

**MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTS OF IBADAN
METROPOLIS.**

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MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTS OF IBADAN METROPOLIS.

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of covid-19 pandemic has posed enormous challenges to the economy throughout the world. This paper is aimed at identifying various challenges of Covid -19 pandemic on socio - economic development of the residents of Ibadan metropololis and also recommends palliatives measures that may ameliorate its effect on the residents. The study adopted primary data source in forms of questionnaires administration. Two hundred and twenty (220) questionnaires were administered on Ibadan residents selected from the eleven local government area in Ibadan region through a convenience sampling method, but one hundred and forty seven (147) were retrieved, representing 66.8% response rate. The data were analysed with the use of frequency distribution and mean score. Findings revealed that increase in criminal activities, high level of job losses and inflation were the prominent effects of covid 19 pandemic on the residents of Ibadan metropolis. The study concluded that covid-19 outbreak has serious challenges on socio-economic development of Ibadan residents and therefore recommended that Government should enhance her empowerment programme for the jobless individuals and create enabling environment that can attract investors for more businesses to thrive within the city.

Keywords: Mitigating, Pandemic, Socio-economic, Residents, Metropolis

1.0 Introduction

Pandemics are hazards related to large-scale outbreaks of infectious diseases that can greatly increase morbidity and mortality over a wide geographic area and cause significant economic, social, and political disruption (Madhav et.al., 2017). The consequences of a pandemic, affecting people on a worldwide scale, with expected long-term impacts and consequences on the coupled socio-ecological systems, can be described as a disaster. On 13th March, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a pandemic. According to Cucinotta et.al.,(2020), pandemic has a great tendency to push humankind into global crisis. The main cause of pandemic events and epidemic diseases is the close interaction between human populations with both domesticated and wildlife pathogens. Most pathogens pass from wildlife reservoirs and enter into human populations through hunting and consumption of wild species, wild animal trade and other contact with wildlife. Urban areas are especially vulnerable through the high population density and mobility (Woolhouse et.al., 2014). The coronavirus outbreak started in the Wuhan province of China and by no doubt has extended its spillover problems to Nigeria. The figure of the confirmed cases of covid 19 victims in Nigeria kept increasing, and this led to a decision by the federal government of Nigeria to order the lockdown in Ogun , Lagos and Abuja on 30th March, 2020 (www.naijanews). Despite the fact that corona virus has been recorded in Oyo state, the central government did not impose the lockdown in Oyo state but instead the state government introduced a curfew from dawn to dusk on 29 th March, 2020. Though, the lockdown of the neighborhood states such as Lagos and Ogun state impliedly barricaded the movement into and outside Oyo state.

2. Effect of Covid 19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has social, religious, political and economic effects on the economy. Some people might argue that it is too early to discuss the effects of the pandemic. However, the pertinent question is, when likely will the pandemic be completely over? According to experts, the Covid-19 pandemic may not go away anytime soon or completely (Brito, 2020). Besides, no cure has been discovered till date. Therefore, it is important to discuss the effects now so that measures or actions can be taken to cushion the effects of the pandemic (Brito, 2020). The economic downturn in Nigeria was triggered by a combination of declining oil price and spillovers from the Covid-19 outbreak, which not only led to a fall in the demand for oil products but also stopped economic activities from taking place when social distancing policies were enforced (Ozili , 2020). Recessions are not new in Nigeria. During the 2016 recession, the monetary authority in Nigeria defended the local currency from forced devaluation against the dollar and adopted a managed float foreign exchange system, which worked well from 2016 to 2019 (Ozili , 2020).

In the aftermath of the 2016 recession in Nigeria, it was almost widely believed that unexpected and sustained decline in oil price was the most important cause of recessions in Nigeria. But in

2020, nobody thought that a public health crisis could trigger an economic crisis in the country. What made the 2020 economic crisis different from other economic crises or recessions in Nigeria was that most economic agents, who should have helped to revive the economy, were unable to engage in economic activities due to fear of contracting the Covid-19 disease, while other economic agents did not engage in economic activities when the government imposed and enforced its social distancing policy and movement lockdown in Abuja, Lagos and Ogun states on the 30th March of 2020 (Ozili , 2020).

