

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN WUKARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, TARABA STATE-NIGERIA

¹DUROWAIYE, Babatunde Emmanuel, ²SAIDU, Danladi, ¹AGYA, Aji Danladi Samari

¹Department of Sociology

Federal University Wukari, Taraba State-Nigeria

²College of Nursing and Midwifery Jalingo, Taraba State-Nigeria

Corresponding Author: durowaiyebe@gmail.com +234(0)8142388699

Abstract

This paper discusses the socio-economic impact of covid-19 in Wukari Local Government Area. The objective of this is to ascertain the Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the economy of Wukari and explored other people who gain favour at the expense of other people in times of distribution of economic wealth or support to its indigene and other citizen. The study adopted qualitative method, using secondary data from the previous related work. The major concern in the study is to examine the challenges of covid-19. Some literatures on the subject matter were reviewed; the study contends that, lack of proper management or strategies to cope the menace of Covid-19 which affect both economic and social life of individuals in the study area. The study concludes that proper strategy and management will help economic and social life of the study area. The study recommends creative and refreshing ways through which the rising issue can be manage.

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Socio-Economic Impact, Structural functionalism.

Introduction

Man, as a social being interacts with one another on daily basis and depends on economic for his continual existence and survival. Even in business organizations, people interact with each other because human beings make up part of the organization (Otuya, 2020). Other resources of the business cannot be properly coordinated without effective economic system between and among personnel of the organization (Otuya, 2020). Coronavirus pandemic outbreaks have impacted the way in which people used to live. COVID-19 belongs to the family of viruses that cause such sicknesses as cold, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), with symptoms such as sore throat, cough, runny nose, fever, tiredness, body aches and difficulty in breathing, manifesting between 2 to 14 days after one is exposed to it (WHO, 2019).

COVID-19 which was discovered in China is genetically closely related to the SARS-CoV-1 virus which caused thousands of deaths in the year 2002 (WHO, 2020). Shereen, Khan, Kazmi, Bashir and Siddique (2020) opined that COVID-19 is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral disease that is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2). The corona virus (COVID-19) outbreak first occurred in Wuhan city of China in December, 2019. Initially it was

generally believed to be a disease peculiar to Chinese but the pandemic started spreading swiftly from person to person and subsequently to different parts of the world (Wuhan Government, 2019). By January, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic because it was discovered to have spread rapidly beyond Chinese borders into other parts of the world in an unprecedented speed (Durowaiye et al 2021 cited Zizek 2020).

Furthermore, the World Health Organization on January 12, 2020 named the virus COVID-19 and by February 12, 2020, a total of 43,103 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 1,018 deaths had been reported by the organization (WHO, 2019). This being the case, the World Health Organization on the 11th of March 2020 declared corona virus outbreak a global pandemic based on the increased rate at which the virus spread in different parts of the world, thus, causing global health threat (WHO, 2019). Nigeria was not left out from the COVID-19 pandemic, as the country recorded its first case of COVID-19 on the 27th of February, 2020 from a male foreigner who came to Nigeria through Lagos State international airport. The foreigner from Milan Italy, who works with the multinational, Lafarge Cement Company at Ogun State and came for a meeting at the company's factory at Ewekoro Ogun which is a neighbouring State to Lagos State.

It was there that the foreigner exhibited some symptoms of sickness and was taken to Lafarge's medical centre in Ewekoro for testing and was confirmed COVID-19 positive (Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, 2020). On the 9th of March 2020, the second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, and a Nigerian who had contact with the Italian citizen (Ebenso and Out, 2020). Thereafter, more and increased cases were discovered on daily basis in different parts of the country, even though there was no confirm case of Covid-19 in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State, but the study area also felt impact of the virus. The world's hopes are attached to a successful preventive measure that is the vaccination which has proved its capability to stop infections and save lives over the years. Near the end of 2020, several vaccines started to arise; there are over 100 candidate vaccines (WHO, 2021). Several vaccines are in the clinical trial phases, and few have already gained Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) (Ferbeyre & Santiago, 2020).

