

COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Cost Implications for Nigeria

By

Ugochukwu D. ABASILIM, PhD

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Covenant University, Ota, Ogun-State, Nigeria.

Email: ugochukwu.abasilim@covenantuniversity.edu.ng, Tel:08034846108

Esther O. MOSES

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Covenant University, Ota, Ogun-State, Nigeria.

Email: esther.mosespgs@stu.cu.edu.ng, [Tel:08169221197](tel:08169221197)

Daniel E. GBEREVBIE, PhD

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Covenant University, Ota, Ogun-State, Nigeria.

Email: daniel.gberevbie@covenantuniversity.edu.ng, Tel:08023628562

&

Ifeoluwa A. FATOGUN

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Covenant University, Ota, Ogun-State, Nigeria.

Email: fatogun95@gmail.com, Tel:08056491608

Abstract

Nigeria has been facing the double burden of a dreaded disease and economic deterioration as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Looking at the spillover effect of the pandemic on the economy and how it has affected businesses, foreign investors, firms, human lives and economic activities in general, this paper examined the COVID-19 pandemic and its cost implications for Nigeria. The paper is qualitative in nature that relied on secondary sources of data collection from reports of World Health Organization (WHO), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the internet. The data gotten were analyzed thematically. The findings indicated that despite all measures that have been embarked on by the Nigerian government, to prevent, control and contain the current pandemic, the country is still bearing a higher cost implication on the economy, a development which craves for a stronger need for evaluating and re-engineering short and long-term strategies to revitalize the Nigerian economy. The paper concluded that COVID-19 pandemic had done more damage than good to the country's economy and would only take a swift and intelligent government to recuperate fast from the adverse economic cost implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a way to go, the country will need to pay very close attention to enforcing the steps to contain the spread of the disease. In addition, a team of experts with proven records of success in their respective fields that are devoid of primordial sentiments will need to be raised to rub minds together to suggest pathways for economic discovery.

Keywords: COVID-19, Economy, Nigeria, Pandemic.

Introduction

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). The infection was discovered first in Wuhan, China's Hubei province capital in December 2019 and has since spread around the world, resulting in its being declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 (Dhama, Patel, Sharun, Pathak, Tiwari, Yattoo, & Rodriguez, 2020). Fever, cough, and shortness of breath are common symptoms of this deadly disease. Most countries like; China, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and more countries have established intervention measures to combat the virus, and have recorded some kind of success. However, on a global scale, the pandemic is far from over.

In Nigeria, the first case of COVID-19 was identified in late February 27th, 2020 and the second case in March 9th of the same year, and in no time the virus spread rapidly between States as people move from one place to another (Paintsil, 2020). The increasing rate at which the virus was transmitted, and the intensified unpredictability of the virus made both consumers and foreign trade partners to seek for safety (Lahmiri & Bekiros, 2020). In addition, the mandated restrictions on people's movement had a great impact on economic activities, as physical and direct transactions on trade and investment were shutdown. The impact of the COVID-19 is still greatly felt in Nigeria as it has affected the socio, cultural, financial, educational, and economic system of the country (Adegboye, Adekunle, Gayawan, Salzberger, Glück & Ehrenstein, 2020).

With the COVID-19 pandemic, travel ban protocol was observed as both the local and international airports were closed down; transport schemes were also closed down to reduce the inflow and outflow of people from state to state and from country to country. Due to the travel ban that resulted in trip cancellations, most airlines were grounded because there were no people to transport from one place to the other. Restaurants, hotels, clubs, shopping malls and complexes, motels were also temporarily closed, events and entertainment industries were not left out in this as weddings, burials and all forms of gathering were prohibited during this period to reduce the spread of the dreaded disease.

For instance, in Lagos, a largely populated area of Nigeria, the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases of 58,110 and 439 deaths as of April 18, 2021 was recorded (NCDC, 2021). Throughout the spike of the pandemic, transportation became very high and the social distance policy was still not duly observed. Passengers were forced to pay more for travelling and the government also was losing income, taxes were increased too (Mogaji, 2020). Countries that depend on imports from China, United States and Vietnam were also caught in the middle of the crisis as goods were stucked at the border due to closure and goods could not be purchased due to the fact that these countries already closed their industries and border as well. This invariably caused the prices of goods in the market to be inflated (Obi, Yunusa, Ezeogueri-Oyewole, Sekpe, Egwemi & Isiaka, 2020).

