



EFFECTS OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

**DAHIRU BASHIR; & SHU'AIBU UMAR
SALEH**

*Department of Educational Psychology and
Counselling, School of Education, A.D Rufa'l College
of Education, Legal and General Studies, Misau,
Bauchi State, Nigeria.*

ABSTRACT

*The Corona Virus
Disease
otherwise
referred to as
COVID_19 was a
new discovery
among
numerous
diseases
affecting and
endangering the
existence of
man. A highly
contagious and
deadly,
discovered by
the Wuhan,
China seafood
market which
has claimed the
lives of many
globally, as well
crippled the
world
socio-economic
ally. This paper*

Introduction

Late 2019,, the global readiness and preparedness' was put to test with the emergence of seemingly new ailment which has till today defy all efforts and put everyone on his toes, living a life of fear, anxiety and grief The ailment shattered everything and still poses a great challenge to the future of our young generations, not only because it consume lives but also that it makes livelihood pursuit near impossible. This disease is no other than the Corona Virus Disease.

Corona Virus Disease 2019 otherwise known and referred to as COVID_19 is a respiratory disease caused by a novel virus first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. Health experts believed that the new disease which contagious in nature likely originated in bats and pangolins with the initial or index case of transmission to humans recorded among people linked to a local seafood market in Wuhan. According to World Health Organization(WHO)



Timeline on Covid_19, Wuhan Municipal Health Commission, China reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, Hubel Province and consequently a novel corona virus was eventually identified. Since then, the world has witnessed a surge and unprecedented spread across all continents and nations resulting into fatalities or lost of numerous lives. Nearly all the early cases had some sort of contact history with the people in the seafood market (Li et al. 2020).

According to Reuters (2021) global daily statistics as at 24th January, 2021, not fewer than 98,577,000 (ninety eight million, five hundred and seventy seven thousand) infections were reported globally, with the reported death toll put at not fewer than 2, 119,000 (two million, one hundred and nineteen thousand), with the ailment still surging in 43 countries.

Nigeria has also been so adversely affected by the Covid_19 pandemic. Nigeria's index case started when an Italian working in Lagos state flew into the country from Milan, Italy on February 25, 2020.(NCDCJ,2020). Statistics has it as that as at Sunday January 24, 2021, not fewer than 1,258,534 samples were taken and tested with 120,602 confirmed cases, out of which 95,901 were treated and

seek to unearth the effects of the dreaded disease which is still without a cure, on the country's educational system. A position paper, in which Bandura's model of Reciprocal Dynamism of the social learning theory was adopted. The literatures reviewed revealed the origin of Covid_19, its adverse effect on the socio-economic life of people .Effects of the disease on Nigeria's educational system was the main thrust of this paper therefore school dropout, changing mode of research and presentations were unearthed as some of the effects of the virus on education. It was suggested that government ensure the provision of e-learning infrastructures for effective switch to digital learning in the country.

Keywords: Covid_19; Lockdown; Effects; Socio-Economic; Education



discharged and 1,502 fatalities or deaths. (NCDC, 2021).

Lockdown

History of Lockdown

A 'lockdown' is a restriction policy for people or communities to stay where they are usually as result of specific risks to either themselves or to others should they move and interact freely. A full lockdown (total lockdown) usually means that people must stay where they are and may not enter or exit to another place designated to be safe if not in such place already.

The 'lockdown' tactics were developed in the late 1970s in Southern California (possibly in the Los Angeles Unified School District) in response to drive-by shootings as well street level crimes occurring outside of school buildings. The District had perimeter fence, the building would then be locked down to allow law enforcement agencies deal with the situation.

Types of Lockdown

- a. Preventive Lockdown: This is usually implemented to address an unusual scenario or weakness in system to preempt any danger to ensure the safety and security of the people.
- b. Emergency Lockdown: This type is implemented when there is imminent threat to the lives of the people or risk of injury and infections to humans (Wikipedia, 2021).

Lockdowns generally limit movements or activities in a community such that only those organizations supplying basic needs and services function normally (Dineros, K and Dipasupil, J. 2020).

Covid_19 Lockdown

Lockdown as a result of the dreaded and deadly Covid_19 pandemic was first imposed on Wuhan, the district where the initial cases were first discovered on 23rd January, 2020, an order that lasted till April 8, 2020. Then followed other countries where the disease had entered and was causing death and spreading like wild fire (BBC, 2020).



On March 29, 2020, the Nigerian government issued a lockdown order of three major cities. The declaration was announced in a presidential broadcast to the nation by President Muhammadu Buhari wherein he announced a ban on all forms of social activities, gatherings as well as restriction to even economic activities and schools at all levels in the Federal Capital, Abuja; Lagos, the commercial hub of the country as well as Ogun state, the gateway to Lagos. At that time the total number of recorded infections was 111 (one hundred and eleven) (Kola, O; 2020). Since then, the pandemic continues to surge, with figures on all fronts soaring high on daily basis across the 36 federating states of the country as indicated by the figures released by the NCDC on daily basis. And before one could say anything, state governments have started to toe the path of the federal government in declaring lockdown and restriction orders in their various states. Soon all activities were paralyzed with markets, leisure points, airports, religious centers, socio-cultural festivals and gatherings and most significantly our schools were all put on hold and locked down, strangulating academic activities at all levels.