Despite these fights and successes by the world health organization (WHO, 2020) and other key players to provide the vaccine, there have been challenges of conceptual variability among populations, towards the disease and emerging vaccines. It is therefore certain that the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown would have uncountable consequences on people's social life, their interaction and general activities which Wukari Local government also experienced. The social impacts of coronavirus and the actions taken to reduce its spread were severe, such that the circumstances has resulted in a unique situation in which the people of Wukari had to change their routine lifestyles, their activity patterns, the way they work and how they travel which are facets of daily life. The COVID-19 pandemic has far-reaching effects on the global economy (Ozili and

Arun, 2020). It affected the major and minor travel business, health care systems, restaurants, events centres and education in the study area.

The Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the Wukari economy has been explored and other people gain favour at the expense of other people in times of distribution of economic wealth or support to its indigene and other citizen. This study fills this gap in the literature on the Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the study area. The study ascertains the socio-economic impact of covid-19 in the study area, the unequal access to covid-19 relief material and to proffer solution to socio-economic impact of covid-19 in the study area. According to Moore (2020); Ohia, Bakarey, and Ahmad (2020), Coronavirus disease 2019 is an infectious disease popularly known as Covid-19. This Covid-19 pandemic disease was caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, otherwise known as CoV-2 (Adnan, Khan, Kazmi, Bashir, and Siddique 2020). Its symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, among others (Harapan, Itoh, Yufika, Winardi, Keam, and Mudatsir 2020; Ohia, Bakarey, and Ahmad 2020; Unhale, Ansar, Sanap, Thakhre, and Wadatkar 2020). Transmission occurs among close contacts, typically through respiratory droplets released when the infected person sneezes or coughs (Harapan, Itoh, Yufika, Winardi, Keam, and Te 2020).

Ozili, (2020) shows that Nigeria had the highest COVID-19 cases in West Africa and the third highest in Africa as at March and April 2020, Ohia, et al. (2020) predicted that the effect of COVID-19 in Africa would be rife as African countries in fragile and in their health systems. He further argued that Nigeria's current national health systems vulnerability could not cope with the growing number of infected patients who require medical attention in their intensive care units. He suggested that Nigeria should explore available collective measures and intercessions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conceptual Clarification

COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease is a contagious disease that first emerged in Wuhan, China in 2019. It was later coded "COVID-19" by the W.H.O which stands for Coronavirus Disease 2019. The Coronavirus outbreak remains one of the worst global pandemics for decades. The mortality rate soared and the easy of spread was upsetting. Research shows that older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer were more likely to develop serious illnesses from coronavirus (W.H.O, 2020). Similarly, Oboh, Ighiwiyisi and Oboh, (2020), were of the view that COVID-19 is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. SARS-CoV-2 is thought to spread from person to person through droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

It may also be spread by touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching one's mouth, nose, or eyes, but this is less common. Parry (2020) was of the view that most common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and trouble breathing. Fatigue, muscle pain, chills, headache, sore throat, running nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and a loss of taste or smell may also occur. The signs and symptoms may be mild or severe and usually appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Some people may not have any symptoms but are still able to spread the virus. Most people with COVID-19 recover without needing special treatment. But other people are at higher risk of serious illness. Those at higher risk include older adults and people with serious medical problems, such as heart, lung, or kidney disease, diabetes, cancer, or a weak immune system. Serious illness may include life-threatening pneumonia and organ failure (Parry, 2020).

Moreover, Danso (2020) asserted that Coronavirus is a transferable disease brought about by a recently identified virus. This virus is a pandemic disease, brought about by the serious intense respiratory condition. COVID-19 is contacted through the different respiratory tracts, for example, the mouth and the nostrils, and attacks the human respiratory organs. Zhong et al., (2020) posited that herapeutic diagnosis and findings have revealed that people tainted with COVID-19 can be symptomatic or asymptomatic in the premature stages of the virus depending on each person immune system. It is reported that the signs of the infection contain dry cough, fever, tiredness, shortness of breath, headache and general body weakness owed to the incentive of supplementary pains in the body. The newness of SARS-CoV-2 and its obscure hereditary scenery effect to complexity in management of COVID-19 and the improvement of defensive vaccine.

