

## IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL WORKERS IN AWKA METROPOLIS, ANAMBRA STATE: A STATISTICAL PERSPECTIVE

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### Abstract

The impact of covid-19 pandemic on the nongovernmental workers was perceived statistically in this paper. A cross-sectional survey design was utilized and data were sourced from Awka, Anambra state capital. Opinion survey of 55 respondents using purposive sampling technique for convenience and necessity was also applied. Three research questions which were answered using descriptive statistics (mean) and percentages guided the study. Statistics showed that 46(83.6%) of the respondents who lost their jobs due to the outbreak were unable to secure another one after lockdown while 4(7.3%) were able to secure another one after lockdown and only 5(9.1%) retained their job. It was evident that out of the 55 respondents, only 10(18.2%) received palliative from the government while 45(81.8%) received nothing as they claimed that it was shared mostly among the indigenes by their president generals. The masses were advised among others to seek for alternative source of income also known as "Plan B", peradventure this kind of pandemic hit the country again. The government should look into the lives of the nongovernmental workers especially private school teachers.

**Key Words:** Covid-19, Pandemic, Nongovernmental workers, Statistic, Unemployment.

### Introduction

COVID-19, an acronym which stands for Corona virus Disease 2019 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus strain SARS-CoV-2 (WHO, 2020). On 27th of February 2020 Nigeria detected the first case of Covid-19 in Lagos State and the Nigeria Centre for Disease and Control (NCDC) immediately activated a full scale (L3) multi-sectoral

Emergency Operations centre (EOC) to coordinate the outbreak response in collaboration with the States (NCDC, 2020). Since the outbreak, scientists have been working assiduously to combat the malignant disease. However, curve is yet to flatten as significant increase in cases still exists. Statistics showed that

as at September 2020, Nigeria has recorded a total of 57,724 confirmed cases and 1,102 deaths (NCDC, 2020).

Nigeria is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, with approximately 206 million people and the seventh largest population in the world as at late 2019 (Nigerian Population, 2020). Curbing of unemployment rate is one of the major challenges facing the country aside from insecurity. Several administrations have disbursed a lot of fund into job creation especially for the youth. Recently, the President Muhammadu Buhari cleared the air by telling Nigerians that the reason why the government is still borrowing money is for road repairs and infrastructural development so as to attract foreign investors who would find the environment conducive for business (THISDAY Newspapers, 2020). Despite all the efforts, unemployment rate is still alarming as millions of Nigerians who graduate yearly are compelled to join the already congested labor market. The emergent of covid-19 seems to worsen the situation as workers in the nongovernmental establishments were massively sacked by their employers due to the outbreak. While the government workers are receiving their monthly pay at the comfort of their homes, the reverse is the case for those in private establishments. It is in vein of the above background information that this study is set to investigate statistically, the impacts of malignant covid-19 pandemic on nongovernmental in Anambra State using the State capital Awka as case study.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

A lot of Nigerians are perplexed and perturbed as the country is faced with the unprecedented malignant pandemic (Covid-19) which surfaced in February 2019. Its emergent has crippled the economy of many countries including Nigeria and has thrown many nongovernmental workers into some sort of quandary and apprehension as their employers fired them even without a prior notice in order to adopt and adapt to the changes in operation. Some had their salaries/wages slashed by their employers to an unbearable percentage. The heart-touching story of one of the victims who has turned to a street beggar, called for investigation notwithstanding the challenges therein, hence this study.

### **1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study is to ascertain the impacts of covid-19 pandemic on nongovernmental workers in Awka metropolis, Anambra state while the specific objectives are to:

- ❖ Find out how the nongovernmental workers have been coping with emergent of the disease
- ❖ Find out the extent of loss of income due to the pandemic
- ❖ Ascertain the role played by the palliatives in the life of nongovernmental workers

#### 1.4 Research Questions

The following questions guided the study namely:

- ❖ How have the nongovernmental workers been coping with emergent of the disease?
- ❖ What is the extent of loss of income due to the pandemic?
- ❖ What role has palliatives played in the life of nongovernmental workers?