Effects of Covid_19 on the Socio-Economic well being of Nigerians

The Covid_19 pandemic has had its toll on all aspects of our existence. The pandemic has affected the movements of goods and services, movement into and out of the country. The country's economy was devastated further with the closure of both air and seaports, thus limiting revenue generation to the nation, which in turn had adverse effect on the economy as the government at all levels may not be able to meet up with their obligations. It also adversely affects peoples' businesses, this making life very hard for the owners of such businesses, Banks were forced to close their gates to customers, with entries heavily restricted, thereby frustrating the lives of their customers, Furthermore, the lockdown affected religious obligations as religious centers were locked down to intending or prospective worshippers, making it so difficult to some centers to meet up with their tenancy obligations as many are occupying rented properties and relies upon the tithe contributions of the congregations.



Traditional or the socio-cultural aspect of our lives was also affected as all traditional events were hitherto cancelled because of the crowd involvement as the declarations banned all social gatherings, Sallah celebration, were celebrated without the usual durbar and funfair. People were asked to remain in their houses, maintain social distances and wash their hand. This is in addition to the wearing of masks.

The afore stated implications provided the basis, specifically to unearth the effects of the Covid_19 lockdown on the educational sector in Nigeria. This is a position paper built on the basis of the researcher's view and position on the happenings around the country.

Effects of Covid_19 Lockdown on Education

The effects of the Covid_19 affected every sector of the human endeavor especially the educational system which serve as the basis for both individual and nation's development. All those who are in positions of authority had to complete their education and the obtained certificates were what they used to get to where they are today as the constitution makes different levels of education as requisites for different positions. Our schools are dominantly populated by the youths of the country, in them lies the future of our nation and the education they pursue is key to their social mobility. The lockdown affected them more than any body as their lives and aspirations were put on hold if not endangered. The lockdown affects the educational system in the following ways. Thus:

- i. **Closure of Schools:** The pronouncements of the lockdown order by both the federal and state governments made it impossible for schools to function as they were even announced or declared closed to enforce the social distancing provision of the lockdown. This singular act forced the students out of their facilities and on to their respective homes. Not only that, but it also signaled the many devastations and negativities that will come to be associated with the education sector.
- ii. **Dearth of Knowledge:** As soon as the schools were closed for the lockdown, the students hurriedly vacated the schools with some of them even leaving behind their books either thinking



the lockdown might not last long or their usual habit of leaving what is for school at school and take what is for the home, home. When the lockdown session lasted many of the were completely cut off from the learning process and instead found solace in the comfort and companionships of their phones to continue to surf round the world chatting their friends and cronies. Thus, the time they were supposed to spent or use learning in schools was freely given to other less important engagements, causing or making them to forget what they've learnt before the closures.

- iii. **Hardships to Private School Teachers:** The lockdown also exposed the vulnerability of the private school teachers who were mostly on earn as you work. Consequently most of them went without the meager salaries or allowances which can not even take them home even if paid. Their employers who had before the closure received payments from parents refused to part or settle their employees . As such, life became very difficult to the teachers who relied upon the meager earnings to cater for their respective family needs. To this category of teachers, hell was let loosed here on earth, their experiences so pitiful.
- iv. **Stagnation/Non Graduation:** Graduating students as well as those vying or expecting enrolment were all put on hold there by extending their studies' years. All plans as per as life after graduation or movements to other levels of education or the labor markets were suspended due to the imposition of the lockdown order. The tenancy of students was unceremoniously extended dashing though temporarily the hopes of parents to see their children graduate to either move to the next level or enter into the labor market to at least begin to take care of their needs and attain self-sufficiency or some level of independence.
- v. **Delayed Enrollment:** The lockdown as stated above has caused a delay for those who are up for enrolment at the different levels of our education. Those of primary school enrollment



ages were delayed of suc. The something applied to graduating pupils of the primary schools who were keen on moving to the junior secondary school level; the fraduating students of the junior secondary schools were delayed of their movements to the senior secondary schools. The same way the graduating students of senior secondary schools who had even paid and sat for JAMB and other qualifying examinations were forced to remain in secondary school for a longer period. The same applied to tertiary level stidents who are graduating to join the labor market, they have had that aspiration shifted to another date. This is how this lockdown has locked student and hampers their progress and movements.

