

The Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian Development: An Emergent Theme in Narrative Structure

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Abstract

The study aims at identifying the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigeria development in the recent time. COVID-19, as a cankerworm has positioned as major menace that is plaguing the economic cum political strata of world nations, thus, has malicious effects which assert pervasive, albeit, negative influences on the Nigerian development. It's presence in the Nigerian society resulted to an unconditional nationwide lockdown; unprecedented shutting of seaports, railways, airports and boarders; and restriction of social, religious and personal activities. It thereafter, asserts and effectuates hardship, pain, suffering, hunger, sickness and death of the people and threatens the existence of the Nigerian state. This decadence has maliciously and heinously increased the level of corruption, nepotism, favouratism and tribalism, that for long have positioned as the greatest enemy of the Nigerian state; thus, is envisaged through the unpatriotic activities of greedy and sleazy administrators that are charged with the responsibilities of allocating palliatives and monetary obligations to the most vulnerable and thereafter, contain the noble pandemic and ameliorate pain and suffering in the Nigerian society. The gargantuan effects of these copious activities are an increase in theft, armed robbery, pick pocketing, shop breaking, kidnapping, and total breakdown of law and order. With Discourse Theory and Analytical Methodology, the study interrogates the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigeria economy in the 21st century. Amongst the major recommendations, the study suggests that cognitive measures should be employed by governments at all level towards developing the Nigerian state even in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.

Background to the Study

Until recent time, the noble COVID-19 pandemic has ultimately emerged as major theme in narrative structure in the Nigerian economic cum political strata and has questioned the integrity and wheel-power of world nations. Wheeled by the inquisition of power, the pandemic, a pervasive and excruciating syndrome, manufactured in Wuhan, China, becomes the most dreaded and highly sophisticated weapon, which triggers death, sickness, pain, and death of the people and destroyed the developmental structure of world nations.

Comprehensively, Coronaviruses according to Frank and Gloria (2020), are a group of viruses belonging to the family of Coronaviridae, which infect both animals and humans. Human coronaviruses according to Frank and Gloria can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease (such as MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). In like manner, Ajulor et al (2021) avers that “all available evidence for COVID-19 suggests that SARS-CoV-2 has a zoonotic source”. Many researchers according to Frank and Gloria (2020) have been able to look at the genomic features of SARS-CoV-2 and have found that evidence does not support that SARS-CoV-2 is a laboratory construct.

Historically, the first human cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19, subsequently named SARS-CoV-2 according to Fatima (2021) were first reported by officials in Wuhan City, China, in December 2019. Retrospective investigations by Chinese authorities according Ojuloret al (2021), to have identified human cases with onset of symptoms in early December 2019. While some of the earliest known cases had a link to a wholesale food market in Wuhan, some did not. Many of the initial patients were either stall owners, market employees, or regular visitors to this market (Frank et al, 2020; Hassan, 2021).

SARS-CoV-2 was identified in early January and its genetic sequence shared publicly on 11-12 January. The full genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 from the early human cases and the sequences of many other virus isolated from human cases from China and all over the world since then show that SARS-CoV-2 has an ecological origin in bat populations (Ojulor et al, 2021; Onyewuchi and Njemanje, 2021). All available evidence to date suggests that the virus has a natural animal origin and is not a manipulated or constructed virus. Many researchers have been able to look at the genomic features of SARS-CoV-2 and have found that evidence does not support that SARS-CoV-2 is a laboratory construct (Richard, Supreet, and Trevor, 2020; Fatima, 2021). If it were a constructed virus, its genomic sequence would show a mix of known elements.

Cognitively, another coronavirus, SARS-CoV-1, the cause of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003, according to Frank and Gloria (2020) was also closely related to other coronaviruses isolated from bats. These close genetic relations of SARS-CoV-1, SARSCoV-2 and other coronaviruses, according to Frank and Gloria suggest that they all have their ecological origin in bat populations. Many of these

coronaviruses according to (Fatima, 2021).) can also infect several animal species. For example, Frank and Gloria, (2020) avers that SARS-CoV-1 infected civet cats and then humans, while the virus causing the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) is found in dromedary camels, and has continued to infect humans since 2012.

