

Corona Virus (Covid-19) in Nigeria: Philosophical Reflections

DOUGLAS O. NWAOKUGHA
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Abstract. Corona virus (covid-19) as a novel health challenge has paralyzed and wrecked havoc on social, economic and political activities of states. On its outbreak, most states could not put up effective fight due to infrastructural and personnel deficits, a revelation that most states had lost the fight against covid-19 before its arrival in their states. Using the philosophical approach, this paper philosophically discusses covid-19 with emphasis on how its challenges can become a springboard that can trigger opportunities in states for addressing their monumental infrastructural and personnel deficits. Addressing states' monumental infrastructural and personnel deficits can be sure bets for the sustainable development of states. The paper suggests that states should develop plans for providing their citizens adjustment mechanisms to the pandemic as well as effectively collaborate with scientists, technologists, universities and research institutes for solutions as against the current practice of total lockdown of the economy, private and public institutions without practical solutions on how to address the challenges of the pandemic.

Keywords: covid-19, pandemic, Nigeria, philosophical reflections.

1. Introduction

Challenges are not new to man and his institutions and man and his institutions have

boldly and frontally confronted many challenges at the levels of politics, religion, health, economy, environment etc. Expectedly, most challenges at the initial stages look so complex so much that man correspondingly is always in a fix and in his fix becomes frustrated, helpless and hopeless. In any case, such developments usually turn out to be a mix bag; that is, one that presents challenges as well as opportunities, ranging from wake up calls to providing avenues for man and the society to philosophically reflect and analyse issues in the affairs of man, his institutions and the state. Such opportunities for philosophical reflections usually give directions on how to overcome whatever challenges that hold man and his institutions hostage. Globally, one variable that is as constant as day and night, life and death is that challenges as they occur at political, religious, health, economic and environmental levels etc pose problems that in all ramifications reduce the quality of lives of man, in addition to generating emotional instabilities, fear and feelings of uncertainty in people.

Of the many challenges in recent times that have confronted man and his institutions, none has globally produced devastating effects and imposed on mankind misery, perpetual fear and feelings of uncertainty than corona virus commonly called covid-19. The state of man's helplessness, frustration and hopelessness in the tight grip of corona virus (covid-19) since its outbreak has terribly cracked the foundations of

the world and has posed serious challenges to all disciplines ranging from science, humanities, education, medical and pharmaceutical sciences, biological sciences etc. The illumination which the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) reflects presently is one that makes the future look terribly bleak and pessimistic as there is no known cure for corona virus (covid-19). It is possible the various developments occasioned by the global ravaging corona virus (covid-19) can be a pointer, a reminder and a revelation that man's celebrated and well acknowledged claims of dominion over the earth and man's superiority and super-intelligence may be fake, spurious and deceitful as there are developments which though are the inventions and creations of man, but such inventions and creations may prove very stubborn so much that despite man's superior intelligence, man may not control or predict the consequences of such inventions or creations. The point is that certain inventions, practices and creations of man can turn out to be creations with perilous potentials that are capable of posing threats to the point of exterminating humanity, a kind of Frankenstein monster and consequently man's curiosity to explore and conquer the environment calls for the invocation of the highest degree of moral rationality in man's quest to breakthrough new frontiers of knowledge.

It has dawned on man that corona virus (covid-19) has arrived and there is a serious fact which every curious individual must acknowledge; corona virus (covid-19) has potentials to change the face of the earth in ways that are so drastic or so unfriendly so much that old ways of thinking and old ways of doing things may no longer be relevant under the present circumstance and the earth including the affairs of man can no longer be the same. This points in the direction that the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) and corresponding developments globally since the outbreak is a signal for a move away from old ways of doing things and a conscious start of a new beginning where possibly the pursuit of right values can become virtues that can be prioritized and highly valued. That corona virus has inflicted devastating blows on humanity across the globe irrespective of developmental sophistication or lack of it may be a pointer that

there is a serious and urgent need for the evaluation and reevaluation of activities and actions of man across all sectors.

