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COVID-19: POLICY RESPONSES AND IMPACTS ON WORLD
ECONOMY

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to the International Institute for Policy Review &
Development Strategies for providing a platform and supporting
Institutional and Collaborative Research and Sustainable
Development.

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Contributors are greatly acknowledged for supporting research on Covid-19: Policy Responses and Impacts on World Economy.

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INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 and World Economy: Assessing Competing Policy Objectives for Economic Recovery & Sustainability

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CCOVID-19 has also taken its toll on the global economy. The World Health Organization (WHO) first declared COVID-19 a world health emergency in January 2020. Since then, the emergency has evolved into a global public health and economic crisis that has affected the \$90 trillion global economy beyond anything experienced in nearly a century. Governments are attempting to balance often-competing policy objectives between addressing the public health crisis and economic considerations that include, but are not limited to these:

1. Confronting ballooning budget deficits weighed against increasing spending to support unemployed workers and social safety nets.
2. Providing financial support for national health systems that are under pressure to develop vaccines while also funding efforts to care for and safeguard citizens.
3. Implementing monetary and fiscal policies that support credit markets and sustain economic activity, while also assisting businesses under financial distress.
4. Implementing fiscal policies to stimulate economic activity, while consumers in developed economies sharply increase their savings as households face limited spending opportunities, or a form of involuntary

saving, and concerns over their jobs, incomes, and the course of their economies, or precautionary saving.

5. Intervention by central banks and monetary authorities generally in sovereign debt and corporate bond markets to stabilize markets and insure liquidity are raising concerns among some analysts that this activity is compromising the ability of the markets to perform their traditional functions of pricing risk and allocating capital.
6. Fiscal and monetary policies that have been adopted to date to address the immediate impact of the health crisis compared with the mix of such policies between assisting households, firms, or state and local governments that may be needed going forward should the health and economic crises persist.

In its July 29 policy statement and subsequent press conference, the U.S. Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) indicated that the rise in COVID-19 cases in the United States since mid-June was weighing down economic growth and that, “the path of the economy will depend significantly on the course of the virus. The ongoing public health crisis will weigh heavily on economic activity, employment, and inflation in the near term, and poses considerable risks to the economic outlook over the medium term”. Differences in policy approaches between countries are threatening to inflict longer-term damage to the global economy by impairing international political, trade, and economic relations, particularly between countries that promote nationalism and those that argue for a coordinated international response to the pandemic. Policy differences are also straining relations between developed and developing economies, challenging alliances and conventional concepts of national security, and raising questions about the future of the world economy.

The pandemic-related economic and human costs could have long-term repercussions for economies through the tragic loss of life and job losses that derail careers and permanently shutter businesses. Fiscal and monetary measures implemented to prevent a financial crisis and sustain economic activity may also inadvertently be adding to income and wealth disparities. Within some countries, the economic fallout may be adding to widening racial and socio-economic cleavages and increasing social unrest. The book *COVID-19: Policy Responses and Impacts on World Economy*, analyses the precipitous drop in economic activities caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, policy responses and their impact on world economy.



*EXECUTIVE
SUMMARIES*

The graphic consists of a central rounded rectangle with a double-line border. A solid black circle is positioned above the rectangle, connected to its top edge by two thin lines. Two small grey circles are positioned below the rectangle, one on the left and one on the right, connected to its bottom edge by thin lines.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**COVID-19 Technical Mission of Experts to
the Republic of Belarus: 8th –11th April, 2020**

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

Adapted from:

https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/440608/Belarus-Mission-Report-Executive-Summary.pdf?ua=1

Executive Summary

The observations and recommendations in this report were based on the review of normative and technical documents from the Government of the Republic of Belarus and specifically the Ministry of Health, site visits, meetings, and discussions conducted during the 4-day World Health Organization (WHO) technical mission to Belarus.

Background

A pneumonia with an unknown origin was detected in Wuhan, China, and reported to the WHO Country Office in China on 31 December 2019. WHO declared the COVID-19 (disease caused by coronavirus SARS– CoV2) outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020, and a global pandemic on 11 March 2020. The strategies of early detection, isolation, laboratory confirmation, contact tracing and quarantine, along with physical distancing, have been shown to be critical elements to stop or slow disease transmission.

Different countries are experiencing different scenarios, and require a tailored response to the pandemic. Nevertheless, WHO recommends all countries to take a comprehensive, blended strategy for controlling their epidemics and decreasing the burden on their health systems and economies.

Following the invitation of the Minister of Health of Belarus, the COVID-19 Incident Management Support Team in the WHO European Region deployed a team of technical experts to Belarus from 8–11 April 2020. The objectives of the mission were to understand the response measures currently being taken to manage the outbreak and provide guidance on the actions needed as the outbreak evolves.

During the mission, the team was joined by representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to focus on the following areas of the outbreak response: epidemiology surveillance, diagnostic testing and data systems; health care system preparedness, clinical case management, and infection protection and control; and risk communication.

Outbreak Response Measures

On 28 February 2020, Belarus reported its first case of COVID-19; and on 2 March 2020, the Belarus COVID-19 Interagency Working Group, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, was established to coordinate COVID-19 response activities.

Public health outbreak response measures have been the cornerstone of the response in Belarus. COVID-19 testing throughout the country has been led by the national and subnational public health systems and supported by the national laboratory network using test kits produced in Belarus. At the time of the mission, measures have focused on testing suspected individuals, identifying and tracing contacts, and isolating cases and first-level contacts in health care and specially designated facilities. As part of the strategy to identify suspected cases, entry screening and laboratory testing at the international airport in Minsk was put into place for passengers arriving from designated countries. A 14-day compulsory self-isolation for individuals arriving from COVID-19-affected countries was introduced on 8 April 2020. To preserve the health care capacity as case counts increase, plans are being developed to shift contacts and mild cases to home isolation.

Also, partial and voluntary physical distancing measures have been introduced including postponing conference and sporting events with international participation, increasing physical distance in public areas, increasing the frequency of public transportation to reduce crowding, shifting start times of classes at universities, and extending Spring break for all students by 1 week.

Measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities and in prisons have been implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Interior, respectively. However, by the end of March, surveillance and epidemiology data provided evidence of a steady increase in COVID-19 cases that is approaching exponential growth and indicates the beginning of community-level transmission.

To complement the above measures, Belarus has been focusing on preparedness and surge capacity of the health care infrastructure to manage COVID-19 patients. Clinical case management instructions for patients suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19 have been developed and were published by the Minister of Health on 6 March 2020, including guidance on diagnostic investigations and recommendations on the use of pharmaceutical interventions including antiviral combination therapy – lopinavir/ritonavir and hydroxychloroquine. Starting on 16 March 2020, designated hospitals in Minsk city and all regional centres were organized and repurposed in anticipation of an increasing workload due to COVID-19. Preparedness measures included point-of-access screening and triage protocols, which are gradually being implemented in polyclinics and emergency medical services.

Efforts have been made to ensure the continuity of essential, life-saving health care services – emergency and acute medical services, obstetrics, continuity of chronic diseases care, and mental health. COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) measures have been gradually expanded to prevent health care-associated transmission of the virus and to ensure the safety of health care workers and patients.

Given the substantial regional and global shortages of COVID-19 essential supplies, Belarus has made a commitment to domestic production of protective equipment for health care works, disinfectants and laboratory diagnostic kits.

Key Recommendations for Belarus

Belarus has entered a new phase in the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic with community-level transmission, particularly in some parts of the country, including the capital Minsk, Vitebsk city and Vitebsk region. The situation is concerning and warrants the immediate implementation of a comprehensive blended strategy.¹

Community-wide measures should be in place to increase physical distancing at individual, community and national levels immediately. Physical distancing measures include:

- a. postponing or cancelling all mass gatherings of people including sporting, cultural and religious events;
- b. ensuring further isolation and treatment of confirmed cases and quarantining of close contacts;
- c. introducing options for teleworking, distance learning for schools, universities and other educational institutions, and suspending non-essential business;
- d. ensuring strict implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures at workplaces where teleworking is not possible, including hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing by observing 1–1.5 m distance between staff, limiting the number of staff meetings and ensuring proper ventilation, particularly in health care facilities; and
- e. reducing non-essential movements, especially for high-risk groups.

It has been shown that these measures slow the spread of the virus and allows the health care services to gain the time needed to adequately prepare, equip and reassess the needs of health care workers and facilities responding to increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients. Physical distancing measures should be time-bound and consideration given to the evolving epidemiological situation and health system capacities, including essential health care needs and socioeconomic factors.

The comprehensive blended approach should complement the maintaining and strengthening (of the?) current outbreak response measures by:

- a. expanding testing capacity and locations with additional testing options including walk-up or drive-through locations and mobile testing teams;

- b. ensuring quality of locally produced test kits with an external assessment and regular internal validation with internationally available test kits;
- c. standardizing entry screening, COVID-19 testing and 14-day isolation for all travellers arriving at international entry points including the international airport in Minsk as well as land crossings with Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The rapid surge of new cases associated with expanding community-level transmission requires further strengthening of the health care sector and infrastructure. Additionally, case management strategies need to be revised to include further reprofiling of community facilities to accommodate isolation and/or the implementation of at-home-self-isolation of mild COVID-19 cases and contacts with the appropriate follow-up according to WHO guidance and national capacity.

Facilities screening and referral protocols need to be fully implemented at all points of access to health services, including district level hospitals, polyclinics, stomatology clinics and private health care facilities. IPC measures need to be strengthened and expanded to include primary and homecare settings with the extension of training to include newly involved personnel and continuous refresher training for all categories of medical staff; and the guarantee of high-quality locally produced personal protective equipment (PPE). While the availability and rational use of PPE are important, this is only one part of a comprehensive IPC approach. A comprehensive IPC plan should include triage, early recognition and source control; standard and additional transmission-based precautions; administrative, environmental and engineering controls; and the timely detection, investigation and analysis of COVID-19 cases in health care workers.

Currently, there is no proven pharmaceutical treatment available for COVID-19; therefore, all pharmaceutical interventions including antivirals should be provided in the context of a clinical trial. WHO is coordinating the Solidarity trial, which is a large, international study designed to generate the robust data needed to show what the most effective treatments are. Belarus should consider participating in the Solidarity trial and adopting relevant standardized disease characterization data collection.

It is critical that all levels of the government – from the national to the local levels – engage with the public to clearly communicate the risks and the measures being taken during the pandemic. The public has a role in responding to COVID-19 by practicing physical distancing, hand hygiene and cough etiquette. A regular and comprehensive exchange of information, including epidemiological data and its geographical distribution, is vital to improve the understanding of the progression of the outbreak and explain society-wide outbreak response measures, such as postponing gatherings or curtailing movements. WHO recommends that during the COVID-19 pandemic all countries have strong government commitment and leadership to implement a mix of interventions, a blended approach of containment and mitigation measures, together with community engagement tailored to the evolving epidemiology.

Summary

The COVID-19 outbreak in Belarus has entered the community transmission scenario. This is a pivotal moment for Belarus in its outbreak response and therefore requires the immediate implementation of additional interventions – particularly physical distancing measures. The COVID-19 response in Belarus has provided valuable insights towards a better understanding of the transmission of the virus and the importance of a multisectoral approach to this pandemic. These experiences will benefit not only the development of the next phase of the response in Belarus, but also the responses in other European countries and the global efforts to combat this virus.

WHO reiterates its support to Belarus and is prepared to continue support towards maintaining and strengthening the current response as well as assisting in developing and implementing the next phase in pandemic response activities.

- 1 WHO. Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19. Interim guidance, 22 March 2020. Geneva: World Health Organization. (<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/critical-preparedness-readiness-and-response-actions-for-covid-19>, accessed 19 April 2020)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Impact of COVID-19 in Africa

ReliefWeb

Adapted from <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/policy-brief-impact-covid-19-africa-20-may-2020>

It is too early to know the full impact of COVID-19 on Africa. To date the experience has been varied. There are causes for concern, but also reasons for hope. Early estimates were pessimistic regarding the pandemic's impact on the continent. But the relatively low numbers of COVID-19 cases reported thus far have raised hopes that African countries may be spared the worst of the pandemic. While the virus is present in all African countries, most countries have recorded fewer than 1,000 cases. The African Union acted swiftly, endorsing a joint continental strategy in February, and complementing efforts by Member States and Regional Economic Communities by providing a public health platform.

Caution is warranted, however, as these are early days in the life cycle of a disease that is still not fully understood and where we have seen repeated patterns of first slow, then exponential growth in the number of cases. The low numbers recorded so far could be linked to minimal capacities for testing and reporting cases. WHO has warned that the pandemic could kill between 83,000 and 190,000 people in 47 African countries in the first year, mostly depending on governments' responses; and the socio-economic impacts could “smoulder” for several years.

Moreover, as with other regions, there is not one homogenous narrative around the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. The pandemic is affecting African countries differently, given varied strengths and vulnerabilities. Only one third of Africans

have access to proper hand washing, for instance, and there is less than one doctor per one thousand people on the continent.¹ But some countries also have a wealth of relevant lessons from dealing with previous HIV/AIDS and Ebola epidemics on engaging communities, communicating risks and adapting local and innovative methods to craft African approaches to control spread of the disease. The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention is boosting the region's capacities by building testing capabilities, promoting knowledge-based pandemic management, and supporting governments' efforts to mobilise resources for a sustained health response.

While the immediate health impact is still evolving, the indirect consequences beyond health already bring a heavy toll. These include food insecurity, lack of medical supplies, loss of income and livelihood, difficulties in applying sanitary and physical distancing measures, a looming debt crisis, as well as related political and security risks. This policy brief takes a snapshot of immediate impacts of the pandemic on health, economies, peace, security, human rights and humanitarian assistance in Africa.

It outlines response measures currently being taken by African and external stakeholders and provides recommendations to protect gains in the fight against the pandemic and maximise opportunities in the recovery for a more inclusive and sustainable future as countries emerge from this crisis.

1. World Bank — <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.PHYS.ZS?end=2015&locations=ZG&start=1994>

The Following Key Findings Emerge from Our Analysis:

Health

The global health response must emphasize solidarity towards developing countries, guided by the notion of health as a global public good. African countries, with partner support, can take measures to improve testing capacities, access to medical supplies, and participation in vaccine and treatment research; enhance production and innovation through intra-African collaboration; expand deployment of community health workers, which proved effective during previous health crises; and boost medical personnel capacity, including by tapping into diaspora expertise. Once vaccines or medical treatment for COVID-19 are discovered, it is critical that Africa benefits from equal access. In addition, these

measures must be part of a comprehensive effort to improve the resilience and preparedness of healthcare systems that will be increasingly exposed to risks, from climate-induced natural disasters to conflicts.

Socio-Economic

To help address the devastating economic and social consequences of this crisis, we need a comprehensive global response package amounting to a double-digit percentage of global Gross Domestic Product. For Africa, that means more than \$200 billion. All of Africa's partners must mobilize. We also need an across-the-board debt standstill for African countries as well as comprehensive options towards debt sustainability and solutions for structural issues in the international debt architecture. Increased resources from the multilateral lending agencies, including through raising IMF Special Drawing Rights, will also be critical to the region's success in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic. It is vital that measures to address the economic and social fall-out of the crisis include direct support that will keep households afloat and businesses solvent. There must be a focus on the most affected. The steps so far taken by African governments to save lives and protect livelihoods with a “people first” approach, and their efforts to support large, medium and small enterprises, as well as the informal sector, which is the predominant sector for women's employment, need to be scaled up substantially, supported by all partners. Emergency budgetary support is also needed to procure essential lifesaving materials and affect the immediate socio-economic response.

Food Security

Many Africans risk becoming food insecure as a consequence of this crisis. It is important to prioritize agriculture by declaring it a critical sector that should not be interrupted by COVID-19 related measures. Food corridors need to be secured, and farmers supported, to ensure uninterrupted supplies and food security. Similarly, focus should be on regions and communities where risks are most acute, strengthening social protection systems and safeguarding access to food and nutrition for the most vulnerable groups, especially young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, older people and other at-risk groups.

Peace and Security

While dealing with the menace of the pandemic, maintaining peace and security in Africa remains paramount. Priorities in this regard include silencing the guns, implementing the Secretary-General's and the African Union Commission

Chairperson's appeal for a cease-fire, sustaining peace processes and critical peace operations. The response to COVID-19 needs to be “conflict-sensitive” and avoid generating new tensions. Decisions regarding planned national elections should be taken in an inclusive and consultative manner. An inclusive security approach would also ensure that the spike in violence in the home and harmful practices, such as child marriage, and sexual abuse as a result of the pandemic, are integrated through preventive measures into all response planning.

2. Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Human Rights.

Human Rights

Keeping human rights considerations to the fore of COVID-19 response results in better outcomes. Citizen trust in institutions, transparency and social cohesion appear to enhance compliance with response measures. Inclusion and participation of women and youth, and respect for human rights need to be upheld in the delivery of COVID-19-related services and in the fight against the virus. Recovery from the crisis must lead to more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Brief: Joint Statement on Nutrition during the
COVID-19 Pandemic in Mena:
Executive Summary**

**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
Nations (FAO)**

**The United National International Children's Fund
(UNICEF)**

**The World Food Programme (WFP) and
The World Health Organization (WHO)**

*On Nutrition during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Middle East and North Africa,
Eastern Mediterranean and other Regions*

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Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/brief-joint-statement-nutrition-during-covid-19-pandemic-mena>

Executive Summary

Governments and partners across the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) are acting to protect citizens from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). These crucial efforts will save many lives. However, measures needed to slow the transmission of the disease are resulting in hardship for many vulnerable families. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic is having worrying impacts on household incomes, food supply chains, health services and schools.

The recently released *Global Report on Food Crises 2020*¹ highlights how serious the impact of the pandemic could be for countries already facing a food crisis. It is likely to have a major negative impact on the quantity, frequency and diversity of the food children eat, creating new food crises or worsening existing ones.

The United Nations Network on Nutrition, comprising the FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, is closely following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nutrition status of those most affected, particularly the poor and vulnerable in the MENA, Eastern Mediterranean and Arab Regions.

According to the latest estimates, nearly 110 million people were undernourished in the Region². Further, an estimated 7.6 million children under the age of five were suffering from wasting; 20 million children were stunted, and 5.4 million children were overweight in the Region.

The current situation aggravates the difficulties many families already face in terms of the availability, access and affordability of better varieties of safe and nutritious foods.

We urgently call upon governments, international development partners, donors and all other stakeholders to tackle the issues relating to the availability, access and affordability of safe and nutritious foods which are of high concern to many, and to take immediate action to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable families, especially pregnant, lactating women and young children across the Regions, while implementing appropriate infection prevention and control measures. The key actions needed are as follows.

¹Global Report on Food Crises 2020. Rome: Food Security Information Network; 2020. <https://www.fsinplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2020>

²The Region covers the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

1. Food security and healthy diets

- a. Ensure that food supply chains keep moving and safe and nutritious foods remain available.
- b. Protect the incomes and livelihoods of those dependent on agriculture and casual labour.
- c. Establish and support social protection schemes and community programmes to help ensure that the most vulnerable groups, as well as those who have lost their jobs because of lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are able to access sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods.
- d. Communicate clear messages about the importance of maintaining a healthy and safe diet while limiting the consumption of foods that contribute to overweight and obesity.
- e. Pay careful attention to the special needs of pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly and the chronically sick.

2. Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

- a. Health services should continue to provide essential nutrition services for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, newborns and sick children.
- b. Health services should also provide appropriate support for mothers to breastfeed, including those with COVID-19, and communicate accurate information on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

3. Management of wasting

- a. Maintain life-saving services to treat both wasted children and undernourished mothers, and adapt services to require less frequent treatment visits and more take-home supplies.
- b. Implement wasting prevention measures for vulnerable children and other population groups at risk of thinness, including older people and the sick.

4. Micronutrient supplementation

- a. Continue programmes to prevent and control micronutrient deficiencies where possible during routine services for pregnant women and young

children. However, planned mass micronutrient campaigns (e.g. vitamin A supplementation and deworming) can be temporarily suspended/postponed and re-planned for the earliest opportunity once conditions allow.

5. School feeding and nutrition

- a. While schools are closed, provide guidance to school staff, parents and children on the importance of safe and healthy diets, hygiene and physical activity for school-aged children.
- b. Explore alternative modalities such as cash transfers and food deliveries to homes to help poorer families get nutritious meals for children while schools are closed.
- c. When schools reopen, resume school meal programmes and encourage school staff to promote them to children and their parents.

6. Nutrition surveillance

- a. We urge the establishment of a tailored food security and nutrition surveillance system using remote mobile phone or web-based surveys to monitor food market functionality, coping mechanisms, food consumption patterns and multi-dimensional poverty.
- b. Timely collection and updating of food security and nutrition information is critical not only to identify populations at risk but also to monitor and address factors likely to have a negative impact on the nutrition status of vulnerable groups.

This statement was developed based on the current understanding of COVID-19 and recommendations for physical distancing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Policy Brief: Education during Covid-19 and Beyond

United Nations

Retrieved from: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world's student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries.

The crisis is exacerbating pre-existing education disparities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable children, youth, and adults – those living in poor or rural areas, girls, refugees, persons with disabilities and forcibly displaced persons – to continue their learning. Learning losses also threaten to extend beyond this generation and erase decades of progress, not least in support of girls and young women's educational access and retention. Some 23.8 million additional children and youth (from pre-primary to tertiary) may drop out or not have access to school next year due to the pandemic's economic impact alone.

Similarly, the education disruption has had, and will continue to have, substantial effects beyond education. Closures of educational institutions hamper the provision of essential services to children and communities, including access to nutritious food, affect the ability of many parents to work, and increase risks of violence against women and girls.

As fiscal pressures increase, and development assistance comes under strain, the financing of education could also face major challenges, exacerbating massive pre-COVID-19 education funding gaps. For low income countries and lower-middle-income countries, for instance, that gap had reached a staggering \$148 billion annually and it could now increase by up to one-third. On the other hand, this crisis has stimulated innovation within the education sector. We have seen innovative approaches in support of education and training continuity: from radio and television to take-home packages. Distance learning solutions were developed thanks to quick responses by governments and partners all over the world supporting education continuity, including the Global Education Coalition convened by UNESCO. We have also been reminded of the essential role of teachers and that governments and other key partners have an ongoing duty of care to education personnel.

But these changes have also highlighted that the promising future of learning, and the accelerated changes in modes of delivering quality education, cannot be separated from the imperative of leaving no one behind. This is true for children and youth affected by a lack of resources or enabling environment to access learning. It is true for the teaching profession and their need for better training in new methods of education delivery, as well as support. Last but not least, this is true for the education community at large, including local communities, upon whom education continuity depends during crisis and who are key to building back better.

The COVID-19 crisis and the unparalleled education disruption is far from over. As many as 100 countries have yet to announce a date for schools to reopen and across the world, governments, unions, parents and children are grappling with when and how to approach the next phase. Countries have started planning to reopen schools nationwide, either based on grade level and by prioritizing exam classes, or through localized openings in regions with fewer cases of the virus. However, given the continued virulence of the virus, the majority of countries surveyed in May–June 2020 had yet to decide on a reopening date. These decisions carry enormous social and economic implications and will have lasting effects on educators, on children and youth, on their parents – especially women – and indeed on societies as a whole.

Recommendations

Preventing a learning crisis from becoming a generational catastrophe requires urgent action from all.

Education is not only a fundamental human right. It is an enabling right with direct impact on the realization of all other human rights. It is a global common good and a primary driver of progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a bedrock of just, equal, inclusive peaceful societies. When education systems collapse, peace, prosperous and productive societies cannot be sustained.

In order to mitigate the potentially devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments and stakeholders are encouraged to pursue the following policy responses:

1. **Suppress Transmission of the Virus and Plan Thoroughly for School Re-Openings:** The single most significant step that countries can take to hasten the reopening of schools and education institutions is to suppress transmission of the virus to control national or local outbreaks. Once they have done so, to deal with the complex challenge of reopening, it is important to be guided by the following parameters: ensure the safety of all; plan for inclusive re-opening; listen to the voices of all concerned; and coordinate with key actors, including the health community.¹

2. **Protect Education Financing and Coordinate for Impact:** The pandemic has pushed the world into the deepest global recession in living memory which will have lasting effects on economies and public finances. National authorities and the international community need to protect education financing through the following avenues: strengthen domestic revenue mobilization, preserve the share of expenditure for education as a top priority and address inefficiencies in education spending; strengthen international coordination to address the debt crisis; and protect official development assistance (ODA) for education.

3. **Build Resilient Education Systems for Equitable and Sustainable Development:** Strengthening the resilience of education systems enables countries to respond to the immediate challenges of safely reopening schools and positions them to better cope with future crises. In this regard, governments could consider the following: focus on equity and inclusion; reinforce capacities for risk management, at all levels of the system; ensure strong leadership and coordination; and enhance consultation and communication mechanisms.

4. **Re-imagine Education and Accelerate Change in Teaching and Learning:** The massive efforts made in a short time to respond to the shocks to education systems remind us that change is possible. We should seize the opportunity to find new ways to address the learning crisis and bring about a set of

solutions previously considered difficult or impossible to implement. The following entry points could be to the fore of our efforts: focus on addressing learning losses and preventing dropouts, particularly of marginalized groups; offer skills for employability programmes; support the teaching profession and teachers' readiness; expand the definition of the right to education to include connectivity; remove barriers to connectivity; strengthen data and monitoring of learning; strengthen the articulation and flexibility across levels and types of education and training.

¹Guidance is available from the United Nations and other education partners.

Chapter **1**

Comparing the Economic Effect of COVID - 19 and Governments' Fiscal Palliatives in two Selected Sub-Sahara African Economies

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Introduction

The new corona virus known as COVID-19 belonging to the orthocoronavirinae subfamily distinct from Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS- COV) that broke out in 2012 in Saudi Arabia) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS –COV) that broke out in Guangdong Province in China in 2003) emerged in the region of Wuhan (China) causing severe respiratory infections in humans. The outbreak has spread like wildfire from Wuhan in China to other continents with no country being insulated. Its rapid spread with much fatalities made World Health Organization (WHO) in the mid – January 2020 to declare COVID -19 a global health emergency and in April 2020 as a pandemic (Kaj and Suzanna, 2020). The pandemic which has resulted to over seven (7) million confirmed cases and over 406,000 deaths globally have unequivocally changed not only the worlds' health and economic order but also the workings and projections of Sub Sahara African economies.

Besides its worrying effects on human life, COVID -19 has the potential to significantly slow down national, regional and global economy. This is so as China has become the manufacturing hub of many global firms. Therefore,

economic disruption in China supposedly will have dire repercussions in Sub Sahara African economy through regional and global value chain. Amidst the slowing down of the Chinese economy with disruptions to production, the functioning of the Sub Sahara African supply chains has been disrupted. Sub Sahara African economies irrespective of size but dependent on inputs from China are facing serious contractions in production. Restriction of movement among countries has further slowed down regional economic activities. More importantly, panic among consumers and firms has distorted usual consumption patterns and creating market anomalies. The national, regional and global economic growth rates are facing trembling time and are likely to worsen in coming weeks.

However, while medical diagnosis and patient isolation are hallmarks for control of this new pandemic, it has equally sparked fears of an impending economic crisis and recession. Yet the economic aspect is highly underplayed in most arguments and policy frameworks. The world is a global village where the world's economies are closely integrated. Therefore, a pandemic of this scale happening in any part of the world would have medium to high level economic impact throughout the globe in general and Sub Sahara Africa in particular. Consequently, its effect on one of the world's biggest economy like China will significantly affect the Sub Sahara African economy. China is the world's second biggest economy after USA contributing about 16% of the world's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Kaj and Suzann, 2020). Most of the companies in Sub Sahara Africa depend on China for forward and backward linkages. As a result of factory closures in China, the productions of many important companies in this region have also closed operations. More so, China is not only a bigwig in supply value chain but a great consumer with significant purchasing power.

For instance in oil dependent Sub Sahara Africa economy like Nigeria, the sharp drop in oil demand and the associated oil price shock orchestrated by the pandemic necessitated the revision of 2019 Appropriation Act by 0.6% with oil price benchmark revised from \$57 per barrel and 2.8 Million barrels of oil production per day to \$20 per barrel and 1.7million barrels per day. Also, the excess crude account balance which stood at \$38.53 billion in January 2020 dropped sharply to \$2.16 billion in March 2020 (Federal Ministry of Finance, 2020). With the free fall in international oil price, International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2020) projected that the Nigerian economic growth rate will shrink by 2% before the end of 2020. Furthermore, amidst the pandemic, in March 2020, the Central Bank of Nigeria

adjusted the exchange rate to ₦380 per dollar representing a depreciation rate of almost 2%. Similarly, as the pandemic intensifies, Nigeria's trade, service and financial sectors hitherto contributing about 32% to GDP suffered significant disruptions. The contractions in these sectors resulted to about 2 million job loss compounding not only the already 5% exceptionally high unemployment rate but is expected to rise if the predictions of 72% domestic job loss by International Labour Organization comes to fruition (ILO, 2020).