This suggests that the start of the outbreak resulted from a single point introduction in the human population around the time that the virus was first reported in humans in Wuhan, China in December 2019. A number of investigations to better understand the source of the outbreak in China are currently underway or planned, including investigations of human cases with symptom onset in and around Wuhan in late 2019, environmental sampling from markets and farms in areas where the first human cases were identified, and detailed records on the source and type of wildlife species and farmed animals sold in these markets (Ogundele, Jiba and Alaku, 2020; Agnes, 2020).

Painfully, the signs and symptoms according to Dominic, Eboh-Nzekwue and Onuoha (2020) include respiratory symptoms and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and sometimes death. Standard recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 include frequent cleaning of hands using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water; covering the nose and mouth with a flexed elbow or disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing; and avoiding close contact with anyone that has a fever and cough.

Concentratively, Festus et al (2020), avers that “The first confirmed case of the –pandemic in Nigeria was announced on 27th February, 2020 when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On 9th March, 2020, a second case of the virus was reported”. At present, the total issue of confirmed cases of the pandemic in Nigeria has risen to 167,908, while total number of 164,439 patients has been discharged with 2124 casualties as released on the 11th July, 2021 by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). As a result of this, the federal and states governments according to Frank and Gloria (2020) had before now issued modalities that aim at curtailing the menace. For example, the federal government of Nigeria had established a presidential tasks force for the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force made up of all the Nigerian ministers and few governmental officials, headed by the secretary general of the federation.

The presidential task force according to Fatima (2021). oversees the issue of the pandemic in the country and reports same to the presidency. The federal government as a matter of urgency also declared that all schools and other governmental and non-governmental organizations are shut down. The federal government also went further to shutdown down Lagos, Abuja, and Ogun state due to high rate at which people are daily contracting the virus. Airport, seaports, and borders were also shut down by the presidency. While state governors have on their own restricted people from gathering in worship centre's, market places, bars, hotels, and other activities such as marriages, burials, parties, and other social gathering are put to a halt. These lock downs in all these strata by the Federal and state government have pragmatically affected the people who for long are faced with system failure (Bappah and Adamu, 2020; Nwoke et al, 2021).

These restrictions imposed by the federal and state government on economic strata of the Nigerian society obviously hindered the development of the Nigerian state, which pragmatically increased the issues of pain, death, hunger and suffering of the people. The emergence of the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic into the shore of the Nigerian state, has ultimately created a new theme of narrative discourse due to the fact that militancy and militia issues, banditry, extremism; and ethnic, tribal and religious clashes; caused by economic pauperization, political kleptocracy, rapid underdevelopment, poverty, suffering, pain, hunger, and the clandestine death had for long occupied the Nigerian economic and political narrative right from the first republic. COVID-19 becomes a lucrative narrative which unequivocally had increased the issue of corruption, nepotism, tribalism, and divide and rule system prevalent in governmental and non-governmental organizations (Ojolor, et al, 2021).

It is therefore to distinctively highlight the economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, in the Nigerian socio-political strata that forms the thrust of this study. To achieve this, Discourse Theory and Analytical Methodology are employed as guide.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The study aims at identifying the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development in the 21st century. The objectives include the following:

1. To identify the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development.
2. To identify the nature of COVID-19 as new theme on narrative discourse.
3. To identify the cause and effect of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development.

Research Questions

1. What are the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development?
2. What is the nature of COVID-19 as new theme on narrative discourse?
3. What are the cause and effects of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development?

Significance of the Study

This study will be of great importance, as it will provide necessary information on the economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the Nigerian socio-political strata, thus position COVID-19 as new theme on narrative study in the 21st century. The study will also be useful for further purposes and for further researches into addressing issues emanating from COVID-19 pandemic within and outside the country. It will ultimately add to the already existing narratives on COVID-19 and other virus studies.

Scope of the Study

The study will be restricted to identifying the impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development in the 21st century. It will also identify the cause and effects of COVID-19 on the Nigerian development. Finally, solutions to the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Nigeria will also be sought in the cause of this research.