In Nigeria , it is observed that covid 19 has caused suffering to poor citizens and this was because of weak institutions that were ineffective in responding to the pandemic and the lack of social welfare programs that would have catered for poor citizens and vulnerable citizens who were affected by the crisis. The fear of financial and economic collapse led to panic buying, hoarding of foreign currency by individuals and businesses for speculative reasons, households stocking up on essential food and commodity items, businesses asking workers to work from home to reduce operating costs. Obiezu (2020) claimed that many people have lost their jobs as a result of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and many jobs are in jeopardy in the near future and also estimated that the unemployment rate in Nigeria may likely rise to about 33 percent by the end of 2020. The coronavirus pandemic has claimed many lives across the country. The statistics released by the NCDC as at 23rd August, 2020 shows that 1002 deaths have been recorded since the outbreak of the disease. The number of active cases as at 23rd August, 2020 stands at 52,227 (NCDC, 2020). This is a serious cause for concern considering the poor state of the health facilities in the country.

Ozili (2020) asserted that a ban in foreign trips and border closure has affected the demand and supply chains of goods and services, and has led to shut down of many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country, which conversely has generated hardship on the masses. The lockdown and other containment measures have threatened means of livelihoods of the informal workers such as taxi drivers, okada riders etc and subjected them further to poverty and hunger. It is important to note that the informal workers constitute about 60 per cent of the global labour force (International Labour Organization, 2020). An upsurge in the job losses due to Covid 19 has negative effect on the economy and increases social vices and criminal activities. High crime rate such as robbery, kidnapping for ransom, serial killings and other youthful exuberant were recorded in Ibadan metropolis during the pandemic. The arrest of a notorious killer, Sunday Shodipe who was alleged to have killed up to five people in Akinyele Local Government area of Ibadan was reported by several dailies on 2nd August, 2020 (www.naijanews.com) .This act was traceable to the idleness generated by covid 19 pandemic.

3. Methodology

A total of two hundred and twenty (220) well-structured questionnaires were administered on residents of Ibadan who were selected through a convenience sampling technique across the eleven (11) local government areas in Ibadan region. The local government involved include Ibadan

North, Ibadan South, Ibadan North-West, Ibadan South-West, Ibadan North-East, Akinyele, Oluyole, Egbeda, Ido, Lagelu and Ona-Ara. Twenty (20) questionnaires were administered on the residents in each local government summed up to 220 while 147 were retrieved and found fit for the analysis of the study, representing 66.8% response rate. The data obtained were subjected to the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) for analysis.

4. Results and Discussion of findings

Table 1.0: Questionnaire Administered / Retrieval by Local Government Area in Ibadan Region

Local Government Area	No.Administered	No.Retrieved
Ibadan North	20	15
Ibadan north West	20	13
Ibadan north East	20	15
Ibadan South	20	17
Ibadan South West	20	10
Akinyele	20	12
Oluyole	20	13
Egbeda	20	14
Ido	20	10
Ona Ara	20	12
Lagelu	20	16
TOTAL	220	147

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 2.0: Effects of Covid- 19 Pandemic on Ibadan Residents

EFFECTS OF COVID-19	MEAN	RANK
Increase in criminal activities / anti-social vices	4.13	1
High level of job losses	3.82	2
Inflation	3.75	3
School closure	3.55	4
Economic uncertainties	3.55	4
Hoarding of goods	3.55	4
Increase in poverty rate	3.20	7
Extortion	3.19	8
Artificial scarcity	3.18	9
Low turn out of customers to commercial centres	3.18	9
Child slavery/ Children abuse	3.07	11
Reduction in Government revenue	3.05	12
Death toll /Mortality rate	3.02	13
Low turn out of people to recreation centres	2.70	14
Increase in various forms of illnesses	2.56	15

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 3.0: Suggested Measures to the Effects of Covid- 19 Pandemic on Ibadan Residents