Similarly, South Africa economy is not left out as the pandemic has pushed about four (4) million South Africans into labour market, raising unemployment rate to about 26%. The fiscal deficit rises to 8.5% of GDP and debt to GDP ratio climbed 22% points high. The South African economic growth declined by 7.2% - the worst performance in nearly 90 years. Furthermore, in attempt to flatten the curve, governments in Sub Sahara African countries have enforced some measures such as border shutdowns, social and physical distancing, intra and interstate travel restrictions and quarantine. All these measures have serious implications for national and regional economy. Owing to these travel bans, airlines, sea ports and hospitality industries in the region are facing trembling times. Also, the need for social and physical distancing has forced a decrease in the workforce across all economic activities causing severe job loss with the need for food and medical going up. All these create major economic strains for millions of peoples in Sub Sahara Africans. In a bid to ensure compliance to various lock down measures and to caution the ravaging effects of the pandemic, governments across the Sub Sahara African countries have implemented various fiscal palliatives to contain the economic fallout. However, the efficiency and efficacy of these fiscal palliatives as regards implementations have left a lot of unanswered pressing questions. It is against this background that this book chapter is geared towards comparing the economic effect of COVID-19 and governments' fiscal Palliatives in two selected Sub Sahara African economies. To achieve this objective, this chapter is structured as follows: following the introduction in section one, section two is on the comparing the COVID-19 statistics in the selected Sub Sahara African economies. Section three is on schematic economic model of the possible effects of the pandemic on world economy, section 4 is on the possible effects of COVID-19 on key economic indices. Section 5 is on the COVID-19 shocks to cost of production, consumption and government expenditure and section 6 is the concluding remarks.

- 1. Comparing COVID – 19 statistics in the two Selected Economies:** In this section of the book chapter, we present the data on the spread of the COVID–19 in each selected economy to underscore the worst hit economy in terms of mortality and morbidity. The statistics is reported in table 1 below:

Table 1: Comparing COVID – 19 statistics in the two selected Economies

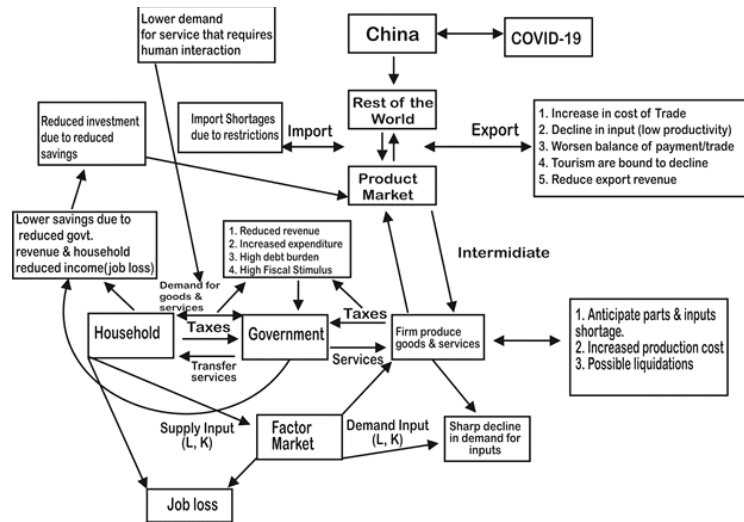
Country	Population in Millions (M)	{ 1) Confirmed cases	{2) Fatality cases	{3) Recovery cases	{2) as a % of {1)	{3) as a % of {1)	Death rate/100,000
Nigeria	180 M	22,614	549	7,822	2.4%	35%	0.16%
South Africa	57.8 M	118,375	2,292	59, 974	1. 9%	50%	1. 96%

Source: Author's Computation based on WHO COVID-19 Data Base (26th June, 2020)

From table 1, considering the population, confirmed cases and fatality cases of the pandemic, the findings reveal that South Africa is the worst hit. This shows that in terms of mortality and morbidity, South Africa is experiencing more shocks among Sub Sahara African countries. This shock is likely to cause a serious shock in the cost of production, consumption and government expenditure in South Africa.

- 2. Schematic Economic Model of the Possible Effects of the Pandemic on Sub Sahara Africa and the World Economy:** Apart from its effect on human life, the pandemic has the prospective of slowing down not only Chinese economy but also the Sub Sahara Africa and global economy. This is so as most economies in the world rely on China for backward and forward linkages. Therefore, economic disruption in China will have dire repercussions in the global and Sub-Sahara African economic scene through regional and global value chain. These possible effects of the pandemic on the global and Sub-Sahara African economic activities are presented schematically in the author's envisaged economic model below.

Figure 1: Schematic presentations of the possible effects of the pandemic on economic model



Source: Author's compilations

In figure 1, with higher trade costs, the unit price of imports and exports increases and competitiveness of the global production declines due to higher cost of exporting and higher cost of inputs. This will finally, push up the prices of final goods and services. Thus the rising trade costs represent a productivity loss as additional inputs are needed to bring goods to the consumers instead of being available for investment. Furthermore, tourism declines with the composition of expenditures changing with lower demand for sectors hit by social distancing and relatively higher demand for essential goods. Low productivity resulting from low demand for inputs especially non primary essentials lead to job cuts in the factor market that ultimately culminate into reduced tax revenue, low savings and increase fiscal palliatives by the government across the world.

3. **Comparing the COVID – 19 possible effects on key economic indices in the two selected Sub Sahara African Economies:** Amidst the slowing down of the Chinese economy with interruptions to production, the functioning of Sub Sahara African supply chains has been disrupted. Many Sub Sahara African firms have close ties with China manufacturing sector and are facing contractions in production. Restrictions of movement among Sub Sahara African countries have further slowed

down economic activities in the region. The SSA economic growth trajectory is facing trembling time and is likely to worsen in coming months. Therefore, comparing the possible effects of the pandemic on major economic indices in the two selected SSA economies as presented in the table below becomes an important policy discourse.

Table 2: Comparing and cascading the possible effects of COVID– 19 on major Economic indices.

Country	Production	Consumption	Trade	Unemployment	GDP
Nigeria.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A crash in demand from hotels and restaurants that saw a free fall in the prices of agricultural commodities as it dropped by 20% deepened agricultural production. 2. Decline in oil prices by 55% affected oil production from 2.18 mmpd to 1.7mmpd. 3. Impeded investment, uncertainties, ineffectiveness of policy measures and the reactions of economic agents plunged production further in Nigeria. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall in consumption stemming from partial to total lock down causing consumers to spend mainly on essential goods. 2. Wage cut, low expectations of future income by those that are on contract or short term works, erosion of wealth due to decline in stocks and home equity, interstate movement restrictions, all have not only reduced consumption on non-essential commodities but have affected income generating capacity thus reducing consumption expenditure. 	<p>As oil price continue to decline and exchange rate depreciated by 2% with larger expectation of Naira depreciation, trade deficit will increase. Also with remittances dropping by about 45% Nigerian balance of trade will be hard hit.</p>	<p>With the disruptions in key sectors, about 2 million jobs are lost and expected to increase in coming months as the predictions of ILO comes to fruition.</p>	<p>With all these interruptions in oil prices and production, Nigerian GDP dropped by 2% and is expected to deepen as the lock down continues.</p>
South Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With strong ties with china, many South African companies are significantly reducing operations. 2. There is a large contraction in mining production. Also, lock down measures further deepened manufacturing productions. 	<p>Furthermore, lock down and social distancing hit on daily wagers and pay cut across companies resulted to reduced consumption in South Africa.</p>	<p>Because of South African strong trade ties with China, slower growth in China reduced demand for South Africa exports. South African trade export fall by 75%. Rand weakened by 11% leading to the country's downgrade to non-investment grade.</p> <p>Fiscal deficit rose to 8.5% of GDP and debt to GDP ratio climbed to 22%.</p>	<p>Unemployment rate soars up reaching all time high of 30% as 4,000,000 South African lost their jobs.</p>	<p>Amidst the pandemic following key sector disruption, South African GDP shrank by 2.5%.</p>

Source: Author's compilations based on documented specific country economics statistics on COVID-19.

4. Comparing COVID-19 Shocks to the Cost of Production, Consumption and Government expenditure in the two selected SSA Economies: Here, the study followed the approach in Lee and Mckibbin (2003) and Mickibbin and Sidorend (2006) to convert different assumptions about mortality and morbidity rates in the country where the disease outbreak occurs (the epicenter country). Based on epidemiological assumptions, the study employed a hybrid Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models developed by Mckibbin and Wilcoxe (2013) to create a set of filters that convert the shocks into economic shocks relating to reduced labour supply, rising cost of doing business including disruptions of production networks, reduced consumption due to shift in consumer

preferences over goods in addition to changes in income and prices, rising equity premium on companies and country risk premium based on exposure to the pandemic as well as vulnerabilities to changing macroeconomic conditions. However, before carrying out the above epidemiological modeling, it is imperative to review the basic epidemiological assumptions in China (the epicenter country). The epidemiological assumptions is based on attack rates (percentage of the entire population that become infected), the case-fatality rates (percentage of those infected who die) and the implied mortality rate (percentage of the total population who die) for china under seven different scenarios. These scenarios are constructed in table 3 below with each scenario given a name like S1 meaning scenario 1.

Table 3: Epidemiological Assumptions for China

Scenario	Attack rate	Case – Fatality rate	Mortality rate
S1	1%	2.0%	0.002%
S2	10%	2.5%	0.25%
S3	30%	3.0%	0.9%
S4	10%	2.0%	0.20%
S5	20%	2.5%	0.5%
S6	30%	3.0%	0.9%
S7	10%	2.0%	0.20%

Source: Adopted from Historical pandemic and COVID-19 Pandemic Data

Table 3 highlights the likely scenarios for a given disease outbreak. These scenarios vary by attack rates, mortality rates and the countries experiencing the epidemiological shocks. In scenarios 1–3 it is assumed that the epidemiological outbreaks are isolated to china. A scenario 4–6 is where the epidemiological shocks occur in all economies or countries to differing degrees. Furthermore, while 1 – 6 assumes the shocks to be temporary and scenario 7 is a case where the outbreak is expected to be recurring each year for the indefinite future. Therefore, contrary to the widespread rumors of possible recurring of COVID -1 9 each year, it falls within 4-6 and 1-6. Also taking an average mortality rate of 4- 6 gives approximately 0. 5% and be used throughout the estimation as benchmark for China.

(i) **Shocks to production cost:** In shocks to labour inputs, the study incorporated other inputs such as trade, land transport, air transport and sea transport that are majorly affected by boundary restrictions during the pandemic. The study therefore, compared the share of inputs in the six selected key sectors and compared their contractions relative to Chinese economy. This was obtained by benchmarking the percentage increase in the cost of production in China during the pandemic and scaled the percentage across scenarios to match the changes in the mortality components of the labour shock. The scaling is done by calculating the index of vulnerability and benchmarked to Chinese to generate country specific rates. Therefore, the shares of inputs from these selected key sectors to aggregate economic sector enables the study vary the shocks across the selected sectors in the selected economies. The shock to the cost of production in each selected economy due to the share of inputs from the pandemic exposed sectors is reported in table 3 below.

Table 4: Shocks to cost of production

Country	(S1) Energy	(S2) Mining	(S3) Agriculture	(S4) Services	(S5) Durable manufacturing	(S6) Non-Durable manufacturing
China	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Nigeria	0.49	0.41	0.47	0.40	0.43	0.45
South Africa	0.40	0.35	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.38

Source: Harvested from the Dynamic results attached as Appendix

Table 4 reveals that Nigeria is the worst hit in terms of shocks to cost of energy production. This is so as global fall in demand for energy/ crude oil orchestrated by the pandemic necessitates rising shock in the cost of oil productions and subsequently the cut in oil production by Nigerian government. More so, contrary to mortality and morbidity rate, all the indices of shocks to cost of production suggest that Nigeria is the worst.

(ii) **Shocks to Consumption:** Conventionally, economists' model endogenously changes in spending patterns in response to changes in income, wealth and relative prices. However, during pandemic, it is likely that preferences for some spending will change. Therefore, it is assumed that reduction in spending on these activities will reduce the overall

expenditure. Here, we model this behavior by employing sector exposure index. This index is obtained by calculating the share of exposed sectors like trade, land, air and sea transport and recreation within the Gross Domestic Product of each selected economy relative to China. Hence the reduction in consumption spending during the COVID -19 pandemic in China is used as a benchmark for the rest of the selected economies. The table showing the sector exposure indices for the selected economies and shocks to consumptions is presented below.

Table 5: Shocks to Consumption Demand

Country	(S1) Trade	(S2) Land transport	(S3) Air and Sea transport	(S4) Recreations
China	-1.00	-2.50	-4.50	-1.00
Nigeria	-0.92	-2.31	-4.16	-0.92
South Africa	-0.82	-2.05	-3.69	-0.82

Source: Harvested from the Dynamic results attached as Appendix

Like table 4, table 5 reveals that all the indices of shocks to consumption demand ranging from trade to various transport networks and recreations as used in this study suggests that Nigeria is the worst hit in terms of consumption shocks.

(iii) Shocks to Government Expenditures: Experience of pandemic has shown that governments across the world exercise strong caution towards containing the outbreak by taking some measures such as increasing government expenditure to strengthen especially the health infrastructure. Here, we model these interventions by governments in the selected countries by using the change in Chinese government's expenditure relative to Gross Domestic Product during the pandemic as a benchmark and average index of governance to obtain the increase in government expenditure in other selected countries. The result of this calculation is presented in table 5 below.

Table 6: Shocks to Governments' Expenditures

Country	(S1) Energy	(S2) Mining	(S3) Agriculture	(S4) Services
China	0.5	1.25	2.25	0.50
Nigeria	0.54	1.35	2.42	0.54
South Africa	0.43	1.08	1.94	0.43

Source: Harvested from the Dynamic results attached as Appendix

Table 6 shows that among the SSA countries, Nigeria is the worst hit in terms of shocks to government expenditure. This reflects the current reality in Nigeria as most political office holders have voluntarily accepted cut in their salaries, many state and local government employees are paid in percentages and even threats of federal civil servant salaries cut. This also buttresses the recent call for national debate on the need to reduce the cost of governance by the vice president.

5. Comparing the fiscal palliatives by governments in the selected economies: Amidst the pandemic, fiscal stimulus were enforced in many countries so as to curtail the untold economic hardship of the COVID -19 pandemic. However, in developed countries, while which sectors and set of individuals will receive the fiscal palliatives based on viabilities and the worst hits dominates the arguments, in SSA countries, fiscal palliatives only reinforces ethnic sentiments as the skeweness of the various federal government fiscal stimuli to certain ethnic group dominates the arguments. Therefore, the table below presents various fiscal stimuli as percentage of GDP in the selected economies.

Table 7: Federal Government Fiscal Stimulus in the Selected Economies

Country	{A} Total increase in direct spending	{A} as % of GDP	{B} Fiscal support via loan and guarantees	{B} as% of GDP	REMARKS
South Africa	\$26 billion	3%	R200 billion	2%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Much of direct fiscal transfer than loan to MSMEs 2. The measure was announced and transparent. 3. Reinforces sense of belonging to the state by the citizen. 4. However, much is needed to contain the ravaging effect of the pandemic.
Nigeria	₦3. 5 trillion	2.3%	\$6. 9 billion	7. 5%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One of the highest in Sub Sahara Africa. 2. Implementations and disbursement of the stimulus reinforces ethnic sentiment. 3. Widen the citizens' indifference towards national unity and the pandemic itself. 4. Widen apathy to Nigerian sense of national belonging. 5. Heighten corruption in governance.

Source: Central bank press release of each selected economy

Conclusion

The chapter presented some stylized facts of COVID-19 outbreak. It also provided information about the range of possible economic costs of the pandemic and the efficiency of governments' fiscal stimuli in the two selected Sub Sahara African economies.

Therefore, on the basis of the findings, the following conclusions are drawn.

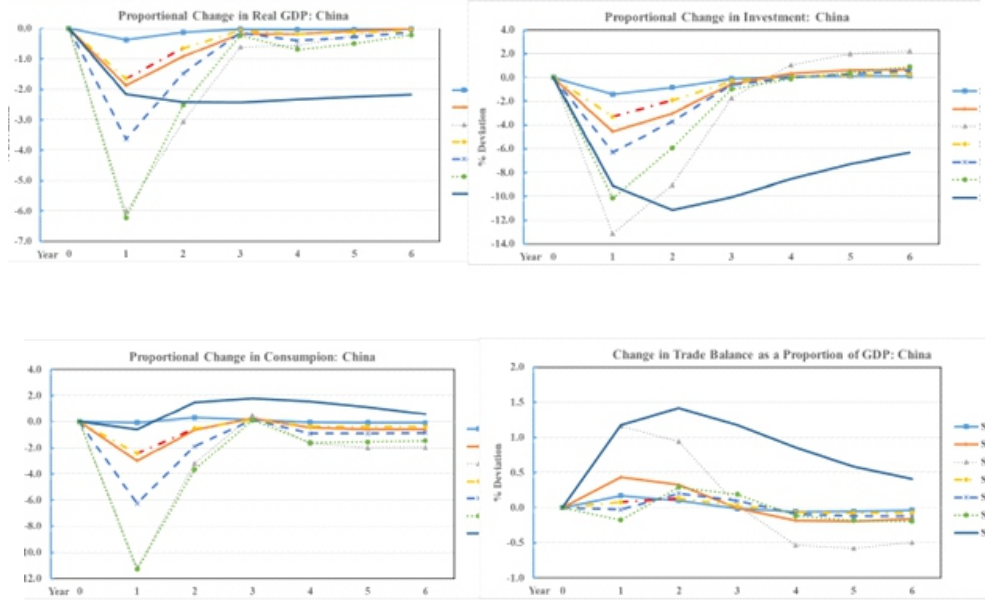
1. Much confirmed cases and fatality rate do not culminate into much shocks in production and consumption as the case of South Africa.
2. Sub-Sahara countries' economic growth trajectories are facing trembling time as economies are disrupted. Therefore, all measures both monetary and fiscal need to ensure that disrupted economies functions as outbreak continues.
3. The issue of governments' fiscal palliatives not only reinforces ethnic sentiment but have heightens corruption in Sub Sahara economies as the case of Nigeria.


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Appendix

Figure 8: Dynamic Results for China



Chapter  2

COVID-19 Pandemic: Spillover Effect on Entrepreneurship Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

This research study examines the effect of corona virus disease (COVID-19) on entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. Seen as a chronic swan event and likened to the World War II in economic sense, COVID-19 has had severe detrimental effect on the global health care system with a devastating result on human lives. Entrepreneurship development remains the lubricant that oils the wheel of economic growth in developing countries like Nigeria. As was the case with the previous economic crises, the impact of Corona virus translates into downward adjustments to salaries and wages. Same goes with the working hours when viewed from the measures of lockdowns and social distancing embarked upon by the Nigerian government. The study reviewed relevant literature and found that global supply chains were disrupted as a result of this pandemic. Businesses suffered heavy losses across all the sectors of the economy. The paper concludes that measures put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19 have had negative effect on entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. The paper therefore recommends a robust sector by sector economic reform to mitigate the negative effect of the pandemic.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Entrepreneurship, Economic development, Financial resources*

Introduction

In developing economies like Nigeria, the growth of entrepreneurial activities is synonymous with economic development. This is because entrepreneurial activities stimulate and enhances productive activities. The link between entrepreneurship and rapid economic development is not restricted to developing countries alone. Studies abound on entrepreneurship development as a catalyst for employment generation, poverty reduction and economic development in under-developed, developing and developed nations (Clausen, 2006; Praag and Versloot, 2007). The growth of business in some emerging economies-such as India, Brazil, Russia etc are results of creative and innovative development of ideas with entrepreneurial revolution (Naude, 2011). The emphasis of economic development in developing countries is shifting from public sector dominance to private sector led. Tende (2014) reports that entrepreneurship development is the lubricant required for the engine of economic growth in Nigeria.

However, the Corona Virus pandemic, which has infected over 7 million people all over the world as at 8th June, 2020, has claimed lives. Baldwin and Mauro (2020) estimate that between 40 and 70 per cent of the world population are likely to be infected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Nigeria, the presidential Task force (PTF) on COVID-19 reports that 12, 801 Nigerians have been infected and 361 people have been confirmed dead as at 8th June, 2020. The chances are that this number will rise as the number of infected persons is recorded on a daily basis. The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed into a global economic shock waves ravaging every region of the world. Corona Virus (COVID-19) Pandemic is not only impacting on the production of goods and services, it is affecting the consumption patterns as well (ILO, 2020). All businesses-big or small, and virtually all sectors of the economy have been disrupted by this pandemic.

Accordingly, countries of the world have developed measures aimed at combating the spread of this COVID-19 pandemic and its negative effect. The measures range from monetary, fiscal, public health to human control measures. The desire to unearth the real and potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria is at the heart of this contribution. The paper also offer suggestions aimed at driving entrepreneurship development in Nigeria forward. In the next section, conceptual issues are discussed as part of the review of literature, followed by an examination of policy measures adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Literature Review

This section of the paper discusses the related literature on entrepreneurship development and COVID-19 pandemic. It commences with some conceptual clarification.

Concept of Entrepreneurship

As a result of increase interest in entrepreneurship by scholars and other writers, various definitions of entrepreneurship abound in the literature. The great Management guru- Drucker (1985) argued that despite being in use for over 200 years, “there has been total confusion over the definition” of who an entrepreneur is. There has been substantial disagreement regarding the concept of entrepreneurship as well as the person referred to as an entrepreneur.

The early definitions of entrepreneurship were the ones offered by economists. Cantillon sees entrepreneurship as self-employment with an uncertain return (Sharma and Chisman, 1999) while Cantillon's work dates back to 1734, Schumpeter's description of an entrepreneur was in the early 1900s, known as his concept of “Creative destruction”, Schumpeter described an entrepreneur as a “person who carries out new combinations, which may take the form of new products, processes, markets, organizational forms, or sources of supply (Schumpeter, 1934). It can be seen that while the earlier economists emphasized risk and financial capital in their definitions, Schumpeter and other researchers in the 1900s emphasized innovation and personality traits (Lamging and Kuehl, 2007). Quoting Albert Shapero, Udeh (2012) explained that an entrepreneur is a person who takes initiatives, organizes some social and economic mechanisms and accept risk of failure. To the economists, an entrepreneur is one who bears the risk of starting a new venture, if there is a chance of making profit. His innovation and creativity brings about change or respond to changes or provide means of explaining these changes as an opportunity (Udeh, 2012).

Lamging and Kuehl (2007) reports that Michael Morris and his coauthors combined these varying concepts of entrepreneurship with the following definitions.

“Entrepreneurship is a process activity. It generally involves the following inputs: an opportunity; one or more proactive individuals, an organizational context, risk, innovation, and resources. It can produce the following outcomes, a new venture or enterprise, value, new products, or processes, profit or personal benefit, and growth”.

In recent times, there have been reported studies showing controversies in relationships between financial resources and entrepreneurship development. Findings of some empirical studies indicate that there is positive relationship between financial capital and entrepreneurship development (Fonseca, Michaud & Sopraseuth, 2007). Whereas Nanda (2009) and Hurst and Lusardi (2004) found no significant relationship between personal wealth and the possibility to become a successful entrepreneur. Idam (2014) argued that unlike advanced economies, in developing countries like Nigeria, there is a strong positive relationship between access to financial resources and entrepreneurship development. This being the case, COVID-19 has profound impact on entrepreneurship development in Nigeria.

In view of the above, it can be seen that entrepreneurship involves identifying opportunities, seeing possibilities, taking actions- which involve calculated risks and enabling value added progress through innovation.

COVID–19 Pandemic: Understanding its Meaning

COVID-19 is a disease whose origin has been traced to Wuhan in China. Named as “SARS-COV-2”, the virus is said to cause the disease known as “Corona Virus disease 2019” or COVID-19 for short (Ozili, 2020). The disease took the world by storm and is likened to the economic scenarios of World War II. Seen as a black swan event, COVID–19 has had an unprecedented effect on both the developed and developing nations of the world (Nicola, Alsafi, Sohrabi, Kerwan, Al-jabir, Iosifidis, Agha and Agha, 2020).

Entrepreneurship Development and COVID-19 Pandemic

Perhaps the best way to describe the development of entrepreneurship in the period of COVID-19 pandemic is through a conceptual framework below:

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

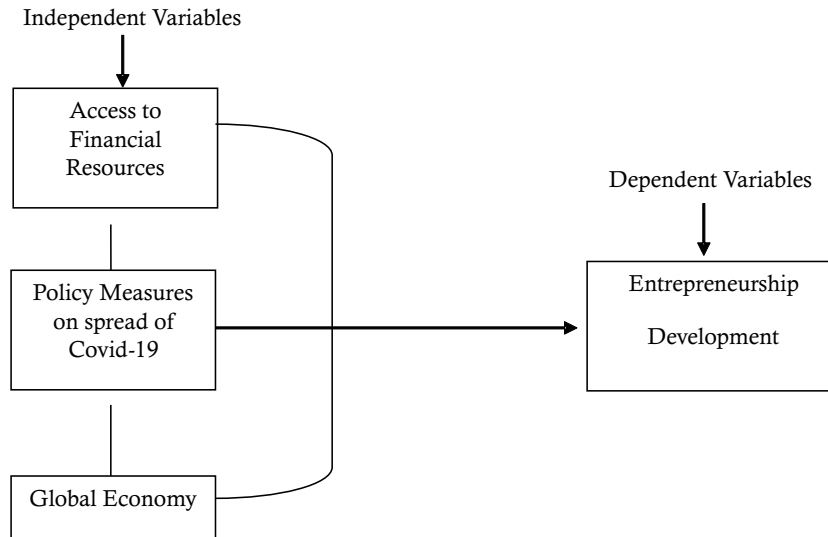


Figure 1 above is the conceptual framework depicting entrepreneurship development depending on some variables in this period of COVID-19 pandemic. Access to financial resources is seen as key stimulant to entrepreneurial activities in the developing economies such as Nigeria (Idam, 2014). Reduction in banking activities as a result of COVID-19 outbreak will only worsen the already bad situation regarding access to financial credits by entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Similarly, policy measures adopted by the government in order to curb the spread of the pandemic have further affected small businesses and micro-entrepreneurs. In an economy that is highly cash based, physical contacts between suppliers and customers is pronounced. Lockdown measures and physical/social distancing appears to restrict economic activities, thereby slowing down the process of entrepreneurship growth in Nigeria.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy has serious implication for entrepreneurship development in developing countries. As reported by Ozili (2020) the spread of this Corona Virus necessitated social distancing measure which further gave rise to the shutting down of financial institutions, businesses and corporate offices. Ozili and Arun (2020) also remarked that the spread of the virus and the increased uncertainty about the situation has resulted to flight in consumption and investment amongst consumers

and investors. Observers are of the view that the world will witness another round of global recession as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria

The index case of COVID-19 was reported on February 27, 2021 in Lagos. Ever since then, Nigeria has experienced a phenomenal daily rise in the confirmed cases of the pandemic as announced the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19.

Table 1: COVID – 19 Statistics as at 8th June, 2020

Country/Region	Confirmed Cases	Total Recoveries/Discharged	Total Confirmed Deaths
Nigeria	12,801	4,040	361
Global	7,161,517	3,499,299	407,210
Africa			

Source: The Nation Newspaper – June 9, 2020

Although, the cases of COVID-19 have continued to rise in Nigeria, it is very low compared to some countries like the United States, Spain, Italy, India and so on. The first discovered case of the corona virus disease was reported on 1st December, 2019 (Ozil, 2020). Since then, there have been over 7 million reported cases of COVID-19 around the globe. It is also worthy of note that the fatality rate in Nigeria is low compared to some countries that have recorded 10 or more percent of casualties. In African, South Africa leads with more confirmed cases.

The Spill-over Effect on Nigerian Economy

The giant of Africa, Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa and it is ranked 26th in the world (Afolabi, 2015). As an emerging market, it is expanding in financial market, information and Technology as well as the entertainment sectors. However, poverty still remains a major challenge in Nigeria. The economy is still heavily dependent on oil for most of its foreign exchange earnings (Metu and Nwokoye, 2014). The National Bureau of statistics (2020) reports that over 40 percent of Nigerians is poor. That means, 4 out of every 10 Nigerians live below per capital expenditure of 137,430 Naira per year. This also translates to over 82.9million Nigerian considered as poor by the Nigerian National Standards (NBS, 2020).

It is against the above backdrop that it will be safe to conclude that COVID-19 pandemic is another blow on Nigerians aspiration to becoming one of the 20th ranked economies in the world. As noted by Ozili (2020), COVID-19 Pandemic

has limited the ability of entrepreneurs and the active poor to service loans which in turn will affect banks earnings and performance. Worthy of mention is the negative impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian stock market. As some investors withdrew their investments for safer US Treasury bonds, the stock market incurred huge losses of over 2 trillion Naira within weeks of announcement of the first index case in Nigeria. The market capitalization that stood at 13.65 trillion Naira on 28th February, 2020 plunged downward. As an import dependent country with most of the foreign exchange earning coming from sales of crude oil proceeds, Nigeria is badly affected by the effect of the pandemic. The external shock resulted in demand drop for crude oil with consequent sharp downward movement in the oil price from over US \$60 per barrel (before COVID-19 outbreak) to as low as US \$25 per barrel on March 23rd 2020. The refusal of Russia to cut down oil production caused the de facto leader of OPEC-Saudi Arabia to react by granting extraordinary discounts to buyers of its crude oil. Saudi Arabia also threatened to pump more crude. All these caused a crash in the price of crude oil to & 25.70 (Nicola et al, 2020). The Nigeria government has no option than to revised its national budget which was premised on \$57 per barrel. Obviously a new budget had to be prepared on the basis of the new reality.