Proposed Causes of COVID-19 Pandemic

It is common sense to note generally that there is no acceptable cause of COVID-19 pandemic in the world but a scientific manipulation. Though, most religious fanatics according to Frank and Gloria are of the opinion that the pandemic is to the completion of the pensive prophecy of Armageddon, that is, the fulfillment of the signs of the end time as written in the Holy book of the Bible. Apart from this, most theorists believe that it is a natural phenomenon which often visits mankind like earthquake, volcano, flood, and every other form of natural disaster. Notwithstanding, some scientists according to Frank and Gloria believes that finding the solution of the vaccine is more palatable at the crucial time rather than canvassing or blaming any country for the cause. Even at this, most critics, tracing the origin of how the virus was spread, avers that the virus most have being originated or created by the Chinese government for economic benefit and political power (Frank and Gloria, 2020).

Lucidly, Dr Francis Boyle (2020), the creator of Bio-Weapon Act, in an exclusive interview given to Geopolitics and Empire, according to Frank and Gloria (2020) expressed that “the 2019 Wuhan Corona Virus is an offensive Biological Warfare Weapon and that the World Health Organization (who) already know about it”. To further buttress this claim, Francis claimed that the infectious Corona virus outbreak in Wuhan escaped from the Bio-safety level 4 laboratory (BSL-4), believes the virus is potentially lethal and an offensive biological warfare weapon or dual-use bio-warfare weapons agent genetically modified with gain of function properties, which is why the Chinese government originally tried to cover it up and is now taking drastic measures to contain it. The Wuhan BSL-4 Lab according to Boyle is also a specially designated World Health Organization (WHO) research lab which explains why he contends that the WHO knows full well about the dreaded virus.

Boyle according to Frank and Gloria (2020) unveils Great Game India's exclusive report on Corona virus as a Bio-weapon where it was reported in detail how Chinese Bio-warfare agents working at the Canadian lab in Winnipeg were involved in the smuggling of Corona virus to Wuhan's lab from where it is believed to have been leaked. Most critics mostly in the United States of America distinctly believes that COVID-19 is a China Virus, thus noted that China is never a friend of the world. To buttress this fact, Brigitte Gabriela (2020) in Frank and Gloria (2020), in a live broadcast highlighted that “every American needs to know that China is not our friend. To buttress her claim, Gabriela (2020) according to Frank and Gloria (2020) aver that “China knew about the virus as early as November 17th, 2019 and they chose to cover it up rather than warn the world of another potential Chinese born pandemic”.

Nigerian State before COVID-19 Pandemic

In an imaginative perspective, the nation, Nigeria, known as the 'Giant of Africa' may be considered as a theatre, an absurdist theatre in the frame of Albert Camus, which emphasize elusion as a fundamental in existence. As one of Africa's largest economy, one expects certain basic necessities to be functional in the nation to a large extent;

unfortunately, this is hardly fathomed as it is painfully overwhelmed with economic pauperization, political kleptocracy, rapid underdevelopment, poverty, suffering, pain, hunger, and the clandestine death. These are as a result of rapid rate of corruption, nepotism, tribalism, and divide and rule system prevalent in governmental and non-governmental organizations (Frank & Gloria, 2020; Amiriheobu, 2019).

The absurdist nature has pragmatically turned the society into complex state where everything works. For instance, the state is comprised of various ethnic and linguistic groups whose agenda seem to be diametrically opposed to each other, having more than two hundred and fifty different languages and so many tribes, clichés with diversity in tradition, culture, norms, values, religion, occupation, interest, conditions, artifacts, history, and nomenclature. These infractions have led to many clashes, ethnic rivalries, political and religious tensions and threats of violence championed by youths at slight provocations, right from the first republic (Mark, 2015 in Frank and Gloria, 2020).

While quoting Ihua and Innocent (2013), Frank and Gloria (2020), Presently, the country is witnessed with tension as splinter groups in all the regions are agitating for fundamental changes in issues that heinously affect them. For instance, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the South-east are agitating for national and international identification because the issues of marginalization, favoritism, nepotism, tribalism and divide and rule system which their fathers died for in course of the civil war is still ongoing (Mark, 2015). The IPOB group is today declared terrorist group by the Federal Government for the continued activism of self-Determination (Frank and Gloria, 2020).

