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Matric No: 19\ Law01\012

Course Code: GST 122

Course Name: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH

Lecturer: Dr. SOLOMON EDEBOR

Assignment: Write an essay based on the topic you formulated from the previous assignment that entailed picking out a problem found in your society.

COVID 19: THE ROLE IT PLAYS INCREASING RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA.

Even before the year of 2020 came along, it had been predicted by the Nigeria Employers’ Consultative Association (NECA) that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria would increase drastically from 23.1% to 33.5% in the following year. This was to be caused by the closing of companies and lack of job opportunities in the country. Before the year came, different measures were put into place for the reduction of the rate of increase in unemployment in Nigeria such as, when Timothy Olawale, Director General, NECA urged the Federal Government to create the necessary policies that will develop the economy and create more jobs but all these were to no avail.

COVID-19 is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It first appeared in Wuhan, China and has now become a global pandemic. Bats are suspected to be the possible primary source. The secondary source of origin and how it got transferred to humans is not known, however, the rapid human to human transfer has been confirmed widely. There is no clinically approved antiviral drug or vaccine available to be used against COVID-19.

The first case of Corona virus in Nigeria was Confirmed on the 27th of February, 2020. The patient was an Italian man who worked in Nigeria and came back from Italy on the 25th of January, 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

Since then, the virus has spread across the country and now, according to the NCDC, there are 125,090 samples tested, 22,614 confirmed cases, 14,243 active cases, 7,822 discharged cases, and 549 deaths.

In order to prevent the further spread of the virus in Nigeria, the government declared a 14 days lock down on various states in the country. This started on the 30th of March, 2020 and was further extended for another two weeks on the 13th of April, 2020. This is a good move on the part of the government, but the lockdown has many faults as citizens are allowed to go to the market twice a week for a certain amount of time. Therefore, Nigeria is not undergoing total lockdown as the virus is still very likely to infect a large number of people especially those financially affected by the virus like Hawkers, traders small shops and businesses and service rendering businesses as the essence of their businesses and how they survive on a daily bases is in their interactions with people and the money they make daily and on that note, in order not to be driven to hunger or bankruptcy, social distance would not be maintained.

Even at that, with the virus spreading rapidly around the world and Nigeria, many businesses were locked up or closed down which caused a lot to people to either lose their jobs, have no money to feed with, or both.

During the course of the first half of 2020, a lot of people have been put out of work and out to the street as they had little or no money to feed with, talk more of providing shelter. The lockdown came up as a measure to curb the spread of the virus and protect uninfected people from interacting with those who had them.

Many sectors of the economy were affected by the lockdown. The major ones were listed by Ugochukwu Obi-Chukwo, the Founder of Nairametrics. Some of the sectors included Tourism and Aviation, the Hospitality industry, Cinemas and Entertainment sectors, Oil and gas industry, Trade, Manufacturing, as well as the starting up of new businesses in the country.

With all these major sectors being affected, it can't be far-fetched to say that the virus has caused a great increase in unemployment. All these are because, the virus is spread easily through physical interactions, and thus all businesses or sectors relating to that had been greatly affected as they have been restricted by the law.

To make things worse, many of these jobs could not be digitalize either because of lack of proper capital, skill or just because the services were simply physically social services like hairdressing. Event planning and so on.

To add to these, the increase in the universal currency, the dollar, also pushed a lot of businesses out of the market seeing as importation and exportation had become expensive as well as illegal at the moment.

Due to the fact that most work places and market places where people could have earned their living have been closed down or highly restricted, a lot of people have been thrown into hunger a and even a graver extent of poverty. Every one earning below a low income has been affected. The public transports are losing money, as the freedom to move has been restricted and they can't transport people as freely as they can. Traders earn much less now as many of their customers are in quarantine. Teachers of especially Primary and secondary schools suffer as there are not being paid for the few months that school had been closed down. Even musicians are losing money as all the concerts they could have held over the past few months had to be cancelled or postponed till further notice. In all the Corona Virus pandemic is really taking a toll on the various aspects of life both rich and poor. High unemployment rate, lie in the case og Nigeria now, indicates the economy is operating below full capacity which will lead to lower output and income. According to Olawale, it is imperative that Nigeria sorts this issue of unemployment to enable it to reposition itself at the center of economic activities in the West African sub-region due to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) signed recently.

As a solution to the problems Corona Virus has brought upon Nigerians over that past few months, it is quite evident that that the government needs to take major steps to ensuring that every citizen of this country is taken care of and provided for. The government needs to find ways on how to digitalize some jobs as a means of limiting human physical interactions and ultimately the spread of Covid-19.

In addition to this, the government needs to encourage digitization of jobs by sensitizing and educating citizens on how to effectively work from their homes.  technology-enabled and fully automated Labour Market Information System (LMIS), will be able to provide real-time data that can more accurately guide interventions. This system is both useful to the private and public sectors of the economy. The System should be able to generate adequate data that provides the skills required in each sector and is lacking on the market within minutes.

Also making sure unemployed young people have the right knowledge (skills), to take up available jobs is very important for sustainability. This will mean the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills – both technical and soft. It is beyond reading and writing. These young minds must be exposed to the know-how, as well as the new habits and behavior of the work environment.

Providing the right knowledge cannot be underestimated as a failure to educate with relevant information and skills, limits what can be achieved

References

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# **Businesses most affected by COVID-19 outbreak.**

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