



EFFECT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF YOUTHS IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus is no longer regarded as a new phenomenon in Nigeria because many countries across the global community are facing unprecedented challenges due to this pandemic. The threat is not only on the health of humanity but also on the socio-economic and livelihoods especially in Urban City like Lagos. This work hinges on effect of COVID-19 pandemic, innovative approaches and socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. The study specifically adopted the survey method of descriptive and correlation research design. The population of this study comprised of all the 20 recognized Local Government Area in Lagos State. A purposive simple random sampling method was adopted. Thus, 51 of both male/female working class youths participants were randomly selected to fill the instrument in each of the Local Government Area. In all a total of 1020 working class youths responded to the research instrument. The instrument for data collection was a self-developed questionnaire titled, "Questionnaire on Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, Innovative Approaches and Socio-Economic Status of Youths" (QECPIASESY) and this was validated and found reliable at $r = 0.78$. Two research questions and one null research hypothesis was formulated and tested. The results revealed that there is a significant effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. It was however concluded that COVID-19 pandemic has a high rate effect on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. Recommendations were given amongst is that government should strategies towards sustainable economic empowerment so that youths will be taken out of poverty in Lagos State and Nigeria at large.

KEYWORDS: COVID-19 pandemic, innovative approaches, socio-economic status, youth, livelihood

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INTRODUCTION

The emergent outbreak of COVID-19 global pandemic which emanated from the city of Wuhan, China, has become a major public health, socio-economic and livelihood burden for not only under-developed, developing and developed countries but all over the world. According to World Health Organization (WHO), the disease broke out on 31st December 2019 in Wuhan, a city in eastern China with a population of over 11 million people. After spreading through East Asia, Europe, and North America in early 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic started affecting countries in Africa and Latin America with the largest population in Sub-Saharan Africa, and long-standing travel and trade links within Africa and to the rest of the world (Onyekwena & Amara Mma, 2020). As of February 26, 2020, COVID-19 has been recognized in 34 countries, with a total of 80,239 laboratory confirmed cases and 2,700 deaths (Adelakun, 2020). On 11th March, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared Coronavirus outbreak a pandemic which needed to be taken serious by the whole world. Because, there was a sudden shoot up of confirmed cases of 4.9 million in at least 188 countries with 323, 300 deaths and nearly 1.7 million recoveries as at 20th May, 2020 (Ortserga, 2020).

According to John Hopkins University Covid-19 dashboard which collects information from National and International health authorities, the world has already recorded 19,024,700 confirmed cases, 11,594,817 recovered cases and 709,282 deaths globally as of 7th August, 2020. The disease has been detected in more than 180 countries and territories with United States of America, Brazil, India, Russia and Mexico experiencing the most widespread outbreaks worldwide (Ortserga, 2020). Unfortunately, Nigeria confirmed its first case on 27th February, 2020 in Lagos State. And since then, the town has seen the number of confirmed cases rise rapidly after which it began to spread throughout Lagos, Ogun State, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) area of Abuja. The arrival of the pandemic set off a chain of approaches and policy actions, including public health and education campaigns, fiscal and monetary measures, restrictions on large sections of the economy, and compensating measures in the form of social protection for poor and vulnerable people (Onyekwena & Amara Mma, 2020). The sudden onset of the pandemic and the scale of policy responses imposed significant economic costs on Nigeria's population (Ortserga, 2020).

Economically, coronavirus has been described by the IMF as humanity darkest hour as the world economy has witnessed a standstill worldwide. The virus has placed a heavy burden not only on the national and international economies but also on individual business, family finances and mostly youth's socio-economic status. The Managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva in a press release on 23rd April 2020, on the economic impact of coronavirus stated that, nearly \$90 billion has flown out of emerging markets and developing economies due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to Kristalina (2020), the same way the virus hits vulnerable people with medical preconditions hardest, the economic crises hits vulnerable economies the hardest, increasing the vulnerability of developing economies and pushing their people into more poverty and loss of individual livelihoods. In developing economies like Nigeria with 69 percent of people living below poverty level, it is important the impact of coronavirus should not only be seen from the angle of health and economic crises but also the social crises which impact can only be imagine from a position of a profound disadvantage society.

The UNDP have predicted that, income losses in developing economies are expected to exceed \$220 billion with an estimated 55 percent of the global population with no access to social protection to suffer the impact of this pandemic more



on education, human rights and in most severe cases, basic food security and Nutrition. Also, according to the Sun newspaper of Monday, June 29th 2020, the World Bank has predicted an estimated 95.7 million Nigerians would be joining extremely poor countries across the world by 2022 due to the impact of coronavirus pandemic. This is in addition to a previous report stating that before covid-19 outbreak, 90 million Nigerians were already living in extreme poverty of less than a dollar per day (Ortserga, 2020). Furthermore, there is no doubt that the interference of the coronavirus pandemic has caused so many burdens on the Nigeria education system. As of April 21th, 2020, approximately 1.723 billion learners have been affected with partial closures and staggering opening of schools, (Adelakun, 2020).