Covid-19 Vaccine

Corona virus vaccine is defined by Mayo (2021) as a medication that is given to people in the form of injections in order to provide the body immunity to combat the sickness. The viral vaccination protects individuals against contracting corona virus, becoming extremely sick from it, and dying from it. The corona virus vaccination also inhibits the virus from spreading to other members of society, as well as the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS COVID) from spreading, regenerating, or reproducing. The vaccination also boosts the body's immunity, making it more resistant to illness. The vaccine provides protection against the virus reinfected the human body, and the FDA has authorized the approval of multiple COVID-19 vaccines across the globe. The Pfizer-Biontech COVID-19 vaccine, the moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and many more are among these vaccinations.

The COVID-19 vaccination is now available for free in a number of places throughout the globe. Fever, lethargy, chills, joint discomfort, fever, headache, muscle soreness, disorientation, enlarged lymph nodes, and swelling of the arm have all been reported as adverse effects of the COVID-19 vaccination (Mayo Clinic, 2021). The COVID-19 virus vaccine, according to HS (2021), requires

one vaccination dosage for children aged twelve to fifteen, two vaccine doses for persons aged sixteen to sixty, and one dose for people aged 65 and more. Corona virus vaccination may be given to everyone, regardless of race, tribe, or color. The COVID-19 vaccination concept was created to put a stop to the coronavirus pandemic by making people immune to the virus, and health research teams reacted to the challenge by developing vaccinations that protect people against the virus. The next hurdle is figuring out how to make the vaccination accessible to everyone on the planet. According to an analysis of COVID-19 vaccination statistics, approximately 6.3 billion doses of coronavirus immunization have been provided to individuals worldwide, with 48 percent of the world's population receiving at least one dose, but just 2.3 percent of people in poor countries receiving at least one dose (Mu'azu & Moses, 2021).

History of Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was first reported in Wuhan, China, in 2019, and subsequently spread globally to become the fifth documented pandemic since the 1918 flu pandemic. By September 2021, almost two years after COVID-19 was first identified, there had been more than 200 million confirmed cases and over 4.6 million lives lost to the disease. The first official cases of COVID-19 were recorded on the 31st of December, 2019, when the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. Weeks later, the WHO declared the rapidly spreading COVID-19 outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on the 30th of January 2020. On the 11th of February, the novel coronavirus got its official name COVID-19. Nine days later, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first person to die of COVID-19 in the country. The individual was a man in his fifties who lived in Washington State (WHO, 2020).

Landry (2020) argued that in the first months of COVID-19, global health authorities, government agencies, and the public were unsure of how the disease would spread and how it would impact everyday life. On the 1st of March, 2020, the United Nations released \$15 million in funds to support the global COVID-19 response. A week later, on the 7th of March, cases of COVID-19 reached 100,000. Several days after that, on the 11th of March, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the WHO. COVID-19 rapidly transformed from being a severe problem seemingly confined to China, to a global health emergency almost overnight. By this time, the situation in Wuhan had been diffused following the introduction of unprecedented measures to contain the virus. At the beginning of the outbreak, China was reporting thousands of new cases per day, which had reduced to dozens by March. In Europe, on the other hand, cases were rising rapidly day by day, with Italy recording what was an unprecedented 250 deaths in the 24 hour period between March 12th and March 13th. As a result, on March 13th the WHO declared that Europe had become the epicenter of the pandemic. On the same day, the US declared a state of emergency (Maclean & Dahir, 2020).

However, these measures were predicted to only slow the spread of the virus, scientists understood that to overcome the pandemic, a vaccine needed to be developed. It was clear that initial restrictions were not enough to stop the spread of COVID-19. Quickly, restrictions in most regions became harsher, with the UK enforcing a stay-at-home rule on the 26th of March. Many European countries implemented their own national lockdown around this time. By the 2nd of April, total global COVID-19 cases had shot up to 1 million. The true seriousness of the pandemic came into light with this figure, and governments did what they could to postpone the spread of the virus before a vaccine could be declared safe for use. On the 6th of April, the WHO released guidance on mask-wearing, as more evidence began to highlight the role of aerosols in the spread of the disease (Oboh, Ighiwiyisi & Oboh, 2020).

