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The Coronavirus Pandemic (Covid-19): Causes, Effects and Solutions.

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Abstract

There are about 49 million infections of covid-19 recorded in the world with about 1.24 million deaths and 35 million recoveries. The rate of death is about 3% of the total careers. While efforts are on top gear, unfortunately no vaccines have been approved to prevent it. There are about 63,328 cases in Nigeria, 59,675 recovered and 1,155 have died. About 94% of the fortune across the globe, and businesses in Nigeria has been impacted by COVID-19 disruptions. Under a microscope examination in 1968 a virus was found to have resembled a solar corona, which appears in bright crown-like ring of gasses that circled the sun visible during a solar eclipse and so the name "corona virus". It is arguable that the existence, contracting, spreading, control and prevention of the virus is determined by socioeconomic and political factors which are more clearly articulated understandably in application of the Marxian perspective. Nonetheless, this pandemic is a revelation of inadequate application of existing scientific knowledge. Considering all results found, following recommendations are adopted to eradicate and prevent COVID 19. The WHO has adopted non pharmaceutical strategies to prevent and control the spread of COVID19. All recommendations of WHO and NCDC must be strictly adhered to particularly social distancing, wear of face mask, regular washing of hands and avoiding large gathering. Shoulder to shoulder congregations as observed in some religious gathering should be discouraged as outlawed crowds. There must be re-intensified fight against corruption to succeed a smooth implementation of all to curb the spread of the pandemic. Efforts must be geared toward ending of capitalism as it is the mother of all crimes and particularly of corruption.

Keywords: Coronavirus, Pandemic, Causes, Effects, Solutions

Introduction

The Wuhan municipal health commission in Wuhan city Hubei province, China on 31st December, 2019 reported some cases of pneumonia traced to inhabitants of the Wuhan's Huanan seafood wholesale market. The market was closed down on 1 January 2020. Samples from the market tested positive for novel coronavirus with symptoms such as high fever, high temperature, continuous coughing, stomach pain, breaths difficulties and severe tracheal blockages (Wu, and McGoogan, 2020). As at time of this compilation there are about 49 million infections of covid-19 recorded in the world with about 1.24 million deaths and 35 million recoveries. The rate of death is about 3% of the total careers. While efforts are on top gear, unfortunately no vaccines have been discovered and approved to prevent it. There are about 63,328 cases in Nigeria, 59,675 recovered and 1,155 have died (<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus>). So far it is the most devastating health crises of the world in recent timing. What then are the causes of covid-19? How has it impacted on the general population? And what are the solutions?

Background to Covid 19 Pandemic

Virus is derived from a Latin word called venom. Venom is a tiny agent capable of causing disease. Under a microscope examination in 1968 a virus was found to have resembled a solar corona, which appears in bright crown-like ring of gasses that circled the sun visible during a solar eclipse and so the name "corona virus" (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/event-background-2019>). Based on the genetic sequencing of the virus, either bats or the pangolin would be the most probable animal of origin. The four most common

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human coronaviruses are named 229E, NL63, OC43 and HKU1 did not jump from animals to humans but rather utilize humans as their natural hosts (<https://psychcentral.com/coronavirus/background-history-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19/>).

Deductively, the disease called COVID 19 originated from wild life most probably pangolin. It was discovered that the novel virus (later named SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19) most likely first transmitted from animal the pangolin to human through consumption of bush meats openly sold at the wet market of Wuhan in China. As it infected humans, it could generally get transmitted among the population easily as it has been normative for people to live in crowds unprotected. The virus easily transmits through a droplet from infected person in any possible way (coughing, sneezing, etc). When the virus is inhaled by breathing through the nose, injected by whatever means through the eyes, ears or mouth from a droplet containing the virus such a person is contracted of virus and subsequently get ill and develop symptoms.

Causes and Symptoms of Covid 19

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, the new coronavirus may be transmitted through expelled droplets. It is also possible for the droplets to be inhaled into the lungs. Most estimates of the incubation period for COVID-19 range from 1-14 days, though the virus most commonly surfaces with symptoms around day five (Lam; Shum; Zhu; Tong; Ni; Liao; 2020). Beneath a coronavirus's pronged exterior lies a round core shrouded in proteins and a "greasy" membrane (C. Huang, Wang, Li, Ren, Zhao, Hu; 2020).

General Impacts of Covid 19 Pandemic

A pandemic is an epidemic that has become a worldwide phenomenon. It is estimated that more than 80% of total cases are moderate, but 14% are severe and 5% critical. Patients with the highest mortality in the Chinese retrospective studies were males with a mean age 17 years older than survivors (68 vs. 51 years) who had some type of underlying pathological process (HTN, diabetes, cardiovascular disease or COPD). The usual cause of death is uncontrolled sepsis and respiratory failure. This seems to correlate with the development of a 'cytokine storm' on the 7th day, which occurs as a result of the virus's interaction with the patient's immune system (Lauer; Grantz; Bi; Jones; Zheng; Meredith; 2019). About 94% of the Fortune across the globe, and businesses in Nigeria has been impacted by COVID-19 disruptions (<https://www2.deloitte.com/ng/en/pages/finance/articles/addressing-the-financial-impact-COVID-19-in-Nigeria.html>).

