

Covid-19; a threat to the Nigerian educational system: a way out

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Abstract

This paper posits that the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to the Nigerian educational system. The global lockdown of education institutions due to the Covid-19 outbreak is causing a significant interruption in students' learning, disruptions in student performance assessments, and cancellation/postponement of exams. The researchers adopt the expository method in carrying out this work. The researchers conclude that effort should be made in educating citizens in an intercontinental world. This will make successful people in the coming decades to understand this interrelatedness and navigate boundaries to leverage their differences and work globally in a collaborative way.

Keywords:

Covid-19; threat; education.

1 INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses known as COVID-19 belong to the Coronaviridae family in the Nidovirales order. Corona represents crown-like spikes on the virus's outer surface; thus, it was named a Coronavirus. Coronaviruses are minute in size (65–125 nm in diameter) and contain a single-stranded RNA as a nucleic material, sizes ranging from 26 to 32kbs in length. The subgroups of the Coronaviruses family are alpha (α), beta (β), gamma (γ), and delta (δ) coronavirus. Coronavirus, known as the COVID-19 pandemic, is a world outbreak disease that has endangered everyone's life. It is a health crisis that has made the host countries (rightly) decided to close schools, colleges, and universities. The crisis has grained the quagmire that policymakers are facing between closing schools (reducing contact and saving lives) and keeping them open (allowing workers to work and maintaining the economy). Many families worldwide felt the severe short-term disruption: homeschooling is a massive shock to parents' productivity and children's social life and learning. Teaching is moving online, on an untested and unprecedented scale. Student assessments are also moving online, with a lot of trial and error and uncertainty for everyone. Many assessments have been canceled. Importantly, these interruptions will not just be a short-term issue but can also have long-term consequences for the affected cohorts and are likely to increase inequality.

2 COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). According to World Health Organization, Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>). The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.

The virus is thought to be natural and has an animal origin through spillover infection. The origin is unknown, but by December 2019, the spread of infection was almost entirely driven by human-to-human transmission. The earliest reported infection was unofficially reported on November 17, 2019, in Wuhan, China. A study of the first 41 cases of confirmed COVID-19, published in January 2020 in *The Lancet*, revealed the earliest date of onset of symptoms as December 1 2019. Official publications from the WHO reported the earliest onset of symptoms as December 8 2019. While the disease is believed to be zoonotic in origin, humans appear to be capable of transmitting the virus to some other animals as well. Tigers at the Bronx Zoo tested positive for the virus and showed symptoms of COVID-19, including a dry cough and loss of appetite. A study on domesticated animals inoculated with the virus found that cats and ferrets appear to be "highly susceptible" to the disease, while dogs appear to be less susceptible, with lower viral replication levels. The study failed to find evidence of viral replication in pigs, ducks, and Chickens.

The World Health Organization announced in February 2020 that COVID-19 is the official name of the disease. World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus explained that CO stands for Corona, VI for the virus, and D for disease, while 19 is when the outbreak was first identified: December 31, 2019. The name had been chosen to avoid references to a specific geographical location (e.g., China), animal species, or groups of people, in line with international recommendations for naming to prevent stigmatization.

Signs and symptoms of coronavirus include:

- Fever
- Cough and shortness of breath.
- Fatigue,
- Muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell and

- Abdominal pain.

However, exposure to the onset of symptoms is typically around five days but may range from two to 14 days. While most cases result in mild symptoms, some progress to viral pneumonia and multi-organ failure. As of April 9, 2020, more than 1.48 million cases have been reported in more than 200 countries and territories, resulting in more than 88,600 deaths. More than 331,000 people have recovered.

3 COVID-19: MODES OF TRANSMISSION

The virus is mainly spread during close contact [a] and by small droplets produced when that infected cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets may also be produced during breathing; however, they rapidly fall to the ground or surfaces and are not generally spread through the air over large distances. People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their face. The virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. Coronavirus is most contagious during the first three days after onset of symptoms, although spread may be possible before symptoms appear and later stages of the disease. The Preventive measures are: 1) Respirator or facemask, 2) Gown, 3) Medical gloves, 4) Eye protection.