Another dicey issue according to Amiriheobu (2019), in Frank and Gloria (2020), is the oil-rich but exploited Niger Delta region. Militants in different splinter-groups according to (Mark, 2015) in the area are waging war with the Federal Government and the multinational oil companies to control their resources and better their impoverished lives due to the persistent effects of crude oil exploration and exploitation activities that has maliciously affected the fauna and flora, thereby destroying the ecological system and soil texture. The region according to Mark is said to be badly treated despite the fact that oil produced in the region is the major source of Nigerian foreign exchange. The oil companies exacerbate their agony by not giving them due attention as host communities even when their exploration results in spilling crude on their farmlands and waters, flaring gas and setting economic terrains on fire by bunkering which their compradors covertly arranged (Stella, 2010 in Frank and Gloria, 2020).

In the northern region, Amiriheobu and John, (2018), in avers that “the issues of youth restiveness are always visible as youths are continually agitating as a result of religious coalition of interest”. A good example according to them is the violence between the Christians and the Muslims that led to the loss of lives and properties which began in the year 1953. It was also visible in the year 1999, 2000 and 2001. The most severe was that of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-eastern part of Nigeria which was believed to

have been founded in the year 2002 by Muhammad Yusuf. In a statement issued by Boko Haram group on April 24, 2011, Adetoro (2012), quoting Suleiman (2011), in Frank and Gloria (2020) reported that “their objectives were to abolish democracy and institute Sharia law as they claimed to be fighting for justice and islamisation of the Nigerian state”.

Extensively, this Boko Haram sect made up of youth has of recent created so many tensions and has contributed to the suffering in the Northern region of the country (Sani, 2015). In their course to establish their purposed Islamic state, they have employed suicide bombings, assassinations, kidnapping, murdering the civilian population, and targeting security forces and educational institutions. According to Adetoro (2012), quoting Suleiman (2011), in Frank and John (2018) one of the group spokesmen Alzawahiri stated that “the group was contented with preaching islamization of Nigeria until 2009 when it took arms against the state because some unnamed Muslim clerics and ward heads in the North were conniving with the government to attack them following the Maiduguri crisis in July, 2009.

A similar narrative to the tenet of incessant killings, maiming and destruction of multi-million properties according to Frank, George, and Amgbadugba, (2019), in Frank and Gloria (2020), is the Herdsmen/farmers clashes in Katsina, Gombe, Zamfara, Kogi, Benue, Edo, Delta and some other states in Nigeria over land ownership and cattle ranging. Generally, the means of agitation and demonstration by these splinter groups in the different Nigerian regions seem synonymous as it is manifested through acts of terrorism which include youth restiveness, lethal car bombing, politically motivated assassination, suicide bombing, vandalism of pipeline installation, incessant killings, and other forms of social vices.

In a nutshell, Fatima (2021). summed the absurdist nature of the Nigerian state when he avers that “the speeds with which evil is growing in Nigeria and the merciless ways that lives of innocent ones are being wasted are worrisome”. People are burdened on a daily basis with psychological and emotional trauma resulting from gory sights of lifeless and mutilated bodies of love family members, close associates and colleagues littered on the streets, public squares, and everywhere. These are caused due to corruption, manifesting through looting, money laundering, and embezzlement of funds meant for capital projects for the general public; nepotism, tribalism and divide and rule system (Frank and Gloria, 2020; Amiriheobu, 2019). These have maliciously depredated all sectors – educational, medical, and administrative.

More so, the absurdist nature is made manifest as the Nigerian state is described as an “unfinished state” and a “truculent African tragedy” even in the midst of abundant human and material resources (Chigbo, 2018). This statement highlights that despite the abundant mineral and human resources in the state, Nigeria is ironically referred to as poverty capital of the world where hunger, pain, unemployment, and suffering, is apex. Due to this intricate exposition, arguments are that the Nigerian motto: peace, unity and

progress, is a mere propaganda because ethnic bias is rapidly eating deep into the polity and even causing political divide because of the increase in tribal and regional hatred, that defines its complexity. Others argue that the oneness of Nigeria is borne with pain as some sections are treated as second class citizens in their own country. This thinking has caused series of unrest which sets off grounds for criminality, lawlessness and wanton destruction of men and resources (Mark, 2015).