Effect on Banks and Entrepreneurs

The reduction in economic activities as a result of lockdowns and bans on inter-state travels translated to increase in non-performing loans in Nigerian Banks (Ozili and Arun 2020). This is because substantial Loans granted to Small and Medium size Enterprises and entrepreneurs could not be repaid as at when they fall due. Again a decline in banking activities and the rise of non-performing loan will only affect (negatively) the profit levels of these banks. A reduction in the banks profit performance as well as liquidity position limits the bank ability to grant additional loans to the entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs are therefore at the receiving end of COVID-19 pandemic.

Spread of COVID-19

The thought initially was that the spread of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) will be restricted to China, but movements of people across country borders led to the spread of the disease across continents. Data from worldometer, shows that the United States of America is in the lead as far as the highest number of cases is concerned. The statistics below represent confirmed cases and confirmed deaths in some selected countries as at 23rd April, and 8th June, 2020

Table 2: COVID – Statistics

Countries	Confirmed cases		Confirmed Deaths	
	As at 23/4/2020	As at 8/6/2020	As at 23/4/2020	As at 8/6/2020
USA	849,092	2,021,974	47,681	112,951
Brazil	46,182	694,116	2,924	36,602
Russia	62,773	476,658	555	5,971
Spain	213,024	288,797	22,157	27,136
UK	133,495	287,399	18,000	40,597
India	21,797	265,869	681	7,473
Italy	187,327	235,278	25,085	33,964
Germany	150,729	186,197	5,315	8,783
Iran	87,026	173,832	5,481	8,351
Turkey	98,674	171,121	2,376	4,711
France	159,877	154,188	21,340	29,209
Nigeria	873	12801	28	361

Source: Worldometer

The rapid rise in cases of COVID-19 globally gave rise to severe economic pains as people were told to stay at home in order to contain the spread. The negative effect was felt in all the sectors of the economy with travel bans in the aviation industry, cancellation of events and ceremonies affecting the entrainments industries. Even the sports industry was not spared as many sporting events were either postponed or outrightly cancelled. The economic disruption caused by COVID-19 was unplanned for and very destructive. This resulted in spill over implications, creating demand and supply shocks in virtually, all areas of human activities. In some regions of the world, the impact of COVID-19 is expected to affect businesses and poverty levels similar to those recorded 30 years ago (Andy, Chris and Eduardo, 2020). Globally, the number of people living in poverty could increase by 420-580 million, and this according to Andy et al (2020) is relative to the figures for 2018. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics puts the percentage of people living below the poverty line at 40.1 per cent. This is expected to rise in Nigeria as a result of COVID–19 pandemic.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This paper discussed COVID-19 outbreak and the spillover effect on entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. As in other countries, policy makers in Nigeria were left with no option than to respond fast with policy decisions that had far reaching effects on entrepreneurship growth. Physical and social distancing

lockdown or stay at home measures was imposed on residents in Nigeria as in many other countries. Clearly, such measures, as necessary as they may be, have negative effects on entrepreneurship development and could even trigger an economic recession. The economic crisis coupled with the decline in oil prices are clear indication that entrepreneurship development reforms are needed in Nigeria. Both fiscal and monetary stimulus palliatives are indeed required to encourage entrepreneurs at these difficult times in the history of Nigeria. The severity of the negative effect of COVID-19 on entrepreneurship development will depend on how long the pandemic will last. But as with previous economic crises, the non-monetary indicators, such as poverty, infant mortality, entrepreneurial educational attainment would also be affected. There is the need for a robust sector-by-sector socio-economic plan to mitigate negative effect of COVID-19 pandemic.

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Chapter **3**

The Role of Public Relations in Crisis Management in Nigeria: The Experience of Managing the Spread of Covid-19 Pandemic

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Introduction

Public relation is defined as a unique management function that uses communication to help manage relationships with key publics. An effective public relations system is significant in ensuring the stability of the organization. This assertion supports the argument of Nwosu (1996) that, public relations is a management function that identifies the interest, needs, want and expectations of the internal and external publics of the organization, on the other hand, and then works out a planned and systematic programme of action and communications, aimed at building mutual understanding, mutual respect, mutual recognition, peace and harmony between the organization and its publics to ensure mutual satisfaction, greater productivity and improve work ethics.

Public relations play a vital role between an organization and its public. Its practice aims at establishing a two-way communication, seeking common ground or areas of mutual interest and establishing understanding based on truth, knowledge and full information. It is that indispensable bridge that fosters co-operation and understanding. With increasing intensity, the civil society is rather active than passive in the affairs that concern them. Similarly, organizations are more socially

responsible in their business undertaking in reference to public opinion. The reason is not farfetched. Today's organizations, no matter how pretentious they are, are aware that they need to build dependable relationship with their publics. However, it is obvious that no matter how hard an organization attempts to project her image, occasions arise when crisis develops and threatens the very foundation of the organization concerned.

Crisis is part of human relations. It emerged in the universe right from the beginning of man and has remained a reoccurring variable or decimal but not without effects. Man's interaction with the environment coupled with the sophistication of the present age, survival of the fittest has become a since-quo-non. Thus, people get involved in many activities with the prime objective to satisfy their basic or primary needs (psychological and safety) and secondary needs (social, esteem and self-fulfillment). In the process to achieve these need, crisis always emerges either between employee and employees and the management of an organization.

On the other hand organization and groups strive to win a bigger share of the market as to make profit than rivals which will result in intensive. Communities due to interest will engage in crisis. Crisis is a necessary evil with us. Presently, hardly is there any day without news of crisis from our media whether religion, political or industrial crisis. This situation requires appropriate measures and structures to manage properly this evil called crisis.

The argument is directed on the emerging crisis in the world as a result of the outbreak of coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19. With almost 10 million coronavirus cases and 500,000 deaths globally, the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before the outbreak, the outlook for the world economy and especially developing countries like Nigeria was fragile, as global GDP growth was estimated to be only 2.5 percent in 2020. While many developing countries have recorded relatively fewer cases Nigeria currently has 238 confirmed cases and 5 deaths as of this writing the weak capacity of health care systems in these countries is likely to exacerbate the pandemic and its impact on their economies.

One of the strategies of managing the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country has been through the government directives for nationwide lockdown. But in doing so, the need for constant interaction with the public to give update on the pandemic

and preventive spread has been challenging. There has been a lot of information on social media and other media platforms. The place of public relation therefore becomes very significant in the process. To win the war against coronavirus, there is a need for an effective system of public relation. It must be seen as an essential component of health emergency and response activities.

This study aims at examining the role of public relations in crisis management in Nigeria, with particular reference to the experience of managing the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Method and Source of Data

The study is qualitative in nature and it adopts an ex post facto design. Data are drawn from secondary sources and analyzed using content analysis. The study examines the role of public relations in crisis management, modelling the society as an organization in crisis and COVID-19 as the crisis which requires an effective information management system in managing its spread in the country. Literature obtained is examined using content analysis. Result obtained provides the framework for suggestions.

Public Relations in Crisis Management

The concept of crisis has been viewed by several scholars. Nwosu (1996:106) views crisis as “any event, issue, occurrence or situation that could be described as a turning point, for better or for worse, viewed in this way, we can see that crisis has both positive and negative valences and scores as a change agent or factor in organizational management”. Crisis is one major force that can cause a change in any organization; crisis is an enviable page in any organization history. This means there is no clear departure of the concept of crisis in an organization. Crisis is a departure or expected and usual. In other words it is dysfunctional and is a disturbance in the normal functioning of the organization. It is wise to comment that crisis and conflict occur because it is functional and strengthening for solid change as well as organizational change at specific time. This is because crisis can strengthen organization internally, that relations, among department and units could reinforce and grow for instance, challenge and competition with other organization within the industry (Black 1989:31).

Black (1989) describes the two distinct public relations crisis that can happen. They are:

- a. **Known:** This describes the type of misfortune that might occur because of the nature of your business or service. If you manufacture motorcars or capital equipment of any kind “product recall” is always a possibility. If you are in the chemical or unclear field a radioactive or lethal discharge is a potential danger. In all these instances and many similar fields, it is known that a catastrophe may occur but it is unknown if or when it will take place.
- b. **Unknown:** These are sudden calamitous events that cannot be foreseen by anybody. An example was the “Tylenol” incident in 1982 in the USA when someone injected Cyanide.

There are four identified element in public relations crisis management namely:

- a. **Trigger:** An unexpected event from a component part of a crisis which has the possibility to heavy change the way the public's perceived the organization. A good case is when five outbreaks in an organization destroy relevant documents completely and no alternative option to recover than as they were completely burnt down. This kind of incident will provoke or trigger unexpected consequences and will result to a problem or instituting a panel of enquiry.
- b. **Threat:** A threat is a situation where the public relations expert be up and doing with wide-open ears and eye including other sensory feature to closely follow up a trigger and be sure whether or not it poses or can process to a threat in the organization, ever pose danger to human life, environment degradation, financial loss and corporate image dangers. This could be dangerous to any organization life.
- c. **An uncontrolled situation:** Public relations practitioners do have the motion or believe that crisis will always introduce difficult hand and present a shake-up of the organization environment that will make the situation beyond the control of management for a period of time.
- d. **Urgent attention needed:** Truly, once the first three positions are undirected, there will be high pressure that would demand urgent attention to the matter. This is either to avoid damage or minimize damage to the lowest possible level. This will require fast response from the management to protect itself as well as the target public, and others who will be affected in crisis for sure (Solu, 1994).

Public relations (PR), is a term that is widely misunderstood and misused to describe anything from selling to hosting, when in fact it is a very specific

communications process. Every company, organization, association and government body deals with groups of people affected by what that organization does or says. They might be employees, customers, stockholders, competitors, suppliers or just the general population of consumers. Each of these groups may be referred to as one of the organization's publics. The process of public relations manages the organization's relationships with these publics. Importantly, governments, companies and organizations know they must consider the public impact for their actions and decisions because of the powerful effect of public opinion. This is especially true in times of crisis, emergency, disaster, or outbreak of a pandemic.

One of the strategies of managing the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country has been through the government directives for nationwide lockdown. But in doing so, the need for constant interaction with the public to give update on the pandemic and preventive spread has been challenging. There has been a lot of information on social media and other media platforms. The place of public relation therefore becomes very significant in the process. To win the war against coronavirus, there is a need for an effective system of public relation. It must be seen as an essential component of health emergency and response activities.

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However, it is just as true for major policy decisions concerning changes in business management, pricing policies, labour negotiations, introduction of new products, or changes in distribution methods. Managing information system in the society is also important in the domain of public relation. Each of these decisions affects different groups in different ways. In other words, efficient and effective administrators can use the power of these group opinions to bring about positive changes. The purpose of everything labelled public relations is to influence public opinion towards building goodwill and a positive reputation for the organization and or nation.

Organizational or social crisis, as the case examined here, can be an act of nature, an intentional event or an unintentional accident. Truly speaking, a crisis is an unexpected development which very often embarrasses a nation, an organization,

frightens the relevant public and puts a company's credibility and decency under intense scrutiny. In some worst situations, a crisis creates the threat of death and loss of property. Crisis, therefore, is a period of heightened uncertainty that increases the need to plan, and a point in time in which external or internal pressures change objectives and operational practices of an organization.

Crisis threatens the high priority values of a nation or organization, presents a restricted amount of time in which a response can be made and is unexpected or unanticipated by the organization or nation. A crisis need not be a disaster such as a crashed aeroplane or an explosion in a factory. The fact is that most threats to company or societal stability are rarely so dramatic. To this end, therefore, these threats can have disastrous effects on the society but the effects may be minimized.

The return of peace and unity in the country depends on the implementation of effective information flow and creation of mutual understanding among the people which in turn will definitely establish and sustain mutual coexistence among different groups in the country. In order to effectively achieve this, there is need for professional public relations practitioners to assist in the management of crises in the country. If PR professionals are assembled and given the needed support to implement necessary PR policies, within a very short space of time, Nigeria will heave a sigh of big relief.

An effective PR policy will encourage free flow of information among the various ethnic groups and as such each group will know the intentions of one another. In this connection, there will be trust and cordial relationship among them. When there is two-way communication between the government and the public there will always be peace. In other words, government policies and the reasons behind such policies will be known to the public. The response of the relevant public to government policies will also get to the government.

Coronavirus as a Social Crisis in Nigeria

Daily updates on the spread of coronavirus or COVID-19 shows that, as at 7th July, 2020, the virus has infected more than 10 million people globally. Perhaps for the first time in several decades, the world is witnessing a type of disease that does not discriminate based on age, gender or even race. The virus emanated from the Wuhan province of China and has since spread to every part of the world. The disease has been categorized as infectious and contagious by health experts. As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Governments alike have

advised their citizens to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water or even alcohol-based hand sanitizer while keeping their nose and mouth covered with a mask.

As the news continued to spread and more information was learned about the disease, governments all over the world led by the WHO, impressed on the populace to practice social distancing and the advice culminated in mass self-isolation and a grinding halt in economic activities. Governments all over the world commenced mandating all non-essential persons to remain in their respective homes. This is followed by other directives and safety measures. To be sure, this directed is heeded; an effective system of public relation must be put in place. Unfortunately, developing countries such as Nigeria is faced with the challenge of effective channels of communication. Most of the population live in rural areas and do not have access to the information. This gap in communication affects public relations and further aggravates the problem vulnerability in the society.

Public Relations as a Tool for Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic

Management is the process of designing and maintaining an environment in which individual working together in groups efficiently accomplish selected aims through planning, organizing, staffing, leading and controlling. Therefore, crisis management is the process by which organization deals with any major unpredictable event that threatens to harm the organization, it is responding to unforeseen circumstance with no time to plan ahead. Crisis management is a common feature of organizational process. This model is used to define the organization as the human society. The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic is seen as a social crisis which required high level of skills in managing attending challenges, one of which is the management of information dissemination in the country.

Public relation is problem-solving in orientation as it addresses extant challenges across ages, in the polity, corporate organizations and societies at large. To effectively manage the pandemic requires an effective media system put in place to ensure that there is effective communication and dissemination of information to the people. Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has done well in its effort to daily update Nigerians on the trends and preventive measures to be adopted. But this effort requires rural partnership. In other words, beyond the urban area, an effective public relation system must extend to the rural areas. This can be achieve through,

1. An effective public health information in rural areas through the use of public health workers,
2. Involvement of community leaders in disseminating COVID-19-related information because they have the potential to reach residents who may not receive messages through other media such as online news or social media.
3. In remote areas, there is need to introduce local town criers who will communicate with the people at the appropriate time and languages. For the largely illiterate community and non-medically inclined in African states, there is a need for simple pattern of communication. Information on COVID-19 should be made available in local languages and pictorials that people can relate with for wider coverage and better understanding of the disease.
4. Organizing social enlightenment campaigns in the villages. Calling upon rural residents' sense of community and highlighting how their actions, such as physical distancing and hand hygiene, can protect their neighbors and their local economy could prove an effective messaging strategy.
5. Adoption of telehealth practices. One prominent adaptation for health and mental health care is the move to more telehealth practices. The development and use of telehealth has, in large part, been conducted in rural areas. To this point, rural health care providers and patients may be able to lead the telehealth efforts across the country by sharing what they have learned in implementing this practice already.
6. Government and development partners including implementing partners of donor-funded programs should promote information sharing to alleviate concerns relating to vulnerable populations' health – the elderly, chronically ill patients, people living with HIV and/or Tuberculosis patients and internally displaced persons' camps (IDP). Webinars and seminars on the management of co-morbidities such as HIV and COVID-19 can be organised for health program managers, health workers and patients.

Conclusion

The paper has underscored the importance of public relation in ensuring effective dissemination of information on the strategies to stay safe from contacting and spreading COVID-19. The concern is higher in rural areas where the people are mostly cut off from information. There is the potential for residents of rural areas to understandably not perceive themselves at high risk of COVID-19 and thus not

heed the warnings and follow the recommended prevention practices. It becomes necessary for the government to ensure public relations at the local level, using their peculiar means of information and languages to ensure that the people are duly informed on the policies, actions and efforts of government in fighting the scourge, COVID-19.

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Chapter **4**

An Evaluation of the Nigerian Government Social Policy Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

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Introduction

The world was stunned a few months back by the deadly coronavirus, popularly called COVID-19 or SARS-COV-2. The disease believed to have started in Wuhan China has spread to different countries and to different parts of the world. Reports say, the virus is believed to have started in a “wet market in Wuhan, known for its trade on both dead and live animals including fish and birds” (Newey and Gullant, 2020). Though the real source is not yet known, the original host of the virus is thought to be bats. Surprise, however, is that the market in Wuhan does not trade on bats but is believed bats may have infected live chickens and other animals and jumped to humans. According to Newey and Gullant (2020) “bats are host to a wide range of zoonotic virus including Ebola, HIV and Rabies”. The consumption of such animals or birds has always been a source of transfer of animal related diseases to man such like “Bird Flu, Ebola, Rabies” and the rest which in medical literature are referred to as “corona viruses”. Coronavirus is seen as a family of viruses that causes diseases in animals (Newey and Gullant, 2020). In recent times, these animal related diseases have found their ways to human through various means such as consumption and

sexual intercourse. Newey and Gullant (2020) also observed that the number of diseases crossing from animals to human is growing in recent times.

The classification of the disease as a coronavirus is because the disease is closely related to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that occurred in 2002-2003, and also similar to the Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) of 2012 which killed over 900 persons and infected over 2,500 people (Newey and Gullant, 2020). But COVID-19 is however different from these others in two ways. First, the spectrum or range of spread of COVID-19 is wider than any of the two types mentioned. In March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) recognized it as a “Pandemic” and in due course classified the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (Velavan and Meryer, 2020). Secondly, the nature of the disease is such that people infected may not display early symptoms thereby making control efforts more difficult. Medical reports have it that from the time of exposure to observation of symptoms takes about five days, and may range from two to fourteen days (Velavan and Meryer, 2020). According to Huang, Wang & Zhao (2020), the virus may survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours, and it is most contagious during the first 3 days after the onset of symptoms, and argued that before symptoms appear in infected persons, sometimes, spread may possibly have taken place.

COVID-19 is a contagious virus transmitted mainly from contact with infectious materials or objects contaminated by the causative virus. Like cold and flu bugs, COVID-19 virus is spread via droplets from coughs, or sneezes or from talking (Vergnaud, 2020). The droplets land on surfaces and are picked up on the hands of others and spread further. People are infected with the virus when infected hands touch their mouths, nose or eyes (Newey and Gullant, 2020). Common symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, while complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome (Velavan and Meryer, 2020).

Since the emergency of the virus in the later part of last year 2019 in China, and the spread to other parts of the world, covid-19 has impacted negatively on the global, regional and national economies. It has caused severe disruptions in human activities and it has led to the death of over three million (3million) people around the world. It has also increased world unemployment rate as the pandemic led to closure of businesses and government offices in Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Latin America and has severely affected every sector of the global economy. It

is against this backdrop that national governments of the different countries adopted and implemented political, economic and social policies directed towards addressing the spread of the pandemic. In Nigeria, however, some of the measures taken by the Federal, State and Local governments as means of curtailing the rapid spread of the virus include total lockdown on political and social activities such as limitation on movement, worship centres, sporting events, restrictions and cancellation of flights. Others are closure of markets and educational institutions. Thus, these tough measures were taken by the Federal, State and Local Governments to curb the spread of the pandemic in the country.

In the view of the above, this chapter deals with the evaluation of the Nigerian Government's social policies response aimed at controlling the spread of the virus as well as mitigating the resultant economic conditions of the citizens under the COVID-19 lockdown. The chapter is divided into four sessions. The following session deals on the evaluation of the impact vis-à-vis the social, political and economic sectors of the Nigerian State. The second deals with the examination of the various policies adopted and implemented by the government. It is an established fact that often times public policy implementation in developing countries such as Nigeria is bedevilled with issues of politicization, non-inclusiveness, and issues of transparency and accountability. Unfortunately, these issues have found their way in the implementation of the palliative measures and control mechanisms of the government. These issues are also discussed in this chapter. The chapter is concluded with some suggestions aimed at effective policy implementation under the COVID-19 period in Nigeria.

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Nigerian Economy

In economic terms, the outbreak of covid-19 has had negative effects on production of goods and services and has limited the mobility of labour through the cancellation of flights and repatriation of foreigners by some countries. According to Barro (2020), “the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) led to worldwide decline in stock prices volatility, decrease in nominal interest rates, and likely to contractions of real economic activities, as reflected in real gross domestic product (GDP)”. It has affected global stock market with sharp falls in stock indexes in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. Some experts posit that the economic fallout of the pandemic on global growth could surpass that of 2002-2004 SARS outbreak (Kitenge, 2020). While in monetary value, experts' estimate gave a \$300 +billion impact on world's supply chain that could last up to two years before recovery (Kitenge, 2020).

Nigeria like other nations of the world is severely affected by the pandemic. In terms of human costs, Nigeria is among the first fifty worst hit countries, currently occupying the 47th position out of 213 countries and territories affected by the pandemic in the world (Worldometers, 2020). As at July 20, 2020, Nigeria has recorded a total of 36, 663 infection cases, with 789 deaths, 15, 105 recovered cases, 20, 769 active cases, and 7 serious or critical cases in the country (Worldometers, 2020).

Table 1: Showing COVID-19 most affected states in Nigeria as at July 20, 2020.

State	No. of confirmed cases	No. of cases on admission	No. of discharge cases	No. of deaths
Lagos	14,177	11,898	2,087	192
FCT	3,437	2,390	1,006	41
Oyo	2,497	1,325	1,148	24
Edo	2,128	696	1,360	72
Rivers	1,600	469	1,081	50
Delta	1,456	782	634	40
Kano	1,452	209	1,190	53
Kaduna	1,299	293	993	12
Ogun	1,241	245	973	23
Ondo	1,030	760	248	22
Plateau	780	331	430	19
Ebonyi	748	148	577	23
Enugu	726	284	425	17
Katsina	723	259	441	23
Kwara	707	489	202	16

Source: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control NCDC, 2020

Among the 15 most affected states in Nigeria, Lagos state is leading with the highest figure (14,177) confirmed cases and 192 deaths, with 2,087 discharged cases as at July 20, 2020. The coronavirus pandemic spread across 34 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The figures in the table are expected to increase as new cases are reported on daily basis. It will be difficult to project any figure for now as the country is at its peak and it is invariably difficult to predict when the disease will be put under effective control in the future.

The nation's economy has been rattled by the negative impact of the virus leading to the various steps taken to control its spread in the country. Nigeria is a monoculture economy dependent on export earnings. Its largest export earnings

come from the sale of crude oil and few other agricultural products in the international market. Therefore, obstructions in the international market usually create severe economic dislocations on the economy. This often limits the country's capacity to attain its economic, social and political goals. Since the country rely mostly on the number of barrel of crude oil sold in the global market, any fall in the price of this commodity results to economic difficulties. Unfortunately, the spread of the virus has limited international business resulting in drop in oil prices in the global market. For instance, oil prices dropped below USD \$25 in March 2020, “after reaching USD \$70 a barrel in early 2020, only to plummet to their lowest levels in 20 years at less than USD\$20 a barrel due to the COVID-19 pandemic” (Lashitew, Ross and Werker, 2020). Particularly, in February, 2020, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which Nigeria is a member country scrambled after a steep decline in oil prices due to low demand (Lashitew, Ross and Werker, 2020). This automatically translates to a huge decline of revenue for Nigeria. Reacting to the huge price fall in the international market and the subsequent decrease in her revenues from the oil sector, the Federal Government of Nigeria immediately resorted to external borrowing, especially, from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and China to finance her over ten trillion naira (N10 trillion) national budget for the 2020 fiscal year. The outbreak of the coronavirus has equally affected all other sectors of the Nigeria economy.

Federal Government Response to the COVID-19

The Nigerian government has responded to the spread of the disease since the first index case was recorded in Lagos state (NCDC, 2020). As part of its initial steps to curb the spread of the disease in the country, the federal government enacted the COVID-19 Regulations, 2020, in the exercise of the powers conferred on the President of the country by sections 2,3,and 4 of the Quarantine Act (CAP Q2 LFN, 2004) FGN, 1999). The COVID-19 Regulations 2020 was signed into law on March 30, 2020, by President Mohammed Buhari. This gave legal backing to the various measures that has been taken by the federal government to curtail the spread of the pandemic in the country (Shittu, 2020). Among other things the “Regulation” declared COVID-19 “a dangerous infectious disease”, and empowered the President to take and implement appropriate measures to control the spread of the virus in the country. It was against this backdrop that the Federal government introduced the social distancing, restriction/cessation of movement, and other socio-economic and political regulations.

Sequel to the above, the Federal Government order on social distancing, restrictions on human and material movement, conditional cash transfers (CCT) and its programme on food distributions to vulnerable groups forms the bulk of discussions in the next section of the chapter. However, it should be noted that the two last programmes of the federal government mentioned above are what government officials, policy analysts and observers called “the Federal Government Palliatives”. In response to the Federal Government efforts many states have also adopted similar measures by also legalising their decisions as it regards the spread of the disease in their domains. Some State Governors enacted the State version of the Quarantine Act to grant legal basis for their actions.

The Nigerian Government's Social Welfare Policy Response to COVID-19

A policy is a statement of what an individual, organization or government intends to do or what it is actually doing. Government policies are statements or intentions aimed at addressing public issues or problems that are usually translated into projects and programmes of government. Therefore, government policies are deliberate attempts by its institutions, agencies, or departments to address identified general issues by way of instituting laws, regulations, decisions or actions pertinent to the problem identified. However, government policies come in diverse forms but often based on the problem or need. For example, if the problem or need in society relates to economic, political, social, agriculture, industrial, youth etc., the government comes up with an appropriate policy or policies to address it. Thus, we have economic, political, social, educational, youth, industrial policies specifically instituted by the government to solve problems relating to each sphere of national life. The Nigerian government as a result of the need to curtail the spread of the virus introduced political, economic and social measures (e.g., laws, orders and rules) to ensure the effective control of the spread. Therefore, this section is to take a look at those statements and programmes of government that are related to the economic well-being of Nigerians. It is these statements and programmes of government which are herein referred to as “Social Welfare Policies” of the Nigerian State.

Social welfare policy of a government is defined as those actions, laws, rules and regulations that are intended to help improve the economic situations of the people. Social welfare policy is a sub-area of social policy defined as the broad policy area of government encompassing virtually every sphere including political, economic and social aspects of a nation. However, what we are concerned here are those statutes, programmes, regulations and rules that affects the social life and the well-being of Nigerians.

Federal Government Order on Social Distancing

Social distancing as one of the key measures and regulations adopted by the government was meant to limit the rate of the spread of the virus from person to person. It simply means keeping a specific distance (at least two meters) from the next person. Reports confirmed that coronavirus is contagious (WHO, 2020; Newey and Gullant, 2020, NCDC, 2020). It spreads via droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. People also get infected when they touch their infected hands to their mouth, nose or eyes. Therefore, by its contagious nature, social distancing was strongly recommended as a measure to limit the spread from person to person. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) described social distancing as “a set of methods for reducing frequency and closeness of contact between people in order to decrease the risk of transmission of disease” (Agusi, Ijoma, Nnochin, Njoku-Achu, Nwosuh, and Meseko 2020). It entails avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance that is approximately six feet or two metres from others.

Evidence from countries earlier affected by the virus show that social, cultural or religious gatherings where large numbers of people spent extended hours in close proximity promoted the spread of the pandemic (Agusi, et al 2020). For example, in Italy, when the first index cases were reported, physical-distancing was not part of the measures required by the Italian government, as a result the population continued with close physical interactions which led to widespread community transmission of the virus in that country (Agusi, et al. 2020). Other reports show that large crowds played a significant role in the rapid spread of the virus in Europe, the United States of America, Brazil, Australia and other parts of the world, at the time, there was no social regulation on physical distancing (Agusi, et al. 2020). Though, in Nigeria, social distancing has been strongly recommended by the government and has also made frantic efforts to implement the same by restricting large gatherings. Unfortunately, compliance has been a great challenge as many fail to adhere to this directive by federal and state governments.

Alongside social distancing was the use of “face mask” mainly to prevent easy transmission of the virus from infected persons to others. Other recommended measures alongside social distancing was regular washing of hands with soap and running water or the frequent use of alcohol based hand sanitizers (Shittu, 2020).

Restriction/Cessation of Movement

This is one of the major social regulations adopted by the Federal and State governments for the control and spread of the coronavirus in the country. Apart from social distancing, restriction of movement of people and material goods (e.g., the Lockdown Policy of Government) was adopted as one of the major steps to curb the spread of the virus. On 29 March, 2020, the Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari made a broadcast to the citizens of the nation of government's efforts in curtailing the spread of the pandemic. In his address, he “directed a cessation of all movements in Lagos and Ogun State, and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for an initial period of fourteen days” (The Guardian, 2020). According to the statement,

This lockdown is to enable the government track the spread of COVID-19 within these areas. Citizens in these areas have been directed to stay at home during the lockdown. Inter-state travel within these states is restricted and all businesses and offices within these states are fully closed during the lockdown (The Guardian, 2020).

