmed, 188 cases have been discharged and twenty two deaths have been recorded in Nigeria. A total/partial lockdown has been placed by the government in some states to stop movement and activities of it citizens to prevent further spread of the virus. President Muhammadu Buhari announced on April 13, 2020 that a lockdown, in place since March 30 in Lagos state, neighboring Ogun state, and Abuja, the nation’s capital, would continue for another 14 days. Several other state governments, including Rivers, Kaduna, and Ekiti, have also initiated full or partial lockdowns. Millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack the food and income that their families need to survive. The government needs to combine public health measures with efforts to prevent the pandemic from destroying the lives and livelihoods of society’s poorest and most vulnerable people.” The lockdown does not apply to those providing essentials services, such as food distributors and retailers, including market stalls selling food and groceries, which are allowed to operate for four hours every 48 hours. The lockdown, however, prevent Nigerians in the informal sector from traveling to work or conducting their business. This sector which accounts for more than 80% of Nigerians, includes a wide range of occupations, from street traders, taxi drivers, tradesmen and artisans to food vendors and hairdressers. Informal workers have lower incomes; do not have savings, health necessities, or pensions that provide a basic social safety net and about 72% are poor. When announcing the lockdown, President said the government would put measures in place to “preserve the livelihoods of workers and business owners to ensure their families get through this very difficult time in dignity.” Considering the track record of the country and the constantly unfulfilled promises of the government its citizens still struggle with getting by on their day to day lives.

Lack of food: Long before the pandemic hunger is a major issue in Nigeria. Local food vendors and traders have difficulties their ability to feed their families during the lockdown, with their daily earnings their only source of sustenance. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities. Any disruption to their daily livelihood has a huge and significant impact on their ability to meet their most basic needs.

Crime: The rate of robbery and crime has increased significantly in various neighborhoods, with no source of income people result to crime to get money and other necessities for sustenance.

Loss of Jobs: A huge amount of businesses are collapsing during this period as people are not allowed to leave their homes to go jobs which require daily activities for its upkeep. A great part of the economic sector deals with importation and exportation of goods and with the borders closed off all ongoing transactions have been stopped.

Educational Disruption: The lockdown has put a massive strain on the educational sector, disrupting the academic calendar and postponing all academic activities. Although some schools have devised various substitutes to maintain the school calendar through online classes, etc. There is still a large population affected by this with people unable to go to school to learn, delay of external and internal school exams and delay of graduating students.

Economic crisis: Before the pandemic, the Nigerian government had been grappling with weak recovery from the 2014 oil price shock, with GDP growth tapering around 2.3 percent in 2019. In February, the IMF revised the 2020 GDP growth rate from 2.5 percent to 2 percent, as a result of relatively low oil prices and limited fiscal space. Relatedly, the country’s debt profile has been a source of concern for policymakers and development practitioners as the most recent estimate puts the debt service-to-revenue ratio at 60 percent, which is likely to worsen amid the steep decline in revenue associated with falling oil prices. These constraining factors will aggravate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and make it more difficult for the government to weather the crisis.

Mental wellbeing: The coronavirus crisis and the restrictive measures that many countries are taking to contain the outbreak can have a negative impact on people's mental health and well-being, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned. Isolation, physical distancing, the closure of schools and workplaces are challenges that affect us, and it is natural to feel stress, anxiety, fear and loneliness at this time. A lot of people who have symptoms cannot be tested so they do not know if they have coronavirus or not. This uncertainty can have a very negative impact on people's mental health, the clinical pressure that medical professionals face every day at work, they are also considered to be a high-risk group. People are likely to be experiencing worry, anxiety and fear and this can include the hopes and fears: fear of dying, fear of their relatives dying, fear of what it means to receive medical treatments.