#### 1.5 Significance of the study

The study will be of immense benefit to all-and-sundry. Those intended to benefit are; the job seekers, employers, government and NCDC.

#### 2.0 Review of Related Literature

##### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

##### 2.1.1 Conspiracy theories on Covid-19 Compiled by (Favour, Jethro, Isaac & Kenneth, 2020):

Since the emergent of the global lockdown caused by Covid-19, there have been a lot of conspiracy theories with much disparity. Some of which are detailed below:

**Political manipulation or how to use secret agenda (Richard, 2020):** conspiracy theories advocate the existence of secret plots which the powerful elites hide from the public's eye in a bid to politically manipulate the people. Many forms of conspiracies have been ongoing in several countries owing to how the government has used the COVID-19 as a tool for getting funds from other nations. Thus there have been trends of speculations that the number of confirmed cases is being inflated. In Nigeria, for instance, there are reports that some patients who visited the hospital gave information of how a mere malaria case was recorded as a COVID-19 case. In Nigeria, the citizens are still puzzled on how the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) treats the COVID-19 patients since WHO has cancelled the use of hydroxychloroquine. Many Nigerians still doubt the NCDC testing capacity. Also there have been claims in Nigeria at the beginning of the

lockdown due to the pandemic that political activities were still holding while schools, markets, worship centers were closed. A further step in the narrative conspiracy proposes the reluctance of the government to communicate the real situation. Accordingly, the goal is to push an undemocratic and unethical agenda that would cause public upheavals if known.

**Population cleansing (WHO, 2020):** Population cleansing is a widespread theory that emerged in different terms. Examples of conspiracy theories in this class include claims that China created the virus to solve the overpopulation problem, whereas in Europe the virus was to eliminate the elderly. In Nigeria, the conspiracy theory is that the virus has come to eliminate the corrupt political leaders of the country. A common goal is to show the collusion of political and economic powers for evil intent.

**Evergreen Conspiracies Step into the shoes of COVID-19 (EU Disinfo Lab, 2020):** besides the extensively explored deep state allegations, other conspiracy theories that do not entirely fit the previous narratives include:

(1) The prophetic origin of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus 2(SARS-CoV-2) foreseen by Nostradamus, Bill gates or the Simpsons.

(2) A revival of anti-sanitism accusing Jewish communities of speeding the virus for the purpose of poisoning the Gentiles and sacrificing them as part of religious rituals.

(3) Finally, the 5G conspiracy has also become a narrative of its own primed in Europe and beyond. Popular claims are that SARS CoV-2 is transmitted through 5G antennas and that the 5G technology has a negative health impact and thus make individuals vulnerable to the virus.

**Cure and medical treatment conspiracy theories (Travis, M.A & Danielle, P. Trump, 2020):** a number of conspiracy theories confuse the longstanding existence of COVID-19, therefore claiming that the cure already existed and in line with the theory of power, the elite had refused to share it with the whole population. To illustrate this, in France some group of Face book users met the news of the speedy recovery of Prince Charles despite his old age with suspicion. In Nigeria there has been many conspiracies about the existence of the disease owing that many of the mortality cases occurs in the elderly age and there has been trend that people in the age died of merely terminal disease and not due to the virus. With all these conspiracy theories with much disparity, the researchers are saying that arriving at a conclusion on the actual cause/origin of covid-19 pandemic is confounding.

The upcoming years will most likely witness a surge in research approaches and studies theorizing and analyzing this epidemic from various perspectives.

## 2.2 Empirical studies

**Impacts of Pandemic Compiled by** (Qiu, Rutherford, Mao & Chu, 2016):

**The economic impacts:** According to Gostin and Friedman (2015), Pandemic like influenza posits a serious threat not only to the population of the world, but also to its economy. The impact of economic loss can result in instability of the economy. The impact is through direct costs, long term burden, and indirect costs. The direct costs of dealing with the disease outbreak can be very high.