MEASURES TO EFFECTS OF COVID-19	MEAN	RANK
Provision and Supervision of Palliatives to the poor	3.53	1
Empowerment Programme	3.42	2
Clearing of Forest and Bushes to reduce hide outs	3.30	3
Sensitization on Adherence to NCDC guidelines on Covid 19	2.95	4
Improvement on Security Services in the state	2.92	5
Resumption of Academic activities in schools	2.70	6
Reformation of criminal law to combat crime	2.70	6
Enhancement of Safety Awareness Programme	2.67	8
Enforcement of capital punishment on child slavery	2.65	9
Subsidizing Education at all level to the indigenous students	2.40	10
Compulsory education at elementary stage	2.39	11
Subsidizing Health care service delivery	2.36	12
Subsidizing Transportation services	2.45	13
Training of Civil Servant on Information Technology	2.40	14
Prompt decision on entry points closure	2.26	15

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 1.0 shows that a total numbers of two hundred and twenty (220) questionnaires were administered on selected residents of Ibadan within eleven (11) region existing in Ibadan and one hundred and forty seven (147) were retrieved and found fit for the analysis of this study. Twenty (20) numbers of questionnaires were administered through convenient sampling technique in each of the region.

Table 2.0 indicates fifteen identified factors that were observed as the effects of covid 19 pandemic on socioeconomic development of Ibadan residents. Increased in criminal activities / anti-social vices, High level of job losses and Inflation with respective mean score of 4.13, 3.82, and 3.75 on a five point likert scale were the most identified effect of covid 19 pandemic on socioeconomic development of Ibadan residents. The results of this finding on effects of covid 19 is in agreement with the findings of Ozili (2020) except that Ozili (2020) prioritized low importation as the most pressing effects of covid 19 pandemic on Nigerian because he opined that greater percentage of the products and goods used in Nigeria are not locally made but import from countries like China, Japan and other countries. Likewise , the study conforms with the assertion of Obiezu(2020) which claimed that the most identified effect of covid 19 pandemic was high rate in job losses.

While Table 3.0 presents fifteen factors that would drastically ameliorate the effect of covid 19 pandemic on socioeconomic development of residents of Ibadan and the three most viable measures to covid 19 pandemic according to the study were Provision and supervision of palliative to the poor, Empowerment programme and clearing of forest and bushes to reduce hide out with corresponding mean score of 3.53, 3.42 and 3.30 on a four points likert scale. The mitigating measures to the effect of covid 19 pandemic according to this study deviates from that of Ozili (2020) which suggested the effective use of credit facility disbursed by the CBN for the SMEs and manufacturing sector. Furthermore, Ozili (2020) appraised the reduction in the interest rates on all the CBN interventions from 9 to 5 per cent and a one-year moratorium on all the CBN interventions as important measures that would bring convincing relief to the effect of covid 19 pandemic.

5. Conclusion

The study concluded that Covid-19 pandemic has devastating effect on social, religious, health, mortality rate, academics, employment, political and economy of Ibadan metropolis.

6. Recommendation

Covid 19 pandemic has caused the whole world in general and citizens of Ibadan in particular more harms than good, hence, this requires immediate and urgent measure to mitigate the effects on the masses. The study therefore recommended the following as measures that could possibly ameliorate the shortfalls from the emergence of Covid 19 pandemic on residents of Ibadan metropolis:

- Provision and supervision of Palliatives to the poor
- Empowerment programme to be enhanced

- Encouraging Deforestation to minimize the hideout for criminal activities
- Sensitization on adherence to NCDC guidelines on danger of covid 19
- The concerned authorities should improve on the provision of security services in Ibadan city.
- The incessant killing, raping and kidnapping should be checked by promulgation of bye law which would encourage capital punishment on the culprits.
- Enforcement of capital punishment on child slavery
- Subsidizing education at all levels to the indigenous students
- Compulsory education at elementary stage.
- Subsidizing health care service delivery.
- Subsidizing transportation services within the metropolis.
- Training of civil servant on the use of information technology.

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