The need and urgency of this is that corona virus (covid-19), in addition to being a health issue is also a political, social, economic, scientific and technological problem that has implications for human development and the general improvement of the quality of life of a people. It is possible that the numerous areas that corona virus (covid-19) touches is responsible for many revelations which the outbreak has exposed. Anyone with the least analytic curiosity can quickly admit that the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) has at its background opened up many revelations which when consciously considered and exploited can challenge man into repositioning himself in readiness for addressing core and fundamental issues that corona virus (covid-19) has brought to the full knowledge of man. Also, it is not to be doubted that corona virus (covid-19) has exposed and rendered man's claim to solving man's general problems through man's knowledge of science and technology, politics, economics, management etc useless as despite all the epistemological breakthroughs across all disciplines, man globally is absolutely hopeless and frustrated in the face of corona virus (covid-19). The peak of it all is that man in some states seems unreceptive and unprepared to design and fashion out strategies for effective tackling of emergencies and pandemic like corona virus, an indication that man has seriously undermined what he ought to prioritize.

This paper therefore is a philosophical reflection on corona virus (covid-19) in Nigeria. Although a health challenge, its broad and inclusiveness in terms of areas where its destabilizing effects are felt, for example, its ability to paralyze activities across the globe makes it a subject matter that allows interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches in discussions that are centred on it. As indicated above, the methodology to be adopted is purely philosophical and a methodology in an academic discourse according to Nwaokugha and Danladi (2016) is said to be philosophical when it uses speculative, analytic and prescriptive methods.

Speculation as a method of philosophical research focuses on finding or establishing the degree of logical coherence or logical consistency in a proposition or presentation. What the above reveals is that there must be systematic and sequential orderliness in the unfolding of series of events in a proposition so much that one event logically leads to the other. In other words, this method of philosophical research harps on the fact that the reasonableness, authenticity and acceptability of any claim in a proposition largely depends on the orderly and logical connectivity of ideas that constitute the entire proposition. The implication of this is that a conclusion must derive from its premise and on the basis of this, logic and language play crucial and fundamental roles in any successful and valid speculation. The crucial and fundamental roles of logic and language may account for why Nwaokugha (2020) writes that the contribution of logic and language is that they ventilate and validate the rationality and reasonableness of speculation in a philosophical research.

Analysis as a method of philosophical research involves detailed and critical examination of words, terms, concepts and propositions with the aim of identifying and isolating the various meanings that may be associated with the words, terms, concepts and propositions. Analysis also focuses on proper use of words, terms, concepts and preposition. What the analyst does in his quest to establish meaning and proper use of words, terms, concepts and prepositions is to break down his subject matter into its smallest constituent parts and systematically show how each is related to the whole, bearing in mind the purpose of his analysis, which is the establishment of meaning and proper use of words, terms, concepts and prepositions. The establishment of meaning and proper use of words helps to establish the relationship between a preposition and reality or what Hirst and White (2000) call relationship between language and reality and word and the world.

Prescription as a method of philosophical research focuses on establishing criteria for judging values or making prescriptive value judgment. It is a tradition for anyone who

discusses any matter academically to proffer solutions, make recommendations or pass judgment on the issue or issues being discussed. This is the frame of mind in which prescription works as a method of philosophical research. According to Nwaokugha and Ihuoma (2019), the philosophical research method is associated with promoting growth in the knowledge industry across disciplines through sharpening the reasoning and investigative skills of researchers on one hand and helping,

To boost, the confidence level of researchers as researchers see every challenge in any academic discipline as solvable and resolvable. In fact, the philosophical method of enquiry stimulates in researchers the desire to critically and continuously try out new academic options that can result in phenomenal improvement of scholars and the breaking of new frontiers of knowledge (p.277).

Nwaokugha and Danlandi (2016:241) can be said to be more elaborate in highlighting the benefits of philosophical research method when they write that:

Indulgence or embrace of philosophical research methods affords freedom and opportunity that invites, motivates and challenges researchers to venture into various problem areas across disciplines. By this feature, researchers are availed platforms which, in addition to tackling diversified subject matters also promote progress in the form of extending and breaking new frontiers of knowledge ... philosophical research method is not restrictive and consequently does not in any way impoverish researchers and disciplines ... it rather contributes in ground breaking breakthroughs in the knowledge industry.

A known practice that is associated with philosophical research method is to start with the clarification of key concepts under investigation, so we start with corona virus commonly called covid -19.

