COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
A DISASTER TO NIGERIA’S ECONOMY,
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM,
WORKFORCE, AND SECURITY.

1Temitope Francis Abiodun, 2Idowu, Olusegun Oladele, 3Opeyemi Segun Kehinde

1Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies
Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies
University of Ibadan, Nigeria
E-mail: abiodun.temitope3@gmail.com

2Department of Intelligence and Security
Afe Babalola University, (ABUAD)
Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

3M.A. Student in Peace and Conflict Studies
Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies
Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies
University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Abstract

The outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has now become a great disaster to the Nigeria’s economy, education system, workforce, and security. The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed over 1,000 lives and slowed down the pace of nation’s development in all ramifications. The objective of the study is therefore to examine the effects of the Corona virus on the functionality of Nigeria’s economy, educational system, workforce, and internal security during the pandemic. The nation’s economy is currently growing at slow pace as living standards become more worsened; the state of education remains bisected with myriads of problems which include: poor funding, absence of educational infrastructures, inadequate classrooms, teaching aids, paucity of qualified teachers, and unconducive learning space; ineffective workforce and unstable security in Nigeria. However, the abysmal failure recorded in the areas mentioned above were as a result of poor economic management and lack of education funding, ineffective workforce coordination, failed internal security, bad leadership, large scale corruption among others that were in existence in Nigeria even before escalation of the pandemic. A descriptive study and content analyses techniques are adopted for the study. The findings therefore reveal that Covid-19 pandemic has rendered the Nigeria’s economy moving near depression and hype inflation; education system and academic calendar adversely disrupted, conditions of the workforce become more deteriorated, the country is insecure respectively. The study therefore concludes that since the general state of the nation’s major sectors is in jeopardy, government and stakeholders should take a proactive step in fixing the system of education, workforce, overhaul the security, and fix the economy through viable fiscal and monetary policies. The authorities should develop and provide workable packages and growth incentives to investors especially small and medium scale enterprise that will enable them increase investment and productivity in the country and get the economy back on track.
Keywords: COVID-19, Disaster, Economy, Nigeria’s Workforce, Education, Security.

Introduction
The Corona virus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease that originated from Wuhan, China in December 2019 and caused severe respiratory syndrome which has spread to over 195 states in the world (World Health Organisation, 2020). COVID-19 is however less severe compared to the severe acute respiratory syndrome “SARS” that broke in the year 2003 with death rate of 3 to 4 percent (Bozkurt and Sharma, 2020). The pandemic which was allegedly described as a Chinese biological weapon is believed to have been unleashed to destroy the world economies with the aim and intention of gaining a global control (Adom, Osei, and Adu-Agyem, 2020). This was the reason why the United State of America (USA) President Donald Trump described the virus as a Chinese virus though he was forced by the world leaders to withdraw the allegation. As there are ongoing efforts to curtail the virus globally, the cases recorded in Nigeria were confirmed to have been moderate and was at 42,000 as at end of July, 2020 with less than 1,000 mortality rates. However, the impacts of the pandemic on the social and economic activities have been extensive (Lynas, 2020).

However, the elderly citizens appear to be more vulnerable to the pandemic, pursuant to their weak immune system and pre-existing health conditions. The wide spread apprehensions in Nigeria is as a result of the unverified facts and rumors associated with the outrageous figures being released on daily basis by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). The most important thing is that when a virus is new there may not be a laboratory evidence to determine the mode of transmission and how it affects the economy in general (NCDC,2020). Various Economic experts and policy makers in the state have however forecasted that the impacts on education system, labor force, economy and security would be highly negative in all sense. It was also predicted there would be serious economic woes to the nation and other sectors greatly affected. These predictions were tandem with the 2007 global economic recession though with proactive steps taken by the Nigeria government then, while the global economic crisis later became a blessing to the economy (Sintema, 2020).

In Nigeria, aside the health hazards and human consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the security and economic consequences are immense. The pandemic is a disease that spreads fast and has seriously affected the Nigeria’s pace of development in all ramifications. During the COVID-19 pandemic escalation, most states in the global system gradually began shutting their international airports against foreigners but and also endeavoured to provide relief packages to cushion the effects of the pandemic on lives of their citizens but the Nigerian citizens continued to groan as the government foot dragged on response to measures fighting the scourge (Onyeji, 2020). And with the debutant outbreak of the pandemic on February 27, 2020 in Lagos State, the Nigeria commercial nerve centre was grounded and it began to spread to other parts of the country with Abuja recording the second case mostly from the lawmakers and presidential aides contacting and contracting the virus (Ehanire, 2020). Therefore, absence of relevant knowledge and expertise led to the abysmal failure or performance of the task force in effectively managing the pandemic and the economy from further economic woes within the period of spread of the pandemic.