Discourse Analysis Theory

Discourse Analysis Theory by Wodak (2006), which is a hybrid field of enquiry, provides the mold with which this paper is shaped. When encapsulated, this theory outlines how to discourse the economic effects of COVID-19 in absurdist Nigerian state in the 21st century. When mastered and applied, the theory of Discourse Analysis becomes a kind of psychological communication mechanism in the form of discourse required to change the mentality of people, thus position them to be well equipped to be able to face any issue that may affect their society (Frank and Gloria, 2020).

By definition, discourse Analysis theory is the study of the way in which any object or idea is taken up by various institutions and epistemological positions, and of the way in which those institutions and positions treat it (Frank and Gloria, 2020). Discourse analysis studies the way in which objects or ideas are spoken about. It then paves way for an adequate interrogation of the COVID-19 pandemic which has increased the suffering, pain, death, sickness, and hunger that are prevalent in the Nigerian state in the 21st century.

On the aspect of information science yearning for theory on which disciplines are deteriorating due to lack of proper information, is clearly expressed in seven papers by Brooke, who is cited by Belkin (1990) in Frank and Gloria (2020) as one of the first proponents of the cognitive view in information science discourse. To exemplify this notion, social science, discovery, planning, medicine, institutions, cultural, traditional and religious practices and other fields of enquiry are products of discourse. This notion explains that it would be very easy to slip into pessimistic and deterministic conception of reality based upon discourse analysis that at one that understands the product of discourse as an iron cage in which individuals and institutions have no options other than to act in a particular way.

Method of Data Collection

Method of data collection here describes the plans employed in carrying out this study. The nature of a subject matter often determines the kind of approach adopted for researching relevant materials, thus, this research work employs the discourse survey study. The methodological approach utilizes primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include the researchers' personal experiences and observations in the course of carrying out this research regarding the economic impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian state in the 21st century, while the secondary sources include written materials relevant to the topic from internet, researched projects, articles, text books, scholarly journals, conversations, interviews etc.

Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on the Nigerian Development

COVID-19, an acute respiratory syndrome, considered as global pandemic, has ironically affected the Nigerian state in the recent time. It has unequivocally affected the economic front so much that all strata both governmental and non-governmental organizations were shut down, movements of people were restricted, worship centres and social gatherings were banned, and airports, seaports, borders, and railways are equally shutdown (Isaac and Eno, 2020). The major source of revenue (crude oil) which serves as the country's GDP has been brought to the barest minimum (Frank and Gloria, 2020).

In a nutshell, the outbreak of the pandemic and the multifarious governmental and multi-sectorial responses to its contagion, further aggravated the suffering, pain, poverty, hunger, and death of the people as palliatives from the federal and state government were politicized, sectionalized, regionalized, and regrettably minimal. Those whose livelihood depends on their daily hawking are gravely affected as a result of lack of palliative measures after being deprived of their daily hassled.

On the same plain, the shutting down of borders, seaports, railways, and airports also decreased in the importation of food materials and other home accessories that would have helped in solving the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This further explains that the suffering as a result of the meticulous steps positioned by the federal and state government became more pandemic than the Corona virus itself (Isaac and Eno, 2020). It became tensed as aggrieved men and women decides to engage in shop breaking, bag snatching and other activities that affect the people due to the fact that the palliative measure were politicized.

Extensively, Fatima (2021), avers that the spread of COVID-19 encouraged social distancing which led to the shutdown of financial markets, cooperate offices, business and events". Fatima (2021) while quoting Ozili and Arun (2020) further noted that "the rate at which the virus was spreading and the heightened uncertainty about how bad the situation could get, led to flight to safety in consumption and investment among consumers and investors". On these note, Frank and Gloria (2020) insisted that "the COVID-19 pandemic affected borrowers' capacity to service loans, which gave rise to NPLs that depressed banks' earnings and eventually impaired bank soundness and stability". Subsequently, banks were reluctant to lend as more and more borrowers struggled to repay shocks which was reflected in the sharp decline in oil prices.