The social distance protocol was introduced in order to reduce the spread of the virus. Based on the above background and the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this paper attempts an analysis of the effect of the pandemic on the Nigerian economy. The paper

is organized into five sections: introduction, literature review, methodology, recommendations and conclusions, respectively.

Origin of COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria

The first case of the virus was confirmed in China on the 7th of January, 2020 and the origin of the virus was traced to the popular sea food market in Wuhan, China from which investigations revealed that most of the victims were either visitors or workers at the sea food market where life animals and infected animals are sold (Shereen, Khan, Kazmi, Bashir & Siddique, 2020). However, the COVID-19 pandemic was reported on December 31, 2019 to World Health Organization (Ahmad, Rehman & Alkharfy, 2020). At first, it was believed that the virus must have been transferred from animal to human until it became human to human, this happened as the numbers increased daily (Baloch, Zheng & Pei, 2020). Apart from the cases discovered in Wuhan, which is the main transport hub in China, other cases were confirmed in other China cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong (Hsu, Chia & Vasoo, 2020). By January 21, 2020, more cases were confirmed in other countries like United States, Korea, Japan and Thailand and this was because of their travel history to China (Guo, Cao, Hong, Tan, Chen, Jin & Yan, 2020).

On 27 February 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Nigeria, when an Italian man residing in Lagos tested positive for COVID-19 (Omaka-Amari, Aleke, Obande, Ngwakwe, Nwankwo & Afoke, 2020). The second case was detected on March 9, 2020 in Ogun State; this was the man that had contact with the Italian man (Falaye, 2020). The virus began to spread rapidly between states as death toll increased especially in populated states of Lagos and Ogun (Dan-Nwafo, Ochu, Elimian, Oladejo, Ilori, Umeokonkwo & Ihekweazu, 2020). With this great spike in the pandemic, the Nigerian government began to look for measures on how to contain the virus from spreading. Business hubs were shut down, schools were closed, gatherings and meetings were immediately prohibited, and traveling was banned due to the total lockdown policy put in place by the government. Other health measures were later put in place by health practitioners like washing of hands regularly, sanitizing of hands and surfaces, using of face mask and many more measures that helped to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic (Ogunode, Iriogebu & Abashi, 2020).

COVID-19 Case Updates in Nigeria as of 9th June, 2021.

In Nigeria, 102 new confirmed cases were registered on 8th of June, 2021. In 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, there are 1,542 active cases, 166,918 cases have been registered, 2,180,444 people have been tested, 163,259 cases have been discharged, and 2,117 deaths have been reported (NCDC, 2021).



Confirmed Cases witnessed in the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as at 9th of June, 2021.

S/N	Affected States	Confirmed Cases	Admission Cases	Discharged Cases	Total Deaths
1	Lagos	59,213	316	58,441	456
2	FCT	19,872	596	19,110	166
3	Plateau	9,102	23	9,014	65
4	Kaduna	9,063	1	9,005	57
5	Rivers	7,274	25	7,148	101
6	Oyo	6,858	3	6,731	124
7	Edo	4,908	0	4,723	185
8	Ogun	4,683	0	4,633	50
9	Kano	3,998	24	3,864	110
10	Ondo	3,409	116	3,229	64
11	Kwara	3,129	6	3,068	55
12	Delta	2,629	1	2,556	72
13	Osun	2,578	6	2,520	52
14	Enugu	2,464	100	2,335	29
15	Nasarawa	2,383	0	2,344	39
16	Katsina	2,103	17	2,052	34
17	Gombe	2,059	9	2,006	44
18	Ebonyi	2,038	4	2,002	32
19	Anambra	1,923	19	1,886	18
20	Akwa Ibom	1,909	64	1,826	19
21	Abia	1,693	2	1,669	22
22	Imo	1,661	4	1,620	37
23	Bauchi	1,549	14	1,518	17
24	Borno	1,366	15	1,327	24
25	Benue	1,337	99	1,200	38
26	Adamawa	1,131	1	1,098	32
27	Taraba	1,001	0	977	24
28	Niger	935	5	913	17
29	Bayelsa	906	1	879	26
30	Ekiti	876	3	862	11
31	Sokoto	775	0	747	28
32	Jigawa	532	4	512	16
33	Kebbi	460	16	435	9
34	Cross River	450	42	392	16
35	Yobe	402	3	381	18
36	Zamfara	244	3	233	8
37	Kogi	5	0	3	2
	TOTAL	166,918	1,542	163,259	2117



Source: NCDC Coronavirus COVID-19 Microsite Wednesday 3:59 pm 9th of June, 2021.