In a nutshell, the Nigerian economy, education system, workforce, and security are yet to fully pick up as huge amount of money has been lost as most public institutions, ministries and agencies operated partial with skeletal services while manufacturing firms were all closed down indefinitely. However, government revenue targets and fiscal projections were greatly affected, crude oil price declined, as the global oil hostilities between Saudi Arabia and Russian state contributed significantly to the economic decline in the state (Centre for the Study of Economics in Africa, 2020). Also, public and private schools were shut down and examinations cancelled. In the same vein, there were escalations of insecurity in the state; houses were robbed, shops looted and several lives were lost in the pandemic. Despite huge amount of money and material resources donated by individuals and corporate organizations both local and international donors; palliatives packages were politicized in Nigeria without appropriate welfare policy direction.
The major objective of the study therefore is to examine the impacts of the Corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) on Nigeria’s economy, educational system, workforce and security. The study therefore aims to; trace the epidemiology of COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China, Africa and Nigeria, and finally interrogate the measures put in place by world leaders to curtail the spread. The research would definitely assist the Nigerian government and other stakeholders on performance improvements in the areas of the nation’s economy, education, workforce, and internal security. It would also go a long way by benefitting the government on how to prepare for future health emergencies in the country. Therefore, in order to adequately achieve the stated objectives for the research, the paper is well structured as follows: introduction, followed by methodology, theoretical framework, conceptual clarifications, an overview of the various measures adopted by the Nigerian government in curtailing the spread of covid-19 pandemic, research findings and discussions, limitations of the research, and lastly, conclusion and recommendations.

Methodology
The research is both quantitative and qualitative study with desk research and document analysis as the main research methods. The researchers collected primary data using an online Google questionnaire, phone calls from respondents (students, teachers/lecturers, travelers, businessmen/women, security personnel, health personnel, masters of ceremonies, economists and government officials) while the secondary data were sourced from television and radio reports, newspapers, periodicals, scholarly articles, and updates from World Health Organization (WHO), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Pan-African Policy Papers, and UNESCO reports. Due to the restriction on movements and social distancing protocols, the study also employed social media monitoring via: Facebook, WhatsApp and Telegram as convenient sources for data collection. The data were carefully analyzed and thematically presented.

Theoretical framework
The study is underpinned by the viral modernity theory cited in Michael A. Peters et al., (2020). Viral modernity is a concept that is based on the role of information and forms of bio-information in the social world. This theory discusses the impact of misinformation on infectious diseases and their consequential effects on education and socio-cultural activities of people (cited in Peters, Jandri, and McLaren, 2020). It as well identifies some media professionals as messengers of inaccurate information on social media and described it as a way of helping to fuel panic, hysteria and stigma that are associated with infectious diseases outbreak (Peters et al, 2020). The rate at which information about the corona virus got disseminated in the universe and Nigeria in particular was very deadly; people were highly scared and this helped people to stay safe in the society.

The global world is facing the extreme spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome of COVID-19, thereby putting intensive pressure on inadequate healthcare facilities, economic and social structures in all ramifications. Therefore, commitment towards carrying out effective approaches for public health would definitely take adequate interventions by public health professionals and strong leadership in a state. During the complex emergency, lack of awareness, knowledge, and preparedness would actually put people and healthcare staff at a great danger (Heena and Hunny, 2020). The state is however, in a dilemma of how to pass the knowledge of the disease statistics and its prevention to the general population at a rate better than spreading the virus. This submission however, outlines the positive and negative impacts of social media during corona virus pandemic on healthcare professionals. The theory actually assisted in minimizing the extent of the pandemic; this is pursuant to the fact that Nigerian news media and social media adequately served to provide an important informal source of data to easily identify health information that has not been reported to the populace (Heena and Hunny, 2020).
COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A DISASTER TO NIGERIA’S ECONOMY, EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, WORKFORCE, AND SECURITY.