Methodology

This paper or study adopts the qualitative methodology which includes the narrative and descriptive method of analysis. It is arranged in thematic and chronological order. In addition, to successfully achieve the task of this study, secondary sources relevant to the study were consulted. The secondary data were obtained from books, academic journal articles, and other documented materials and also relevant materials from the internet.

Literature Review

The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has caused lasting wounds on the global world. Among these wounds are the scores of deaths and health-related challenges recorded during the first, second, and third waves in Nigeria. Consequently, many citizens are physically and emotionally affected (Agberotimi et al., 2020). Confirmed cases of the disease reached more than a 35 million by September 2021, and it has caused more than 1 million mortalities, particularly among the higher-risk population (WHO 2021). More so, the pandemic has impacted Nigerians in significantly negative ways such as health, economic, familial, and workforce challenges (Nicola et al., 2020; Oguntayo et al., 2020).

To reduce the spread of the virus, strict preventive measures were imposed, such as hands hygiene, physical and social distancing, the compulsory use of face masks and gloves by the general public, and government imposition of stay-at-home orders at a point (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2021; World Health Organization (WHO) 2020). Despite all these government efforts, a study from Nigeria has revealed that there is still low adherence to COVID-19 precautionary measures among citizens (Iorfa et al., 2020), while evidence abounds that the precautionary behavior is not strong enough to curtail the virus, the alternative mean of curtailing the virus was suggested to be a pharmacological method (vaccination) so that people could be immune to the disease (Iorfa et al., 2020; WHO 2020).

Recently, the Centre for Disease Control reported that up to 63-million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had been supplied to United State residents so far, and over 43.2 million doses of the

vaccine have been received (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2021). A country like the UK has vaccinated a total number of 12,844,193 individuals too (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2021). Africa countries were not left out as the rollout of COVAX vaccines progresses; the first COVID-19 vaccination campaigns were done in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana using COVAX doses (UK COVID-19 vaccination uptake plan 2021). So also, West Africa's largest country Nigeria has got its first batch of coronavirus vaccines, to make the third country to receive the vaccines in Africa and receive the shots through COVAX (UNICEF, 2021). Despite that the COVID-19 pandemic's risk has exacerbated the awareness and the need for an effective vaccine, the vast majority of people may still not accept the vaccines, for instance, a recent study revealed that newer vaccines bring about an increase in hesitancy (WHO 2021). Another survey conducted in the United States reported that when COVID-19 vaccines are available to the public, up to 49% of the respondents accept to receive it, while 31% of them were indifferent, and 20% displayed signs of hesitancy (Brunson & Schoch-Spana, 2020). These referred studies, together with the fact that a great number of people are seeking alternative vaccination timelines or hesitating vaccination as a whole, have provided evidence that COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy has turned into a serious concern that needed to be addressed globally (AP-NORC poll, 2021).

Past studies have revealed that more people disparage vaccination generally (Blume, 2006). For instance, people are skeptical about some vaccines and sometimes, because of that, hesitate to accept vaccination either for their children, relatives, or self (Dubé et al., 2013). Also, some citizens are afraid of the reactions or side effects of a vaccine, and some citizens have the view that vaccine-preventable ailments are not serious; they lack trust in government and have no belief in herd immunity (UNICEF, 2021). Meanwhile, government trust has been found to influence vaccination acceptance, vaccination effectiveness, healthcare experts, and healthcare delivery (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012). Despite the negative dispositions of the public towards vaccines, it has been proven as a successful measure of disease prevention for many years (WHO, 2020). Vaccine refusal and hesitancy are a globally concern especially during the COVID-19 pandemic (WHO, 2020). This makes WHO declare vaccine refusal and hesitancy in 2019 as one of the top 10 threats to health (WHO, 2020).