- vi. Dropouts: Many students who were before the lockdown keen on completing their education and even advancing further had that dreams shattered as many girls were married off by their families who saw the order taking longer than necessary due to either non challanceand lack of concern about their subjects' education or pressure from suitors. Our culture still play seemingly important role in determining what children do. Some students were forced to take to learning a trade as prevent idleness, thereby earning stipends and allowances. Now that they have gotten used to earning and spending independently, many of them will not let go off such ventures and return to schools. Another devastating effect of the Covid_19 lockdown.
- vii. Dilapidation of School Structures: The lockdown which culminated in students vacating the school facilities left all school structures empty and deserted and likely home to domestic and wild animals like goats, lizards and other amphibians. Criminals might have also turned some facilities as homes for the dreaded silence they provide as well as a cover away from public glare. The structures were left at the mercy of nature, so unattended to. Rain storm and wind blew off some roof, criminal and vandals encroached to steal what they can, wild animal creating holes or built their homes and nests



in them. The schools are now looking a shadow of their former selves.

- viii. Exposed Government's Long term Neglect of the Educational Sector: For long, stakeholders have been engaging the government to widen up the education sector to accommodate –learning but till today tangible could be seen. Classes are overcrowded and all school facilities like classes, dormitories, sick bays and even sport fields and courts so overstretched, with most schools seemingly not conducive for learning.. The schools have to be locked down because social distancing can never be enforced in all public schools and institutions in the country as averagely, all classes have more than a triple of what they were originally erected for and government has not erected any new structures in most of its institutions for a very long time,
- ix. Affected and Changed Research Mode: Covid_19 lockdown has also had its toll on the way researches are conducted and presented in the country/ Before the lockdown a researcher going to field to collect data for possible analysis and inferences does so personally, delivering his tool to the respondents directly. So also when the research involves direct interviews, he or she does that directly. But now the tide has changed completely. Many now resort to the usage of the exploratory or phenomenological methods to collect data for fear of being infected with the strange virus that has no cure yet. Researchers now engage their would-be respondents through phone calls or the social media. This is novel and could have adverse effect on findings as the cost of making the call have to be borne by the researcher and this could limit many researches in the country,
- Presentation of researches have also shifted or changed from the traditional physical presentations to online presentations. This is no doubt a good omen, but is the country ready for such when our networks flunctuates, electricity not stable and host of other factors.



Conclusion

Education like other sectors of our national life have had its share of devastation as far as the Covid_19 lockdown is concern and it has exposed the inadequacies bedeviling the system in addition to government's continuous neglect of the sector. What is left to be seen is whether this will serve as an eye opener and make those responsible to sit up with a view to turning things around.

Suggestions

To ensure the development of our educational system through collective action, the researcher wishes to suggest as follows:

1. That government at all levels should see the need to expand our existing educational infrastructures and facilities, build new ones so as to decongest and relieve the existing ones as to prepare for eventualities like the Covid_19 case.\
2. The government should also look for a way of engaging the proprietors of private schools in the country with a view to getting them settle the backlog of their teachers salaries to enhance their proficiencies and commitments as well show them a sense of belonging and concern.
3. Parents should be enlightened to see beyond coping with finances and take the education of their children seriously and ensure that all children return to complete their school years, accordingly.
4. Infrastructures required or needed for effective e-learning in the country should be promptly provided as learning is not analog anymore, but digital.

References

- Ajigbo, H; (2020) Effect of Covid_19 on Nigeria's Socio-Economic Well being, Health Sector Pandemic Preparedness and the Role of Nigerian Social Workers in the War Against Covid_19. *Social Work in Public Health*. Vol. 35:7.
- Alice. (2021). The Origin of Lockdown. Alice Training Institute. Ohio, USA
- BBC; (2020). Covid_19 Lockdown. www.bbc.com Retrieved on January 20, 2021
- Li,Q; Guan,X;Wu, P; WAG, X; Zhou, L &Tong, Y. (2020). Early Transmission Dynamics in Wuhan,China, of Novel Coronavirus-infected Pneumonia. *The NewEngland Journal of-Medicine*. Vol. 382:13
- NCDCJ (2020). First Case of Coronavirus Disease Confirmed in Nigeria. www.ncdc.gov.ng. retrieved on January 14, 2021



TIMBOU-AFRICA ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS
MAY, 2021 EDITIONS, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF:
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & LIBRARY SCI. VOL.5

- NCDC (2021).PTF Daily updates. covid_19.ncdc.gov.ng. Retrieved on January 24, 2021
- Dineros, K and Dipasupil, J; (2020). Covid_19 Crisis Management and Prevention Plan 2020. www.researchgate.com. Retrieved on January 18, 2021
- Olanrewaju, K. (2020)Nigeria Announces Lockdown of Major Cities. www.aa.com. Retrieved on January 15, 2021
- Reuters (2021). Global Daily Statistics. www.graphics.reuters.com. Retrieved on January 22, 2020.
- WHO. (2020). Timeline on Covid_19..www.who.int. Retrieved on January 16, 2021