Federal Government of Nigeria imposed a lockdown in Lagos and Ogun states as well as Abuja. State governments quickly followed suit by imposing lockdowns in their states (Onyekwena and Ekeruche, 2020). The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control's (NCDC) report on 19th May 2020, 42.5% (n=?2624) of all reported cases in Nigeria have been reported in Lagos (<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/>). While social distancing is essential, it will be impractical to practice social distancing in Lagos transport mode (Onyekwena and Ekeruche; 2020). The Supreme Court of India directed the release of about 34,000 prisoners. Israel allowed its domestic security agency to secretly collect cell

phone data to track carriers of coronavirus (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_on_crime). The interruption of formal education results in 67% loss of literacy ability in kindergarten children. The United States Supreme Court upheld the state's right to impose limits on congregations as well as secular activities in the protection of public health. The Court maintains and ordered a verdict that, although California's guidelines place restrictions on places of worship, such restrictions is consistent with the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment (Lederer;2020).

Role of Crime and Criminality in Hindering the Control and Prevention of covid 19 Pandemic

The WHO and various domestic national centers for disease control throughout the world have created non pharmaceutical strategies to prevent and control the spread of COVID19. These measures are supposed to be simple public convenience initiatives which ideally are supposed to be fully accepted globally and individually practiced to enhance protection against contamination and infection. Such protocols must be redrafted as laws to be covered by attached punishment for their failure to be adhered to by individuals and organizations. In case of Nigeria relative legislations were made including possible punishment for their violation at all levels of government. Quite instances of enforcement are on record by delivering some prosecution of offenders of COVID 19 protocols. These protocols are predominantly not observed at the individual level particularly in northern part of Nigeria like Borno state. You hardly see people dressed with face masks as you go round capital cities like Maiduguri. Congregations in prayers in mosques and churches are unguarded, public gatherings are also unguarded as people celebrate without any respect to the protocols. While public schools are closed Islamiyya are operated even at the period of the restrictions and without government approval of their operations. There are no forth coming directives to enforce the protocols from the sub-national governments. This could be described as compromise and therefore corruption and abuse of office. If decisive steps are not taken to enforce to observance of the protocols, the chances of prevention and control of the spread of the infection is very low. Governments in Iran and Afghanistan have reduced the number of prisoners to limit the spread of the virus. The Supreme Court of India directed all Indian state governments to consider releasing some prisoners, resulting in as many as 34,000 being temporarily released (Warrell, Helen; Fildes, 16 March 2020). In large parts of the world police predominantly service upper-class and middle-class neighborhoods.

The Challenges and Ways Out of Covid 19 Pandemic

A coronavirus testing center built in Abidjan, Ivory Coast was destroyed by angry protesters because it was in a crowded residential area. This protest is justifiable since building of the isolation center is a contradiction to a global WHO recommendation for social distancing to prevent infection from the virus. This was a criminal act of government against its citizens by transferring its responsibility to innocent population (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_over_responses_to_the_COVID-19_pandemic). In Nigeria a group of coronavirus patients moved out of an isolation facility to

protests against poor attention given to them by officials. Beginning in mid-March various social distancing measures to limit spread of the virus were undertaken. Administered measures are among others including the stay-at-home orders and quarantine, closing of schools, business and restriction on the size of social gatherings (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_over_responses_to_the_COVID-19_pandemic). As a way out from the pandemic, on 8th March 2020 Italy issued a decree to install strict public health measures including social distancing starting first in the most affected regions. In January, Mongolia shut its borders with China to prevent the spread of the virus with no cases of coronavirus have been reported in Mongolia. On 5th June 2020, WHO published an updated guidance on the use of masks in communities, during home care, and in health care settings in areas that have reported cases of COVID-19. This guidance is aligned with ECDC opinion published on 8 April 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cireng.2020.05.009>). The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) mobilized N50 billion (\$138.89 million) credit facility to households and small and medium enterprises to alleviate their suffering during the pandemic. About N100 billion (\$277.78 million) was set aside as a loan to the health sector, and a N1 trillion (\$2.78 billion) to the manufacturing sector. All CBN interventions interest rate have been revised downwards from 9 to 5 percent, and a one-year moratorium has been introduced, effective March 1 (Felbab-Brown, 2020). The US now the epicenter of the virus, reversed its initial indifference approved strict external travel prohibitions and some states enacted strict internal restrictions. The president approved a coronavirus relief bill of USD2 trillion, which was designed to bolster unemployment benefits for individuals, increase money for states, deliver a huge bailout fund for businesses and send one-off payment of up to USD1,200 to every American with an annual income of USD75,000 or less (<https://time.com/5798684/coronavirus-glossary-definitions/>).

To avoid the infection of covid-19 and prevent its consequences in society the WHO recommended non pharmaceutical measures. Social distancing (2metres), Face mask application, Washing of hands regularly and avoiding of hand shaking, Use of hand gloves and other PPE by medical officers on duty. Temperature testing with referral of those found in above 39 degree centigrade cases and isolation of patient. Drafting laws to enforce such recommended affairs by courts and Law Enforcement Agencies. Zero tolerance to corruption as means of transparency in government business as a measure in provision of infrastructure together with demolishing of worshipping centers around offices and adherence to social distance in mosques, churches and certainty of punishing defaulters.

Recommendations

Governments at all level should provide adequate “health based safety” protocols. These include (a) all hunters that hunt wild and domestic butchers must dress in public health based safety Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE). (b) There must be routine house to house checking by public health personnel to ascertain sustenance of required health based safety measures at all homes. There must be adequately intensified scientific research to discover

vaccines for coronavirus and all related infections. All recommendations of WHO and NCDC must be strictly adhered to, particularly the non-pharmaceutical measures such as social distancing, wear of face mask, regular washing of hands and avoiding large gathering. Shoulder to shoulder congregations as observed in some religious gathering should be discouraged by criminalizing outlawed crowds. There must be re-intensified fight against corruption to succeed a smooth implementation of all to curb the pandemic. Efforts must be geared toward ending of capitalism as it is the mother of all crimes and particularly of corruption.

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