

**AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY (ABUAD)  
ADO-EKITI**

**AN  
ASSIGNMENT**

**ON**

**A REPORT ON COVID-19 AND THE EFFECT OF LOCKDOWN ON  
NIGERIANS**

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Clearly, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) that started out as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December, 2019 and ended up as a pandemic (affecting the whole world) has thrown the world into a war-like situation. Scores of thousands of deaths have been recorded cumulatively for all countries across the world. Health system in most countries are overwhelmed by the seriously sick patients in hospitals, many of whom are on ventilators and nursed in INTENSIVE CORE UNITS (ICU).

Global and local economics stand at their worst in decades, the world economy is now declared to be in recession by the World Bank/IMF, and could eventually lead to the deepest depression.

As part of the efforts to curtail the covid-19 pandemic, the federal government ordered a lockdown for an initial period of time, many other state are already applying one Stay-at-home rule or the other up to state boundaries closure. However locking people down at home in the Nigerian context is like asking people to go hungry for the duration of the lockdown more than 60 percent of Nigeria survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading in other words, a lockdown means their means of daily livelihood have been lock down. Nevertheless, pangs of hunger will lead to widespread anger protests in different forms are already being seen within the communities, it could also get a lot worse, as we are beginning to see in some places in Lagos and Ogun States where a layer of lumped youth, pushed to extreme hunger by the lockdown, go on mass looting of shops and houses, carting away ordinary people's food and belongings.

Yet, shutting down also means bringing economies to a grinding halt. However, it is already clear that individuals in African Countries are suffering. These impacts are likely to be far worse in the days and weeks to come. Furthermore, it seems likely that the economic consequences of the lockdown across Africa are going to be even harsher than they will be in Europe or the US.

Taking the informal sector, for example where people selling food and other goods or services such as hairdressing and carpentry and for the most part, like a hand-to-mouth existence. A survey of informal sector firms in Kampala, showed that 93% of them are already operating below the poverty line and the ILO estimate that this sector represent 66% of total employment across Africa.

A lockdown to enforce social distancing effectively stops all revenue generating activities. Urban dwellers are further impacted by already rising food prices both driven by panic buying and the disruption of food supply chains through border and transport closure. Larger firms which typically provide more suitable employment are not spared either. For countries relying on imported inputs from China, the first impact came when China's exports plummeted earlier this year with domestic economies now shutting down, the second wave is hitting much harder. This fall in domestics and foreign demand will affect production and sales and in all livelihood will translate into major worker layoffs. Therefore, the economic impact of the response to the pandemic is likely to hurt livelihood by having deep consequences on inclusion and growth for years to come.