However, certain businesses were exempted from the lockdown restriction particularly those providing healthcare services, and other essential services such as commercial establishments involved in food processing, distribution, retail companies, petroleum distribution, power generation, transmission and distribution companies, and private security outfits (Onyekwena and Ekeruche, 2020). Others were telecommunications companies, broadcasters; print and electronic media workers who are able to prove they are unable to work from home were also exempted from the lockdown (Onyekwena and Ekeruche, 2020). Other measures include the closure of international and national borders restricting free flow of movement of both goods and services and labour mobility. Various States of the federation have also adopted similar lockdown measures to restrict the movement of people and goods in and out of their domains. Many states restricted air and inter-state travel, closure of markets, cancellation of religious activities, sporting events, musical concerts, traditional festivals, burials, educational conferences, fashion shows, and night clubs. In addition, educational institutions were closed down nationwide beginning from March, 2020. Also, in extreme cases, like in Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Kano, Rivers, Bayelsa, Edo and some other states, the state government imposed dusk to dawn curfew to restrict movement of people during those hours (HRW, 2020).

However, the lockdown measures have their multiplier effects on the national economy. For example, it prevented employees particularly in the informal sector from engaging in business activities. The International Labour Organization (ILO) have identified four major sectors of the economy that is worst affected by the lockdown policy of the government (Kitenge, 2020). These sectors according to the international body are the food and accommodation, retail and wholesale, business services and administration, and the manufacturing industry (Kitenge, 2020). The informal sector of the Nigerian economy represents over 80% of workers. It includes wide range of occupations, from street traders, taxi drivers, tradesmen, and artisans to food vendors and hair dressers (HRW, 2020). Human Rights Watch observed that “in Lagos alone, 65% of the estimated 25 million people work in the informal sector” (HRW, 2020). This category of persons earns lower income, often do not have savings, no health insurance or pensions that provide a basic social safety net, and 72% are poor (HRW, 2020). Thus, any disruption to their daily movement will have huge and significant impact on their daily livelihood and the ability of this people to meet their most basic needs. Unfortunately, the lockdown policy of the federal and state governments has prevented this category of people working in the informal sector of the economy from earning their daily livelihood. Also, government's lockdown policy response to the COVID-19 has created a decline in consumption, in investment, and in net exports (Onyekwena and Ekeruche, 2020).

On the other hand, it has led to an increase in government expenditure through her social welfare policies (e.g. government palliatives) as a deliberate response aim to provide succour for the severe economic hardship on Nigerians brought about by the emergence and the subsequent spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the country. For example, the implementation of the conditional cash transfer, food items distribution programme, and the sustenance of the school feeding programme will no doubt increase government spending for this fiscal year.

Federal Government's Conditional Cash Transfer: In recognition of the negative economic impact of the lockdown, the Federal Government introduced what it called “conditional cash transfer” (CCT) for a certain category of people it described as “vulnerable groups”. President Buhari, when announcing the lockdown stated that “the government would put in place measures to preserve the livelihoods of workers and business owners to ensure their families get through this difficult times in dignity” (HRW, 2020). In this regards, the President announced that “the most vulnerable in our society would receive conditional

cash transfers for the next two months” (HRW, 2020). The Federal Government kept to its promise, when it began the payment of twenty thousand naira (N20,000) equivalent of USD \$52 on April 1, 2020 to families registered in the National Social Register of Poor and Vulnerable Household; a programme introduced by the Mohammadu Buhari administration in 2016 to address issues of poverty in Nigeria. According to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, “that each family on the register will receive monthly cash payment for four months” (HRW, 2020).

Food Distribution to Vulnerable Household Programme

This gesture of the federal government was contained in paragraph 5(1) of the Regulation, wherein the federal government directed the implementation of food distribution to 2.6 million people (Shittu, 2020). Based on this directive, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq announced that “food ratios would be distributed to vulnerable households” (HRW, 2020). This was accompanied by the distribution of certain food items and some basic household needs to the most vulnerable by the Federal Government and some State governors in their respective states. In this programme, the federal government intended to distribute a total of 77,000 metric tons of food to vulnerable households affected by the lockdown (HRW, 202; Premium Times, 2020). Reports indicate that under the programme, the federal government approved 46, 000 metric tons of rice for distribution to the various states through Nigeria Customs Service and also approved 17,500 metric tonnes of assorted grains as palliatives to Nigerians through Yola National Food Reserve Site (Premium Times, 2020).

The School Feeding Programme

The National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) was initiated by the present administration to reach out to pupils in public schools. The major aim of the programme is to provide free school meals for pupils in primary schools across the country. The programme is one of the components of the Social Investment Plans (SIPs) of the President Buhari's administration. It is meant to tackle poverty and improve health and education of children at the primary school level. So far, about 2,827,501 primary school pupils have been involved in the programme covering 14 states of the federation (Guardian, 2020). President Buhari on April 27, 2020 directed the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, to sustain the programme during the

lockdown, even though schools have been closed down nationwide as a result of the pandemic.

However, the distribution of the Federal Government Palliatives (e.g., the conditional cash transfers, food items) has come under severe criticisms by Nigerians. According to Njoku, Ebin, Olumide, Musa and Agboluaja (2020) “the distribution of palliatives by the federal government to cushion the effects of the COVID-19 on poor and vulnerable Nigerians in parts of the country has been nothing short of bedlam”. Similarly, Eranga (2020) observed that “it is lamentations and bitterness trailing the distribution of government palliatives in parts of the country”. While Ezeah (2020) described the distribution process in FCT Abuja as “chaotic and uncoordinated”. Thus, the implementation of the palliatives has been criticised for lack of transparency, politicization, non-inclusiveness and non-comprehensiveness of the list of beneficiaries.

The distribution of palliatives of the federal government has been criticized for lack of transparency and accountability. This is as a result of the federal government failure to disclose key details of the cash transfer programme, especially, the list of beneficiaries as well as the government's inability to “utilize clear strategies of reaching the vulnerable and poor in the distribution of the palliatives” (Eranga, 2020; Ezeah, 2020). This informed the Action Aid Nigeria, a non-governmental organization to place demand on the federal and state governments to immediately publish the names of all beneficiaries to ensure transparency in the distribution of the palliatives (Action Aid, 2020). It requested that all governments must disclose to their citizens the value of money received for the pandemic donations. The body also demanded that government should ensure the proper application of laws on any official found to be corrupt in the management of the COVID-19 palliative funds. In the same vein, Social and Economic Right Accountability Project (SERAP), another non-governmental organization went a step further to file a freedom of information request seeking details on the distribution of government's relief funds.

Equally, Nigerians have expressed dissatisfaction on the parameters adopted for the determination of beneficiaries of the federal government social welfare programmes. The main criteria used for the determination of vulnerable households and the poor by the government include individual's ability to recharge his/her mobile phone and bank balance of less than N5,000. This was clearly stated by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management

and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq. According to the Minister “Nigerians who recharge their mobile phones with more than N100, and have more than N5,000 bank balance are ineligible to benefit from the palliatives” (Njoku, et al, 2020). However, critics have pointed out that these parameters fall short of international standards. For example, they faulted the parameters, arguing that poverty is measured on the basis of levels of income, consumption and other indicators such as illiteracy level, lack of access to healthcare, safe-drinking water and sanitation (Njoku, et al, 2020, HRW, 2020; Ayado, 2020). Therefore, the ability of an individual to recharge his/her cell phone with more than N100, and a bank balance of more than N5,000 are not known parameters for the measurement of vulnerable and poor persons in society. After all, mobile phones of some poor people are recharged by either friends, relatives or well-wishers (Njoku, et al, 2020). Equally, those who can afford to recharge their cell phones with more than N100 and have N5,000 bank balances do not in any way make these people non-vulnerable persons in society. Because a vulnerable person is an individual who is unable to cater for himself or family as a result of a prevailing situation he/she is confronted with. These categories of people are often susceptible to harms and may not have access to the basic needs of life such as shelter, cloth, food, portable water, sanitation, education, housing etc. Harms here simply mean social, political, economic, psychological or mental injuries or pains caused by natural or man-made disaster.

In the above sense, Nigerians who lost jobs, businesses and other sources of income due to COVID-19 pandemic are all vulnerable persons. As noted earlier in this chapter, those in the informal sector (e.g., the taxi drivers, hair dressers, street traders, barbers, Messer, etc.) of the Nigerian economy are the worst affected by the spread of the virus. Consequently, millions of Nigerians have lost their jobs and source of income. Therefore, all those who have suffered one form of injury or pain induced by the lockdown policy is a vulnerable person and as such should benefit from government palliatives. Thus, the parameters employed by the government in determining beneficiaries of the palliatives throw up a lot of questions. Not even the expansion of the Social Investment Register (SIR) list from 2.6 million people to 3.6 million appropriately captures the large number of vulnerable groups in Nigeria. This number is gross inadequate as it did not reflect the realities on ground. Besides, the SIR list according to the Minister has over eleven million (11,045,537) poor Nigerians from over two million (2,644,493) households (HRW). The question then is “why only 3.6 million are considered?”. Presently, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) estimated that over 90 million

Nigerians are living in extreme poverty, on less than \$1.90 a day (National Bureau of Statistics, cited in HRW, 2020). Therefore, the 3.6 million people selected to benefit from the palliatives is just a flash in the pan that do not reflect the true picture of people living in extreme poverty in Nigeria. Njoku et al (2020) asserts that Nigeria would not have been the capital of the world's extremely poor population if only two percent of its population (3.6 million) people are considered poor. This figure according to them represents the poorest population in only one geopolitical zone in the country.

Also critical is the fact that the Social Investment Register was generated in 2016. Four years later, the economic realities in the country points to the fact that more persons have dropped to the poverty zone than leaped above it. Expectedly, too, the outbreak of the COVID-19 and the implementation of the lockdown policy also have deepened poverty further in Nigeria. Therefore, the 11,045,537 is no longer the true reflection of the number of poor and vulnerable households in the country. It is important to also note that the data obtained in 2016 may not be totally free from political and sectional influence and manipulations (Njoku et al, 2020). In the view of this study, it is therefore wrong, for the government to use the Social Investment Register (SIR) for the selection of beneficiaries of its palliatives.

The politicization of the distribution of the federal government's palliatives in some states of the federation has also been frowned at by policy analysts. Here, political party affiliation becomes the main determining factor. That is, the distribution of palliatives was influenced by individual's affiliation to the ruling political party in that state. The adoption of this criterion in some of the states undermined federal and state governments' criteria that lay emphasis on the poor and vulnerable in society. In the process most of the targeted groups did not get the palliatives and the distribution did not also get to the real households, communities and local government areas. Most of the committees and sub-committees set up by state governments were made up of politicians who used the opportunity to favour their party members and cronies and neglected people who needed the support most (Premium Times, 2020; Nigeria News Agency, 2020; Business Day, 2020).

Another area that has drawn the attention of critics is the human rights abuses by the various state coercive apparatus meant to enforce the COVID-19 regulations. Many expressed dissatisfactions with the way some states such as Lagos, Bayelsa, Rivers, Oyo, Ondo, Edo, etc., implemented the COVID-19 regulations in their

states. In these states the Police, Civil Defence and other state security agencies responsible for effecting the various rules and regulations has been found maltreating and humiliating fellow citizens, and in some cases extorting money from them (Njoku et al, 2020; Shittu, 2020; Business Day, 2020).

Conclusion

This work focuses on the federal government social policy response to the COVID-19 crises in Nigeria. The main objective was to identify and examine the different policies and programmes of the government as it relates to the social conditions of the citizens under the pandemic. Having examines the different policies and programmes initiated by government at the various levels and its response in relation to social conditions of its people, the understanding of the researchers is that the effects the pandemic created at the global and national levels precipitated the responses of the Nigerian government through different policies and programmes and their outcome on the Nigerian state.

As measures adopted to reduce the spread of the virus within the nation's domains, the federal government initiated a number of regulations which included social distancing, total lockdown in some states and the federal capital territory, Abuja, and compulsory use of face cover or face mask, as well as restrictions on social events, closure of worship centres and educational institutions, etc. These measures were accompanied by the introduction of some programmes such as the conditional cash transfer, the distribution of items and the sustenance of the school feeding programme aimed at providing succour for the hardship faced by the people resulting from some of the stringent measures taken by the government to control the pandemic. However, findings indicate that the implementation of the social programmes was criticized for lack of transparency, politicization, non-inclusiveness and human rights abuses.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

- I. There is need for the federal government to further expand the Social Investment Plan register to accommodate more vulnerable groups and extremely poor people in the country. The 3.6 million people out of over 11 million are grossly inadequate. Therefore, the register needs to be updated to include all those who lost their source of income as a result of the implementation of the policies of government.

- ii. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, and community leaders should be involved in the distribution to prevent the politicization of the process.
- iii. There is need for the federal government to upgrade its database as this was last done in 2010 by the National Bureau of Statistics.

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Chapter  5

After the Pandemic: The Hope of the Nigerian Power Sector for Economic Development by the Year 2025

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Abstract

Over the last decade, Nigeria has been one of the shining stars in the African economy, given its status as one of the preferred destinations for global investments. However, in recent times, Nigeria's positive economic outlook has been severely affected. The GDP growth rate, which had a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.3% between 2011 and 2014, fell to 2.97% in 2015 and subsequently to -0.36% in 2016. During this period, unemployment also grew from 6% in 2011 to 12.1% in 2016. This period of economic difficulty is expected to continue in the near term, given the drop in oil production and volatility in commodities prices globally as a result of the Pandemic. Following the economic stand point of the global market, the Nigerian vision 2020 later turned to be a nightmare not to Nigeria only but to the whole world. Consequently, for Nigeria to recover from this global shock of the pandemic, she has no plane ahead to reposition her economic lost glory. This paper discussed the problems that befall the power sect during this period of pandemic and the hope of Nigerian economy by the year 2025 for economic growth and development.

Keywords: *Economic development, Distribution, Pandemic, Power, Transmission*

Introduction

In spite of the economic slowdown as a result of the pandemic, there still exists significant potential for sustainable growth in Nigeria in the power sector. There is a sizeable non-oil economy (driven by the services and agriculture sectors) which needs to become revenue and export-generating for the government. In addition, Nigeria's 46 million middle class population is one of the largest in Africa and is expected to be a key driver for consumption-led growth going forward. However, in order to emerge from the current situation, Nigeria needs to take specific steps towards building internal capabilities which will enable and support the economy. One area requiring immediate focus and investment is the power sector, where the low availability of power is currently a major obstacle. Nigeria's per capita power consumption is now only 151 kWh per year, one of the lowest in the region and globally. The sector is currently inhibited by multiple factors such as value chain losses, limited transmission coverage and supply disruptions as well as theft and corruption (especially in distribution). Based on ongoing projects, the per capita power consumption in Nigeria will only reach 433 kWh per year in 2025. Given the requirements of the economy and the population, there is a critical need to drive higher power availability, and we believe a stretch target of 982 kWh per year (6.5 times the current level) by 2025 is realistic. This is based on benchmarking with other growth markets, like Vietnam. Reaching this goal will require a comprehensive transformation of the power sector in Nigeria, with three substantial 'leaps' over the next ten years, as outlined below: (The Economic Times, Oct 2015).

1. Leap 1: Accelerating growth in power generation capacity and improving utilization
2. Leap 2: Expanding the power transmission network and driving better efficiencies
3. Leap 3: Establishing and scaling up efficient power distribution capabilities.

This report identifies a total of ten levers within these three Leaps, which will play a critical role in further accelerating the ongoing journey towards a comprehensive transformation of Nigeria's power sector. This includes a mix of favorable policies, implementation of new technology, faster project execution and improvement in operational efficiencies across the value chain. Executing these levers will also require significant involvement and alignment between the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Ministry of Power and the industry participants. In addition, the implementation needs to be wellplanned and sequenced appropriately to derive

the desired benefits. Overall, Nigeria has the potential to once again emerge as a shining star, not only within Africa, but in the global economy as well. Enhancing the availability of power over the next decade, based on robust generation, transmission and distribution capabilities will help create a strong foundation towards unlocking this potential and powering Nigeria for the future (The Economic Times, Oct 2015).

Table 1: Natural gas reserves (billion cubic metres), 2015

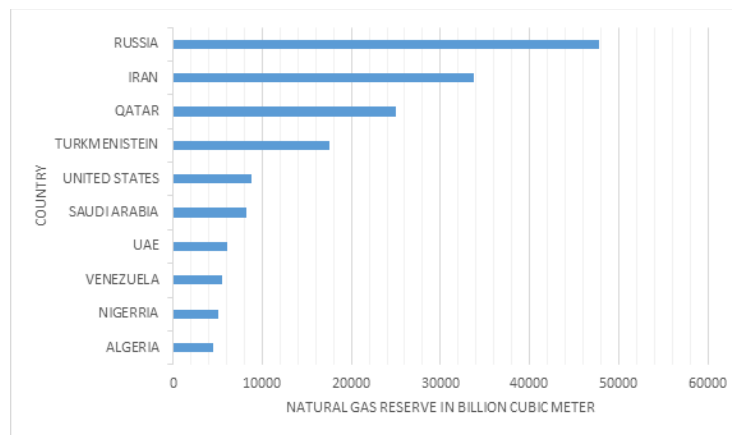
S/NO	COUNTRY	NATURALGAS RESERVE
1	ALGERIA	4,505
2	NIGERIA	5,111
3	VENEZUELA	5,562
4	UAE	6,089
6	SAUDI ARABIA	8,235
7	UNITED STATE	8,734
8	TURKMENISTEIN	17,500
9	QATAR	25,070
10	IRAN	33,800
11	RUSSIA	47,800

Source: OPEC

Since 2005 and until recently, Nigeria has been securing its position as one of the leading destinations for investment in Africa, thanks to a combination of a large and growing population, robust macroeconomic policies, strong commodity prices, demographic growth, resilient institutions and high capital inflows. Furthermore, a series of strategic national plans such as Vision 20: 2020 and the Transformation Agenda, which focused on strengthening infrastructure and employment, have spurred economic development. A rising star amongst global developing countries, Nigeria has been seen as an attractive destination for long-term investment as a result of her huge investment in the power sector. In addition, revenues and taxes from the oil and gas sector have been providing substantial funding for critical public programs across infrastructure, healthcare, education and agriculture.

Nigeria has the world's ninth largest natural gas reserves (accounting for more than 30% of Africa's discovered gas reserves), a position it has maintained for the last five years. It is also ranked eighth in OPEC's share of oil reserves in 2015.

Figure 1: Bar chart showing Natural gas reserves (billion cubic metres), 2015



However, in 2015, Nigeria's oil production as a percentage of OPEC production fell, reaching a low of 5.8% as compared to 7% in 2010.⁷ Revenues from oil exports dropped by more than 40% to reach US\$52bn in 2015 – dealing a devastating blow to government finances.⁸ A long history of mismanagement across the oil sector and the impact from the recent fall in oil prices also resulted in limited focused on strengthening infrastructure and employment, have spurred economic development. A rising star amongst global developing countries, Nigeria has been seen as an attractive destination for long-term investment (Tenth Arab Energy Conference 2018). In addition, revenues and taxes from the oil and gas sector have been providing substantial funding for critical public programs across infrastructure, healthcare, education and agriculture. Nigeria has the world's ninth largest natural gas reserves (accounting for more than 30% of Africa's discovered gas reserves), a position it has maintained for the last five years. It is also ranked eighth in OPEC's share of oil reserves in 2015 (see table 2 below) funding for oil exploration and modernization technology, further impacting the sector.

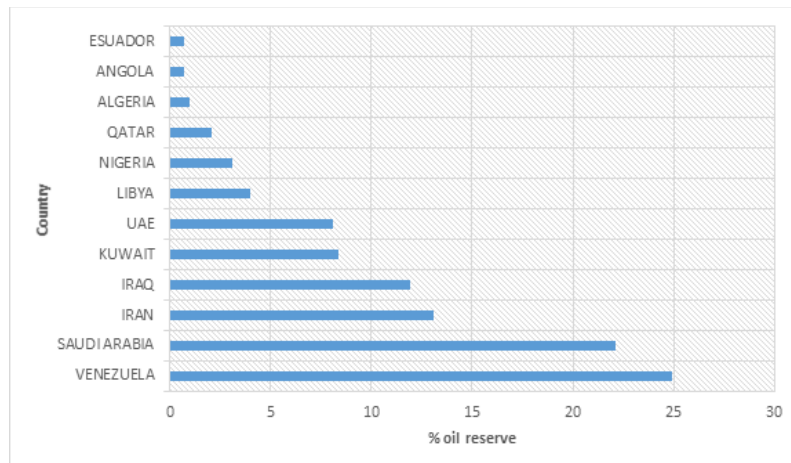
Table 2: Share of OPEC oil reserves by country, 2015

S/No	Country	Share of OPEC oil reserves
1	VENEZUELA	24.9%
2	SAUDI ARABIA	22.1%
3	IRAN	13.1%
4	IRAQ	11.9%
6	KUWAIT	8.4%
7	UAE	8.1%
8	LIBYA	4.0%
9	NIGERIA	3.1%
10	QATAR	2.1%
11	ALGERIA	1.0%
12	ANGOLA	0.7%
12	ECUADOR	0.7%

Source: OPEC

The considerable reduction in oil exports also depleted Nigeria's foreign exchange reserves. Furthermore, restrictions imposed by the Central Bank to limit demand for foreign exchange in the official market resulted in a spill over to the parallel market, widening the gap between the official and parallel market exchange rate. Unemployment also grew from 6% in 2011 to 12.1% in 2016, as investors started to re-assess their risk appetite. Real GDP growth, which had a CAGR of 5.3% between 2011 and 2014, fell to 2.97% in 2015 and subsequently to -0.36% in 2016. The most critical question now is whether, and how, will Nigeria emerge from this difficult situation (OPEC Annual Report, 2015).

Figure 2: Bar chart showing oil reserves, 2015



The Transformative Potential of the Power Sector

The major area requiring immediate focus and investment is the power sector. Cheap and abundant availability of power is a pre-requisite for economic development, with the potential to have a multiplier effect on growth. In addition, the power sector facilitates high capital spending which promotes investment and builds economic competitiveness. Take the example of India, where there is a strong commitment towards improving the business climate through addressing key bottlenecks in infrastructure. Here, the spotlight is on the power sector – where the government is seeking to attract investments worth US\$1trn by 2030(OPEC Annual Report, 2015). This is a key reason India is currently one of the few emerging markets with promising growth prospects. In a similar fashion, Nigeria needs to also focus on attracting investments in power to re-energise economic growth and drive job creation as well as improve the living conditions for its residents.

At present, less than half of Nigeria's population has access to grid-connected electricity. In 2015, power supply in Nigeria averaged 3.1 GW, which is estimated to be only a third of the country's minimum demand. It seems counterintuitive that one of the largest oil producing and natural gas strongholds in the world struggles with providing power to its 182 million strong population. No one is immune to the failings of the power sector in Nigeria – commuters have now adapted to dim and sparse street lighting, businesses have factored in the impact of power losses and residences struggle to receive adequate power supply (Nigeria Power Baseline Report 2015).

To put the country's power sector in perspective, Nigeria has a per capita power consumption of only 151 kWh per year which is amongst the lower end of the spectrum in Africa. Nigeria's population is three times that of South Africa's, but it only has less than a third of South Africa's installed power generation capacity. It is not only Nigerian consumers who are suffering, but their businesses as well, as power cuts in Nigeria have an adverse impact on the overall economy. Nigeria's current power supply is from a mixture of sources. In 2015, thermal power – mainly oil and gas – constituted the majority of power generation, at 82%; hydropower made up a further

17.8%, with limited contributions by non-hydropower renewable sources making up the remainder. While Nigeria's power composition is relatively more diversified than other OPEC countries, there exists significant scope for exploring alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power.

Nigerian Power Sector Roadmap

Understanding the journey made over the last decade by the Nigerian power sector is critical in identifying the best way forward towards further improving power availability throughout the country. In 2005, under President Olusegun Obasanjo's leadership, a series of large-scale initiatives launched the power transformation journey. The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), the sole provider of electricity, was replaced by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), which was unbundled into six generation companies, distribution companies (DisCos) and the Transmission Company of Nigeria. Furthermore, independent bodies such as the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) were formed to oversee progress and maintain transparency (Nigeria Power Baseline Report 2015). Along the way, initiatives were launched to diversify the power sector through agreements to invest in hydropower, nuclear power and a range of renewable power sources. In 2010, a Roadmap for Power Sector Reform was developed, which privatised the generation and distribution companies, while transmission of electricity remained state-owned. In addition, the Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) was formed to 'engage in the purchase and resale of electric power and ancillary services from independent power producers and from the successor generation companies'. Reforms in the Nigerian power sector are among the most renowned efforts at privatisation on a national scale throughout Africa. They have demonstrated public and private sector commitment to improving the power eco-system through investment, increased competitiveness and deregulation. However, there is still a long way to go before Nigeria's power infrastructure capabilities will be on a par with other emerging economies. The immediate focus needs to be towards removing or at least reducing the key barriers to generating, transmitting and distributing power nationwide.

In 2015, installed generation capacity (defined as the total available power generation capacity, assuming the power plants are operating at 100% efficiency) was estimated at 12.5 GW. Of this capacity, only 3.9 GW was actually generated – a capacity utilization of only 31%. Exacerbating this loss, 7% of generated power (0.3 GW) was lost through the transmission process and a further 12% (of 3.9 GW) through distribution, resulting in a cumulative transmission and distribution loss of 19% of generated power. Overall, the net power available was 3.1 GW, which was only 25% of the installed generation capacity of 12.5 GW (Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics, 2015). These substantial losses across the value

chain can be attributed to two key causes – technology limitations and outdated infrastructure.

In power generation, technology limitations can be significant, as power plants typically have a wide range of capacity utilization rates depending on the technology used, as well as the age and condition of the infrastructure. Nigeria's power generation capacity utilization is at the lower end of this range, which is unacceptable given the country's urgent need for power. On the other hand, other developing countries such as Brazil and India have relatively higher average utilization rates of approximately 50% –60% as a result of significant efforts to attract investment in new technologies. Over the next decade (Nigeria Power Baseline Report 2015). Nigeria must look towards improving capacity utilization (currently at 31%) significantly by investing in new and efficient power generation technology, as well as revamping existing power plants. This is explored further in the 'The leap forward' section. Power transmission and distribution (T&D) losses in Nigeria further reduce generated power output by 19%. While this is lower than a few other developing markets where T&D losses are greater than 20%, the benchmarks set by countries such as South Africa, Malaysia, Peru and Ukraine are much better. These losses are heightened in rural areas, where infrastructure tends to be older, and maintenance is irregular. Transmission and distribution losses also result from issues such as limited funding and short-sighted policies which fail to encourage improvements in technology (The Economic Times, Oct 2015).

Nigeria Vision 2025 and the Relevance of the Power Sector

In order to evaluate the power gap in Nigeria and identify the goal for 2025, we have selected 'power consumption per capita' as a suitable indicator of measurement, as this depicts the end impact to the consumer, and is also aligned to the current need and focus. By considering this metric for Nigeria, and comparing it across other growth markets, it is evident that Nigeria is one of the lowest ranked; having a per capita power consumption of only 151 kWh annually. For this list, I have considered countries with a per capita GDP (at current prices) between US\$2,000 and US\$4,000; this is to ensure that I compare Nigeria to other countries with a similar range of economic capacity. Further I have filtered out countries with a population less than 20 million, as comparisons with these nations may not be relevant (Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics, 2015). The current availability of power in Nigeria may become a significant bottleneck for broader economic growth. To address this gap and overcome the challenges mentioned herein, Nigeria needs to focus more on developing new infrastructure and enhancing

existing capabilities across the value chain. However, based on current trends, the situation is not expected to improve significantly. Assuming that all power generation projects currently in the pipeline (total projected installed capacity of 32.8 GW) in Nigeria will be completed on schedule and that efficiency rates and losses across the value chain will remain constant, Nigeria's power consumption per capita is expected to reach 433 kWh in 2025. In spite of the three-fold increase from 2015 to 2025, Nigeria will still remain one of the lowest amongst the peer-set depicted in the figure above. To even reach the average of the other sample countries within the list above (1,818 kWh per capita), Nigeria will need to grow at a 12x multiple over the next ten years – which is a very high target, and may not be immediately feasible or realistic (Nigeria Power Baseline Report 2015).

To arrive at a realistic target for Nigeria, I have examined what the other growth market economies have achieved over a ten to 15-year period, starting from a similar starting point vis-à-vis annual power consumption per capita. The timeframe has been chosen as it is the minimum required for a major transformation of the sector by improving existing operations and building new capabilities, as seen in cases such as Vietnam (Tenth Arab Energy Conference 2018).

