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**A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT Of THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

Countries around the world are scrambling to prevent or control the spread of the corona virus. As of April 20, COVID-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the corona virus, has claimed the lives of more than 166,000 people. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), corona viruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). These viruses were thought to infect only humans until the novel corona virus also known as COVID-19 came about.

The corona virus was said to have originated from a wet market in Wuhan, China. At the end of 2019, Wuhan, China experienced an outbreak of a virus, the novel virus from SARS-COV-2 that killed 1800 people and infected over 70,000 people within the first fifty days. The virus is said to be traced to bats as live animals such as bats were being sold at the market in Wuhan so it is possible that a human could have eaten an infected bat. The virus is highly contagious as it is easily transmitted by sneezing, coughing, talking or any contact with fluid of infected persons. According to WHO, symptoms of this virus may include: fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia, multiple organ failure and even death. The incubation period is within 1-14 days. Infected patients could be symptomatic showing symptoms or asymptomatic, not showing any symptoms at all. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), older people are at higher risk for severe illness. Also, people with underlying medical conditions such as heart or lung disease, diabetes. The corona virus being easily transmitted, has spread to over 100 countries of the world among which Nigeria is included..

Corona was first confirmed in Nigeria on 27th February, 2020 when the first case was announced which was an Italian man who had just come into the country. He had come in contact with a lot of people in Lagos and Ogun State and due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, a second case was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State in a Nigerian citizen who had come in contact with the Italian. Since then, the cases of the corona virus had continued to increase. As of today being the 20th of April, 2020, there are 627 cases of the virus, 21 deaths and 170 recoveries. These cases are more dominant in Lagos state because of the population. As a result of the highly contagious nature of the virus, the Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has advised thorough washing of hands with soap and the use of alcohol based sanitizers, avoiding large crowds, ensuring social distancing, when one notices any symptoms, they should call NCDC immediately and also observing self isolation generally.

Moreover, the federal government of Nigeria has ordered for the lockdown of the country and some states and also restricted movements in the country. The lockdown and the restriction of movements was put in place to control the spread of corona virus by preventing people from leaving their homes so that everyone is safe. Although, the lockdown had its advantages that is, its positive effects on Nigeria, it also has its disadvantages. The advantages could include: it is enabling families bond together, it is bringing people closer to God, it is controlling the spread of the virus and so on. Some of the negative effects on our country, Nigeria may include the following: recession of the economy, increase in hunger, increase in crime rate, closure of schools, unemployment and so on. Below, I will be shedding more light on some of these points.

Firstly, the lockdown has led to the immediate shutdown of all schools which affects the education sector. The school closures have disrupted learning and vital school provided services for a number of students in Nigeria. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), almost 40 million learners have been affected by the closures of school of which over 91% are primary and secondary school learners.

Secondly, there is fall in household consumption since people cannot leave their houses and also declining exports due to border closure, this has affected the income generating capacity of these groups. If export is declining, there will be a decline in demand for oil and also oil prices. As a result of all this, it can be said that Nigeria is going through a recession, possibly the worst since the global financial crisis. Also, since people are unable to work especially in a place like Lagos where hustling is the order of the day, they result to stealing from others and causing havoc in the state which leads to an increase in crime rate.

Lastly, the lockdown has led to unemployment especially in areas like transportation. The aviation industry has had millions of job losses because of the suspension of its activities and the travel restrictions imposed by various countries. This is also one of the factors that will affect the economy, given that the transportation sector contributes a lot to the Nigerian GDP. Generally, there is unemployment because employers have to lay off workers or halt payment of salaries.

In conclusion, the corona virus pandemic has resulted in the whole world panicking and looking for different ways to control the spread so as to prevent more deaths and go back to works and schools as soon as possible. No vaccine is being made available yet so we are to help in our own way by staying indoors so as to keep everyone safe. This is because, even if you have it and your case is mild, it might be transmitted to one of the old people or someone with underlying medical illnesses. The federal government has found their part by ordering for the lockdown of states so we should just try our best to adhere to their instructions. Although, it seems like there are a lot of negative effects of the lockdown and restriction of movements on Nigeria, the positive effect should be enough to make us stay at home because the protection of our lives and our safety in general should me more important than our jobs or school or any social gathering.