Furthermore, Adegboye, Adekunle, and Gayawan (2020) studied the early transmission of COVID-19 in Nigeria, and his result revealed that the number of COVID-19 infested person in Nigeria were lower than exasperated. Between 2nd January 2020 to 16th April 2020, Adenomon and Maijamaa (2020) carry studies about the effect of COVID-19 on the Nigerian stock exchange or Nigeria economic. Their results revealed a loss in stock returns and high volatility in stock returns during the COVID-19 period in Nigeria. Ozili (2020) shows that the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown restrictions negatively affected African countries. It was discovered that the literature had not analysed the impact or effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

Economic Implications of COVID-19 on Wukari Metropolis

Measures such as lockdown, social distancing, self-isolation or self-quarantine, and observation of simple hygiene habits of regular washing of hands, wearing of facemasks and covering the mouth with a handkerchief when coughing or sneezing were recommended to contain the spread of the disease among people (Ohia, et al., 2020). The government reacted by lockdown most of the economic activities in the country, as well as restricted the movement of the people (UNDP, 2020). The government had equally announced economic assistance to lessen the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. These steps by the government had exposed a lot of inadequacies in Nigeria.

The federal government also came up with the idea of giving palliatives to the poor which they referred to as the “poorest of the poor” (UNDP, 2020). However, one issue that came up with this idea was how to determine the poorest of the poor. The reason is not far-fetched from the fact that the country lacks reliable or accurate statistics and data on the demographical pattern of the country. Thus, our leaders are poor when it comes to practicing good governance, in terms of caring for the citizens by providing essential social and welfare services to the citizenry. It is surprising to note, that since most of the political class, the highly placed technocrats and “who is who”, were prevented from seeking medical attention abroad due to the international border closure many of them are still surviving. Besides, some of these categories of people who were abroad when Covid-19 broke out were even returning home.

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT, 2020) in combating the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the vulnerable persons and poor masses in these respective domains and economic activities. The distribution of palliatives through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management is also an issue that generates a lot of controversies. The federal government of Nigeria in it, bid to cushion the effect of the lockdown on the poor and vulnerable made provision for the disbursement of N200, 000 to N3,000,000 Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) to each citizen through NIRSAL (Micro Finance Bank).

According to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, over 2.6million households have benefited from the palliative, while over 11 million vulnerable been identified in 35 states are yet to benefit from the palliative measure (HADMC, 2021). However, the yardsticks used for the distribution of the palliative materials have been questioned since there were allegations that the sharing of the palliatives materials was discriminatory and highly politicized by those in-charges. Durowaiye et al (2021) observes that despite the closure there emerged unintended consequences due to the sudden and elongated closure, territory institutions in Wukari were closed for about eleven (11) months, that is almost a year, students became stranded and the consequences of schools closure was poor academic performance, delay academic calendar year, loss of interest by students and consequently school dropout, again lecturers too under performed as there were crash programme upon resumption, all these affected tertiary education in Wukari.

Theoretical Framework

Structural Functionalism Theory

This study adopted structural functionalism theory. Wikipedia (2017) “structural functionalism or simple functionalism is a framework for building theory that sees society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability”. This theory views society through a macro-level adjustment based on social structure and social functions that work in harmony to shape the whole society. Structural functionalism centered on explaining and maintaining order, stability and cohesion based on interdependency, socialization and systemic change.

Modern political philosophers use the structural functionalist theory of ancient anthropologist, psychologist and sociologist like, Spencer, H (1899), Durkheim (1916), Radcliff-Brown (1935), Malinowski (1922), Parson, T (1939) Merton (1949). Political Scientist introduced structural functionalist theory in political science and public administration by comparing and analyzing political system. From their respective studies it was discovered that social function and organic life must work together through a network of connection into an integrated whole. Offiong (1997) postulated that “structural functionalism has been generally agreed on to be an offshoot from the general system theory. It is simply a means of explaining what political structures perform, what basic functions the political system and under what conditions in any given system”. Chilcott (1998) posited that structural functionalism conceptualizes society as a system of interacting parts that promote stability or transformation through their interactions”. It is important to look at the structures of the system to substantiate particular activities and their interrelations.