Conclusion

For the power sector, achieving the stretch target (6.5 times increase in annual per capita power consumption) by 2025, will require significant involvement and alignment between the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Ministry of Power and the industry participants (e.g. power generation, transmission and distribution companies, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, funding agencies and even engineering, procurement and construction companies) towards driving a comprehensive transformation throughout. We believe that this transformation will require the industry to make three substantial 'leaps' over the next ten years. \

There is a need to set in place a conducive policy environment to encourage leading power generation players to invest more in Nigeria, across different sources – whether thermal, solar, wind, hydropower etc. Creating the right environment may also require customisation of policies based on source, allowing development of a diversified power generation landscape in Nigeria, which will further strengthen the sector and the economy in the long run by the 2025.

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Chapter **6**

Globalisation, Technology and Pandemic in International Relations

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Abstract

This work examined globalization, technology and pandemics in international relation. The aim of the study was to analyze the implications of the interdependent world of the 21st century as seen in the technological concerts in the COVID-19 pandemic on international relations. The study relied on the theory of sovereignty as a characteristics and important element of statehood. In all the politics behind the COVID-19, states are the major focus and eventual casualty that relationships in the international system stands threatened. With the heightened interconnectivity and interrelations in the world aided by technology, the COVID-19 pandemic has come to put a new direction on relations between states. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a collective paralysis on the international community, and re-orientating relations between citizens and governments, the outside world and even individuals. Old schemes and strategies of escalating political and cultural polarization in states are been replaced by greater national solidarity and functionality because the COVID-19 is a formidable enemy to all, irrespective of tribe, race, religion, colour or ideological inclination. COVID-19 has shown that a functioning government is crucial for a healthy society. Recommendations in the face of all these realities from the COVID-19 pandemics includes among all, a strengthened global co-operation in

economic and health matters. The WHO should not compromise her responsibilities in the face of the politics in the COVID-19. An urgent emergency meeting of leaders for a common plan of action is most needed to enhance the tenets of international relations. Global solidarity is in the form of sharing information globally with the spirit of global co-operation and trust because the best defence humans have against pathogens is not isolation but information, just as the real antidote to epidemic is not segregation but co-operation.

Keywords: *Globalization, Pandemic, Technology, States, COVID-19, Sovereignty, International Relations.*

Introduction

Globalization is one concept that has been subjected to different definitions and interpretations. It thus means different things to different scholars based on their focus. Generally, it is a process of increasing inter-relationship, interactions and interdependence of the world. It is the heightened interconnectedness of the world that events in one part of the globe more and more have effects on other locality far away. In a globalized world, political, economic, cultural, social, health and environmental events become more and more interconnected with varying effects. Globalization process revolve around mobility of information, capital, people, ideas on a world-wide scale. Alli (2007) defines globalization as a process which intensifies the integration of the world economy and the people through technological advancement in several areas particularly in information technology. Societies are more and more extensively impacted by events of other societies through the World Wide Web that allows you sit in your home and have constant communication with websites around the world. Electronic mail has transformed communication through the worldwide television communication, global newspapers, international social movements such as the Amnesty International, global Franchises such as Mac-Donalds, Coca cola etc. Iyayi (2004) sees globalization as the rapidly developing and ever deepening networks of interconnection and interdependencies that characterize modern social life. Owugah (2003) outlines the technological connection where he says globalization is a technologically driven process which breaks down national borders to ensure unrestricted movements of capital, technology, goods and services across national boundaries.

Technology is the study of or a collection of techniques. Technology is a Greek word with meaning as sciences of craft, art, skill, or cunning of hand. It is technique, skills, methods and process used in the production of goods or services or in the accomplishment of objectives. Igwe (2005) defines technology as the know-how, man-made implements and corresponding process that simplify the tasks and hasten the solution of the problems of man and serves as the main determinants of society's prosperity and power. There is no society that did not develop some form of technology to cater for her need prior to modernity. These developments however lacked uniformity and simultaneity; while some were already using advanced or sophisticated technologies, others were still with crude and primitive instruments. The simplest form of technology is the developments and use of basic tools. Technology has helped develop more advanced economies and influenced the values of a society. Technology has always played outstanding roles in international relations and has been a powerful factor in terms of changes in global affairs. Technological advancement has sharpened relationship in the world community.

Pandemic simply means general or wide spread. By medical implication, it is a disease that has spread over a whole country or the world. According to the World Health Organization, a pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease. According to Heath Kelly in a WHO Bulletin, a pandemic is “an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide, area crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people. When an epidemic spread over a wide geographical area and affects a large proportion of the population that epidemic becomes a pandemic. Pandemic is basically an epidemic of disease that has spread across a large region, multiple continents or worldwide with global health implications. Throughout history, as humans spread across the world, infectious diseases have been a constant companion. With the heightened interconnectivity and interrelationships in the world aided by advancement in technology, pandemics have come to be a determining force in international relations. As modern transportation and trade have increased interconnections, the same pathways of global commerce and communication have become the transmission vectors for disease. A sneeze or cough in Kenya can become a fever in London with just one flight in one day. According to Yuval Harari, humankind became ever more vulnerable to epidemic due to a combination of growing population and better transportation. That virus can make its way from Paris to Tokyo and Mexico City in less than 24 hours. An incident caused by human or natural forces in Wuhan city in China in November 2019 has affected the whole world and placed a collective paralysis on the international community.

The aim of this study is to analyze the implication of the interdependent world of the 21st century as seen in the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on international relations. In doing this, technology, the outstanding force in all this scenery will be examined to ascertain its impacts on the trend of relationships in the international society.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is the theory of sovereignty as characteristic of the state and an element of statehood. In international relations, it is a concept attached to the state, because virtually all of the earth's space is parceled by lines visible and invisible. Within these lines are some forms of political organizations with authority, exercised within the circuit. This authority can be seen as sovereignty, because it is the supreme power or the ultimate authority within that enclave that no external authority can interfere with.

Bodin, a French political philosopher defines sovereignty as supreme power over citizens and subjects unrestrained by law. According to Chaturvedi (2006), sovereignty is an important corollary of the nation-state system. Sovereignty is the mainstay of a state and no state can be meaningfully said to exist without sovereignty. According to Chukwu (2018) sovereignty is one of the constituent elements of the state that distinguishes the state from other associates. In every state, there is an authority whose will is legally binding over all individuals and associations within the confines of its territory. Sovereignty has with it situational and legislative supremacy which enable government to make and implement its own decision in domestic affairs for the conduct of international relations without the prior consent or permission of an outside power. Sovereignty is the absolute and unlimited authority in a state to which all persons and things are subjected to. According to Hensley (1986), sovereignty is a theory or assumption about political power. It is a term that expresses the idea of a final and absolute authority in the political community.

According to Jacobsen et al., (2008) sovereignty is a central concept not only in international relations, but in international law, political theory, political philosophy and modern history. The impact of the doctrine has been in the relations between states who saw themselves as sovereigns and had the authority to do anything that affects their interests. However, from the 20th century, restrictions on the freedom of actions of states began to appear, introducing restrictions in the original conception of sovereignty that sovereignty ceased to be

considered as synonymous with unrestricted power. States are now compelled to accept body of laws limiting their sovereign right to act as they please. States, directly or indirectly has found themselves bound by certain rules of international law despite the lack of satisfactory proof of express or implicit acceptance, through new rules cannot be imposed upon a state, without its consent, by the will of other states (Shaw, 1998). This was a direct contradiction of the authority entrusted on states from the 1648 Peace of Westphalia.

According to the Westphalia doctrine of legal concept of sovereignty, rulers or legitimate authority would recognize no internal equals within the territory's sovereign borders. This means the state has supreme authority to make and enforce laws and there should be no intervention by other states in her internal affairs. The state has total control over resources, events, outcomes, national activities, external impacts etc without interference from other states. The state thus exercises comprehensive, supreme, autonomous, absolute, inalienable and exclusive jurisdiction over its designated territorial domain. As earlier noted, events from the 20th century including the Hague Conference of 1899 and 1907, the Covenant of the League of Nations of 1914, the Briand Kellog Pact of 1928 to the United Nations Charter of 1948, all placed limitations on the exercise of absolute sovereignty by states.

The import of the theory of sovereignty to this study is the relevance of states as the outstanding force in the politics of the COVID-19 pandemic and by extension politics in the international system. The events from the 20th century that limited the sovereign rights of state were influenced by the globalization process aided by technological advancement. All these forces played out in the Coronavirus pandemic that the international society is engulfed in. Analysis of the COVID-19 scene shows the state as principal actors in international relations. The effects of the pandemic are focused on the states. Reactions and counter measures are all state centered.

Conceptual Review

Globalization

Monsod (2004) defines globalization as a widening and deepening of international flows of trade and information on a single integrated global market and the increasing linkages between the world's people including the international spread of culture as well as disease. He also sees globalization as natural and artificial barrier fall. Globalization is a spatio-temporal process of change, which

underpins a transformation in organization of human affairs by linking together and expanding human activities across regions and continents. This process for Friedman 2011 shows globalization as “enabling each of us further, faster, deeper and cheaper than ever before”. Reid (2003) confirms that globalization is fundamentally derived from the increase in mobility of information, capital, people, ideas on a world wide scale that a local occurrence should be shaped by the event which happened many miles away. Held et al 1999 added that globalization might enable a computer programme to deliver real-time service to his/her employers in Europe, while information of Bali bombing incident may encourage people around the world to take part in continuous public demonstrations against terrorism even after several years. Events of the slave trade era that laid the foundation of racism also ignited recent world demonstrations as a result of the dehumanizing action that killed a black man George Floyd by a white Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin who pressed his knee on his neck for almost 9mins in plea “I can't breathe.

Nnoli (2000) sees globalization as a complex social phenomenon which interfaces with various elements of social life and is suffused with ambiguities, variations, uncertainties and compatibilities. Ali (2007) defines globalization as a process which intensifies the integration of the world economy and the people through technological advancement in several areas, particularly in the area of information. According to the UNDP 2001 report, the process of globalization is intensifying the integration of peoples and nations and impact on different nation's citizens in the most unbalanced manner. Khor (2001) captures this fact where he sees globalization as marginalizing some and rewarding some, with unequal distribution of benefits and losses. He notes that most developing countries, particularly African countries suffer adverse impact in the process in which their options are limited by institutionalized global regime for the allocation of globally available resources.

Globalization generally refers to the growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide through increasing volume and variety of cross-border transaction in goods and services. Globalization is aiding solidarity within states and advancing stronger self-governance while also creating political, economic and cultural division. Amartya (2002) conforms to this where he sees globalization as global westernization from the historical development that occurred in Europe with the renaissance to the enlightenment and the industrial revolution that led to a massive increase in living standard in the West which

eventually began to spread over the world. He summed up with the fact that globalization has contributed to the progress of the world through travels, trade, migration, spread of influences and dissemination of knowledge and understanding in science and technology as well. Globalization is no doubt a complicated process in economic, social, political and environmental aspects. However, it has gained momentum in economic integration and information sharing.

Globalization is the multiplicity of linkages, interconnections and interactions between states and nations that make up the global system. It is the process by which events, decisions and activities in one part of the world spurs significant consequences in distant parts of the globe. Globalization links distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away. It is a global phenomenon that incorporates people, nations, cultures and events into a single world in the name of global village. The extent to which citizens of different state around the world relate and nations interact at international level is evident of the unifying power of globalization.

Globalization process aids increasing relationship in the world. Iyayi (2004) sees globalization as the shrinking of the world into a global village. According to him, it is the awesome challenges brought about and mandated by the revolution in information technology. Globalization is a process that has been going on for centuries and with time according to Kegley (2007), has accelerated from the colonization of the uninhabited parts of the world to the appearance of nations from conquest to independent states, from sail boats and caravans to steam boats, truck fleets and cargo planes, from trade in few commodities to global production and distribution networks and to the present explosion of international flow of services, capitals and information. As a result, commerce, advance technology and information are spreading with worldwide record speeds, producing multiple changes, complexities and chaos. All these processes can hardly be seen but they are felt everywhere, uniting the world and generating unprecedented levels of wealth and woes, ultimately changing the nature of world politics. The coronavirus that manifested in Wuhan city in China has affected all continents, Regions and states producing a new direction in international relations.

Technology

Technology according to the Wikipedia is a Greek word meaning art, skill, cunning of hand. It is a technique, skills, methods and process used in the production of goods or serves or in the accomplishment of objectives. Technology

can be the knowledge of techniques, processes and the like or can be embedded in machines to allow for operation without detailed knowledge of their workings. According to an American sociologist Bein (1937), Technology includes all tools, machines, utensils, weapons, instruments, housing, clothing, communication and transporting devices and the skills by which we produce and use them. The simplest form of technology is the development and use of basic tools.

Bernard Stiegler in *Technics and Time* (i) defines technology as the pursuit of life by means other than life and as organized inorganic matter. According to Arthur Brian technology refers to a collection of techniques likened to the current state of man's knowledge of how to combine resources to produce desired products to solve problems, fulfill needs or satisfy wants through technical methods, skills, processes, techniques, tools and raw materials. We can see technology as the application of mathematics, science and the arts for the benefit of life like the communication technology that has enhanced human interactions from the development of the internet and the computer. It is this skill that has brought the world into a web that we now call the global village.

Broadly defined, technology is entities, both material and immaterial, created by the application of mental and physical effort in order to achieve some values. In this sense, technology can be seen as tools and machines that may be used to solve real-world problems. Technology is a consequence of science and engineering because engineering is the goal oriented process of designing and making tools and systems to exploit natural phenomena for practical human means often using results and techniques from science. Science on its own is the systematic knowledge of the physical and material world through observation and experimentation. Technology proceeds engineering and science that both may be considered technologists. Innovations that came with the renaissance including the printing press made technology associated with science.

The industrial revolution was a period of great technological discoveries in the areas of agriculture, mining, metallurgy and transport. Technology influenced greatly the enlightenment revolution in European history especially in the printing press where scientists and politicians would easily communicate their ideas. According to Igwe (2005), war and conquest, colonialism, unenlightened leadership, restrictive and negative cultural and traditional practices, uncreative and unchallenged educational and socialization processes, the absence of literary culture etc are some of the force that hinder the development of competitive

technology within a society. All these forces were subdued in the renaissance, enlightenment, industrial revolution eras of European history to the evolving trend in the international society including the politics in the pandemics, playing out in the COVID-19 scene.

International Relations

International relation is basically interactions in the international arena. International relations study analyses issues going on in the international system. These issues are within and outside the boundaries of states. Ogaba (2000) broadly defines international relations as all activities, public and private that extend or have the potential of extending beyond the territorial boundaries of states. These issues, interactions and activities are vast and include all movements of people, goods, actions, ideas etc across national border. These facts above bring the relevance of other actors in the international system that makes international relations to be seen as relations between international actors including states and non-state actors. According to him, international relations is a field that analyses foreign policy and political processes between states and focuses on such diverse issues as international trade unions, tourism, migrations, international trade, communications and the development of international values and ethics. Nnoli (2003) defined international relations as the sum total of interactions, transactions and exchanges in the international arena. Adeniran (1983) explains international relations as focused on the political, economic and other interactions among international actors and systems. International relations indeed is the totality of interactions among peoples of distinct societies and nation-states in the international system. Gilbert (2013) confirms international relation as the totality of interactions among people of distinct societies and nation-states on the international system, be it at the governmental, inter-governmental, non-governmental or individual levels.

International relations deal with the complete interactions in the global system. It is in this direction that Onuoha (2008), defines international relations as the systematic and patterned interactions between states and non-state actors in the international system that revolves around the tenets of co-operation, competition and conflicts. The systematic and patterned interactions are based on rules geared towards peaceful coexistence. According to Igwe (2005), many rules, treaties and conventions, both bilateral, multilateral, regional and global have emerged governing relations between states and to a much lesser extent, non-state actors. Many of these rules as stated in international law revolve around the conduct of

diplomatic and consular relations, treaty making, the civilized treatment of the individual person, the citizens of the world, and questions of war and peace. All these rules are based on the outstanding principles of peaceful coexistence, non-interference in the domestic affairs of states, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and equality of states engrafted in international law. States as principal actors in international relations have a whole lot of interests to protect though with the force of power, but tensions which would ordinarily flow from this divergent interest have been partly mediated through the development of these rules and practices. According to Eze (2010), while there exists a body of rules and practices which influence how states order their affairs, each state tries to ensure that other states in relation to it, play by the rule. It is the totality of the systemic structures and patterns of these interactions within the international system that are the focus of international relations study.

Connecting all these to our study, the interdependent and interconnected world we live today as aided by technological advances hastened the spread of the Coronavirus to the entire world. A virus that got into the atmosphere of Wuhan, a city in China rapidly spread out to almost all parts of the globe like a wild fire. An “accident or well-coordinated plan which can be a private or public activity that happened in China became a potentiality that extended beyond the territorial boundaries of China and have now become a global issue leading to the development of international values and ethics, in the form of social distancing, regular washing of hands and wearing of face masks etc. as preventive and mitigating strategies against the spread of the virus.

International Relations in the Face of Technology and the COVID-19 Pandemic

International relations as systematic and patterned interactions in the international system have been facilitated by technology. As techniques, skills, methods and processes used in the production of goods and services, technology has enhanced the flow of relations and interactions in the world community. Communication technology in the development of internet and computer has enhanced human interactions. Through the world -wide web, the world has now turned to a global village where activities can be accessed from the comfort of homes. Technology has unfolded the possibility to monitor everyone all the time that states sovereignty becomes threatened because of constant unchecked interferences. Activities of states have gotten widespread because of technology. It is this situation that got the world engulfed in the coronavirus that became the pandemic of the 21st century.

With the heightened interconnectivity and interrelations in the world aided by technology, the COVID-19 pandemic has become a determining force in international relations today. Transportation and trade that have increased interconnections as pathways of global commerce and communications have remained the transmission vectors for disease as seen in the coronavirus outbreak. Diseases and illnesses have plagued humanity since the earliest days. It was until the market shift to agrarian communities that the scale and spread of diseases increased dramatically. Widespread trade created new opportunities for human and animal interactions that speed up epidemics. Malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, influenza, small pox and others first appeared in the early years. With large cities, more exotic trade routes and increased contacts with different populations of people, animals and ecosystems, the more likely pandemics occur. Geography and trade play a great role in the spread of pandemic. According to the Wikipedia, the first pandemic; the Justinian plague of 541-542 was traced by a Byzantine historian Procopius of Caesarea to China and North East India via land and sea trade routes to Egypt through the Mediterranean ports. Rising global connections and interaction aided by technology are driving forces of pandemics. From small hunting and gathering tribes to the metropolis, humanity's reliance on one another as part of the globalization process have sparked opportunities for diseases to spread. Passenger air traffic has nearly doubled in the past decades creating profound impacts on the spread of infectious diseases. The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has engulfed the entire world in a historic scale. While the early transmission appeared to affect China, South Korea, much of Europe and the United states of America, the virus has in the same trend spread into the African continent with serious implications especially with the already stressed health systems in Africa.

A collective paralysis has gripped the international community. The analysis below from an on line post captures the world gripped with the COVID-19.

- i. New York, the city that never sleeps is now asleep and all quiet.
- ii. Paris, the center of romance, lives in echoes.
- iii. Rome the eternal city is deserted.
- iv. Disney is out of magic.
- v. London is caged in silence, the queen speaks to her people from a hidden room.
- vi. Mecca is empty. Nobody is “stone to the devil”.
- vii. The Chinese wall is no longer a fortress.
- viii. The G8 nations are speechless.

- ix. The Developed World (global north) are suddenly on their knees.
- x. Churches, Mosques, great parks, monuments, and stadiums are filled with unfilled spaces.
- xi. The busiest places are now the hitherto most dreaded; hospitals and cemeteries.
- xii. The famous football leagues, the fashion shows, exotic weddings, burials, festivals all lost to memory.
- xiii. Celebrants have run out of celebrations. Our titles, status and privileged positions are stale.
- xiv. With all our boastful citizenship, “we cannot step out of our houses with all our savings in gold and cash, we can only buy food to eat, and toilet papers to take care of the waste.
- xv. We usually watch animals in cages, now-animals roam our empty streets, watching us in our cages, as seen in Russia and others states and cities.
- xvi. With our expensive clothes and shoes, our house clothes and pajamas are the latest fashion.

Despite all these oddities, the world still goes on; the sun still shines, the birds still sing, the trees are still green (facebook post, retrieved 27/4/2020). A trend has unfolded in international relations.

As organizations and governments around the world ask for citizens to practice social distancing to help reduce the rate of infections, the digital world is allowing people maintain connections and commerce like never before. Technology is ruling. National security has resurfaced not in military term, but to COVID-19 pandemic scene, reinforcing questions from Lepain March 2020; what is the preparedness of states in the face of the pandemic in terms of;

- i. Prevention mechanisms
- ii. Detection and Reporting
- iii. Rapid response as mitigation of the spread
- iv. Health systems, to treat the sick and protect health workers
- v. Compliance with global norms as there is now a uniform compliance mechanism that has eroded race, tribe, region etc.
- vi. Environmental risks as state vulnerability to biological threats.

It is obvious, answers with evidences to these questions is on the negative foremost states as they lack foundational health systems capacities vital for epidemic and pandemic response. With the reality of the COVID-19, the readily available

medical expertise and equipment that exists today is unevenly distributed throughout the globe. National healthcare systems are focused inwards towards national population in defense of state sovereignty with less focus on integrating the outside world. The COVID-19 pandemic has displayed the obvious interdependent and interconnected world in the global village of today that state health system has overlooked. World crisis of climate change, urbanization, international mass displacement and migration create ideal conditions for the emergence and spread of pathogens showing that the world will live with pandemics

States are not prepared for a globally catastrophic biological eventuality. Many states are facing major political and security risks that could undermine national capability to stand up to this obvious threat. COVID-19 has served as a wakeup call to governments the world over and health organization. According to the Fourth Annual Global report on Food crisis, COVID-19 is also heightening the already food insecurity in the world as governments are directing their aid programmes to COVID-19 specific programmes of movement restrictions. Sicknesses of the COVID-19 are limiting the availability of agricultural labour in states. Conflict and insecurity including interstate conflicts, internal violence, regional/global instability, political crisis, economic shocks etc. would be the likely fallouts from people being displaced as refugees or people in search of food and greener pastures. Africa, the Middle East and Asia face bigger hurdles of migrants and refugees living with acute food insecurity as a result of conflicts. Examples of severely impacted states in Africa will be the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen in the Middle East and Afghanistan in Asia.

According to Harari (2020) the decisions governments and people take in this situation will shape not just healthcare systems but also economics, political and culture. According to him these decisions will also determine the world we will inhabit after the storm, because emergencies fast-forward historical process. A global novel virus that keeps all humans contained in our homes is re-orientating relations between citizens and governments, relations with the outside world and relationship even to each other. Patriotism formally attached to the armed forces is changing as you can't shoot a virus. According to Schrad, frontliners against COVID-19 are not conscripts, mercenaries or enlisted men; they are our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, caregivers, store clerks, utility workers, small business owners and employees. According to him, we will start to understand

patriotism more as cultivating the health and life of your community, rather than blowing up someone else's community. There will be a de-militarization of patriotism and role of community.

COVID-19 is sweeping away many artificial barriers on online service that before now were slowed by “powerful legacy players and bureaucrats”. Now we can apply our most human instincts to our devices. Virtual reality we face with the COVID-19 can allow us have the experience we want even under isolation, quarantined or alone. The rise of tele-medicine will be enhanced. Responses by states to this pandemic have also illustrated national security and environmental realities. While Europe, America and Asia appear to have recorded higher numbers of cases and deaths, Africa is seen to be at low ebb. Analysts have attributed this disparity to environmental forces.

States efforts at addressing this pandemic led to the effort of the Madagascan government to launch a cure produced, tested and administered on inhabitants of the state that has proved effective and made other governments to place orders for it. The government of the United States had earlier encouraged the use of hydroxychloroquine Sulfate, a pair of old drugs used to treat and prevent malaria, to treat patients with the coronavirus. China where the virus originated had tried many alternatives and in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) came up the globally accepted rules of social distancing, movement restrictions, regular washing of hands with detergent and wearing of face masks as preventive mechanisms. The enforcement of these strategies has been state centered. While Russia initially had to release Dogs in the streets to enforce the stay at home order, other states used security agents and other methods. Some states were even said to have suspended the constitution to allow government exert unquestionable power to enforce the stay at home order. Various violation punishments were issued out and executed by governments.

Old schemes and strategies of escalating political and cultural polarization in states are gradually been replaced by greater national solidarity and functionality. COVID-19 presents us with a formidable enemy that does not discriminate colour, race, religion or ideological inclination. The credibility of science over politics has become obvious, because early reports of COVID-19 were taken as politics. American President referred to it as “Chinese virus” Kung flu and so did other government, before the reality became apparent. Politically, especially for

states in democratic governance, legislators will return to their districts, get closer to the voters they represent and become sensitive to local issues that local loyalties can override party ties. Governments at the federal, state and local levels are now more visible on air giving orders, guidance, help, hope, palliatives etc.

COVID-19 has shown that a functioning government is crucial for a healthy society. According to Fung Archon, the COVID-19 crisis will sow the seeds of a new civic federalism in which states and localities become centers of justice, solidarity and far sighted democratic problem solving because it is bringing a new sense of solidarity in the world, states and even the family level. This solidarity will obviously play out in the relationships in the international arena. A global novel virus that keeps all contained in our homes is re-orienting relationships with governments, the outside world and even to individuals. It will bring a re-orientation of politics and substantial new investments in public good and public services.

Conclusion

Globalisation has dictated relationship across the globe. International relations have been directed by the globalisation process. Taking cue from Nnoli (2000) who states that globalization is a complex social phenomenon which interfaces with various elements of social life and is suffused with ambiguities, variations, uncertainties and incompatibilities serve as the central theme, of the study on the corona virus pandemic. From the outbreak of the pandemic to its spread across the globe and the various reactions and inactions of governments and world organizations, an evolving trend in international relations has been laid. Technological advancement that heightened the globalization processes facilitated, not only the spread of the virus but the actions and reactions of governments as well as adaptations and adjustments of people, the world over.

Ezeibe (2014) who says globalization is aiding solidarity with states and advancing stronger self-governance show the global solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 that is dependent on the effectiveness of individual governments. The sovereignty of states is now opened up for assessment. The pandemic has spread out to the entire state in the world, but the abilities of the various governments in tackling this pandemic is now put to test. The pandemic has served as a wakeup call to all government as well as health organizations. National security has now taken a new face over the military form that is directed

at the preparedness of states in the face of the pandemic. States already facing major political and security risks that undermine national security have been saddled with additional challenges from the pandemic.

States are now faced with the challenges to launch out technologies to address the pandemic in line with the definition of technology as a means to fulfill a human purpose and a collection of techniques of man's knowledge that combines resources to produce desired products to solve problems, fulfill needs or satisfy wants. This is the efforts displayed by China, the United States, Madagascar, and others in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. All these efforts have impacted on relations in the international system. Xenophobia, isolationism fear and distrust now characterize most of the international system.

Recommendations

In the face of the realities of the technological forces that have heightened the interconnected, inter-related and interdependent world that fastened the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic today, we make the following recommendations:

1. Good enlightenments where people are told the scientific facts and people made to trust public authorities. Citizens can do the right thing because a self-motivated and well informed population is far more powerful and effective than a policed ignorant population. Citizens must be made to trust science, public authorities and the media.
2. In agreement with Harari, (2020), the pandemic calls for urgent need for global solidarity. The pandemic and the resulting crises are global problems that can only be solved by global co-operation. The global solidarity should come with sharing information globally with the spirit of global co-operation and trust. States should be willing to share information openly and honestly, seek advice and trust data and facts received. The best defence humans have against pathogens generally is not isolation but information, just as the real antidote to epidemic is not segregation but co-operation.
3. A global effort to produce and distribute medical equipment is also most necessary.
4. A global effort to pool medical personnel should also be sought out like the UN Peacekeeping Force arrangement.
5. A global co-operation is also needed in the economic front given the nature of the economy and of supply chains.

6. A global agreement on travel is also most needful. Suspending all international travels will cause serious hardships. States need to cooperate on modalities to lift travel ban that have brought a collective paralysis on the international society.
7. There should be an emergency meeting of leaders for a common plan of action to enhance the tenets of international relations. Every crisis is an opportunity and the challenge of this pandemic is the threat to global unity while upholding the principles of sovereignty.
8. There is also need for improving states compliance with international health and security norms. COVID-19 has served as a wakeup call to governments around the world and health organizations.

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Chapter **7**

Libraries and Library Services in the Era of COVID-19: Re-Strategizing to Overcome the Dreaded Pandemic

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Introduction

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 is a new strain that has not been previously seen in humans. The first confirmed case has been traced back to November 2019. However, WHO (2019) noted that Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which could cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several corona viruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from common cold to other severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus disease is called COVID-19. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough, and tiredness. Other less common symptoms which may affect some patients include aches and pains, nasal congestion, headache, conjunctivitis, sore throat, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell or a rash on skin or discoloration of fingers or toes. These signs are usually mild and begin gradually. However, infected persons can be either symptomatic (showing the signs of the disease) or Asymptomatic (infected persons who do not have or feel any signs). COVID-19 can lead to death if appropriate treatment measures are

not taken. However, World Health Organization noted that since the outbreak of the pandemic, about 80% recovers from the disease without needing hospital treatment. About one out of every five people infected with COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart and lung problems, diabetes, or cancer, are at higher risk of developing serious illness leading to death (Onyekwena and Ekeruche 2020).