4 EFFECT OF CORONA VIRUS

It is no doubt that almost all the spheres of life have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. Covid-19 has rapidly affected our daily life activities, businesses, and movement. It is worthy of note that the early identification of the disease is vital and easy to control. The spread of the virus varies rapidly spreads from person to person. Some of this effect has made some countries to slow down in the manufacturing of products. The various industries and sectors are affected by this disease's cause; these include the pharmaceuticals industry, the solar power sector, tourism, Information, and electronics industry. Going further, Haleem *et al.* (2020) noticed that the virus creates a significant knock-on citizens' daily lives and the global economy. Notably, the effect of Covid-19 globally is not something to write home about. It has reach extensively in our daily life activities and has developed far-reaching consequences.

4.1 Health Care

In diagnosis, quarantine, and treatment of suspected or confirmed cases have been a great challenge. It has led to the burden of the functioning of the other existing medical system. This has also led to the negligence of patients with other diseases and health problems. It has added more loads to the Doctors and other healthcare professionals, who are at very high risk. Overloading of medical shops is noticed, which requires high protection.

4.2 Economic

Economically, Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the slowing down of the manufacturing of essential goods (Haleem 2020). It has led to the losses of national and international businesses. It also affects poor cash flow in the market (Edor, 2016). It also necessitated the significance of slowing down in revenue growth.

4.3 Social

Covid-19 has resulted in improper service sectors in various fields; for instance, it has caused the cancellation or postponement of large-scale sports and tournaments (Edor, 2017; Maughan, 2020). Avoiding the national and international traveling and cancellation of services has been observed due to the Covid-19 pandemic's social challenge. It has disrupted the celebration and celebration of cultural, religious, and festive events. Social distancing with our peers and family members and closure of places for entertainment such as movie and play theatres, sports clubs, gymnasiums, and swimming pools have also contributed to the Covid-19 pandemic impact.

This Covid-19 has affected the sources of supply and affects the global economy. There are restrictions on traveling from one country to another country. During traveling, numbers of cases are identified as positive when tested, especially when taking international visits (Chinazzi *et al.*, 2020).

4.4 Education

In the attempt to explain what education is, aroused a lot of different views on the concept. These formed various descriptions/definitions of education across the globe. Modern educational philosophers and those in the field of education had the intention to abandon attempts to analyze the concept. For those of what they think education is or what it means or stands for in each society. Schofield (1975) viewed the concept of education from two perspectives: 1) Descriptive perspectives, 2) Prescriptive perspectives.

4.4.1 The descriptive perspective

The descriptive perspective of the concept of "education" by definitions is very familiar to us all. They are often regarded as dictionary definitions. A descriptive definition is one of that has been formulated in the past, has become standard is accepted as explaining adequately what something, i.e., what education etymology is the studies of words and their functions, therefore, etymologically education is derived from Latin word Educare which means to lead or to train. Therefore, there is a belief that such a definition that begins with 'education are descriptive definitions. Therefore, to many people, education is concerned with training children and adults alike for society's functions. It is one of the most significant agents of socialization.

4.4.2 Normative or prescriptive perspective

Normative or prescriptive perspective refers to an educated man's ideal, some of the expected values from an educated man. As a result of this, Akinpelu viewed the concept of education and an educated man in African culture as; education being life-long and embracing the whole way of living; to talk of an educated man is to talk of the ideal man in the culture of his people. To Akinpelu, an educated man in the African culture can be described as one who combines expertise in some specific economic skills with the soundness of character and wisdom in judgments. He is one who is equipped to handle the problems of living in his immediate and extended family successfully. He is well versed in the folk tale and genealogies of his ancestors. He has some skills to handle some minor health problems and where to obtain advice and help major ones. He stands well with the ancestral spirits of his family or community and knows how to observe their worship. He can discharge his political duties. He is wise and shrewd in judgments. He expresses himself not in too many words but rather in proverbs and analogies, leaving his hearers to unveil his thought. He is self-controlled under provocation, dignified in sorrow and retained in success, and has excellent character. In any form, an educated man in the African context must be a person of reputable and description excellent character. In the above description of an educated man, it is the social, natural, and social abilities of the individual that are mostly emphasized.