**Social impacts:** The social impacts of pandemics were severe, which include: travel was strictly limited, and schools closing, markets and sporting were closed. All these are a likely reality should a pandemic with true potential for high morbidity and mortality emerged. Population mobility is also a key factor. With modern and efficient air travel, SARS, which originated from Southern China was rapidly transmitted to more than 30 countries in early 2003 (Wong & Leung, 2007). These impacts on nongovernmental workers are what the researchers intend to ascertain, this is indeed an unfilled gap.

## 3.0 Methodology

### 3.1 Research Design

The study adopted cross-sectional research design which entails gathering of the necessary information from the respondents.

**3.2 Population of the Study:** Population for this study consists of 301,657 million people as at the 2006 population census. Awka being the largest city of Anambra state was selected for the study. It was declared the state capital in 21 August 1991, after the creation of Anambra and Enugu states (Globalfeed.com, 2006).

### 3.3 Sample /Sampling Technique.

Utilizing Taro Yamane Technique for choosing sample size, the sample size is approximately 399 but the researchers decided to reduce the sample size to 55 respondents. This was done for convenient and necessity. However, a sample of 55 is still a large sample. Based on the nature of the research and its aim born in mind, purposive sampling which is a non-probability sampling technique was adopted.

### 3.4 Instrument for Data Collection

The Instrument utilized for data collection was questionnaire comprising of "closed" and "open-ended" questions. It was validated using "construct-validity and content-validity". The reliability of the instrument (questionnaire) was tested using Cronbach's Reliability test, which gave a Cronbach Alpha of 0.83. This shows that the instrument is reliable for the research work.

### 3.5 Method of Data Analyses

Due to the nature of the study, frequency counts and percentages were utilized for the data analyses. This was done electronically using SPSS 21.0.

### 4.0 Data Analyses and Results

The analyses were done accordingly; research question by research question.

**4.1 Research Question One:** How have the nongovernmental workers been coping with emergence of the disease?

**Table1:** Status of the respondents after job loss: **Yes= I got another job while No= I couldn't get another job after I lost my job to covid-19.**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	4	7.3
	No	46	83.6
	Total	50	90.9
Missing	Values	5	9.1
Total		55	100.0

**Source:** Researchers' computation from opinion survey

**Result Interpretation:** Table1 showed that out of the 55 respondents sampled for the study, 46(83.6%) of the respondents who lost their jobs due to the outbreak were unable to secure another one after lockdown while 4(7.3%) were able to secure another one after lockdown. 5(9.1%) didn't lose their job.

**Table 2:** How nongovernmental workers have been coping with the pandemic

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Trading	12	21.8
	online business	4	7.3
	Menial job	10	18.2
	Driving	5	9.1
	Nothing	19	34.5
	Total	50	90.9
Missing	System	5	9.1
Total		55	100.0

**Source:** Researchers' computation from opinion survey

**Result Interpretation:** The above table shows that out of the 50 respondents who lost their jobs due to the outbreak, 12(21.8%) went into trading, 4(7.3%) diverted to online business while 10(18.2%), 5(9.1%) and 19(34.5%) found themselves in menial job, driving, and nothing, respectively.

#### 4.2 Research Question Two: What is the extent of loss of income due to the pandemic?

**Table 3:** Opinion on the impact of covid-19 pandemic

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	4	7.3
	Disagree	12	21.8
	Undecided	7	12.7
	Agree	10	18.2
	Strongly Agree	18	32.7
	Total	51	92.7
Missing	System	4	7.3
Total		55	100.0

**Source:** Researchers computation from opinion survey

**Result Interpretation:** The above table shows that out of the 51 respondents who were affected financially by the outbreak, 4(7.3%) strongly disagree that covid-19 had a significant negative impact on them financially, 12(21.8%) disagreed, 7(12.7%) said they don't know what to say, 10(18.2%) and 18(32.7%) agreed and strongly agreed respectively that covid-19 pandemic had a huge negative impact on them.