Conceptual clarifications

COVID-19 Pandemic

On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel corona virus outbreak. The new name of this disease is corona virus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19 (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has become an albatross on the global economy, religious activities, funerals, business, education, public health care systems, agriculture and socio-cultural events. It has also infected over 37 million people to date and as well led to the death of over 1 million people globally (WHO, 2020). In the same vein, the developments of Corona virus pandemic rose to over 14.6 million confirmed cases globally by end of July 2020, with recoveries exceeding over 8.7 million; according to figures that were compiled by World Health Organization (WHO) and Johns Hopkins University, United States of America (Sahu, 2020). The corona virus pandemic claimed over 608,435 lives across the world since originating from Wuhan in China last December while the World Health Organisation (2020) submitted that the number of confirmed cases in Africa exceeded 700,000 while the death toll on the continent of Africa neared 15,000.

The first case of the corona virus in African continent came from exposure to international contacts; travel, trade, tourism or business (UNICEF, 2020). COVID-19 appears to thrive in cities where it can be transmitted quickly at close range through movement and frequent contact between people. Therefore, African countries with the highest level of international contact were; Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria and Morocco are among the hardest hit in the early stages of the corona virus crisis (African Centre for Strategic Studies, 2020). The virus spreads through coming into contact with contaminated surface or with an affected person, thus through the droplets of saliva or mucus that comes when the person coughs or sneezes into the air or the hand. The virus can allegedly stay on surfaces, example; tables, doorknobs and handles, hands, phones, and when an unaffected person comes into contact with any of these surfaces and touches the eye, mouth and nose. Symptoms of this novel corona virus according to Obinna and Basil (2020) can range from mild (asymptomatic) to severe illness (symptomatic). Some of the symptoms include, fever, dry cough, common cold, headaches, running nose, sore throat, bodily pains, and difficulty in breathing.

Workforce

The concept of workforce according to Collins (2020) relates to the total number of people in a state or country or region who are physically able to carry out or do a job and are readily available for work. In another sense, it means the actual total number of people who are gainfully employed by a particular company or employer in a state. These include the workforce at the federal level, state level and local levels and private bodies or corporate organizations in Nigeria. There are also temporary and permanent types of workforce; and many of the workforces are self-employed and handle their private businesses. It is however understood that any financial guarantees of a nation would definitely depend on the commitment shown to the workforce in a country and that is the reason there is dire need for a very long history of protection of the workforce in every country (Collins, 2020).

Security

The concept of security actually emerged at the end of the Cold War, it has definitely remained well-debated, encompassing an ample range of scenarios, and is universally used in reference to a range of personal and societal activities and situations (Abiodun, 2020). Security as a concept is a subject of open discourse following its multi-dimensional natural record. In the first instance, the history of mankind was interspersed by the best way toward ensuring the security of lives and property, state territories, institutions among others (Balogun 2003). Security is also agreed to do with liberty from danger or from threats to a state’s ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interests. In the same vein, security is defined to be activities which include; (food, economic, safety), security for favorable conditions (the rule of law and due process, societal development, political freedom), and security against adverse conditions or threats (war and violence, crime, climate change) (Abolurin, 2015). Abiodun (2016) however, looks at human security approach pointing to the fact that threats and challenges to security transcend national defence, law and order to cover all political, economic and social issues that warrant a life freed from risk and fear. That is the
reason Adewale (2001) describes it in three (3) broad segments; the concept can be engaged as an analytical concept to identify, define, conceptualize, explain, or forecast societal developments such as security policy, governance structures and institutions (Ball, 2019).

Towards adequate comprehension of the concept, Abiodun (2020) explicitly describes security in relation to seven dimensions reflecting almost all key components of human development which include: Economic Security (solid basic income: access to gainful employment and resources; Food Security (physical and economic access to food for all people); Health Security (that is, access to medical treatment and improved health conditions; Environmental Security (livelihood in a healthy physical environment that is secure from desertification, deforestation and other environmental threats that endanger people’s lives and survival); Personal Security (individual’s security from physical violence); Community Security (many people derive their security from membership of a social group, family, community, organization, political grouping, ethnic group, among others); and Political Security (living in a society that guarantees basic human rights and freedom of expression) (Abiodun, 2020).

Last but not the least, there is also national security as a concept which enables states, and their political leaders, to pursue a particular security policy (Cilliers, 2002). Therefore, national security includes both internal and external security, foreign policy, economic development, and education. National security policy became a critical instrument for states to protect and advance their interests within the global system (Cilliers, 2002).