The outbreak of the coronavirus also known as COVID-19, developed into a global pandemic that impacted virtually all aspects of daily life (ALA, 2020 and Wang and Lund, 2020). The spread of the virus had led to high rate of deaths, closure of organizations and institutions, decline in import and export, loss of investment by firms, loss of jobs, poverty, fall in household consumption, increase in crime rate and violence, etc.

Furthermore, every organizations and institutions around the world are battling with the hit of this novel pandemic. Consequently, it led to the complete shutdown of libraries till further notice in many countries around the world and has also forced libraries and librarians to begin to rethink and re-strategize on measures to effectively overcome the scourge of the disease and to continue to enhance their noble work of provision of library and information services for human and national development. Therefore, the areas of concern that needed to be address for libraries to make head ways are:

- i. What are the challenges encountered by libraries with the breakout of COVID -19?
- ii. How can libraries continue to provide library services to patrons even with the increasing spread of coronavirus?
- iii. How do libraries intend to reach their patrons even with the lockdown and social distancing
- iv. What safety precaution do libraries need to put in place?
- v. How do libraries intend to manage their open space for readers?
- vi. Are library personnel furnished with new skills to delivery services electronically?
- vii. How will the electronic resources be access by patrons?
- viii. Why do libraries need to re-strategize?

It is against this background that this chapter discussed on issues surround the dreaded pandemic (COVID-19), the concepts of libraries and library services, and their importance to human and national development and how the dreaded COVID-19 has affected effective library service delivery worldwide. Despite the enormous challenges libraries are encountering in the era of pandemic, the chapter also discussed the efforts and strategies put in place by libraries and librarians around the world to curtail the spread of COVID-19 by their patrons and to continue to render effective library services to the public thereby, providing a way out of this global challenge.

Libraries and Library Services

Information is the major key to the success of every individual, group of individuals and the global society in general, and the library is the store house of information of any kind tending towards knowledge acquisition and research enrichment. Library is defined as an organized collection of published books and periodicals and other reading and audio-visual materials and the service of staff to provide and facilitate the use of such materials as are required to meet the informational, research, education, or recreational needs of the libraries (Mbashir, Ehonyotan, Audu and Adebisi, 2010 and Omachonnu, 2013). Generally, libraries are considered venerable, quite peaceful and safe places for study, learning and research, libraries are soul of the educational institutes or any organizational set-up and play vital roles by providing resources and services to enhance the achievement of the objectives of their parent institutions or organization (Golwal and Kalbande, 2013). Furthermore, libraries are regarded as social institutions for preserving and disseminating knowledge through various forms of information resources (library resources or collections) with which their users' information needs are met (Vijeyaluxmy, 2015 and Chinwendu, 2019). They are also referred to as social, cultural and educational institutions. Hence, libraries are very important as it plays multiple roles even in the modern society.

The 21st century libraries whether academic, public, school or special are service institutions set up to cater to the educational, cultural, research, recreational and information needs of their users. Libraries are considered important place of national heritage as it holds the intellectual contents and properties of a nation (Ezeabasili, 2018). As national heritages libraries helps us to keep abreast with history of present and past, present and for future generation. Libraries have the main objectives of being entrusted with the selection, acquisition, organization, storage and dissemination of information resources to their patrons.

The essence of the existence of any library is to provide quality and timely service to patrons. These among other reason are why most libraries use technology to enhance the access, to information for easy retrieval and sharing. Library services are all those intangible offers given by a library to her patrons to ensure the full exploration of the resources of the library in meeting their full information needs (Nwalo, 2003). Library services are array of activities and facilities targeted at providing information in various formats to so as to satisfy the broad and varying information needs of library patrons within a community or society (Alabi and Sani 2013 and Eze, 2017). Library services are of various types ranging from circulation service or readers services, reference and information service, document delivery services, online reservation of books, current awareness service, Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services, inter library loan service, online database services, photocopying/printing service, audiovisual and multimedia services, serials services, etc. these services are geared to satisfy the information needs of the public which includes, enlightenment and current awareness needs, research, study, leisure, etc. which in turn contribute to human and national development. Hence, the essence of providing library services is to help develop an informed and egalitarian society where peace and development thrive. It is therefore worthy to note that the achievement of the purpose of the existence of the library is hampered if the libraries are not functional or closed down.

Effect of COVID-19 on Libraries and Library Services

The era of the spread of corona virus (COVID-19) has witnessed the total lock down of organizations, businesses, religious centers and institutions, including libraries. Consequently, the lock down imposed by government has denied the public access to rich intellectual resources of the library. The situation is so enormous in developing countries like Nigeria, as most the libraries were under lock and key, giving rise to the following issues:

1. With libraries under lock and key, information resources and services are not accessible to the public thereby hindering the quest for information for research, supporting lifelong self-education and will also affect the development of good reading culture among children and youths.
2. The closure of libraries also exposes the valuable information resources and library facilities to biological, natural and environmental agents of destruction such as dust; moisture and humidity; rats and rodents, insects, water from roof leakages, poor drainages and floods, etc. as library personnel who are the custodian of these resources are not available to

properly manage and prevent these resources and facilities from exposure to these agents of destruction.

3. The lockdown and consequent closure of libraries also exposes the libraries to vandalism and criminal activities. It is important to note that most of the library resources and facilities are very expensive. They are therefore the targets of those with criminal intentions who are highly tempted to go into this evil acts due to poverty which is also induced by the COVID-19 lockdown.
4. Many libraries who intend to develop and update their collections and facilities finds it difficult to do so, as the prices of most library resources and facilities have escalated tremendously due to the closure of international borders and have hindered the importation of some of these resources. Hence, the prices of the few in the market are doubled or tripled, making them unaffordable by libraries.
5. Library resources and facilities are considered as items which the dreaded virus perch on and humans can easily contact the virus through physical contact with the resources and facility. Since the library is a public domain where human contact with these resources and facilities takes place on a daily bases, it exposes library personnel and users to this high risk of contracting the disease, which consequentially leads the decision of most library authorities to close down their libraries.
6. Many libraries are not large in size hence, practicing and observing committee on disease control social distancing rule will only lead to fewer people accessing the library even when on a normal day, the library cannot accommodate all its registered patrons.
7. Many librarians, especially those working in special libraries attached private or business organizations may lose their jobs because their parent organization can no longer pay their salaries due to very dwindling revenue as a result of COVID-19. Hence, many of these organizations cut their budgets and reduce their expenditure.
8. The serious budget cuts and dwindling allocations by government and parent organizations also affected the operations of libraries negatively because, libraries are not able to fuel their generators to power the electronic gadgets, purchase some important work tools and stationeries, maintain facilities, etc. to provide effective library services that satisfy the information needs of the library patrons.

The above situation has forced libraries and librarians to begin to rethink and re-strategies on better ways of providing information services to their various users thereby, overcoming the spread of novel pandemic disease.

The Role of Librarians and Information Specialists in the Era of COVID-19 Pandemic

Ali and Gatiti (2020) and Wilder-Smith and Freedman (2020) identified three dimensions to a librarian's role in any pandemic which are:

- a) Promoting public health awareness by creating and disseminating information relating to preventive measures;
- b) Supporting research team, researchers and faculty through the provision of information about the latest developments, research and literature;
- c) Meeting the core needs of regular library users.

1. **Promote Public Health Awareness Regarding COVID-19:** To successfully bring down the curves of the dreaded COVID-19, public health information and disease control instructions put in place by government and health professionals require social acceptance. The librarians play an active role in disseminating these information and instructions to the public to so as to make the public comply in order to reduce the transmission of the dreaded virus (Heymann and Shindo, 2020). Librarians are also responsible to share evidence-based information about this epidemic. The information may cover various topics which need to be embedded in awareness campaigns about COVID-19 such as steps individuals can take to prevent transmission, general instructions on using masks, hand washing and the use of sanitizers, the avoidance of handshakes and various other ways to control the spread of the virus. Other useful information might include histories from those who are recovering from this coronavirus and advice on good, nutrition and lifestyle which can reduce the risk of this disease.
2. **Support Research Teams, Researchers and Academic Faculty:** Librarians can support medical staff, academics, research teams and para medical staff by drawing attention to the latest developments regarding vaccination, diagnosis kits, and relevant studies published in medical journals. Many the well-known online databases provide free access to articles relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

3. **Maintain Core Library Services for Users:** During a pandemic the library must also continue support its regular users. During the recent lockdown many libraries around the world have managed to provide virtual support to their users, such as provision of references, document delivery, literature searches, and systematic reviews.

The challenge to the above is to devise effective communication strategies that provide both the general public and exposed populations who are most at risk with actionable information to ensure the safety of citizens.

New Strategies Implemented by Libraries to Enhance Effective Services Delivery in the Era of COVID-19

Across the world, many countries including Nigeria have begun a gradual reopening of public life in an attempt to return a sense of normalcy to residents' lives and diminish the economic impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Even with the specific restrictions put in place, including those being lifted vary widely across the globe, libraries are beginning to figure out the best course of action to safely resume providing effective services to their communities (BIBLIOTHECA, 2020). The Australian Library and Information Association sum it up nicely by stating that “reopening will not mean going back to the way things were in pre-COVID-19 era, it will mean putting in place the 'new normal' approach to library services.” Some of the strategies put in place by libraries in other to enhance effective library service delivery are:

1. **Adhering to Hygiene Guidance**
 - i.* **Practicing Social Distancing:** the gradual re-opening of libraries witnessed the observance of social distancing in most libraries. The continued observance of social distancing mean that it will be a while before libraries are again the bustling centers of community activity, full of story time tots, book clubs, and study groups. Some libraries now deploy ticker counters or people-counting technology to ensure that they do not exceed a safe capacity, while using ground markings to help those waiting in line to maintain a safe distance from each other.
 - ii.* **Disinfecting Library Facilities and Environments:** Most libraries have embarked on disinfecting every surface of library facilities and environment exposed to the public. Disinfecting the entire library building and facilities reduces the risks of the transmission of COVID-19 based on the instruction of Nigerian Centre for Disease Control NCDC.

Other instructions put in place by libraries to enhance the continuous provision of library services and to reduce the transmission of the dreaded pandemic are: compulsory wearing of face/nose mask by all library personnel and patron, provision of hand sanitizers, water and detergent for hand washing and provision of gun thermometers to screen patrons temperature before gaining access into the library:

1. **Empowering Digital Libraries to Ensure Constant Access to Information Resources:** As the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, most governments have temporarily closed all educational institutions. These nationwide closures have impacted 90 percent of the world's student population. Consequently, there is a transition to distance learning on an unprecedented scale. Institutes are racing to shift their courses online; students are engaging en masse with e-books and e-learning; and researchers are drawing chiefly on electronic journals. As an emergency response, UNESCO has launched the Global Education Coalition to help countries scale up their best distance learning practices. Digital libraries and publishers have risen to the occasion, offering more and more free content and curating personalized collections so that people can continue to read and learn without disruption. Indeed, as the demand for credible e-resources surges, digital libraries have emerged as vital pathways to high-quality e-books, journals and educational content. The essence of digital library is to give direct access to information resources in a structured and authoritative manner and thus, to link information technology, education and culture in contemporary library service (Falt and Das, 2020). Hence, digital libraries have demonstrated their potential not just to enable a safer, richer, more diverse public domain, but to promote human development itself.
2. **Using Library Website to Create Awareness and Access to Library Resources and Services:** The library website is the 24/7 gateway to information (Patil and Pradhan, 2014). The website is used in creating awareness by providing latest news update and press release especially about COVID-19. The library website also connects users to the library's catalog, subscription databases, calendar of events, and downloadable e-books, music and magazines. Many libraries are now developing their websites so as to continually provide equitable access to library services and resources, as well as to provide fresh content and active user interface.

3. **Using Library Social Media Handle to Debunk Fake News on COVID-19:** In the age of social media, misinformation is spread through different social media channels i.e., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc. Furthermore, some libraries have initiated online webinar and sessions to keep in touch with their users via Google classroom, Google hangouts, Skype, or Zoom. Librarians and information experts try to counteract this by sharing only reliable information. Trustworthy information may be shared with library patrons through institutional and personal social media accounts and platform try to control rumors and fake news (Hilburn, 2020 and Ladan, Haruna, and Madu, 2020).
4. **Quarantining Returned Books/Non-Book Resources:** Quarantine is one of the oldest and most effective tools of controlling communicable disease outbreak. Quarantine was used as an effective step during the pandemic situation in China. It is also an effective measure to control a pandemic of influenza (Wilder-Smith and Freedman, 2020). Just as infected persons or persons who have direct or indirect contact with infected persons are quarantined, libraries have also begun to quarantine library resources and facilities returned by a borrower. Quarantine of recently returned library resources such as book and non-book materials may last from hours to some days after undergoing some level of disinfection before being borrowed out to other patrons.
5. **Automation of Library Services:** Automation is the application of computer technology and software to carry out certain task such as acquiring, organizing, storage and dissemination of information as quickly and accurately as possible. These tasks were traditionally handled by library personnel manually. But with the implementation of automation in libraries, these tasks are now being handled by electronic machines and softwares (Yakubu, 2014 and Hussaini, Vashistha, Jimoh and imah, 2017). The implication of this in the era of COVID-19 is that librarians need not spend much time engaging in routine library work manually. This also tends to decrease the rate of contact with infected persons and resources. Examples of library services that are mostly automated are: user registration and charging and discharging of books in the Circulation section of the library, reference services which involve one-on-one contact with the users now automated to online reference services, access to traditional card catalogue now automated to Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), etc.

6. **Digitization of Library Resources and Making them Accessible Remotely:** Digitization is a process in which materials are converted from hard copies to electronic format, which are stored and accessed using electronic devices. The major purposes of digitalization are to enhance access and improve preservation of library materials (Fabunmi, Paris and Fabunmi, 2006 and Nneji, 2018). In the era of Covid-19, some libraries are now converting their bound book materials by scanning them into electronic format, by using digitization software such as Greenstone, DSpace, docworks, etc. to upload and preserve them on the library server or institutional repository, thereby, making them accessible online or off-line. This tends to decongest the library from the huge traffic, since digitized library resources are now available for remote access.

Way Forward for Libraries in the Era of COVID-19

1. **Strategic Approach for Re-opening Libraries:** Libraries all over the world are faced with varying situations from inability to maintaining a full operational service to complete closure. The experiences of COVID-19 have presented a number of puzzles for libraries and librarian to solve. Following the guideline proffered by World Health Organization (WHO) and Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) to maintain personal hygiene as a strategy, Librarians need to begin to plan ahead of school reopening by drafting out new rules and regulation such as opening hour, mode of operation, permission and re- adjusting some library policies to suit the current situation. To achieve this plan, libraries should do the following:
 - i. Libraries should constitute committee members that will work with the health unit for better understanding of the situation to ensure proper management.
 - ii. The situation should be properly studied to ensure each one is safe and services can gradual reopen. This is very vital for the committee concern situation.
 - iii. Libraries should ensures that they engage in regular communication and update their information as the need arise.
 - iv. All necessary measures and equipment should screen and physical contact should be minimized to the barest where possible.
 - v. Control the number of customers into the library by certain time limit. Through advance online booking.

2. **Ensuring Strict Adherence to Safety Rules and Guidelines:** Library authorities must ensure that library staff and patrons adhere strictly and respect every rules and safety guidelines put in place by the government and National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), such as maintain social distance, use of hand gloves, face mask, hand sanitizer. Alternatively, as library services are automated and information resources are now being digitized, library personnel could work from home if that is warranted.
3. **Re-strategizing to Rebrand the Modes of Library Services Delivery:** Drawing from the experience of some developed countries, libraries in developing countries like Nigeria can provide appreciable level of library services even in the face of the spread of the dreaded Covid-19. Library can close there open space (Reading area) or reduce the number of readers in the reading area in observance of social distancing. Libraries could also render borrowing and returning of book service at the customer care unit based on scheduled appointments. Libraries need to activate their Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) to be functional such that users can place a request or a hold on books before getting to the library to pick them up. Where the library resources are not yet converted to electronic format, libraries will need to implement quarantine policies on books returned by various users for a period of time before reissuing them to other users or to be re-shelved. Libraries will need a plan on blue print to provide remote services e-lending, e-learning, or support to remote services and also providing measures for most of the staff to work remotely.
4. **Re-strategizing on Repackaging of Library Collections:** In order to address the need to provide effective library services without exposing the library patrons and staff to the pandemic, Libraries in Nigeria and other developing countries must begin to think on how they can convert previously acquired and older print information resources to digitized format, which can be accessible online through library porter, blog or institutional repository. This invariably implies that since the library spaces may not be allowing many patrons clustering the library, and the stay at home would not warrant them the opportunity to stay out for a long period of time, they can access the library resources to satisfy their information needs remotely. Hence, distance is not a barrier.
5. **Advocate for Open Access (OA):** For students of all ages, researchers, and library users, an extended stay at home makes abundantly clear the monopoly private companies have on informational databases. Journal

articles, books, genealogy, and other vital pieces of information are behind paywalls that libraries often do not have the license or budget to offer remotely. While many of these paywalls have been temporarily removed for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, some people will still be homebound and in need of services after the pandemic ends. OA is critical for information equality, and this crisis throws that fact into sharp relief.

6. **Revamp Disaster Plans and/or Create Pandemic Policy:** If you do not already have written criteria for closing the library in a disaster or pandemic situation, it's time to create them. Libraries have often been essential shelters during crises, but pandemics are different. Make sure your policy allows discretion depending on the type of disaster or crisis. Include your policy for pay, leave, social distancing, and cleaning if the library remains open, as well as criteria for program suspension, communication channels, work from home expectations, and public service contingency.
7. **Reaching out to Suspected or Infected Persons on Isolation or Quarantined:** Isolation/quarantine are public health practices used in protecting the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease. Health professionals observed that those who are isolated based on their contact with infected persons and those quarantined because they are tested positive of covid-19 do have the feeling of loneliness, stigmatization, and rejection. Libraries should use this experience to create library services for people who are isolated and quarantined and are otherwise having the feeling of loneliness, stigmatization and being forgotten. Such library and information services can help them keep hope alive, boost self-esteem and help in the quick recovery from the novel pandemic disease.
8. **Partnering with Health Institutions and Constituted Committees on COVID-19:** For libraries to effectively play their role as a reliable information center, they must partner with health institutions and the legally constituted committee for the control of COVID-19, so as to ascertain the true state and effect of the spread of Coronavirus, and also ensure that vital information about the diseases are collected, preserved and disseminated effectively to the public through the various service points in libraries. Libraries could also partner with these organizations and committees to create awareness and sensitization programme via library website, social media page, library blogs, library YouTube channels, etc.

9. **Training of Library Staff:** The changes in the operations of libraries for effective information service delivery will demand that library personnel should be thoroughly trained or retrained. Training and retraining for library personnel should focus on vital areas such as pandemic stay safe measures, ICT skills necessary for library automation and digitization or resources, social media skills, communication skills, among others.

Conclusion


The COVID-19 era has ushered in some of changes in the way and manner in which library and information services are carried out. In the current pandemic, librarians aim at these three things: support public health awareness; support research teams, researchers and faculty and provision of routine core services for regular library patrons. These activities will continue for as long as necessary even after the pandemic as the need for information exists in every situation. Therefore, librarians and information professional must be ready to meet this need whether it is for COVID-19 or something else. Although, social distancing is a good way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, information access to users remains the social responsibility of libraries and librarians. This is because, one of the ways of curbing the spread of the dreaded pandemic and enhancing development in the society is through information access, and it is the responsibility of libraries to acquire, organize and provide information resources anytime and anywhere. Hence, libraries must appeal to their patrons with services that are seamlessly physical and digital. It is on this note that the adoption of technologies in the provision of library and information services should be welcomed and embraced by libraries and librarians. Rather than seeing them as challenges, they should be seen and accepted as presenting opportunities for libraries and librarians to reach their patrons with needed information to enhance adequate and timely decision making, reduce uncertainty and enhance human capacity for national development, even in the face of lockdowns and social distancing.

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Chapter  8

Covid-19 and Emergency Remote Instructional Process: A Way Forward

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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique challenge to economic, political, social and educational programs. Due to the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations, the educational landscape and delivery procedures are rapidly changing. In addition, the time course of these changes is also undefined (Chick, Clifton, Peace, Propper, Hale, Alseidi, and Vreeland, 2020). In these extraordinary times, the world has chocked itself for the COVID-19 pandemic which is caused by the novel virus SARS-CoV-2. The world is seeing a rise in cases, and local authorities in different countries of the world have taken uncompromising measures to limit its spread through social distancing. Centers for Disease Control (CsDC) are expected to report an increase in confirmed case of COVID-19 on daily basis. Not only has this expanding threat lead to growing economic meltdown, it has also dramatically affected education across the globe.

Given the CsDC's recommendations to avoid large gatherings and limit regular meeting sizes, our traditional model of person-to-person instructional processes, lectures, and chalk talks has been conceded. This form of learning approach has

now been challenged like no other time before, especially given the current public health measures being undertaken for the purpose of social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Consequently, the disruption of educational activities can have a negative impact on teachers, lecturers, learners and the communities around them (Almarzooq, Lopes, and Kochar, 2020).

This paper looks at how COVID-19 pandemic led to school's closure. It presents literature on how education is affected by the closure, and how schools, government and other state agencies, teachers, and international development partners such as UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID, and UNHCR have come in to rescue the future of education across the globe. Going by the literature, this paper finds out that many schools opted for e-learning as the best alternative approach for learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though many schools successfully migrated to online programs, this paper indicates that the transition was not prepared for. As a result, many students are unhappy with the emergency remote instructional process. This paper captures how students from different countries of the world bitterly reacted to the emergency remote instructional process. The paper concludes that school's management, teachers, students and other concerned stakeholders should fully equip themselves with the skills and tools required for a successful transition to online instruction not only during a pandemic like COVID-19. And school's curriculums should also be modified to be e-learning friendly to enable migration when the need arises.

Literature Review

Emergence of COVID-19 Pandemic

World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), to be a pandemic on March 12, 2020. On March 18, 2020, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization estimated that 107 countries had implemented national school closures related to COVID-19, affecting 862 million children and young people, roughly half the global student population. This situation had rapidly escalated from 29 countries with national school closures a week before (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2020). School closures are based on evidence and assumptions from influenza outbreaks that they reduce social contacts between students and therefore interrupt the transmission. School closures can affect deaths during an outbreak either positively, through reducing transmission and the number of cases, or negatively, through reductions in the health-care workforce available to

care for those who are sick. Studies of UK children and young people report that the mean number of daily social contacts during school holidays are approximately half that of school term days (Eames, Tilston, & Edmunds, 2011); however, contacts continue and mixing between children and adults and between children at different schools actually increases during holidays and school closures.

The evidence for the effectiveness of school closures and other school social distancing measures comes almost entirely from influenza outbreaks, for which transmission of the virus tends to be driven by children. It is unclear whether school measures are effective in coronavirus outbreaks for example, due to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), or Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and, most specifically, COVID-19, for which transmission dynamics appear to be different (Viner, Russell, Croker, Packer, Ward, Stansfield, Mytton, Bonell, and Booy, 2020). Four systematic reviews of the effects of school closure on influenza outbreaks or pandemics suggest that school closure can be a useful control measure, although the effectiveness of mass school closures is often low. School closure strategies might be national, regional, local, or reactive closure of individual schools in response to student infection rates. A review commissioned by the UK Department of Health in 2014, to inform influenza pandemic preparations, included 100 epidemiological and 45 modelling studies and concluded that school closures can reduce transmission of pandemic influenza if instituted early in outbreaks (Jackson, Mangtani, and Vynnycky, 2014). School closures result in greater reductions in peak than in cumulative attack rates and, according to modelling studies, are likely to have the greatest effect if the virus has low transmissibility and if attack rates are higher in children than in adults. A second review⁹ of modelling studies by the same authors drew similar conclusions.

Another review of school closures and other social distancing measures during influenza outbreaks also found compelling evidence that closures reduced transmission, particularly among school-aged children (5–17 years) (Cowling, Ali, and Ng, 2020). However, there was substantial evidence that transmission surged again once schools reopened, and there was little consensus on the appropriate timing of closures, let alone reopening of schools. One way that school closures are effective during outbreaks might be through forcing parents to work at home and thus reducing work-related contacts. However, reviews have also noted that the closure has some adverse effects, including economic harms to

health-care workers, working parents, and other key workers being forced from work to childcare, and to society due to loss of parental productivity, spread from children to vulnerable grandparents, loss of education, harms to child welfare particularly among the most vulnerable pupils, and nutritional problems especially to children for whom free school meals are an important source of nutrition. Social isolation itself brings a range of psychological harms. A rapid review found evidence that, during unplanned school closures, children's activities and contacts decreased but did not cease, with some evidence that this was particularly so among older children and those whose parents disagreed with closures.

To lower the transmission of COVID-19, many countries had introduced large-scale or national closure of schools by March, 2020. These actions appear largely based on assumptions that COVID-19 is like to be similar to influenza. There are several theoretical reasons why school closures might be less effective in COVID-19 than in influenza outbreaks. A study conducted by Wallinga, Teunis, and Kretzschmar, (2006) established that children contribute more to influenza transmission than do adults, with low levels of immunity and high levels of transmission due to symptomatic disease. However, in the COVID-19 pandemic thus far, children appear to form a much lower proportion of cases than expected from their population, although evidence for this is mixed and some data suggest that children might be as likely to be infected as adults but largely remain asymptomatic or have a mild form of the disease. It remains unclear whether the low proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children in mainland China relate to a reduced risk of infection, having subclinical or milder infections, or specific population factors (eg, one-child policy). Evidence of COVID-19 transmission through child to child contact or through schools is not yet available, although family transmission has an important role in the outbreak. In some previous coronavirus outbreaks, it was evidenced that transmission in schools was very low or not found at all (Wong, Li, Ng, and Fok, 2006). As demonstrating studies of school closures for influenza outbreaks rely on assumptions about the proportion of cases transmitted in schools being relatively high, Cauchemez, Ferguson, and Wachtel, (2009) are of the opinion that these models cannot be assumed to be effective in predicting COVID-19 transmission possibilities. Emerging epidemiological data from Wu, (2020) suggests little evidence of transmission of COVID-19 through schools in China, although this might reflect closure of schools during most of the outbreak. Notably, school closures began with not reopening schools after the Chinese New Year holidays.

Use of E-learning Tools amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Before the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic, many technological tools have been in use for social and educational purposes. For example, social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, continue to be an important outlet for many people to both learn and disseminate information on a global scale. While these tools provide a useful virtual and social outlet for education, they often lack the depth and organization to reliably implement an educational curriculum (Almarzooq, Lopes, and Kochar, 2020). In many learning institutions, Zoom, Google Meet, Duo, Slack and Microsoft Teams have facilitated continued students' educational activities. The need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic has led many educational institutions to opt for utilizing virtual learning environment. Virtual learning platforms have significantly reshaped and innovated how institutions teach and engage students amid the pandemic. In addition, it has allowed us to continue to foster a sense of community that we hope can attenuate trainee burnout and promote wellness in a time when isolation has become a part of everyday life. Program specific virtual learning platforms have the potential to play an important and useful role in the instructional processes at all levels of education (Almarzooq, Lopes, and Kochar, 2020).

In their study conducted by Chick, Clifton, Peace, Propper, Hale, Alseidi, and Vreeland, (2020) on the use of technology to maintain the education of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, several innovative solutions were proposed. These include the flipped classroom model, online practice questions, teleconferencing in place of in-person lectures, involving residents in telemedicine clinics, procedural simulation, and the facilitated use of surgical videos. Although there is no substitute for hands-on learning through operative experience and direct patient care, these may be ways to mitigate the loss of learning exposure during this time. They authors concluded that these innovative solutions utilizing technology may help to bridge the educational gap for surgical residents during this unprecedented circumstance such as COVID-19 pandemic. The support of government, non-governmental organisations, and development partners may be beneficial in maintaining rigorous surgical education.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected educational and other related activities in teaching hospitals also. In a study conducted by Moszkowicz, Duboc, Dubertret, Roux and Bretagnol(2020), it was found that university hospitals have had to take unprecedented measures of containment, including asking non-essential staff to

stay at home. Medical students practicing in the surgical departments find themselves idle, as non-urgent surgical activities have been canceled, until further notice. Likewise, universities are closed and medical training for students is likely to suffer if teachers do not implement urgent measures to provide continuing education. The study recommends a simple and free teaching method intended to compensate for the disappearance of daily lessons performed in the surgery department using the Google Hangouts application. This video conference method can be applied to clinical as well as anatomy lessons.

Interventions for Education amid COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented situation whereby schooling has been disrupted for almost 1.6 billion children and youth as governments enforce total or partial closures of schools in efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Higher education institutions have also suspended classes. In the late April, 2020, UNESCO estimated that 91% of those enrolled in formal education programmes have been affected (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) (UNHCR, 2020). The closure of schools, universities, technical and vocational training institutes has also affected refugee learners and students. In these challenging times, displaced and refugee students are at a particular disadvantage and there is a risk that progress in increased enrolment may be eroded. The suspension of school feeding programmes could affect the nutrition and health status of refugee children and youth. Lessons drawn from other pandemic responses that included extended school closures have shown that girls are less likely to return to school and are at greater risk of falling behind. As many governments move to at-home learning modalities, many refugees are disadvantaged as they experience uneven access to distance education and online learning opportunities and hardware, and do not have access to support services such as language classes.