5 COVID-19: A TREAT TO NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

COVID-19 is not something to write home about in relation to its effect on the Nigeria educational system. However, COVID-19 has necessitated the closure of schools, colleges, and universities, which has interrupted the teaching for students around the world and exams. COVID-19 has constituted an alarming gale that will bring out damages to human lives and the educational sector at large when left unresolved. This is because COVID-19 has brought some issues.

5.1 Inappropriate Assessments of Student Performance

It has affected the continuous assessment, which is usually done twice or thrice before exams. Even after the COVID-19 pandemic is over, one cannot give out a continuous assessment that he/she did not teach the student. In the same vein, schools' closure due to COVID-19 pandemic also coincides with a key assessment period, and many exams have been postponed or canceled. Notable, the lockdown of institutions affects the entire school sundry, especially students' assessments. For example, Simon (2020) made us to understand that in the UK, all exams for the main public qualifications – GCSEs and A levels – have been cancelled for the entire cohort depending on the duration of the lockdown.

5.2 Traditional Exams Verse Online Assessment

In higher education, many universities and colleges are replacing traditional exams with online assessment tools (Zhao 2020). This is a new area for both teachers and students, and assessments will likely have larger measurement error than usual. Piopiunik *et al.* (2020) opine that employers use educational credentials such as degree classifications and grade point averages to sort applicants. This may result many challenges, since network may not be strong globally at all time. Moreover, lack of computer access to the poor masses and illiteracy on the computer's operation will result in another challenge.

5.3 Online Lecturing

To meet up with the school calendar, some schools in Nigeria have encouraged to be teaching students online. Challenges arise when one is illiterate on how to use to engage in an online lecture. Some may know but not having access to network will thwart their academic performances. Again, kids in rural and underserved communities in Lagos state, Nigeria, are being left behind as they are not equipped to adapt or transition to new learning methods. One major issue that may stem from this inequality is that these kids who currently cannot keep up with their peers because of inaccessibility to digital tools may never catch up and will continue to feel the effect of this gap long after the pandemic is over. Furthermore, for some families that earn below #1 per day and faced harsh economic realities due to the state's four-week lockdown, the purchase of radios or tv might be a trade-off that they cannot afford.

5.4 Delay in Student Graduation

Coronavirus pandemic (COVID 19) will affect final year students. This is because they have experienced major teaching interruptions in the final part of their studies. They are experiencing major interruptions in their assessments. Finally, they are likely to graduate at the beginning of a major global recession. Oreopoulos *et al.* (2012) show that graduates from programs with high predicted earnings can compensate for their poor starting point through both within- and across-firm earnings gains, but graduates from other programs have been found to experience permanent earnings losses from graduating in a recession.

6 A WAY OUT

The global lockdown of education institutions is going to cause a major (and likely unequal) interruption in students' learning, disruptions in internal assessments, and the cancellation of public assessments for qualifications or their replacement by an inferior alternative. What can be done to mitigate these negative impacts? Schools need resources to rebuild the loss in learning, once they open again. How these resources are used, and how to target the children who were especially hard hit, is an open question. Given the evidence of the importance of assessments for learning, schools should

also consider postponing rather than skipping internal assessments. For new graduates, policies should support their entry to the labor market to avoid longer unemployment periods. Public-private partnerships and government aid can improve education quality and increase education access for poor children in underserved communities. In the same vein, the government should make portable solar radios to help bridge the digital divide.

7 CONCLUSION

From the ongoing, it is observed that COVID-19 has tampered with education progress in the world because of its outbreak. This necessitated a lockdown of daily activities. However, COVID-19 is a pandemic that illustrates how globally interconnected we are- there is no longer such a thing as isolated issues and actions. Successful people in the coming decades need to understand this interrelatedness and navigate boundaries to leverage their differences and work globally collaborative way.

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