Methodology

A comprehensive literature search was conducted in popular databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus and Research Gate search engines within 2020-2021. The review aimed to identify studies on the “COVID-19 pandemic” and the “Economic cost for Nigeria”. A detailed search strategy using different combinations of keywords such as “COVID-19”, “Economy”, “Nigeria”, “Pandemic was conducted to identify the studies done in Nigeria by Nigerians. The resources also included reports of World Health Organisation, NCDC and UNESCO. All the articles and reports published in English as full-peer reviewed manuscripts were screened for duplicates and potential missing studies. The grey literature included a few authentic reports from Regional and International Organisations such as the World Health Organisation, NCDC and UNESCO, and the Nigerian government websites that were also included to add more value to the information. To ensure quality, the authors of this paper independently conducted the document review process, and the identified studies were evaluated for suitability for this review. All the included studies in this paper were scrutinized thoroughly, and the studies that met the selection criteria were retrieved for further analysis. The above was because there is a paucity of data available on this interdisciplinary area specific to the Nigerian context. Of the total 13,300 results from the database search, authors have identified 41 records in this study. The sources considered for this study are 29 journal articles, 1 book, and 4 online sources from Deloitte, Punch newspaper, Guardian, and brookings.edu and 7 reports from World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), CNN, African Report and foreign affairs media report.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Studies were eligible for inclusion if they were published in the English language, having the Nigerian context, discussing COVID-19 either pandemic or cost implication of COVID-19 pandemic, and way forward. Articles not published in English language and those not focused on Nigeria were excluded. This study addresses the “cost implications” of COVID-19 pandemic” in Nigeria. Pandemic is commonly referred to as a widespread epidemic of contagious disease occurring worldwide at the same time, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people. As deployed in this paper, “cost implication” is used mainly by economists as means to compare the prudence of one course of action with that of another and the narratives assessing these strategies as reported in the literature.

The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Nigeria’s Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic, has affected the Nigerian economy in so many ways. People were ordered to remain at home, causing significant economic losses in a wide range of sectors, including the aviation industry, which was disrupted by travel bans, cancelations of sporting activities, prohibition of meetings and many more restrictions were placed by the

government (Horowitz, 2020; Elliot, 2020). It also affected jobs, education, religion, prices of goods and services, and individual lives at large. The recent economic instability caused by COVID-19 had spillover effects because it has created disruptions in demand and supply of goods and services (El-Erian, 2020).

For the oil-dependent countries, like Nigeria and Venezuela, there has been increasing pressure on their foreign-exchange reserves as a result of the global economic downturn in oil prices combined with reduced foreign demand for oil products, resulting in a large oil exchange deficit for oil-dependent countries, which widened current account deficits and aggravated the balance of payments situation (Gberevbie, Ibietan, Abasilim & Excellence-Oluye, 2015; Ibietan, Abasilim & Olobio, 2018; Ozili & Arun, 2020). Nigeria is the largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa, and its foreign exchange earnings and government revenues are heavily reliant on oil. Nigeria accounts for just about 2.7 percent of global oil production (Ozili & Arun, 2020). The government revenue is from the petroleum sector, which makes it more important to the government. The petroleum sector is critical because government revenues are still heavily reliant on it.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further affected Nigeria's economy, as the oil price slump in this period has placed the nation, like others, in a state of imminent recession. Nigerian crude oil output climbed to its highest level in 10 years before the outbreak of the pandemic with an output of about 2.4 million daily, before its decline (Olumuyiwa, 2021). The collapse in crude oil prices by about 65 percent had a significant effect on the National Energy Security Revenue flow. This affected the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation's liquidity status and the estimated N1.27 trillion in remittances to the Federation Account between April and December 2020 respectively. The crude oil price movement from 2015 was about \$30 per barrel until about early 2016, until the crash, which was unprecedented, it has never happened in the history of oil trading to have such a sharp collapse within so short a period, from excess of \$60 per barrel in February 2020, to less than \$13 in April (Olumuyiwa, 2021). This implied a decline in government revenue. The 2020 Budget was initially premised on \$57 per barrel of oil. By March 2020, it became clear the benchmark was not sustainable. Furthermore, the national budgets of some oil-dependent countries like Nigeria have accumulated large debts, forcing some countries to accept foreign loans from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other lenders to fund their budget deficits, or to construct a new budget based on current low global market oil prices (Maijama'a, Musa, Isah & Adamu, 2020).