In effort to curtail the adverse effect of COVID-19 on the education of refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has come up with programmes especially in the developing world. In Jordan, it comes in to support national government initiatives to launch online learning platforms and build capacity to support virtual learning. In Uganda, it comes in to expand the existing connected education programmes with the support of Education Cannot Wait. In this programmes, technology enhanced learning platforms are hosted on a government server and the site can be accessed through free Wi-Fi connectivity offered by MyUG hotspots in Kampala and Entebbe. In Egypt, it provided cash

assistance for increased data connectivity to allow access national educational resources. While school learning materials and radios are distributed in Niger, e-readers and TV sets are distributed in Ghana and South Sudan (UNHCR, 2020). Most of the learning centers established by UNHCR Indonesia and its education partners have moved to distance learning modalities using instant messaging and videoconferencing applications such as WhatsApp, Zoom and YouTube. UNHCR has more than the mentioned to support education across the globe amid COVID-19 pandemic.

During the novel COVID-19, persons with disabilities are also at disadvantage, they are often provided with less help and inadequately trained teachers (UNESCO, 2020). Approximately 15% of the world's population, representing more than 1 billion people lives with disabilities, and 2% to 4% find day-to-day life challenging without assistance. Disability is more prevalent in low and middle income countries such as Nigeria than in high-income countries. Disability, gender, nationality, ethnicity, poverty and many other factors affect internet access. An online-based, high-tech approach is not always ideal for creating an inclusive learning environment. Currently, because of a lack of disaggregated data and information, it is unclear how many students with disabilities are receiving inadequate educational support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (UNESCO, 2020). Students with disabilities require more time and resources to actively participate in learning. This includes equipment, internet access and specially designed materials and support. This makes learning more costly for students and their families. Students with disabilities are also negatively affected by the classroom shutdown in additional ways. They lose access to school meals and to play with their friends, which are equally important for development and learning.

Emergency Remote Instructional Process

During this rapidly growing crisis, a great deal of flexibility will be required from both learners and educators, and learning methods that are not well-studied and not well-prepared for may be necessary (Chick, Clifton, Peace, Propper, Hale, Alseidi, and Vreeland, 2020). In a time like this, schools, universities and other high institutions often opt for emergency remote instructional process (ERIP). ERIP refers to the instructional process that is incorporated to avoid interruption in the educational process. Emergency remote instructional process is often used during pandemic and disasters. The way it is conducted depends largely of the guidelines from the appropriate authorities. Mostly, emergency

remote instructional process is characterized by the following: candid instruction; teacher-centered; linear in nature; one or two medium of instruction (s); and absence of eco-system. It is obvious that the use of technologies for instructional process has been found effective in different settings.

Emergency remote instructional process is similar to remote instruction that is integrated during emergency situations. Remote instructional process is an approach that gives teachers the opportunity to engage learners who are not in a physical location for in-person education, access to online training materials (O'Neill, 2020). Remote instructional process occurs when the teacher and students, or source of information, are separated by time and distance and therefore cannot meet in a traditional classroom setting. Information is typically transmitted via technology (discussion boards, emails, video conference, and audio bridge) so that no physical presence in the classroom is required. This kind of approach can synchronously with real-time peer-to-peer interaction and collaboration, or asynchronously, with self-paced learning activities that take place independently of the instructor (Top-Hat, 2020).

For a successful delivery through ERT, there is need to first implement a teleconference format for the academic activities that usually hold at the same time. Commercial online software such as GoToMeeting, and Google Meet for teleconferences that are free to users with a single paid institutional account are subscribed to. This format allows for trainees and staff to have a live video feed, so the lecturer can see who is currently attending, see responses of the trainees, and ask questions of specific audience members, which gives the feel of an in-person meeting from a safe distance. For the most part users are logging in from computers, but this program is also accessible from smartphones and tablets, which allows learner engagement from any location. Similar capabilities can be accessed through a variety of platforms, including Zoom (Zoom Video Communications, San Jose, CA), WebX WebEx (Cisco Webex, Milpitas, CA), and Skype (Skype Technologies, Palo Alto, CA). In addition, this format allows us to record all conferences (except for those with protected information, such as morbidity and mortality conference). Once recorded, these conferences are stored on a cloud account accessible by all the participants for later review.

Availability of the technologies for ERT does not mean all countries of the world can easily opt for e-learning option. Developing countries evidence from the Nigeria experience are posed with the challenge of shifting from the traditional

teaching method to the e-learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges arise as a result of the varying degree of preparedness of the institutions, lack of infrastructures, epileptic power supply, paucity of funds and policies issues in the Nigeria education sector (Adeoye, Adanikin, and Adanikin, 2020). Poor budgetary allocation, corruption and unpreparedness are contributing factors to the inability of many public tertiary institutions to embrace e-learning during the global COVID19 pandemic in Nigeria. A ten year (2010-2019) budgetary allocation to the Nigerian education sector has been very poor and below the 15 to 20 percent as recommended by UNESCO for developing countries like Nigeria. With budgetary allocations like these comes deficiencies that does not allow for growth of e-learning and creates challenges when institutions try to embrace e-learning during pandemics such as the COVID-19.

Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) (2020) carried out a study on the impact and implications of the COVID-19 crisis on educational systems and households. Based on the study's findings, TUAC opines that the following recommendations illustrate the need for tailored policies that look at the delivery of learning (including resolving connectivity issues), the well-being of students and the challenges faced by households depending on their employment status (during confinement), income and demographics (e.g. single parents, migrants): Students' health and emotional well-being should be prioritized; traditional face-to-face teaching approaches should be replaced by eLearning (remote teaching). Remote learning demands appropriate hardware, software, and a high-speed internet connection. Beyond digital literacy challenges, teachers and student need to find new ways to communicate and use e-learning tools effectively. Offline learning material and special programmes for vulnerable students deserve consideration. Assistance structures for students from vulnerable groups have to be put in place immediately (e.g. helplines, online coaching, partial school re-openings for those lacking digital infrastructure, summer-school programmes) and individual support for students in need should continue throughout the coming school year; and assessment of learning could focus on overall performance. Options around postponing, adopting or putting off (final) exams are important to secure fair outcomes for future educational and employment pathways(Trade Union Advisory Committee, 2020).

Students' Responses and Failed Emergency Remote Instructional Process amid COVID-19 Pandemic

In spite of the fact that many institutions of learning opted for ERIP to reduce the negative effects of COVID-19 on education. Students from different countries of

the world carried out to show their dissatisfaction on how the e-learning tools are used for instructional process in 2020. What makes it failed amid COVID-19 pandemic is the lack preparedness/readiness among teachers, students, schools management, and governments. Students in more than 25 U.S. universities have filed lawsuits against their schools on online teaching (ERT) in 2020 (Yusuf, 2020). Most of these students complained that the ERT has poorly substituted the classroom learning, it allows for little interaction between students and lecturers, and that quality and academic rigour significantly decreased. In a policy response by UNESCO (2020), it was opined that the closures implemented as a measure to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, have led to an accelerated deployment of distance education solutions to ensure pedagogical continuity. The obstacles are multiple, ranging from low connectivity and lack of online content aligned with national curricula to teachers unprepared for this 'new normal'. Regardless of the level of education, the paramount danger is that learning inequalities will widen, marginalization will increase, and the most disadvantaged students will find themselves unable to pursue their studies. Higher education is no exception, even if at this level, digital technology has had the most far-reaching impact over the past decades. It is a setback to the implementation of ERT that many teachers lack ICT skills and knowledge. Forty percent of teachers in OECD countries, on average, lack professional ICT skills. They are not prepared to teach online and cannot ensure student engagement, specifically. Currently, there is no available data on special-education teachers' digital skills in developing or least-developed countries (UNESCO, 2020).

A study by the Department of Political Science at the Muhanlal Sukhadia University revealed that teachers and students were dissatisfied with the online classes held during the past two months of lockdown. Even surprising was to find, 44% of the students did not use any e-learning resource. More than half of the respondents observed inadequacies in the online mode citing issues of internet connectivity, lack of interest, time management, family and economic issues. Respondents suggested that the digital infrastructure should be strengthened and deliver it at the doorsteps of villages. The online mode has to be made affordable, inclusive and democratic. The aim should be to cultivate creativity and productivity rather than making students bookworms. Quality of the e-content and increasing the platforms of e-learning has to be looked into seriously (The Times of India, 2020).

Lack of readiness, economic status, location and other factors have led to teachers' and students' dissatisfaction of the remote instructional process. Here are some of the reactions by students from across the globe:

1. "I didn't know anything about a Zoom and how to get on a Zoom. Oh, my God. It was horrible," she said. "I couldn't get access. I couldn't get the books. Couldn't do this, couldn't do that. And I was going to quit again. My daughters told me, 'Mom, you've never quit on anything. You can't quit.' I said, 'I can't handle it.'"
2. "Peer-to-peer interaction is a really pivotal part of education at my school, and it feels like it falls so short in our distance learning. We use Zoom and can see one another and our teacher, but everyone is always muted so as not to interfere with background noise. Our classes have been cut down by ten minutes and instead of having six classes a day, we only have three or four classes synchronously. I feel like my education is not being fulfilled. I have a significant lack of motivation and I miss the thought-provoking discussions I used to have with my classmates during physical school. I am really anxious to get back to school and really foster my love of learning through my peers."
3. "The thought process of my teachers seems to be "Oh they have all of this free time now, so I can assign them more work than I normally would." Or at least something along the lines of that, because my teachers haven't let up one bit. That's been the most challenging part of remote learning, because I get easily distracted when I try to work in my house, and that I have even more work than normal, it's challenging to get everything done. I have been able to keep up with what we've been learning for the most part, but it would be nice to have a teacher that could answer my questions and help me in person."
4. "I also find it very hard to find an 'escape' from school. Since it all takes place at my home, distressing has become more difficult because I feel like school is there with me the entire day. I really hope, in the near future, we will be returning to our school since I am not receiving the best education at home."
5. "I am starting my third week of remote learning and let me tell you, I cannot wait for the day this whole thing is over. My school went directly into remote learning around the time the first confirmed case was found in my state and I do not like it. I find myself getting distracted much easier and find myself procrastinating more and more. I'm not motivated to complete some work until I realize it will impact my grade, unlike normal

school. A lot of the time, I get confused. I don't have the luxury of being able to ask my teacher why I need to do different when I don't understand something or don't know what to do and a lot of the time, an email doesn't get back to me in the time I am completing my work.”

Largely, e-learning helps students to develop conversational skills, technological skills, find answers to their questions, develop a sense of collaboration, allow knowledge sharing, and hence leverage their learning outcomes (Al-Emran, Elsherif, and Shaalan, 2016). The quick transition to e-learning (remote instructional process) encountered a lot of challenges and gained experience can be used in the future. The lesson learned from the COVID -19 will force a generation of new laws, regulations, platforms and solutions for future cases (Basilaiia, and Kvavadze, 2020).

Conclusion and Suggestions


Even before the emergence COVID-19 pandemic, the world was living a learning crisis. And the crisis was not equally distributed among all countries: the most disadvantaged nations have the worst access to schooling, highest dropout rates, and the largest learning deficits. The COVID-19 pandemic has already had profound impacts on education by closing schools almost everywhere on the planet, in the largest simultaneous shock to all education systems in our lifetimes. The damage will become even more severe as the health emergency leads to a deep global economic meltdown. The school closings shock will lead to learning loss, increased dropouts, and higher inequality; the economic shock will aggravate the damage, by depressing education demand and supply as it harms households; and together, they will exact long-run costs on human capital accumulation, development prospects and welfare. Schools, universities and other tertiary institutions in many countries of the world have used available e-learning tools to transit the traditional school lessons to the online education during the pandemic. Problems related to emergency transition to online instruction are still on the increase. This means that schools management, teachers, students and other concerned stakeholders should fully equip themselves with the skills and tools required for a successful transition online instruction not only during a pandemic like COVID-19. And schools curriculums should also be modified to be e-learning friendly to enable migration when the need arises.

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Chapter  9

A Holistic Approach to Strategic Planning and Cyclical Visions of Development in Africa

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Abstract

The paper highlighted the main issues and concepts on contemporary development theory and planning using the Nigeria's National Economic Empowerment Strategy (NEEDS SEEDS, and LEEDS as panacea for promoting development via visions. We have adopted the vision 2005, 2010, 2015 in the early 1980s and now pursuing vision 20:20:20 as final “bus stop” to macroeconomic rigidities (such as inflation, devaluation, poverty, corruption, lack of basic infrastructures such as good health care facilities, good road networking, access to good water supply, power supply, etc.) in most Sub-Sahara African countries particularly in Nigeria. The paper used conceptual and theoretical framework for analysis and there from conclusions and summary of the work are drawn from.

Keywords: *Poor Strategic Planning, Poverty, corruption, Poor Basic Infrastructures and Growth.*

Introduction

Development economics emerged as a special field of enquiry after World War II. In its early years, the focus was on studying and prescribing policies for the economies of the so-called 'Third World' at different stages of their political emancipation. The subject matter of enquiry was the application of orthodox economics to the problems of underdevelopment and so, one can say that there was nothing unique about development economics. However, as the poor economies grew out of their underdeveloped status, development economics acquired a new orientation and attracted more rigorous analysis mostly focused on the experiences of transiting from an underdeveloped state to a developed one or remaining irreversibly trapped in underdevelopment. Today, a combination of the unique experiences of the developing world, the experience of the East Asian nations which have successfully transformed their economies, the strong re-emergence of the market economy and the ongoing globalization have expanded the frontiers of development economics as well as deepened its contents. The notion of what development is, for example, has not only changed but the related concept of development planning has made the new concept of public sector strategic planning a more attempt framework. This section will make an attempt to highlight the main issues and concepts that contemporary development theory, policy and planning focus on, using Nigeria's National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) as an illustration. This will provide the necessary tools for engaging in contemporary development debates as well as for further analytical exploration of the field.

The New Meaning of Development

Over the last four decades, development concept has gone through several metamorphoses. Development has, therefore, come to mean different things to different people at different times. This has created a state of confusion which can have some harmful effects on policy coherence. Development happens to be a complex phenomenon so that any effort to engage its meaning must encompass the relevant critical variables. Let us probe some key dimensions of development that are of contemporary interests to policy makers and economic planners.

Growth as Development

In the 1960s, after the emergence of the new nations, the United Nations (UN) declared the first decade of the 1960s as 'the development decade' prescribing a growth rate of 6% for all the developing countries. This prescription was based on the presumption that economic growth would automatically bring about

development and development was growth. Indeed, growth was expected to have a trickle-down effect on the welfare of the masses. Nations like Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia registered some respectable growth rate over and above the prescribed UN benchmark by the end of the decade but were far from making a dent on development or people's welfare, It was at this point that development scholars started questioning the automatic equation of development with growth as there were no substantive evidence that growth had any noticeable impact on key development issues like unemployment, inequality and poverty. If anything, there was mounting evidence that the key indicators on these variables were moving up. Consequently, growth could not be regarded as development although growth is a necessary component of it, as we shall see.

Development as Reduction in Poverty, Unemployment, Inequality and Dependency

Scholars questioned the legitimacy of equating growth with development if such growth failed to reduce poverty, unemployment, inequality and dependency. Reduction in unemployment is critical in assessing growth performance because its presence connotes the inability of the economic system to find productive engagements for people able and willing to work. It implies human resources as being wasted to the detriment of the growth process itself. Economic development is expected to eliminate absolute or extreme poverty (a condition of destitution) and/or reduce relative poverty (improvement in one's deprivation vis-à-vis others). It is also expected to address other variants of poverty be it income deprivation or capability deprivation. Thus, no growth story can be interesting if it cannot reduce/eliminate all the relevant variants of poverty. Development is also expected to address the challenge of the growing gap between the rich and the poor as well as gender inequality. Failure to do so will generate inequity and distort the allocation of economic resources. A growth process that discriminates against women, for instance, not only alienates and excludes his constituency but would also have created resource wastes in human terms. Absence of self-reliance or reduction in dependency as an index of development is considered a key aspect because if an entity is assume to be developed or developing, it must do so in a sustainable manner. In other words, absence of self-reliance renders development unsustainable. This arises because extreme dependency endangers continuous availability of development resources for consumption and production. Heightened dependency in development can be likened to a patient whose survival depends on medical/mechanical props. The moment the props are removed, the

patient often dies, as he/she cannot help sustain the propped life. This is the sense in which development needs to be self-reliant or endogenously-driven.

Development as Provision of Basic Needs

The basic needs approach to development was promoted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the 1970s. This approach sees development as involving the provision of the minimum basic essentials required for civilized living. Such essentials include shelter, food, clothing, basic education, basic health facilities, etc. the provision of these basic needs was considered the absolute necessary condition for one to move beyond the extreme poverty threshold. The expectation was that basic needs are things to be provided by government not necessarily through the growth process. Nevertheless, the growth process is critical for sustainable provision of basic needs. Imobighe, (2006).

Development as Human-Centered Socio-Economic Essentials

Since the end of the 1980s, development has been human-centered enterprise. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been at the forefront of this perspective. Human development is seen as being central to the entire development process. And it is defined here as a 'process of expanding human choices by enabling people to live a long, healthy and creative life'. Since 1991, UNDP has been publishing the Human Development Report which measures and compares the human development index (HDI) across nations. HDI is a composite measure of human development on a scale of 0 to 1, taking into account the income, education and life expectancy in a country. It is significant to note that the HDIs of developed countries have consistently ranked higher (about 0.7 - 0.9) than those of the developing world (0.5 and above). Within this human development framework, a growth process is considered anti-developmental if it is: jobless (not expanding employment opportunities), rudderless (where the fruits of growth go only to the rich), voiceless (where growth is not characterized by participation and empowerment) and futureless (where present consumption does not consider future generation). Economic growth within the human development perspective must, therefore, deliver on the critical issues of employment, income equality, democratic participation and environmental protection.

Development as Ideal Environmental Management

Concern on the impact of economic growth on the environment has been gathering intellectual steam since the 1970s. The World Bank (1991) has noted

that 'any notion of strictly economic progress must at the minimum look beyond growth in per capita income to the protection of the environment'. This concern arises from the externality effects of production and consumption. Without environmental protection, production and consumption activities often result in environmental damage taking the form of pollution, green gas emission and warning of the environment, etc. sustainable development is often defined in environmental context to mean the type that meets the needs of the present generation without endangering those of the future generation. Modern growth and development, therefore, give top priority to ideal environmental management. Multinational development agencies as well as NGOs have spent enormous resources on environmental issues. The persistence of poverty, unemployment, inequality and health hazards has been directly linked to the mismanagement of the environment.

Development as Democracy, Good Governance and human Rights

This perspective to contemporary development seeks to incorporate the lessons that have been learnt about the development efforts of the past. There has been a growing consensus that the reason for the development failures of the past has to do more with the absence of democracy, good governance and human rights than any other set of variables. This perspective has led to the view of development as involving advocacy for democracy and democratic institutions, the institutionalization of good governance, accountability, transparency, participation and ownership. Here, development seems to be seen from a strategic point of view of means rather as an end in itself.

In summary, it is clear from the above survey that the modern concept of development is complex, multifaceted and dynamic. In contemporary terms, development has to be seen as a process of economic growth that focuses attention on humans to enable them:

1. Make choices that ensure decent income, long, healthy and creative lives;
2. Eliminate absolute poverty and reduce relative poverty;
3. Reduce unemployment and underemployment;
4. Reduce inequality and discrimination in whatever form;
5. Reduce dependency in order to ensure sustainability;
6. Provide for basic needs for civilized living;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability, and
8. Ensure democratic governance, human right, transparency and accountability.

This multifaceted perspective of development is embedded and clearly reflected in the eight millennium development goals (MDG) designed by the United Nations during its 2000 millennium conference. The eight millennium development goals (MDGs) are to be reached by achieving the 18 targets by 2015. It should, however, be emphasized that economic growth is critically essential for development in the above multidimensional sense to occur. Without it the economic system cannot go far in providing development essentials. It is also true that the achievements of development ends are supportive of the growth process itself.

Africa's Development Challenges

Africa is widely known to be one of the least developed world regions. Although the state of underdevelopment varies among the countries that make up the African continent, there are common problems that can be discerned amongst them. Some of the key challenges, their indicators and the reasons for their occurrences can be highlighted as follows:

Table 1.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	
Goal	Targets
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education	3. Ensure that, 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
3. Promote gender equality and empower	4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015.
4. Reduce child mortality	5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.
5. Improve maternal health	6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.	7. Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS 8. Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environment resources. 10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. 11. By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.	12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system which includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally. 13. Address the special Needs of the Least Development Countries. These includes tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction. 14. Address the special needs for landlocked countries and small island developing states (through Barbados Programme and 22 General Assembly provisions). 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term. 16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. 17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries. 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

Source: Adapted from UNDP, Human Development Report 2003. New York, Oxford University Press, 2003, p. 1-3.

Low per Capita Income

It will recall from the national income accounting that per capita income is the ratio of gross domestic (Or national) product to population. It is widely used as an index of development since it shows how a typical citizen benefits from the growth

of the economy. Countries are ranked or classified into development categories using their per capita income. In the World Bank Development Report (2004), the income classifications are as follows: low income countries (LICs) have \$735 per capita or less; middle income countries (MICs) have \$736 to \$9,075 per capita; high income countries (HICs) have per capita income of \$9,076 and above. Based on these benchmarks, there are 40 LICs and 9 MICs in Africa. No African country has yet attained the envious status of HIC. Recall that GDP per capita is an average measure, and like all averages, it leaves out extreme cases. (see Table 2 for details).

Table 2: Selected development indicators for some African countries

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Countries	population in mid 2002	gross National Income per capita	Gross Domestic Investment % of GDP (2002)	GDP growth % annual change (2002)	Electricity power consumption per capital 2000kwh	Adult infection rate of HIV/AIDS	Terms of Trade based on 1955 = 100 index 2002
Sub-Saharan Africa	689.3	451	18.9	2.8	457	8.4	109.5
All Africa	831.8	650	21.5	3.2	541.7	6.7	108.3
Angola	13.1	670	32.2	15.3	88.2	5.5	156.1
Benin	6.6	380	17.8	6	63.6	3.6	96
Botswana	1.7	3010	24.8	3.1	-	38.6	113.3
Burkina Faso	11.8	250	18.3	4.6	-	6.5	83.7
Burundi	7.1	100	7.9	3.6	-	8.3	50.1
Cameroon	15.8	550	18.3	4.2	182.8	11.8	110.6
Cape Verde	0.5	1,250	20.9	4.3	-	12.9	100
Central Africa Republic	3.8	250	14.8	-0.8	-	54.7	
Chad	8.3	220	58.9	9.9	-	3.6	180.2
Comoros	0.6	390	12.9	2.5	-	-	162.7
Congo Demo Republic	51.6	90	7.1	3	40.2	4.9	137.9
Congo Rep	3.7	720	23.3	1.8	86.1	7.2	183.5
Cote d'Ivoire	16.5	610	10.4	-	-	9.7	97.1
Djibouti	0.7	900	-	0.2	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	0.5	-	28.3	1.8	-	3.4	100.2
Eritrea	4.3	180	26.5	2.7	-	2.8	97.2
Ethiopia	67.2	100	20.5	3	22.1	6.4	56.1
Gabon	1.3	3120	28.4	-3.1	696.7	-	114
Gambia, The	1.4	270	21.5	4.5	-	1.6	100
Ghana	20.3	270	22.3	4.2	335.9	3	105.6
Guinea	7.7	410	16.8	-7.2	-	-	111.1
Guinea-Bissau	1.4	150	14.7	1	105.9	2.8	102.4
Kenya	31.3	360	13.6	3.8	-	15	94.4
Lesotho	1.8	470	40	-	-	31	100.1
Liberia	3.3	140	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	16.4	230	14.3	-12.7	-	0.03	143.4
Malawi	10.7	160	12.4	1.8	-	15	93.9
Mali	11.4	240	18.9	9.7	-	1.7	90.2
Mauritania	2.8	280	24.7	3.3	-	-	86.6
Mauritius	1.2	3900	21.9	4.4	-	0.4	109.9
Mozambique	18.4	210	47.7	7.7	52.6	13	67.2
Namibia	2	1960	24.1	-	-	22.5	156.9
Niger	11.4	170	12.8	3	-	-	-
Nigeria	132.8	300	23.3	-0.9	0	5.8	165.1
Rwanda	8.2	210	18.8	9.4	-	8.9	62.6
Sao Tome and Principe	0.2	290	26.6	4.1	0	-	138.2
Senegal	9.8	460	19.7	1.1	1206	0.5	61.7
Seychelles	0.1	7050	30.5	0.3	-	-	97.8
Sierra Leone	5.2	140	8.8	6.3	-	7	492.1
Somalia	9.3	-	-	-	-	1	-
South Africa	45.3	2600	15.8	3	3745.2	20.1	97.1
Sudan	32.8	380	19.5	5.5	-	2.6	119.2
Swaziland	1.1	1240	17.9	3.6	-	33.4	100
Tanzania	35.2	290	16.7	6.3	-	7.8	134.6
Togo	4.5	270	21.7	4.6	-	6	104
Uganda	24.6	240	21.7	6.7	-	5	44.1
Zambia	10.2	-	22.3	3.3	556.3	21.5	49
Zimbabwe	13	-	16.7	-5.6	845.2	33.5	104.1
Algeria	31.3	1720	41.7	3.4	622.9	-	154.8
Egypt	66.4	1470	29.9	3	976	0.1	84
Libya	5.4	-	26.3	-	3921.4	0.2	-
Morocco	29.4	1170	26.5	4.4	447.2	0.1	120
Tunisia	9.8	1990	31.2	6	938.9	-	98

Source: Compiled from The World Bank, African Development Indicators 2004. Washington DC: World Bank 2004.

Column 3 of the above table clearly illustrate that in 2002, Africa had an average GNI per capita of \$650, which puts the entire continent within the class of LICs. African countries in the middle income categories ranked in order of the size of their GNI are Mauritius (\$3,900), Gabon (\$3,120), Botswana (\$3,010) and South Africa (\$2,600). The countries at the lowest GNI league table include Congo Democratic Republic (\$90), Burundi and Ethiopia (\$100 each) and Liberia and Sierra Leone (\$140 each). The overall picture is that Africa is the Poorest of the World regions. This is confirmed by the use of headcount poverty index which shows that 50% or 400 million of the continent's population of about 800 million people live in extreme poverty using the \$1 a day international poverty benchmark. The pertinent question is: why has Africa been trapped in massive poverty? The answer to this question is often partially answered by referring to growth stagnation in Africa. But let us now take a look at the growth story.

Laggard Growth Rate

Africa's economic stagnation has often been explained in terms of the slow or laggard growth of its economies. This is true to a large extent. For most of the decade of the 1980s, economic growth in most African countries was negative. This decade was aptly described as 'a lost decade' for Africa. However, economic growth started picking up from the beginning of the 1990s. By the end of the millennium the average growth in most African countries was 3% per annum. Africa has since managed to stay in the positive side of the growth quadrant — but there are substantive variations among nations. As Table 1 makes clear, in 2002, the average growth in the entire continent was 3.2. This average hid as much as it reveals because growth varied from -12.7% for Madagascar to a dizzying double digit of 15.3% for Angola. In between, countries that registered significant growth rates included Chad (9.9%), Mali (9.7%), Mozambique (7.7%), Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Tunisia (all with about 6% growth rate). African economies leave much to be desired. The prospects that Africa will reach the Millennium Development Goals are dimmed by this lackluster growth prospects in the majority of the countries.

Adverse Demographic Factors

The factor to be considered here includes population size and growth rate, as well as urbanization. Africa's development is known to have been constrained by several aspects of its demographic features. The growth rate of population (of 831.8 million, 2002) is estimated at 2.8% per annum. This implies that the continent's population on resources has been enormous. Urbanization in Africa is growing

almost exponentially with the average urban growth rate estimated at 5% per annum. It has been estimated that by the year 2015, Africa will be 76% urban. This explosive urban growth rate has serious implications for finding resources to cope with the demands of urban infrastructural facilities, unemployment problems and environmental degradation. A mega city like Lagos (with estimated 15 million people in 2002) will be particularly difficult to manage if measures are not taken to address some of the pressing development challenges (like power supply and transportation). From industrialization point of view, majority of African Countries have small sizes and, therefore, cannot provide viable markets to support some large-scale industries. Exceptions to this are countries with population of over 4 These include Nigeria (132.8 million), Ethiopia (67.2 million), Egypt (66.4 million), Congo Democratic Republic (51.5 million) and South Africa (45.3 million) (see Table I, column 2).