Overview of the various measures adopted by the Nigerian government in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic

Since the outbreak of the pandemic in Nigeria, there were certain control measures undertaken to curtail the spread in the state; they include: Nigerian government first announced the war against COVID-19 with the sum of N10 billion: The federal government announced the sum and it was given to Lagos State, as it had the country’s highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and a five-billion-naira(N5 Billion) special intervention fund to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the agency responsible for supporting states in the COVID-19 response, coordinating surveillance of the disease and the public health response nationwide. The NCDC developed guidelines and protocols and supporting the accreditation of more laboratories across states in Nigeria (Ehanire, 2020).

i. Palliative measures to the poor: The Nigerian government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development gave out palliative measures to the poor across the state. Some of the measures included the disbursement of four months grants of N20,000 to the poorest households in various states (NCDC, 2020).

ii. A Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 was inaugurated by the President: This body was put in place and chaired by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha, with membership from various government institutions. The PTF used to coordinate a multi-stakeholder response to the pandemic, while providing technical and material support to states to manage the outbreak. It also serves as an advisory body to the President on specific decisions such as imposing and lifting lockdowns and provides daily feedback to Nigerians on the work being done to contain the pandemic through daily media briefings with journalists (NCDC, 2020).

iii. Health care workers regularly disinfected: The various healthcare workers were regularly disinfected with their surroundings before, during and after sample collection while carrying out community testing and active case search for COVID-19 in the FCT. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) agency tasked with responding to infectious disease outbreaks (Nigeria Health Watch, 2020). At the same time, other agencies of the Federal Health Ministry like; the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), and National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) also formed integral parts of the COVID-19 national response by developing and expediting processes for testing and validation of claims of pharmaceutical interventions for COVID-19 (Nigeria Health Watch, 2020; and NCDC, 2020).
iv. **Plan to carryout COVID-19 testing for 40,000 people monthly:** The Federal government and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) made a pledge to Nigerians that it had the capacity to carry out 40,000 testing of people in one month, and this is almost two months into the pandemic and the agency haven't tested 20,000 in a month since the pandemic started but they failed in the promise (WHO and NCDC, 2020).

v. **Setting up of isolation centers in the state:** Though it was agreed that almost all the states of the federation with index cases in Nigeria established isolation centres but with donations to government towards fighting the pandemic, the palliatives measures were hijacked by politicians and average Nigerians could not easily have access to the relief package (NCDC, 2020).

vi. **Establishment of a Multi Sectional Rapid Response Teams:** These teams were comprising the representatives of the relevant government agencies, ministries, and Departments including collaborations with local and international partners such as National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), World Health Organizations (WHO), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) among others (Onyeji, 2020).

vii. **Closure of all educational institutions in Nigeria:** The institutions were all closed down as a positive measure to safeguard the lives of the school children during the pandemic. But this step has seriously affected the country in some ways which could result into; brain drain, prostitution, urban terrorism among other vices arising from such closures.

viii. **Closure of all international airports and flights:** Though this directive was good but came at the wrong time. If the government was proactive in fighting the pandemic, closure of all international airports and flights would have been the first step taken in line with global best practices. The government became serious in shutting down all air routes and operations only when the Covid-19 cases started manifesting in Lagos and Abuja especially among the Nigeria law makers and Presidential aides (Onyeji, 2020).

ix. **Closure of all event/cinema centres:** Analysis indicated that such event centres were breeding places for contracting the virus. The places were out rightly shutdown.

x. **Closure of all worship centres:** The Nigerian government closed down all churches, mosques and traditional worship places to curtail the spread of the virus (Onyeji, 2020).

xi. **Closure of all open markets:** The government eventually closed down all open markets especially those selling non-essential goods and commodities. But the issue is that closing the market without measures to end the pandemic makes no economic sense.

xii. **Closure of all international land borders:** The policy directive was abused and Nigerians may be forced to open the borders for importation of stable food because the economy could not guarantee sustainable food security to feed her citizens (Thelma and Adedeji, 2020).

xiii. **There was closure of all civil service operations:** With this directive, all civil servants were asked to go home for weeks, with possibilities of extending the executive order (Onyeji, 2020).

