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**THE CURRENT PANDEMIC AND NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

Around the globe, the educational system in place varies from country to country in terms of its uniqueness and challenges of which Nigeria ia not an exception. Ideally, an educational system is a model which unites institutional structures ( school, university, pre school, etc) with the main objective of educating students. Despicably, the educational system in Nigeria is yet to attain the standard of other educational systems that is visible in various countries of the world. Generally, factors such as; poor funding, inadequate classrooms, teaching aids, paucity of quality teachers and polluted learning environments are major constituents of the challenges confronting the educational system of Nigeria. However, the present health catastrophe plaguing the globe which has been identified as the corona virus pandemic, is posing a new phase of challenges to the educational system of Nigeria and all other educational systems in the world.

 Furthermore, it is no longer news that for a disease to be declared a pandemic, it must be occuring over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population. By implication, the corona virus pandemic which has changed the way people live, learn, worship and perform other social obligations; will leave a long lasting mark on Nigeria's educational system. The suspension of academic calendars at all levels, which has given rise to the number of out of school children and other priblems which includes; lack of modern day technology and the extention of both internal and external examinations till further notice, are the forefront challenges caused by the pandemic of which a possible solution might mitigate.

 Undoubtedly, the surest way for the government to slow the spread of the corona virus pandemic is to temporarily close down posssible crowded places of which schools at all levels are affected. The closure of schools is a challenge, based on the fact that most children see the school environment as a safe heaven and due to the closure are left vulnerable to domesticviolence and all other forms of violence. However, this challenge can be resolved sensitization for the purpose of reassuring unsafe children that everything will be back to normal and in no time, academic activities will resume.

 The issue of lack of access to modern day technology is a major challenge the education system of Nigeria is experiencing. This is because most schoolss still adopt the traditional teaching and learning mechanism. However, the projection of lectures on television and radio stations will keep the academic flame burning in the minds of students and pupils alike.

 Also, the suspension of the academic calendar for the year has given birth to other issues such as; the extension of not internal and external examinations till further notice. The negative effect of this is that quite a number of students will lose interest in their studies and will venture into failure once examinations commence. Notwithstanding, this can be solved by keeping the students updated with the plans and schemes of different bodies responsible for conducting examinations.

 In conclusion, in spite of all the underlying challenges posed by the corona virus pandemic, there is much optimism that the educational system in Nigeria will improve immensely after the pandemic.