Low Investment Rate

Whereas investment rates of between 25% and 30% of GDP are required for sustained and accelerated growth of industrializing countries, sub-Saharan Africa could only manage to register about 20% investment ratio annually in the last 20 years. In a country like Nigeria, investment ratio which stood at 18% in the 1980s has collapsed to 7% in the last decade. Numerous reasons are responsible for these. Prominent among these are issues of kidnapping of major stakeholders or captains of industries who are kidnapped in Nigeria and other part of the sub-region for huge sum of money thereby discouraging investors. Nigeria Tell Magazine April (2010). The most disturbing phenomenon in the saving-investment linkage is that in many countries, what is saved is not necessarily translated into investment irrespective of the existing rate of interest. Put more formally, Africa faces the problem of poor financial intermediation. One of the causes of this phenomenon has more to do with lack of reliable information between borrowers and lenders for the purpose of assessing credit risks. This in turn generates risks for both parties resulting in low investment rate because the risks of doing business are factored into rate of interest making in unacceptably high for some investors. And without robust investment the economy cannot grow, talk less of driving development.

Poor Infrastructure

Africa's development has been seriously retarded by poor and inadequate infrastructure. The key problem areas in infrastructural provision include energy (electricity supply), telecommunications, including the information and

communications technology (ICT), water supply, inadequate road and transportation network, etc. using electricity consumption as a reflection of the general state of infrastructure, it can be seen from Table 1 that in 2000, the average electricity power consumption per capita was 442 kwh. While a country like Libya and South Africa consumed about 4,000 kWh, Nigeria requires about 10,000 kWh but could only consume a paltry 81 kWh per capita because of low generation capacity. The yawning deficit in infrastructural provision has created a situation where the manufacturing sector operates under capacity making it impossible to employ more labour. It has also forced many entrepreneurs to close down for lack of critical infrastructural inputs.

Low Human Capital Formation and Utilization

Africa's growth and development has equally been hampered by shortages and wastages of human capital. The shortage cuts across the entire human capital spectrum. Of particular note is the shortage of middle level manpower and high level manpower. At the middle level, technicians are in short supply in virtually all sectors of the economy. Some of the reasons given for this shortage have to do with the preference of students and parents to invest more in university education (which is perceived to offer a surer route to prosperity and power) than in polytechnics which hardly matches such prospects. The incentive structure facing people with technical education is often low. In spite of the efforts made in expanding higher education for the purpose of closing the gap continues to widen, for several reasons. First, the manpower being produced lacks the relevant skills to cope with the demands of modern labor market. Second, the quality of education offered is being compromised by poor funding of the institutions of higher learning. Third, employment opportunities are not expanding to give graduates adequate opportunities to develop on-the-job skills. Fourth, experienced professionals in the system continuously seek for greener pastures because of poor conditions of service. Consequently, the brain drain has taken a large toll of the available trained manpower. And last, albeit in-exhaustive, education and training are not given the priority they serve in development plans and budgets. This reflects the failure to appreciate contemporary development as being human-focused and knowledge-driven. Meanwhile, millions of youths are being educated into a labor market that is not making use of them and an economic system that fails to give them the opportunity to help themselves.

External Dependence

We noted earlier that for development to be meaningful, it should be sustainable, through the medium to the long term. Africa's development has been dangerously

dependent to external forces thereby reducing its sustainability. The external dependence of African economies is attributable to two causes. The first is the dependence of most countries on imports as the domestic economies are unable to produce most of their domestic needs. The import-GDP ratios of most African countries range from 60% to 80% per annum. Second is the dependence on one or few export of natural resources/commodities. The share of oil exports in Nigeria's total export, for instance, was 88.5% between 1970 and 1975, and had averaged 96% between 1980 to 1998. Such high rate of dependency causes extreme volatility rendering development plans, budgets and programmes unsustainable.

Income Inequalities

Income distribution is widely known to be highly unequal in developing countries. After Latin America, Africa is the next in rank in the Gini index of income inequality averaging, about 56%. Inequality affects development adversely because it (a) reduces investment opportunities thereby reducing growth rate; (b) brings about social friction between the rich and poor, and (c) affects women's economic progress adversely by imposing gender inequality hence inequality on them. Development inequalities among geographical regions of a country can also be a source of problem. In this respect, it is worth noting that in most African countries the rural areas remain the most challenging pockets of underdevelopment.

HIV/AIDS

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have emerged as the number one health and development hazard in Africa. The number of victims is staggering: as of 2003, 20 million Africans are already dead, 30 million are infected and 12 million have been orphaned. The enormity of the health and economic impact of the pandemic varies with the infection rate. Table 1 shows the variations among some selected African countries. The World Bank, African Development Indicators, (2004). The table depicts the HIV infection rates for 2001 and their growth implications. The infection rate varies from Madagascar's .03% through Nigeria's 5.8% and Malawi's 15% to Botswana's 38.6%. The number of years it would take for the infection to double varies from about two for countries like Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Liberia to 12 years for Nigeria. As was stressed earlier, HIV/AIDS is not merely a health problem but a developmental one as well. At the going rate of infection, it is estimated that life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa will be reduced from the average of 53 years to about 30 years. This tragedy would make nonsense

of human-centered development strategy now being canvassed. In human capital terms, the disease has eroded the skill base of many African countries. Zambia, for instance, has lost about 40% of her teaching force to AIDS infection and death. Since the youths are the most affected, the development potentials of most countries are very seriously threatened. This leads to decline in productivity.

Development Shocks

African development efforts have been undermined by the occurrence of both internal and external shocks. Such shocks tend to cause volatility in revenue flows thereby derailing all the planned and budgeted programmes. Examples of internal shocks include the occurrence of droughts and floods, military coups and civil conflicts while external shocks include sudden terms of trade movements or changes; increase or decrease in the prices of oil and related movements or changes; increase or decrease in the prices of oil and related petroleum products, etc. with respect to the terms of trade, it is significant to note the following (Table I). With the exception of three countries (The Gambia, Cape Verde and Swaziland) which exhibited remarkable stability in their terms of trade (TOT), all others exhibited either negative or positive shocks in their TOT. Specifically, 19 African countries registered negative TOT, 25 recorded positive TOT with Sierra Leone leading the pack with a TOT of 492. Experience in the last 20 years has even their positive windfalls (TOT) for developmental purposes. Nigeria remains a classic example of missed development opportunities brought by several episodes of oil windfalls, Umo (2007).

Flawed Development Strategy

In development as in other challenges of life, choosing strategy is key to solving the problem. The choice of the wrong strategy will doom the prospect of finding the solution; yet the choice of a workable development strategy should be informed by a clear understanding of the problem and the associated development vision and goals. Unfortunately, most African countries were not sufficiently well informed about their development challenges and their ramifications. In consequence, therefore, country after country, met with development failures through the choice of flawed development strategies. Some of the problematic development concept and models used can briefly be highlighted as follows:

- (a) **Absence of Development Vision:** Development transformation of a nation requires developing a picture of what the country aspires to be in the future. This involves a realistic assessment of where the country is, where it wants to be/go and how it hope to get there. The vision is expected

to serve as a framework for galvanizing and mobilizing the people towards the chosen goals, without this, it would be impossible to engage the people in addressing development challenges. It remains true that most development plans in Africa were not informed by a development vision. Consequently, the plan document used for development could not provide the needed inspiration to serve as a compass for addressing the development challenges. Some attempts, albeit belated, have been made in recent times by some countries to put in place a development vision such as vision 2010, 2015, 20:20:20 in Nigeria.

- (b) Use of Development Plans with Ill-defined Goals:** The development plans which were expected to guide the programmes contained goals which were improperly specified, vague and untargeted. Beside, the plans did not provide for how to deal with uncertainties which had become a serious constraint in African development experience. There was, for example, nothing like warning signals to address shocks and uncertainties. When the plan's life was reduced to fewer years to address this problem, it was not done with the long-term development goals in mind. For example, Nigeria's so-called 3 years rolling plans 'rolled' without a long-term (perspective) plan.
- (c) Application of Flawed Planning Concept/Model:** Embedded in each of the plans were some development and theoretical ideas which had proven obsolete by events over the years. Examples included the overwhelming role of the state in development as the dominant economic actor; the use of import substitution industrialization strategy; the assumption that development revenue was unlimited as budget deficit could be financed through government's ability to borrow internally or externally. Obviously, the application of a wrong development model/concept could not produce the intended development outputs no matter how committed the policy makers were.
- (d) Poor Plan Implementation:** Even when development plans got a correct of what needed to be done, implementation became the problem. The implementation challenge extended from the long-term plans to the annual budgets. Only on very rare instances were budgets, projects and programmes implemented completely. The oft-cited reasons adduced for implementation failure include shortage of executive capacity, inadequate budgeting/funding absence of monitoring and evaluation. In recent years, it has also become clear that one of the problems of implementation was planning indiscipline caused mainly by corruption.

- (e) **Unstrategic Approach to Planning:** The plan put in place was not adequately informed by modern thinking in development strategy. The planners failed to take a look at the development arena to learn what works and what does not work. They, therefore, failed to benefit from lessons of the past as well as global best practices. The planning methodology was more top-down than bottom-top. And in consequence, the people were denied the opportunity to plan for themselves, own the planning process and, therefore, participate in plan implementation. As these features were lacking, corruption was encouraged and accountability and transparency took a back seat, Umo (1986).
- (f) **Absence of People Focus:** Development planning was neither people-focused nor people-centred, although planning was conceived to transform the welfare of the people. This is clearly reflected in the facts (a) that poverty was not put as a central development issue nor its cousin, the unemployment challenge; (b) that the macroeconomic framework that guided the planning focused more on macro stability and growth than on their policy impacts on humans, and in consequence budgets were cut to achieve stability without considerations of their impact on investment, employment and poverty. This approach obviously endangered the achievement of development goals and their sustainability.

Towards a New Approach to Sustainable Development in Africa

It would by now be apparent that development is a complex challenge for any country developed or underdeveloped. No magic bullet which can, with a single shot, transform an underdevelopment and backward economy to a developed and modern one, is known to exist. Development's complexity arises the consideration that everything depends on every other thing. Thus, economics, political, technological, cultural and financial issues are all related and intermingled; yet development as a concept must be seen as encompassing all these dimensions. From our attempt to investigate the contemporary meaning of development, it would also be apparent that no single perspective can capture development's complexity. The implication requires a workable holistic strategy. This is where the modern concept of strategic planning has a crucial role to play. The development experience of the last 50 years so far has made the following principles worth considering in designing contemporary development strategies.

1. Development vision should be well articulated specifying where the nation is, where it wants to go and how it intends to get there.

2. Development strategy should be holistic and comprehensive. This is to take into account the fact that development is complex and complicated with far-reaching consequences for the planners and the beneficiaries.
3. Development priorities must be set in terms of targeted goals identifying priorities means putting 'first things first'. This is required to conserve the limited development resources as well as build the needed synergy to attain the declared development goals.
4. Development strategy should be country specific. This is to allow for the differences that characterize each country, her people, her culture and her development aspirations.
5. Development strategy should be people-centred, people-owned and people-driven. Without making humans, the central focus of development, it becomes extremely difficult to put development under control, especially as this relates to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
6. Development strategy should make adequate provision for implementation and service delivery.
7. Without taking into consideration the challenges of implementation, the development plan could remain a pipe-dream which would have no impact in the lives of the people.

Given the necessity to define and grapple with development challenges in the context of a particular economy, our subsequent analysis will use the Nigerian recent experience as an illustration of strategic planning, albeit, in the context of the public service. This merely illustrates the application of the strategic planning concept without going into other technical details. The use of the ongoing planning framework will serve our purpose here.

Nigeria's National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)

Contemporary development in Nigeria revolves around a strategy called NEEDS (the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy). The production of NEEDS is an indigenous response to the challenges of development in Nigeria taking into account her past development failures and future development aspirations. The NEEDS document was launched by President Olusegun Obasanjo in May, 2005. It is a fundamental blueprint to guide Nigeria's development in the medium to long term. NEEDS captures the development

concerns of the federal government while anticipating the production of SEEDS (State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy) to take care of the development challenges of each of the 36 states of the federation as well as LEEDS (Local Economic Empowerment and development Strategy) to address the development concerns of each of the 774 local government areas and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Abuja. SEEDS, LEEDS and FEEDS are expected to adapt their strategies to reflect their environmental peculiarities, while maintaining the framework and overall policy thrusts of NEEDS.

Rationale for NEEDS

Nigeria with a population of about 130 million people (2003) spread over a landmass of one million square kilometers is a vast geographically and ethnically diverse and resource-rich country. In spite of her well endowed human and material resources, the gap between actual and potential development performance remains unacceptably wide. The economy has experienced a prolonged spell of stagnation spanning over two decades. Some of the key elements of the economic regress can be summarized as follows.

- a. The nation's GDP growth has suffered severe regression and/or stagnation since the mid-1980s. In 1980, Nigeria had a GDP of US\$93 billion, but as at 2003, her GDP was about US\$41.2 billion, about 54% less than what it was over the last two decades. After recovering from a negative growth regime of over a decade (of the 1980s), she managed to maintain a low and fragile growth profile, about 3% per annum between 1991 and 2000. This growth rate hardly exceeds her population growth rate of 2.83%. Correspondingly, the country's per capita income declined from \$1,000 in 1980 to \$382 in 2003. This is about 50% of the continent's per capita GDP.
- b. Nigeria has experienced a prolonged period of de-industrialization. Manufacturing capacity utilization which stood at about 70% in the mid-1990s and is now about 53%. This undoubtedly has serious implications for formal employment and poverty. The decline in manufacturing is being replaced by an accelerated growth of the informal sector with low productivity activities. Imobighe, (2006).
- c. At independence in 1960, Nigeria had a fairly well-diversified economy, albeit producing primarily for exports. But with the beginning of the oil boom of the mid-1970s, the country progressively became a monoculture (one-commodity economy). The share of oil export in her revenue moved from 58% in 1970 to over 95% between 1980 and 1990s. The country's ranking as the seventh largest oil producer and the sixth global exporter of

oil has produced mixed blessings. It has not only exacerbated the boom and burst cycle in the economy with attendant vulnerability to global shocks, but has also been a source of recurring strife and conflict in the oil producing region.

- d. The nation's infrastructure has been routinely unreliable. Electricity generation, water supply, communication system, transportation, etc. operate at abysmally sub-optimal levels thereby creating severe problems for the people and escalating the cost of industrialization/production. It partly explains why Nigerian industrial products are not internationally competitive.
- e. The health situation is one of the worst in Africa. Life expectancy in Nigeria is below 50 years. This is worse than Africa's average of 53 years and far below the developing country's average of 67 years. Infant mortality rate of 91 per 1,000 and maternal mortality rate of 800 per 100,000 live births are among the worst in the developing world. Although Nigeria's HIV/AIDS infection rate of 5.8% looks comparatively low when compared to some sub-Saharan countries, it is extremely high in absolute terms since this translates into about 4 million people based on 2002 population figure. If unchecked, the rate of infection may double in about 12 years.
- f. Adult literacy rate in Nigeria stands at about 70% while that of the female is at 48%. This translates to about 30 million and 68 million illiterate men constitute a serious impediment to both governance and development.
- g. Related to the issue of literacy is the state of education and human capital development. Nigeria's educational system has not been responsive to the needs of the modern economy. As of 2002, Nigeria had 40 million students enrolled in her educational system. The enrolment expansion has come at the expense of deterioration in educational quality caused by gross underfunding of the sector.
- h. The country faces a rapid growth of urbanization, estimated at about 5% per annum. Lagos metropolis, the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria, now plays host to about 15 million people and is growing at a dizzying rate of 12%. Its population may double in less than ten years if nothing drastic is done to checkmate the trend.
- I. Until very recently, the nation's external debt burden constituted a development drag. It is paradoxical that Nigeria's debt stood at \$20 billion in 1980 and after paying out about \$28 billion between 1990 and 2000, the country still owed \$34 billion in 2004. In spite of her level of poverty, the

country was categorized as poor enough to benefit from the ongoing enhanced highly indebted poor country's (HIPC) initiative. Luckily, her recent search for debt relief has yielded substantial benefits as a total of \$30 billion relief was obtained from the Paris Club early in 2006. But the damage of prolonged indebtedness had already been done and continues to pose a development challenge.

- j. The main fallouts of the above policy failures are the unprecedented growth in mass poverty and unemployment the nation is now facing. At independence in 1960, Nigeria's poverty rate was 15% of the population, and this translated into eight million Nigerians. Forty-four years on, the population of Nigerians living below poverty line (defined internationally as \$1 a day) is estimated at 70.2%. At the current population, this translates into about 92 million Nigerians thereby making the country one with the highest concentration of poor people in Africa.
- k. Employment crisis is also of major concern. The key elements here are incidents of open unemployment, underemployment, low-wage employment and social exclusion. Unemployment data are difficult to come by but proxies point in unmistakable direction of a worsening crisis. Youth unemployment is estimated at about 60% and the unemployment rate of the graduates stands at 25%. Of the six million graduates produced from the entire school system into the labour market yearly, only an estimated 10% are able to get formal employment. Most employment policies, if/when they exist, have failed to address the problem.
- l. Over three decades of undemocratic rule has exacted a serious toll on the nation's value system. Corruption, poor governance, lack of transparency and accountability has permeated public life making it extremely difficult for development policies to work.

It is against the above background that government undertook the initiative to prepare NEEDS. There was the realization that the Nigerian economy in need of a realistic restructuring and reforms given the numerous problems highlighted above. The document is to be used as a development blueprint towards attaining the nation's development visions. NEEDS can also be seen as Nigerian equivalent of the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) which many developing countries prepare as a condition for getting either debt relief or concessional credit/loan for development.

Element of NEED's Methodology

The Vision

The production of NEEDS starts with the articulation of the development vision constructed to depict an image of where the country aspires to be in future. For example, NEEDS draws its visionary inspiration from what has been referred to as the 2001 Kuru Declaration. This vision aims to build a truly great African democratic country, united, integrated and stable; economically prosperous, socially organized with equal opportunity for all, and responsibility from all, to become the catalyst of (African) Renaissance and making all-embracing contributions sub-regionally, regionally and globally. Except for the fact that its future was yet to be precisely dated, the above vision depicts the type of future Nigeria wants for herself. The next challenge is to map out how the vision can be achieved, starting from goal identification.

The Goals

Goals are specific long-term objectives aimed at realizing the vision. It is obvious that without the specification of achievable goals the vision can never be realized. It would remain a beautiful pipe-dream. For the purpose of realizing the vision embodied in NEEDS, the following four goals were stipulated: wealth creation, employment generation, poverty reduction and value reorientation.

It will be noted that these goals capture most of the development concerns expressed in the last section as well as Nigeria's development aspirations expression in the vision. The next question is how to realize the vision goals. This takes us to the issues of strategy and implementation.

Strategies

The strategic actions defined for achieving the NEEDS goals can be summarized as follows:

1. **Setting up the appropriate macroeconomic framework:** This includes defining the budget framework for both the federal and state governments; getting the Central Bank of Nigeria to put appropriate monetary and exchange rate policies in place; getting the Ministry of Finance to articulate and pursue appropriate fiscal policies.
2. **Identifying the structural pillars for guiding development:** Three structural pillars of development have been identified here. These are:
 - a. Empowering people through programmes of health education, rural and urban development, housing, employment including provision of safety

nets, gender equity, geo-political balance, and youths and women programmes.

- b. Promoting the private sector with a view to making it the engine of growth and transformation of the economy. Elements of this strategy include: national security, rule of law, infrastructural development, finance, sectoral strategies, privatization and liberalization, trade and regional integration, as well as globalization.
- c. Changing the way government works. This arises from the consideration that if the nation is to move forward in a new direction, government bureaucracy must change to become more effective, more efficient and more result-oriented. This requires the reform of public governance to include budgetary reforms, transparency, accountability, new work ethics and anti-corruption measures.

The financing plan: The financing plan for the execution of NEEDS must be well articulated in advance if effective implementation is to be assured. The financing of NEEDS will depend critically on the prudent management of internal resources. The need to reach out to externally-based development partners will also be explored. In this respect, the intervention of the multilateral development partners like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, etc. will be expected. Also expected is the role of African RIAs (regional integration arrangements) like the EGO WAS, African Union (AU), and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Both local and international NGOs are expected to play a critical role in the execution of NEEDS.

Participatory approach: Since NEEDS is a Nigerian home-grown produce/study, it is owned by the Nigerian people. This ownership was ensured through wide-range consultation and participatory processes by all the relevant stakeholders in its design and implementation. The participatory approach also ensures observing transparency and accountability during the implementation process.

Implementation Strategies

The NEEDS Report provides for strategic implementation of programmes and projects admitted in the Plan through the budgetary process. The implementation programme states the objectives, the targets, the time lines, and person/parties (stakeholders) responsible for the execution of the projects. Perhaps more importantly, an institutionalized monitoring mechanism is set up to ensure

adequate monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The above principles/strategies are expected to apply, with appropriate adjustments, to the production of SEEDS, LEEDS and FEEDS at the state and local government levels, respectively. There can be no doubt that if the plans are consistent with the implementation programmes and both are carried out together this strategic planning framework would yield the expected development outcomes.

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Chapter **10**

Shift of International Trade to Domestic Rehabilitation

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Introduction

COVERID-19 has thrown the global economy into another crisis after the great recession in 2008. Economy is driven by trade activities. Globalization is restricted to the use of social networks and computers. Borders are closed and lockdown measures are carried out to restrict the spread of the virus. COVID-19 has come to stay; normal life of interaction will be difficult. What will happen to countries that depend on the international market for virtually everything? It is the right time for countries to depend on their resources for domestic development. What will happen to the international trade theories of 70's to 90's? Can those theories fit into the present situation of the pandemic? These questions will be answered later in this chapter.

International Trade Theories

There have been various theories that guide and build the foundation of globalization of business activities. These theories include;

1. **Mercantilist:** In this theory, it was believed that nation wealth is measured by its holding of gold (dollars). This means, there should be more export to import. This theory was known to make the foundation for international trade. It was developed in England in 16 century

2. **Absolute Advantage:** Adam Smith in his book "wealth of the Nation" in seventies, is of the view that, real wealth of the nation consist of goods and services available for its citizens in their quality of living. Efficiency base on specialization was prioritized and tapping advantage was set as the core.
3. **Comparative Advantage:** David Riccardo in 1817 opines that global efficiency gains may still result from trade if country can specialized on what it can produce more efficiently than other products, regardless whether other countries produces same product even more efficiently.
4. **Hecsscher-Ohlin Theory:** this theory was presented by Swedish economists, Eli Heckscher and Bertil Ohlin (1991 - 1993). It holds that international trade is driven by differences in factor endowment, rather than differences in productivity. This theory suggests three relationships; land - labor relationship, labor -capital relationship and technological complexity.
5. **International Product Life Cycle Theory:** According to Raymond Vernon, 1996, international markets tend to follow a cyclical pattern due to a variety of factors over a period of time, which explains the shifting of market as well as the location of production.

Relevance of International Theories in Present Situation of COVID-19

What will happen to the international trade theories of 70's to 90's? Can those theories fit into the present situation of the pandemic? All international trade theories ranging from the classical to the new trade theories agrees that international trade is a good driver of economic growth and development. They also agreed on free trade, which in reality, free trade bring about increase in poverty and unemployment rate in a country. Sismondi opposed Ricardo because he feared that the low-cost (self-produced) corn imported from Eastern Europe would do much to destroy English farming and create unemployment, thereby also weakening purchasing power and effective demand for British manufactured goods (Sismondi 1991, pp 204–205 Lutz). Relevant notion continue to ring in the ears of scholars. Culbertson wrote a book "The Dangers of "Free Trade" in 1985. He blamed the early economics of the "invisible hand" with its underlying idea of "natural harmony" under "natural liberty" as professed by Adam Smith and further developed by others. Following this tradition, universal principles or laws are given preference over cause-and-effect explanations. Still today, theoretical economics provides models and theories that derive from a set of assumptions,

which reflect more of a political faith or ideology than reality. In particular, to say that unregulated international trade is automatically beneficial because of some “principle of comparative advantage” is to offer a verbal formula in place of the causal processes, laws, and institutions that actually shape actions and events (Culbertson 1984, p 10). Such a stance appeared to him especially dangerous at a time when China, Indonesia, and India were poised to add some two billion workers to the global labor force, all occurring in a world made smaller by the ongoing revolutionary changes in transportation, communication and information technology. For these reasons, the purpose of Culbertson's (1984, pp 35, 5) first book, and all that followed, was “to contribute to the understanding of international trade within a realist or scientific economics” and “to devise policies that will make international trade in the troubled world of the late twentieth century a force for human betterment rather than decline. (Culbertson cited in Lutz 2008). Countries develop their competitive advantage to meet up with the global markets. For country to go globally it has to build it home industry, in such a way that the demand gap of that particular product is filled by adequate supply. However, Porter (1990, 1998) cited in Ramjerdi (2012) regards sophisticated and demanding buyers as the main conditions for home demand to increase the market share of that industry, this maintain the competitive position of a firm and leads international demand. In world of inadequate demand and unemployment, strategic policies to stimulate demand through such methods as subsidies and under-valued exchange rates, home industries that benefit from economies of scale, and increasing return, could results in gain from trade at the expense of other countries, through demand policies, increase demand for global production might stimulates the global economy (Ramjerdi, 2012)

Now, globalization of business or trade is at stake. Many companies are going out of business, people are pushed into poverty, unemployment is increasing and import and export of many goods is crippled. While work from home has increased. What will happen to countries that depend on the international market for virtually everything?

Domestic Rehabilitation

Domestic rehabilitation here mean country wealth depend on it ability to develop itself using the available resources in the country. Services can be imported and essential raw materials that cannot be produce in the country. This is because in any case, factory closures and production suspensions are already disrupting global supply chains. Producers are taking steps to reduce their exposure to long-

distance vulnerabilities. So far, at least, financial commentators have focused on cost calculations for particular sectors: automakers worried about shortages of parts; textile makers deprived of fabric; luxury-goods retailers starved of customers; and the tourism sector, where cruise ships, in particular, have become hotbeds of contagion (James, 2020).

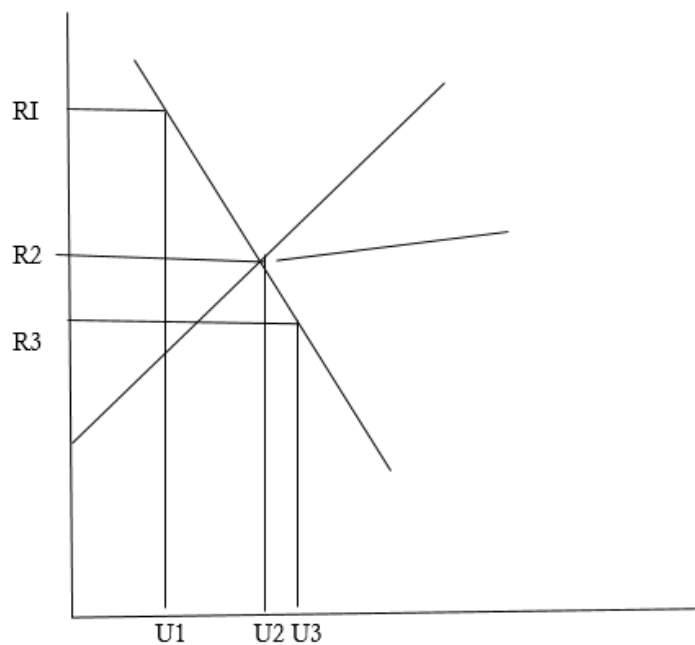
Bases of Domestic Rehabilitation amid COVID-19

1. **Availability of resources (human and minerals):** each country is blessed with both human and natural (minerals) resource. If services are imported to bust the technical knowhow and skills of the citizens of the country, the global unemployment rate ought to reduce; putting the resources in fully utilization within country.
2. **Globalization is restricted:** globalization has lead the world to a building that it whole will respond to the stimuli of effect on the part. Borders are closed, import and export are restricted. Country that has it citizen depending on importation of it necessity are faced with rise in prices of both imported goods and local goods.
3. **Diversification is possible:** it can be deduced from Ricadians theory know as comparative advantage theory, which states; country can still produce even if others can produce same product more efficient, that all necessities can be produced and consumed or utilized within a given country even if other countries product is more effective and efficient. The cost of importing basic necessities that ordinary should be produced within a country is very high. Similar is the view of Sismondi. He opposes Ricardo because he feared that the low-cost (self-produced) corn imported from Eastern Europe would do much to destroy English farming and create unemployment, thereby also weakening purchasing power and effective demand for British manufactured goods (Sismondi, 1991)
4. **Unemployment:** the unemployment rate has been increasing since the advent of the pandemic. This is because lockdown measures are put in place by many countries. Work from home has increased. Grass root workers are at the receiving end, where technology and social Medias has taken over their job.
5. **Increase investment:** investment is said to be the backbone of economic growth. Although investment takes two forms; financial investment and real investment. Real investment in Keynesian terminology, it adds to capital equipment. However, induced investment is a function of income whereby an increase in income, increases consumption demand thereby

cause investment to increase. Autonomous investment is influenced by exogenous factors like innovations, inventions, growth of population and labor force among others.

6. Stable favorable foreign reserve
7. Real investment and unemployment rate.

Fig. 1: Investment Rate



Unemployment Rate

From the above graph it is shown that a reasonable increase in real investment leads to decrease in unemployment. If a country is to utilize its domestic resources to produce finished goods instead of exporting raw materials and importing finished goods. Such goods can be produced in the country by importing services.

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