### Findings And Discussions

#### Respondents’ Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
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#### Age

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<td>31-45</td>
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<td>31.06</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>56 and Above</td>
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Marital Status

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<td>Divorced</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>Widower</td>
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Educational Qualifications

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<td>2.</td>
<td>OND/Equivalent</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>BSc/HND</td>
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Employment Status

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Unemployed</td>
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Location

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<th>Percentage %</th>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Borno</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Kano</td>
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<td>17.68</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>21.46</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Government Institutions</td>
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Research questions

Question 1: Do you have adequate knowledge on epidemiology of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>74.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Responses on epidemiology of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria

The background of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria is as follows:

i. The COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria is part of the worldwide pandemic of corona virus disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus. The first confirmed case in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus.

ii. Early in the year on 28 January, 2020 the Federal government of Nigeria assured citizens of the country of its readiness to strengthen surveillance at five International Airports in the country to prevent the spread of corona virus (Research Survey, 2020).

iii. The Nigerian government through the NCDC announced Airports closure in: Enugu, Lagos, Rivers, Kano and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) also revealed that they had already set up corona virus group and was ready to activate its incident system if any case emerged in Nigeria.
iv. However, on 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported at Ewekoro, Ogun State after a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen was identified and tested (NCDC, 2020).

v. The rising rates of infections in a number of European states, the high number of COVID-19 cases in China, the source of the virus at the time, and International flights still operating, made returning Nigerians and their contacts vulnerable (Research Survey, 2020).

vi. And in March 2020, all Nigerian borders were shut, lockdowns imposed, inter-state travel banned, and offices, clubs, and services considered to be non-essential closed.

vii. The public sector was affected and the low economic activities especially in the oil and gas industry, trade and manufacturing as well as services significantly impacted government’s revenue, leading the Federal Government to revise and review downward the 2020 budget by more than N71 billion. COVID-19 has undoubtedly affected every aspect of our lives (Nigeria Health Watch, 2020).

viii. As the first case was reported in Nigeria, the Nigerian government and its different agencies initiated several health, economic, security and social responses to contain the disease and its impact on society. One major response is the government-funded N500 billion COVID-19 crisis intervention fund and enhanced support to states for critical healthcare expenses (Research Survey, 2020).

ix. Responding to the outbreak has required the involvement of multiple government institutions and development partners. Highlighted below are some of the key measures put in place by the Nigerian government to respond to the pandemic, in the first three months since the first case was confirmed.

x. The Public Health Department of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) immediately had an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) set up by the NCDC, which helped to quickly activate the response in the FCT, Abuja, Nigeria

xi. The Federal Government of Nigeria provided leadership for inaugurating a Presidential Taskforce of COVID-19 and created a policy direction and activities of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); the full machinery of the presidency was deployed in response to the outbreak (Research Survey, 2020).

xii. The Federal government of Nigeria through the NCDC, however approved and advised state government to establishment of isolation centers within the state and encourage massive testing and contact tracing in order to curtail the spread of the virus.

xiii. The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 with The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) declared National Lockdown and equally advice the Federal government on the need for provision of social welfare packages for the populace during the period in form of palliatives.

### Descriptive Statistics of Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria

**Table showing COVID-19 update in Nigeria as at September 30, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Confirmed Cases</th>
<th>58,324</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Recovered Cases</td>
<td>49,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Death Cases</td>
<td>1,108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Abuja, 2020*

With over 58,324 index cases in Nigeria, over 49,794 have recovered and discharged and with over 1,108 deaths as shown in the descriptive Statistics as revealed by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). The researcher would want to ask, what kind of medication was administered to those recovered and discharged that cannot quickly be administered to the high index cases in order to free the state from the virus.
Question 2: Are you aware of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on education in Nigeria and Africa at large?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
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Respondents’ Views on impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on education in Nigeria and Africa

The COVID-19 pandemic posed serious threats to educational system in Nigeria in several ways as follows:

i. In Nigeria, academic activities were severely impacted by closure of educational institutions across the world amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The school closure was to protect health and safety of students. Education in Nigeria and many other states in Africa is in limbo. UNICEF estimated that 134 countries had implemented national school closure due to COVID-19 pandemic (UNESCO, 2020).

ii. As of 28 March 2020, schools closure affected 1.3 billion learners in 186 countries thus 73.8% of the world’s enrolled students and the shutting down of schools have widened learning inequalities and hurt vulnerable children and youth disproportionately (UNESCO, 2020).

iii. On 23 March 2020, Cambridge International Examination released a statement announcing the cancellation of Cambridge IGCSE, O’ Level, A Level, and Diploma examinations. The international Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) also cancelled the examination for its Diploma and career related programmes candidates scheduled between April and May 2020, this reportedly affected more than 200,000 students worldwide.