**Table 4:** Impact of covid-19 pandemic

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Salary slashed	4	7.3
	Salary not slashed	1	1.8
	Total	5	9.1
Missing	System	50	90.9
Total		55	100.0

**Source:** Researchers' computation from opinion survey

**Result Interpretation:** From the table above, out of the 5 respondents who retained their jobs, 4(7.3%) of the respondents had their salary slashed while 1(1.8%) wasn't slashed at all.

**Table5:** Situation of those who retained their job after lockdown but experienced salary slashing.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	10-25%	2	3.6
	30-45%	2	3.6
	Total	4	7.3
Missing	System	51	92.7
Total		55	100.0

**Source:** Researchers' computation from opinion survey

**Result Interpretation:** From the table above, out of the 4 respondents whose salary were slashed, 2 had their salary slashed by 10-25% while 2 had theirs slashed by 30-45%.

#### 4.3 Research Question Three: What role has palliatives played in the life of nongovernmental workers?

**Table 6:** How the palliative was distributed

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Received Palliatives	10	18.2
	No Palliatives	45	81.8
	Total	55	100.0

**Result Interpretation:** The above table shows that out of the 55 respondents sampled for the study, only 10(18.2%) received palliative from the government while 45(81.8%) received nothing as they claimed that the palliatives were shared among the indigenes by their president general.

**Table 7:** Nature of the palliatives received: Yes = reasonable palliative while No = not unreasonable palliative.



		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	3	5.5
	No	7	94.5
	Total	10	100.0

**Source:** Researchers' computation from opinion survey

**Result Interpretation:** The above table shows that out of the 10 respondents who received palliatives from the government, only 3(5.2%) said yes they received something reasonable while 7(94.5%) said they didn't receive anything reasonable.

## 5.0 Discussion of Results, Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1 Discussion of Results

Pandemic comes with a lot unprecedented happenings. It's accompanied with deaths, financial difficulties and loss of source of income in high magnitude. Contrary to the massive loss of jobs, some persons were highly favored at the same time. The results of this investigation showed that out of 55 respondents sampled for the study, 46(83.6%) of the respondents who lost their jobs due to the outbreak were unable to secure another one after lockdown while 4(7.3%) were able to secure another one after lockdown. 5(9.15) retained their job. Out of the 50 respondents who lost their jobs due to the outbreak, 12(21.8%) went into trading, 4(7.3%) diverted to online business, while 10(18.2%), 5(9.1%) and 19(34.5%) found themselves in menial job, driving, and nothing, respectively. Out of the 51 respondents who were affected financially by the outbreak, 4(7.3%) strongly disagree that covid-19 had a significant negative impact on the financially, 12(21.8%) disagreed, 7(12.7%) said they don't know what to say, 10(18.2%) and 18(32.7%) agreed and strongly agreed respectively that covid-19 pandemic had a huge negative impact on them. It was evident that out of the 55 respondents, only 10(18.2%) received palliative from the government while 45(81.8%) received nothing as they claimed that it was shared among the indigenes by the president general.

### 5.2 Conclusion

From the analyses performed and the above discussion of results, one can infer that the nongovernmental workers were affected immensely by the unprecedented happening. This was evident as higher number of those who lost their job has turned to street beggars.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions drawn, the masses were advised among others to have alternative source of income also known as "Plan B", peradventure this kind of pandemic hit the country again. Having one source of income could be detrimental as this may lead to suicide or stealing especially when a condition of this kind comes up. The government should look into the lives of the nongovernmental workers especially private school teachers who were at home for more than six months without any salary. Those distributing palliatives should do that with integrity and make sure everyone benefits as supposed.

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