In the same vein, the educational system in Nigeria became disrupted when the government due to the rapid casualty on the COVID-19 issued a lockdown policy (Iwuoha & Jude-Iwuoha, 2020). Universities, secondary and primary schools and all other forms of schooling were shut down temporarily to adhere to these health policies in order to curb the spread of the virus as it was declared a global health emergency. The disease had a more serious impact on Nigerian schools due to inadequate online learning platform. A few schools in Nigeria had the opportunity to prepare their students for a virtual learning programme while others could not (Ifijeh & Yusuf, 2020). Despite that some schools have tried to still engage

students using online learning platform, parents and children who can afford these fees to purchase gadgets, and have good connectivity and data are more opportune than the less privileged including people living in the rural area who cannot afford the gadgets, data nor even have access to internet (Omang & Angioha, 2021). It was reported by UNESCO that there were disruptions in the education of about 290 million students globally (UNESCO, 2020). Nigeria had shut down schools, leaving the teachers partially unemployed as some school proprietors could no longer pay salaries to teachers because they felt they were not actively engaged.

Alternatively, the E-learning platform became prominent during the COVID-19 pandemic and it brought about the relevance of technology in learning. During the period of the mandated social distance, officials of educational programmes and organizations devised ways to ensure alternative forms of learning in order to sustain education (Radha, Mahalakshmi, Kumar & Saravanakumar, 2020). It provides a structure of areas to be covered by these plans. In addition, there were students who their parents could afford to sponsor their education through the online parameters and there were students, who could not enjoy these benefits because their parents could not afford it, and so also were students who had all the necessary equipment to learn but has no interest in it. Applications such as Zoom, Google classroom, WhatsApp video, module, Whova, Bluebotton, Google meet and many other applications for meetings and learning became much prominent within this period. The presence of these online applications however proved that life continues and social activities could not be halted despite the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic (Alqahtani & Rajkhan, 2020).

Also, jobs were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some companies were no more comfortable paying their workers without yielding anything in return, there were little or no sales in businesses and so they decided to lay them off (Eranga, 2020). While some companies in order to maintain their reputation retained their staff but reduced their salary (Eranga, 2020). These affected firms a lot as demand and supply of goods and services became very low during the pandemic, as there was lockdown. Insecurity was also heightened when the lockdown protocol was enforced, some people who lived on daily income could not survive staying at home so they resorted to stealing people's property by looting shops, stores and warehouses (Briggs, & Numbere, 2020).

A lot of people in the society initially felt staying at home was a mini 'holiday' they have actually never had, but this became tiring when the 'holiday' was getting prolonged by the government so as to minimize the spread of the virus through physical and direct contact. However, business ideas also sprang up for some people as to how to meet some unforeseen needs while at home (Ajibo, 2020). In addition to these issues above, Nigeria suffered the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic because her dependence on essential goods from countries like China, Japan and India was cut in the middle of the health crisis that had changed into an economic catastrophe (Tröster & Küblböck, 2020).

The fact that China closed its border became an issue to the economy of Nigeria and other import dependent-countries like Benin republic, Togo and Chad because there was scarcity of essential goods. Even countries that were willing to sell, like Turkey and Vietnam drastically inflated the price of their manufactured goods. It also became hard to find alternative country where goods can be purchased (Khan, Rahaman & Wadud, 2020). This hindered international trade because at this time, many other countries had already shut their borders. For instance, China who is a major online hub for Nigerian marketers at the period of the spike in the pandemic closed her border and Nigerian goods were stuck, as there was no money inflow after paying for goods. This also worsened the Nigerian economy as the prices of goods available in the market skyrocketed (Bachman, 2020).