Strength of Structural Functionalism

Systematic view: structural functionalism takes a systematic view of society, analyzing how different part of it work together to maintain stability and harmony. It considers interdependence of social institutions to derive order and stability in the society.

Social order: structural functionalism places a strong emphasis on social order and stability. It is argued that stability and cohesion are essential for the smooth functioning of society, ensuring that people can work together effectively.

Integrative: structural functionalism is integrative as it recognizes multiple interests and roles of individuals over an extended period. In this regard, functionalism offers a functionalist view of the society that takes everyone’s interest and needs into account.

Weakness of Structural Functionalism

Limited perspective: Structural functionalism has a limited perspective as it fails to recognize the potential for social change and conflict. It does not acknowledge the importance of societal tension and conflicts in shaping the social structure.

Conservative: critics argue that structural functionalism is conservative because it tends to justify that status quo and works to maintain the basic structure of society without addressing or acknowledging inequalities and injustice of social life.

Ignores the role of power: Critics argue that structural functionalism overlooks the role of power in shaping social behaviour, particularly how power dynamics play out in social institutions and relations.

Application of Structural Functionalism to the study

There must be cordial interaction, interconnection and interdependence of all the structures and functions for optimal benefit of the entire society or nation (Chinnah 2019). All the parts concerned in achieving optimally in the fight against Covid-19, WHO, government agencies, private and public, which are partners in the short or long run must work together for the success to be achieved. The structural functional theory postulates that when public administrators plan, they have no choice but to take consideration of environmental factors, (political, social, economic, technological and ethical) interrelated elements with interaction between the environment external and internal (Ezeani, 2006). The relationship and interrelation among the various structures is very important as it is used to evaluate and analyze the success or otherwise of any phenomenon using the best methodology before recommendation and suggestions is made. Also the economy impact of the people in the study area and to some the Covid-19 is functional to them because is the source of their income. The central theme in structural functionalism theory is that, it views a society as a complex system made up of parts with functions clearly stated to be executed by the various structures to work in unity and to promote solidarity and stability. Coherence and harmony are needed for optimal maximization and achievement of set goals to fight Covid-19. Government at all levels with her agencies, ministries, departments and private organizations must work concertedly to achieve the fight against this pandemic (Covid-19).

Discussion of Findings

Even though there was no confirmed case of COVI-19 in Wukari Local Government Area, but yet the COVID-19 pandemic had affected money borrowers' in the capacity to servicing their loans. Hence their contact gives rise to non-performing loans (NPLs) that depressed banks' earnings and, in the end, weakened banks' dependability and stability. Later, banks were reluctant to give further loans to borrowers following the surge as more borrowers try to repay the loans granted to them during the COVID-19 outbreak. These shutdowns affected Wukari economy, goods such as Spare parts, finished goods, pharmaceuticals, and food items like rice, etcetera had been tempered. It has also greatly affected social and familial interactions with reduced interactions among friends, families and social groups.

The tertiary sector includes the education sectors, hospitality continue to feel the brunt of the pandemic outbreak in the study area. COVID-19 outbreak has hurt businesses too. In Wukari,

businesses affected most were the start-ups and small-scale enterprises. While religious gatherings are not classified as a sector of the economy, its activities play a significant role in the social, psychological, and spiritual well-being of those who partake in them. The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a significant impact on religious gatherings, even as the gathering of such magnitude tends to be a potent means of the viral spread. Thus, guidelines such as regulated numbers of worshippers have been placed on most religious institutions. The negative social impact has been tremendously enormous on the overall livelihood of the indigene and across the nation.

The impact of Covid-19 on global poverty continues to be adjusted and estimated as the crisis unfolds, the World Bank (2019) suggests that it is likely to have pushed between 88 million and 115 million people into extreme poverty those living below \$1.90 a day in 2020, rising to 150 million by 2021, depending on the severity of the crisis. Except for Sub-Saharan Africa, the rest of the regions show an increasing number of people as the poverty line increases. These scenarios raise important challenges, as this not only affects short-term options and decisions to cope with such a shock, but also because they have long-lasting consequences in crucial dimensions such as economic, education, health, and work, which affect the prospects of peoples' livelihoods in the study area.