iv. In Africa, it is estimated that over 262.5 million children from pre-tertiary and secondary schools are currently out of school because of COVID-19 schools closure, which translates to approximately 21.5% of the total population in Africa (Pan-African Policy Paper, 2020).

v. In Nigeria, Basic Education and Certificate Examinations and WASSCE examinations that were scheduled between April and June 2020 were all postponed.

vi. However, children from low-income backgrounds, those with disabilities, and Refugee camps were hard hit by corona virus school closures as the pandemic has created inequality among these disadvantaged children. (Pan-African Policy Paper, 2020)

vii. Schools closure impacts not only students, teachers and families but have far-reaching economic and societal consequences. The pandemic has exposed us on various social and economic issues including poor internet services, food insecurity, security threats, homelessness, poor healthcare, and disability services (Mustafa, 2020).

viii. Young girls are particularly vulnerable. School closure may lead to increase in teenage pregnancies and school dropouts. There was an increase in domestic violence, sexual abuse and rising number of adolescent pregnancies during COVID-19 pandemic (Channels TV Report, 2020). Girls and women were exposed to vulnerabilities in terms of sexual exploitation during the lockdown.

ix. A temporal shift of instructional delivery to an alternative delivery mode due to crisis circumstances. Many stakeholders of education had earlier recommended online learning for Basic school children however, the numerous challenges that come in the implementation of emergency remote learning have overwhelm most education systems worldwide (Sahu, P. K. (2020).

x. In villages and rural areas, some parents could not afford the cost of a smart phone and internet data and even do not have the technical know-how to assist their children to participate in online learning. Electricity was also not available in most villages in Nigeria and providing the devices and connectivity to students and teachers remains keys to ensuring successful online learning in the state (Research Survey, 2020).
Question 3: Do you have adequate knowledge of COVID-19 pandemic impacts on Nigeria’s workforce?

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Respondents’ Views on impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic on Nigeria’s Workforce
The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a lot of changes to the workplace and challenged various established norms on how employees could deliver on their employment obligations. Some of the changes that have occurred are expected to remain in place long after the pandemic is over. Some of the main changes in Nigeria according to (Taylor and AIT News Report, 2020) include:

i. **There was closure of all civil service operations:** All civil servants were directed to go home for weeks, with possibilities of extending the executive order. However, for over four months and still counting offices were shut down in Nigeria with no means of livelihood and Nigeria government is busy counting numbers of people infected with corona virus.

ii. **Remote working:** There was a shift from the traditional practice of working in the office, to remote working. There were new concerns that employers had to deal with include: developing mechanisms for tracking employees’ performance and identifying new key performance indicators (KPIs); providing new forms of employee incentives and allowances such as internet data and electricity, to enable employees to work optimally from home; considering data protection and data security concerns; and re-negotiating the terms of employment contracts.

iii. **Flexi-work:** The easing of physical lockdown directives from the government have however come with various conditions which include; reduced working hours and restrictions on the number of people that can be in the office at a particular time. This has led to staff rotation, shifts and flexi work hours in the country.

iv. **Pay and incentive cuts:** However, as a direct consequence of the economic impact of the pandemic on businesses of government and the ability of employers to maintain compensation at some levels while and in some instances, the inability of many employees to work optimally from home, issues such as pay cuts, freezing of promotions and other incentives are serious issues currently being discussed between employers and employees in Nigeria (AIT News Report, 2020).

v. **Employees health:** In the same vein, more focus is being paid to employees’ mental and psychological health; employers, therefore, have devised strategies in assisting their employees to manage their wellbeing so as to enable them to stay safe and healthy in order to continue to work wherever they are in Nigeria.

vi. **Redundancy:** There has been an increase in redundancies and restructuring of the workforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to mitigate this, the Nigerian House of Representatives, recently introduced the Emergency Economic Stimulus Bill 2020, which seeks to protect the employment status of Nigerians by providing tax holiday to employers who do not lay off employees during this period. The bill is, however, yet to be passed into law (Taylor, 2020).

vii. **The Central Bank of Nigeria placed an embargo on termination of employment in the banking sector:** The ability of employers to respond effectively to the post-COVID-19 environment will be critical to the long term success of their businesses. Also, there are questions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on employers and employees in Nigeria that must be strictly adhered to. Workers and businesses are facing catastrophe, in both developed and developing economies. Therefore, there is need to move fast, decisively, and together. The right, urgent measures could make the difference between survival and collapse (AIT News Report, 2020).

viii. **Loss of security personnel, health care professionals, teachers and others:** Social distancing protocols were recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and have affected all businesses. The situation has created emotional and psychological distress.
Celebration of Festivals has been banned. Meanwhile, festivals seasons are periods where communities embark on developmental projects, raise funds to support local projects, make merry, and fraternize (Research Survey, 2020).

ix. The entertainment industry was greatly affected: musicians, masters of ceremonies, songwriters, actors, night club, event centers, recreation centers and bar operators have had their businesses collapsing and many industry players losing their jobs. It is estimated that, over 94,000 private school teachers have lost their jobs due to the corona virus outbreak as at May 2020 (Research Survey, 2020).