The effect of the pandemic economically manifested in the disruption of supply chain of pharmaceuticals among countries, as public healthcare facilities, especially hospital services rose in high demand in Nigeria (Nwoke, Ofomata, Amadi, Jibuaku, Akahome & Nwagbo, 2020). Drug manufacturers globally depend extensively on Chinese factory-made products as China is responsible for manufacturing roughly 60% of the world's Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), but the COVID-19 pandemic caused serious supply problems when China shut down most of its industries, including its pharmaceutical factories. Before the coronavirus outbreak, several pharmaceutical firms did not stock enough APIs, and therefore, certain important medicines like Chloroquine, Evermectine and other prescription drugs during the spike of the COVID-19 pandemic were in scarcity. The drug producing factories feared selling out all they had so as not to be cut unawares and those that had the APIs were selling at high prices (Ozili, 2020). The number of deaths increased due to the shortage of medication availability, shortage of vaccination to treat patients, inadequate amount of beds and isolation centers in the hospital to account for COVID-19 cases (Ozili & Arun, 2020). This invariably affected the economy as death rate increased on a daily basis, surgeries were cancelled and there was shortage of funds for hospitals at this point to purchase pharmaceuticals products.

Furthermore, because of the coronavirus outbreak, Nigeria put a permanent halt on non-essential travel to COVID-19-affected countries, restricting entry and exit, as well as other forms of visas. Some countries like China, United Kingdom, Canada and more countries imposed a full travel ban on all forms of inbound and outbound transportation, as well as closing down all international and local airports during the pandemic. Due to frequent flight cancellations during the coronavirus pandemic, several aircraft flew almost empty, which contributed to loss of revenue to those countries and airlines (Enitan, Junaid, Avwioro, Awharentomah, Digban, Akele & Olaitan, 2020). Eventually, the travel limitations introduced by governments contributed to a decrease in request for any form of travelling which made all airlines to temporarily shut down their operations. For instance, in Nigeria, the local and the international airports were shut down temporarily so as to avoid travelling to other countries, though this travel ban was done lately because as at when majority of other countries shutdown their airports, Nigeria did not, and so majority of people took advantage of this loophole and still came in and out of the country (Bachman, 2020). It was further estimated

that the Nigerian travel industry lost about 180 billion Naira during the COVID-19 pandemic which had serious negative impact on the economy (Olurounbi, 2020).

Another sector of the economy that was affected during COVID-19 were restaurants, hotels, motels, clubs, shopping malls and complexes and many more. In hotels, reservations were cancelled and since ceremonies were cancelled, it invariably affected reservations at hotels. This made the hospitality industry run at a huge loss. Many restaurant owners laid off staff while other restaurants shut down temporarily. The restaurant owners have claimed that the lockdown affected their envisaged plan for the year, these industries also attested to the fact that they had run into debts during the cause of the pandemic. As Jobs that were lost also had negative impact on revenue by distorting, 2020 revenue projection for all these sectors (Baum, Mooney, Robinson & Solnet, 2020).

Similarly, the event industry which had made major financial contributions to the economy before the outbreak of the pandemic, suffered serious financial losses due to high level of cancellation of ceremony, live music concerts, business meetings, celebrations, exhibitions, company launches, conferences among others (Horowitz, 2020). So many major events were cancelled (Elliot, 2020). The impact of the virus on events has been amplified by the lockdown and social distance policies (Ozili & Arun, 2020).

The Nigerian border closure is said to be a contributory factor to the economic wound of Nigeria (Ibeh, Enitan, Akele, Isitua & Omorodion, 2020). Nigerian farmers that usually export their goods to neighboring countries were trapped in the middle, as they could not export their locally made goods that were preferred by foreigners (Abegunde & Fabiyi, 2020). They could not purchase goods across the border neither could they also sell their product across borders, even the already purchased goods were trapped at the border. This alone skyrocketed the prices of the available goods in Nigeria. The farmers were scared as to whether their domestic products would meet domestic demands, due to the fact that people cannot afford these expensive goods anymore as a result of the border closure, the price of domestic goods skyrocketed (Ilesanmi & Afolabi, 2020).