The composition of the labour market is another source of inequality. Labour market informality is positively correlated with loss of livelihood as people in informal work tend to fall outside social protection systems; they are typically not covered by social insurance, it has proved difficult to reach them with assistance (ILO Monitor, 2020) and they are over-represented in sectors which are less amenable to working from home. Concerns have also been raised around food security resulting from income poverty and disruptions in value chains (FAO, 2021; Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, 2020 and Wylde, 2020). School closures have halted school feeding programmes, with long-term effects for the well-being of affected children in the study area.

Conclusion/Recommendations

People's social lives, activities and income were greatly affected as a result of lockdown and beyond as a result of covid-19. It is therefore, concluded that the pandemic has done more harm than good to Wukari people and their economy as it led to unpredicted structural behavioural changes and recession that in turn resulted in hunger and poverty and deaths. This study therefore, has presented an overview of the economic issues and social impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Wukari's economic as well as Nigerian citizens and social lives of individuals in the society. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a dramatic loss to human life because of social inequality that existed during the distribution of covid-19 funds and material which cause other people to gain economic advantage at the expense of other and it has drastically affected almost all the areas of human life.

More to this study, it is observed that there are health, social-economic impacts, and strategic plans to alleviate the influence of COVID-19 on different sectors. This research work also discusses the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on Wukari's economy and issues that arises. Generally, the Covid-19 pandemic has a social, religious, political, and economic impact on the people of Wukari and their economy. Specifically, the consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Wukari includes a sharp drop in income of workers, jobs losses, food insecurity, business failures, school closures and economic qualms.

- *Fiscal Policy Measures*

The Nigerian government should implement some fiscal policy measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the economy. For example, the government should reduce the current tax rate or give tax breaks to some Small Scales Enterprise, which would free some money for business expansion. Moreover, the government should increase its spending on the provision of basic infrastructures. For example, the government should invest in electricity. Many, Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs) have been generating their electricity, which has increased the cost of doing business in Wukari. No doubt, a constant supply of electricity would reduce the cost of doing business in Nigeria significantly. Additionally, the Nigerian government should invest heavily in the health sector. The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the poor state of the health facilities in the country. Investment in the health sector would position the country to cope with similar pandemics in the future since Covid-19 might not be the last pandemic.

- *Diversification of the Economy through Agriculture*

With the steep decline in oil revenues due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Nigeria must diversify its economy. The diversification of Nigeria's economy is long overdue. The sudden and steep fall in crude oil price suggests that Nigeria should consider other options of sustaining its economy apart from the oil sector. One of the best options available to Wukari in its diversification drive is to prioritise agriculture. There is a need to focus on agriculture and invest massively in the agricultural sector to maximise the gains fully. More importantly, the Wukari youths, including young graduates, should embrace agriculture and agribusiness. Nigerian youths should take advantage of vast agricultural land and agribusiness opportunities in Nigeria (Otache, 2017).

- *Invest in Infrastructures*

Apart from assisting the manufacturers financially, the government needs to invest in electricity and road construction infrastructures. Addressing the challenges of electricity and roads in Nigeria would improve the performance of the sector significantly. Also, the government could give tax incentives to manufacturers. It would motivate them and also encourage more people to go into manufacturing. Once the sector is revamped, it will drive the country's economic sustainability, creating job opportunities.

- *The Need for Multiple Sources of Income*

The outbreak of this pandemic has underscored the need for multiple sources of income. Many people lost their jobs to the pandemic, and some people who depend on one business as a source of livelihood have lost their business. An interesting lesson learned from this pandemic is that relying on one source of income is like putting all of one's eggs in a single basket, and it could be disastrous when that source of income is lost. Having numerous sources of income is imperative as when one source of income is affected, there would be further avenues to fall back on. For paid employees, it is advisable to build other sources of income that are combinable with their core jobs.

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