More so, during the pandemic, people were no longer traveling and this led to a sustained fall in the demand for aviation fuel and automobile fuel which affected Nigeria's net oil revenue and eventually affected foreign reserve. Next, there were supply shocks in the global supply chain as many importers shut down their factories closed down their borders particular China. Nigeria was severely affected because Nigeria is an import-dependent country and as a result, Nigeria witnessed shortage of crucial supplies like pharmaceutical supplies, spare parts, and finished goods from China. The national

budget was also affected. The budget was initially planned with an oil price of US\$57 per barrel. The fall in oil price to US\$30 per barrel meant that the budget became obsolete and a new budget had to be formed that was reprised with the low oil price. The COVID-19 also affected the Nigeria stock market. Major markets indices in the stock market plunged when investors according to Fatima (2021) lost over NGN2.3 trillion barely three weeks after the first case of coronavirus was confirmed and announced in Nigeria on January 28, 2020.

Conclusively, Nigerian tertiary institutions were shut down. Against this backdrop, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Sonny Echono (2019), according to Agnes (2020), told reporters on 19th March that the directive was part of the country's overall strategy to curtail the spread of the virus. This has ultimately affected the academic calendar of higher institutions in Nigeria. While quoting Simon and Hans (2020), Agnes (2020) avers that “the global lockdown of education institutions is going to cause major interruption in students' learning; disruptions in internal assessments; and the cancellation of public assessments for qualifications or their replacement by an inferior alternative. The shutting down of all tertiary institutions during the peak of the dreaded pandemic in Nigeria also affected the economy of the Nigerian state, since the educational sector contributes to the GDP of the Nigerian.

Nigerian government on COVID-19 pandemic

As a result of the emergence of COVID-19 on the Nigerian society in the 21st century, the federal and states governments have issued modalities that aims at curtailing the menace. For example, the federal government of Nigeria has established a presidential tasks force for the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force made up of all the Nigerian ministers and few governmental officials, headed by the secretary general of the federation.

The presidential task force oversees the issue of the pandemic in the country and reports same to the presidency. The federal government as a matter of urgency also declared that all schools and other governmental and non-governmental organizations are shut down. The federal government also went further to shutdown down Lagos, Abuja, and Ogun state due to high rate at which people are daily contracting the virus. Airport, seaports, and borders are also shut down by the presidency. While state governors have on their own restricted people from gathering in worship centre's, market places, bars, hotels, and other activities such as marriages, burials, parties, and other social gathering are put to a halt (Frank and Gloria, 2020). These lock downs in all these strata by the Federal and state government have pragmatically affected the people who for long are faced with system failure.

COVID-19 Pandemic as Emergence issue in Narrative Structure

From the study, it has been established distinctively that COVID-19 pandemic has risen to form major theme in the narrative structure in the 21st century. This statement is plausible considering the fact that the challenges posed by the dreaded pandemic serves as major trend of discourse after first and Second World War. Its emergence questions the

supremacy of world power and ultimately weakens the will-power of the world nations which for long are versed in technological and scientific know how. The chaotic and complex nature of the dreaded virus surpasses other viruses which includes SARS, HIV-AIDS, Malaria, Cancer, and every other class of viruses which creates pain, suffering, and death of the people.

The surging nature which escalates minute issues regarding corruption, nepotism, greed, and divide and rule system, which triggers extremism, banditry, and all forms of terrorism in the Nigerian states, may distinctively make it a major theme of narrative in years to come.

Conclusion

From the study, it is pertinent to deduce categorically that the noble COVID-19 pandemic, an alien which ultimately challenged the wheel power of world supremacy, pragmatically and mechanically presented diverse thematic thrusts which forms the benchmark in narrative discourse. First, the pandemic unequivocally humbled the nations of the world, to the supremacy of Almighty God; as prayers and benedictions were offered globally for the divine healing of the world. Next, the study also indicated that the present of COVID-19 into Nigerian society increases the issues of corruption, nepotism, divide and rule and favouritism; envisaged through the unpatriotic activities of corrupt political administrators, in the Nigerian society.

Recommendations

The study recommends the following:

1. That cognitive measures should be employed by governments at all level towards developing the Nigerian state even in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Health sectors should be equipped with health facilities, in order not to fall victim of any heinous disease outbreak. Frontline workers should be trained occasionally in order to withstand any form of disease outbreak.
3. Health rehabilitation fund should be considered as topmost priority in the Nigerian yearly budget. With this, health conferences, seminars and workshops can be organized occasionally for health practitioners. This will ultimately make Nigerian health sector research oriented.

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