Concept and Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Livelihood

The concept livelihood is a multifaceted concept centered on economic activities carried out by the people to earn a living. Many authors present different arguments about what livelihood entails in various ways but certain things are the same. Chambers and Conway (1992) cited by Ortserga (2020), define livelihood as a source of income generation that an individual is involved in to provide his basic needs. Engberg, (1996) in Ortserga (2020), defined livelihood as individual involvement or participation in market or non-market economic activities that generate income. (Thompson, 1995) cited by Ortserga (2020), grouped these economic activities into formal and informal activities. When relating socio-economic impact of coronavirus pandemic on livelihood, it is important we understand how coronavirus have affected the social and economic life of people and their sources of livelihood. The increase in urban population has comes with major challenges such as few jobs for a large population. According to Engberg, (1996) in Ortserga (2020), the limited jobs have pushed many people to employ a number of livelihood strategies to survive the harsh economy condition. However, threat to these livelihoods brings about individual and family hardship as well as economic backwardness on individual and nation's economy, (Farrington et al., 1999) cited by Ortserga (2020).

Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Socio-Economic

The following are effect COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic presented by UNDP (2020) report, namely;

1. Fall of Oil Price by 60%
2. Effect on the Exchange rate of Naira
3. Significant Effect on the Increase of Job Losses
4. Effect on Peace and Social Wellbeing

Statement of the Problem

It was observed that the effect of COVID-19 pandemic is the fear for survival because almost all spheres of life have been affected. The cankerworm has affected youth, especially the working class among them. Many have lost their jobs; means of livelihood, their socio-economic status and standard of living are badly affected. The effect has further increase the rate of crime and violence. It is as a result that this work was designed to examine the effect of COVID-19 pandemic, innovative approaches and socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Objective of the study

The purpose of this study was to:

1. examine the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria
2. investigate impact of innovative approaches on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria.



Research Hypotheses

Based on the purpose of the study, two research questions and one null research hypotheses was formulated and tested.

Ho1: There is no significant effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria

METHODOLOGY

This study specifically adopted the survey method of descriptive and correlation research design. The population of this study comprised of all the 20 recognized Local Government Area in Lagos State. A purposive simple random sampling method was adopted. Thus, 51 of both male/female working class youths participants were randomly selected to fill the instrument in each of the Local Government Area. In all a total of 1020 working class youths responded to the research instrument. The instrument for data collection was a self-developed questionnaire titled, "Questionnaire on Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, Innovative Approaches and Socio-Economic Status of Youths" (QECPIASESY) and divided into section A and B. Section A contains demographic data of the respondents while section B has 30 structured items based on Likert scale format of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4 points, Agree (A) =3 points, Disagree (D) = 2 points, and Strongly Agree (SA) = 1 point. The questionnaire was subjected to face and content validity by expert in the field of educational management and social sciences, and test-retest reliability method was used and the reliability value was $r = 0.78$ which indicated that the instrument is reliable before administration. The researcher with the help of ten researches assistant administered the questionnaire to the respondents. Completed copies of the questionnaire were retrieved immediately. The statistical tool used to analyze the data comprised of simple descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation, and regression analysis at a level of 0.05.

RESULTS

Testing of Research Hypothesis

Two research questions and one null research hypothesis was formulated and tested

Ho1: There is no significant effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria.

The correlation analyses on the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on innovative approaches and socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: *Pearson Product-moment Correlation Analysis on the effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Socio-Economic Status of Youths in Lagos, Nigeria*

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-cal	r-tab	Decision
COVID-19 Pandemic	1,020	40.29	9.8641	0.66	0.40	*
Socio-economic Status	1,020	12.86	5.7651			

* Correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 above reveals that there is a high rate on the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria during the period under study, $r\text{-cal} > r\text{-tab}$ ($r=0.66, P<0.05$). This implies that the null hypothesis is



rejected. Therefore, there is a significant effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. However, there is high unemployment which have resulted to unsustainable economic activities in Lagos State. The study is therefore in line with report of Ortserga, (2020) that there is a high rate on the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic and livelihood of people in Markurdi, Benue State Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The study examined the effect of COVID-19 pandemic, innovative approaches and socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. The result reveals that, there is a high rate on the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria during the period under study and it has pushed many youths into poverty and loss of their means/sources of livelihood. It was further revealed that innovative approaches have positive and high rate impact on the socio economic status of youths in Lagos State, Nigeria. However, the coronavirus pandemic effect can be further curb or control if more proactive and properly innovative approaches are adopted both in short and at the long run.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a matter of urgency, the policy makers and government agencies responsible for protecting lives and livelihoods should embark on the following recommendations in order to curb or reduce the effect of this pandemic;

1. Government at all level should reduce or suspend taxes or any form of multiple taxation collected from small or medium scale enterprises and other informal economic activities like, taxi driving, commercial motorcycle operators, and other emerging small businesses to recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on business before taxes will be reintroduce.
2. Government should provide and give incentive in form of soft and long-term loans to small and medium scale enterprises for the informal sector to recover from the impact and losses suffered at this period of pandemic.
3. Government should at least provide scholarship to both primary and secondary schools so that the number of out of school children will not increase.
4. Government should create an enabling and conducive environment for people and most especially youths to survive, through constant and regular electricity, security of life and property because the fear and hunger kills more than the pandemic and an idle mind is a workshop of devil.
5. Finally, as the study reveals, there is high unemployment which have resulted to unsustainable economic activities in Lagos State, which makes the youths vulnerable to the crises. Therefore, there is need for sustainable economic empowerment by government so that youths and other citizen will be taken out of poverty.



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