Question 4: Are you aware of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Nigerian economy?

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Responses on impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic on Nigerian Economy

The research revealed that pandemic impacted negatively on Nigerian economy in several ways:

i. Nigeria, Africa’s biggest economy and most populous country, is reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A steep drop in International oil prices, Nigeria’s major export, since the outbreak of the corona virus has sparked fears of a recession. Nearly 58, 324 cases of corona virus, 49,794 recovery rate including 1,108 mortality rate are confirmed in Nigeria as at 30th September, 2020. The United Nations reports lockdown measures aimed at containing spread of the deadly disease could result in as many as 13 million job losses if the restrictions go on for very much longer (VOA News, June 2020).

ii. The study revealed that the economy was experiencing contracting economic growth from all sectors of the economy. This is as a result of low production index and continuous lockdown of the economy.

iii. It was also found that the poor performance of the Nigeria Economy was brought about by inappropriate economic management strategy and resumption plan which has led to an endless waiting game and has given rise to further economic contraction.

iv. It was observed from the study that there was a clear case of Economic sabotage which eventually led to the contracting economic growth currently experienced in Nigeria. The study also critically observed that the COVID-19 pandemic drove the Nigeria economy into hyperinflation and prices of goods and services went beyond the reach of the common man.

v. The study revealed a high-level corruption in the management of the economic resources. The Federal Ministry of Health, National Center for Disease Control and the Presidential task force on Covid-19 saw the adversity as an opportunity to fraudulently enrich themselves at the detriment of the Nation’s economy (Research Survey, 2020).

vi. Declining oil price and poor Revenue targets to the economy also contributed to the poor performance of the economy due to the economic crisis between Russia and New Saudi Arabia and the outbreak of the global pandemic (Research Survey, 2020).

vii. The outbreak of the Pandemic further led to economic contraction as a result of decline in productivity index to about forty-seven (47) percent. The public and private sectors have lost substantial amount of money; production and service sectors are under performing without growth in output. The country could no longer produce enough to either satisfy domestic consumption and for export, hyperinflation was created in the economy due to excessive home demand without a corresponding increase in production and supply (Research Survey, 2020).

viii. It has affected the provision of technical support in strengthening government-run social protection programmes. These include feeding programmes for over 9 million school children who are missing out on meals because of COVID-19 school closures. The agency is observed to be now appealing for $182 million to provide crucial assistance over the next six months in Nigeria. Much of the aid, it notes, will help people whose livelihoods and incomes have taken a big hit by COVID-19 (Research Survey, 2020).
ix. The impacts of the economic recession sparked by the pandemic response, which have already begun will be deepened for some time to come and unless countries mount major efforts to respond, the pandemic will have a long term effect on human capital and welfare (World Bank Group Education Report, 2020).

**Question 5: Do you have knowledge on impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the security situations in Nigeria?**

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*Source: Research Survey, 2020.*

**Respondents’ responses on impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on Nigeria’s internal security**

Ensuring compliance to COVID-19 protocols, the Nigerian security agencies played a critical role in maintaining law and order towards ensuring people adhere as much as possible to public health guidelines. The research reveals that:

i. With lockdowns imposed in several states across the country and inter-state travels banned, security agencies, especially the police had their hands full in ensuring that the law was obeyed.

ii. All over the country, on highways and intra-city roads, checkpoints have been setup to ensure compliance. Other agencies like the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Joint COVID-19 Taskforce and Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) equally supported the Nigeria Police in ensuring compliance.

iii. The Nigeria Immigration Service in the same process restricted entries into Nigerian state through land borders, in order to limit cross country transmission of the disease. This has been effective in most cases with interstate travels greatly reduced to minimize community transmission (Research Survey, 2020).

iv. However, there were pockets of cases where people found their ways from one state to other states; the security agencies rendered the places porous due to corruption, and this has the potential to undermine control efforts.