However, this combination of the prolonged border closure and spillovers from the COVID-19 outbreak triggered the economic downturn in Nigeria, which not only resulted in higher prices of commodities but also prevented economic activities from taking place when social distancing policies were implemented (Awucha, Frances, Meshach, Henrietta & Daniel, 2020). In response to the pandemic, the Nigerian government responded from different sectors of the economy and this manifested in various policies including the economic stimulus bill in 2020, cash transfers, Central Bank of Nigeria stimulus package and pledges of food security (Siddharth, Yewande & Obinna, 2021). With all these efforts, the economy continued to experience downturn. Investors were unable to freely participate in economic activities for fear of contracting the COVID-19 disease, which was then spreading rapidly.

The implication of the economic cost was that Nigeria's economy became stagnant and encountered no form of progress as a result of the fact that Nigeria had always depended on import from other countries rather than export which could have yielded more constant revenue for the country. In addition, economic activities were halted and this resulted in poverty, hunger and the quest for survival as the economy sank deeper, a development which led to social vices like robbery, theft and looting of stores belonging to marketers. These actions by hoodlums led to massive debt and huge loss for some business owners that were victims. This also unfolded the level of insecurity during the pandemic.

Conclusion

The paper focused on COVID-19 pandemic and its cost implications for Nigeria. It discovered that the combination of the prolonged border closure and the cost implications of the COVID-19 outbreak triggered the economic downturn in Nigeria, a development which not only resulted in higher prices of commodities but also prevented economic activities from taking place when social distancing policies were implemented. In response to the pandemic, the Nigerian government responded with the introduction of various policies such as the economic stimulus bill in 2020, cash transfers, Central Bank of Nigeria stimulus package and pledges of food security. With all these efforts, the economy continued to experience a downturn. The impact of the COVID-19 is still greatly felt as it has affected the socio, cultural, financial, educational, and economic system. Nigeria still finds it difficult in recuperating from the economic cost of the novel Corona Virus. From the foregoing, it is obvious that the COVID-19 pandemic had done more damage than good to the Nigerian economic sector at large and would only take a swift and intelligent government to recuperate fast from the economic cost of the COVID-19 pandemic. And as a way to recover from this setback, the country will need to pay very close attention to enforcing the steps to contain the spread of the virus.

Recommendations

It is against the backdrop of the above conclusion and given the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted on the Nigerian economy that this study recommends the following:

1. The government should encourage localized manufactured goods to save money on imports. Thereby reducing Nigeria's dependency on other countries for import. This implies that Nigeria have been into more imports rather than export despite its huge natural resources. Therefore, to correct this and make the economy better amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and border closure in Nigeria, the government should not only respond by providing financial support to businesses that were affected by COVID-19 pandemic, but should go the whole hug to ensure proper utilization of such funds in revamping those businesses. Additionally, the government should localize production of goods and services that could be exported to other countries to generate revenue for the country.



2. This study also suggests that Nigeria learns to live with the virus and continue with normal life. An economy that is relatively slow even before the advent of the pandemic should not worsen its case by putting a halt to its activities. There should be a drastic alternative research strategy on how to deal with the virus and how to eliminate it permanently for the betterment of the Nigerian society, in its political development and social interactions among other things.
3. Again, during the pandemic, hoodlums saw the lockdown as an avenue for theft, banditry and the looting of both public and private properties. Governments must tighten security system to deal with the social consequences of the pandemic such as social vices, including armed robbery, kidnapping, theft and banditry. The security could be enhanced through the installation of cameras on the streets while armed security agents are strategically placed on standby at all times.
4. Lastly, digital health is gaining prominence as one of the most defining phenomena of this decade and will have a major impact on the geopolitical and socio-economic realities of the future. Telemedicine provides an incentive to increase the access, quality and productivity of healthcare services. It is vital to stress that health literacy is a crucial contribution to public health decision making. To enhance health technology, and telemedicine amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the creation of robotics and artificial intelligence can go a long way, which could also help against future pandemics, instead of putting humans at the forefront to cure the sick. Therefore, the government should provide policies and standards to regulate the implementation and practice of this health technology.

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BIO- DATA OF AUTHORS

Ugochukwu D. Abasilim, PhD is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Esther O. Moses is an M.Sc. Candidate of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Prof Daniel E. Gberevbie is a Professor of Public Administration in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Ifoluwa A. Fatogun is an M.Sc. Candidate of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.