v. Though during the pandemic lockdown, the Boko Haram terrorists’ activities ceased for a while, the level at which they launched attacks in northeast drastically reduced.

vi. Also, there were reported cases of violent crimes: looting of business or shops, rape, murder, armed robberies in urban cities of Lagos, Abeokuta, Port Harcourt and other forms of violence.

vii. The lockdown also had an impact on the State’s capacity to uphold the rule of law, as the security agencies were unable to stop the movement of people from one state to another. The security agencies collected various bribes to allow the passengers to move to other locations; they used to collect the sum ranging from N5,000 to N15,000 from both private and public drivers (Research Survey, 2020).

viii. In addition, the challenges hampering the attainment of food security in Nigeria got deepened. The negative impact is already being felt in the form of rising food prices, and as at April 2020, food inflation in Nigeria has risen to 15% compared to 14.7% obtainable in December 2019. This is pursuant to the fact that the farmers and traders were unable to transport their food crops from the farms to the various markets and those who were able to do so, usually paid huge sums of money for transport and bribes to the security agencies (Research Survey, 2020).

**Limitations of the Research**

Though the researchers were unable to move out to the field during the period, thereby making it slight difficult to gather more data from the various selected respondents but were only confined within the four walls of their rooms using online Google questionnaires, making phone calls to the respondents as a result of the total lockdown and restriction of movements, and at the same, there was
fear of contracting the deadly Corona virus on the part of the researchers. In addition, the dearth of accurate data on COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria also remains a bottleneck for reliable data for the study.

Conclusion
Nigerians are global citizens and vital agents of change in the system, states and the communities they live in, therefore they must be assisted to learn, cultivate the habit of compassion and ensure safer and caring environment in order to achieve their potentials. The Nigeria government instead of working out modalities on how to get the economy, education calendar, workforce productivity and adequate security back on track; they were very busy creating fears, hardship, apprehension and tension on innocent Nigerians by manipulating the daily index figures. In the same vein, several people expressed their dismay that the Nigerian government set up the Presidential Taskforce (PTF) that was headed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Mustapha who of course by training was neither a virologist nor an epidemiologist to have been made to head the task force inaugurated. People died on daily basis for more serious ailments because they were unable to access hospitals with high quality medical services from other states due to the ban on interstate travel. Therefore, through a joint effort between the leadership and Nigerian citizens, the COVID-19 curve would be flattened. Pursuant to this, governments, educational bodies, parents and all stakeholders should put necessary arrangements in place to promote the continuity of education, robust economy, productive workforce and adequate security for all in Nigeria. All hands must be on desk to enable the country get back on track as the economy is gradually opening up.

Recommendations
The study therefore gave the following recommendations:

i. The Nigerian media must remain highly professional in information dissemination and should endeavor to shun sensationalism; they (media houses) should strive to invite experts in the discussions and education on COVID-19 spread and prevention in all ramifications.

ii. All states in African continent that encounter varying levels of risks therefore require adapting a diversified set of response strategies to the virus; and people are strongly advised to shun or avoid close contact with sick people wherever they find themselves in the country.

iii. There is need for the federal, state and local governments to adequately provide PPEs and release funds to fight the disease and at the same time, provide palliatives to the populace, most especially the vulnerable.

iv. There is the need for the government to provide appropriate technologies for online teaching and learning in the country. And teachers and lecturers must be motivated and trained to handle the pandemic. The training should focus on educational platforms and their usage, lectures, presentations and mode of assessment, to benefit both facilitators and learners.

v. The National Centre for Disease and Control (NCDC) though active, its case search must improve on communication for public engagement and surveillance. NCDC is expected to coordinate surveillance for the disease, supporting states to carry out contact tracing, collecting and testing samples from suspected cases, and supporting the establishment and accreditation of isolation and treatment centers.

vi. It further recommended that the Nigeria government should adopt certain proactive policy measures to improve educational activities, security, workforce’ productivity and get the economy back on track and also provide some comfort zones for the citizens.

vii. The fiscal authorities (such as the Federal Ministries of Finance, Trade and Investment, Budget and National Planning) should develop and provide stimulus packages, conducive, favorable comfort zones for smooth business operations in Nigeria. This will enable them increase productivity in the country in order to get the country back on its feet.
COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A DISASTER TO NIGERIA’S ECONOMY, EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, WORKFORCE, AND SECURITY.

References


Research Survey, 2020 on COVID-19 Impacts