2. Corona virus (covid-19)

In December 2019, the People's Republic of China announced the outbreak of corona virus in Wuhan, one of its major cities with a population

of over eleven million people. The World Health Organization (WHO) coded corona virus covid-19; as well as declared it a pandemic. In the words of Fung and Liu (2019:530), "Corona virus are a group of enveloped virus with non-segmented single-stranded and positive sense RNA genomes" which descriptively is spherical or pleomorphic in shape, with a diameter of 80-120MM. Some terrible ailments such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-COV) that emerged in November 2002 in China and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-COV) that emerged in Saudi Arabia in June 2012 are both forms of corona virus. Common denominators or features which Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome corona virus and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome corona virus share in common are that they both originated in bats and patients diagnose with the ailments suffer difficulty in breathing. Apart from bats, rodents are major sources of origin of some human corona virus.

Basically, corona virus is a communicable disease with potentials to trigger what Rajkumar (2020) calls acute psychological and physiological stress. That corona virus causes acute psychological and physiological stress makes it a health challenge with implications for economic, political, educational, moral and sociological well-being of the people. At the background of all the above is the possibility and prevalence of fear of the unknown in the people. Corona virus (covid-19) triggers or accelerates the intensification of fear in people because people who suffer from some ailments become much more vulnerable so much that they become easy prey to corona virus attack. Rajkumar (2020) highlights this when he writes that persons who suffer from corona virus (covid-19) infection are most likely to suffer from such underlying diseases like hypertension, respiratory system diseases, organ failure and cardiovascular metabolic diseases. Respiratory system diseases occur in victims or patients of corona virus (covid-19) because the virus quickly attacks the human airway epithelial cells, lung and consequently damages the heart. It is important to state that unhealthy life style such as smoking, alcoholism, lack of exercise

and malnutrition places corona virus (covid-19) patients at a higher risk.

As a communicable disease, it easily passes from one person to another and the commonest symptoms of corona virus (covid-19) are coughing, sneezing and difficulty in breathing. Little tiny droplets from the system of an affected person during coughing and sneezing are fastest ways of transmitting the disease from one person to the other. The mode of transmission of corona virus (covid-19) is so simple that a carrier of the virus can spread it to other people before the symptoms develops in him or her. This means corona virus (covid-19) manifests both pre-symptoms and post symptoms mode of transmission. Virtually everybody is at risk in the rampaging onslaught of corona virus (covid-19) but those at higher risks are people over seventy years (70 years) of age and people with underlying chronic conditions (Reperant and Osterhaus, 2020).

It has to be pointed out that part of what makes the transmission of corona virus (covid-19) very easy is that pathogens through which corona virus (covid-19) passes from one person to the other may be on surfaces in the home, offices, tables, door handles and many other substances that humans easily touch and it is on account of this easy transmission that a virus which emerged in China in December 2019 became a pandemic and a ravaging threat to the global community in January 2020. A pandemic is any life threatening health issue or challenge with potentials to stretch over large geographical areas and easily causing instability and suffering so much that activities of a greater percentage of human population are negatively affected.

A dominant psychological response to corona virus (covid-19) is fear so much that internationally acclaimed strategies and measures for its control such as social isolation, curfew and quarantine help to increase incidence of fear in the people. It is instructive to point out that when fear is not controlled in a time of pandemic like corona virus (corona-19), such uncontrolled fear can aggravate and deepen the detrimental, damaging and ravaging effects of a pandemic. It is also important to point out that

fear of possible stigmatization or social marginalization in the face of a pandemic like corona virus (covid-19) can push people into hiding or withdrawing their cooperation with personnel of the ministry of health or health workers in the form of resisting to be tested and consequently hiding or refusing to disclose or admit clinical symptoms. Denying early clinical symptoms due to fear may cause people who manifest symptoms of corona virus (covid-19) not to present themselves for medical care and this has potentials to pose problems in the form of multiplying the occurrence of such pandemic or literally lead to what is clinically called community transmission.

The prevalence of fear can increase stress and stress can quickly and systematically lead to deaths, cause economic and political breakdown that can trigger reduction in the quality of lives of a people. It is no exaggeration that the prevalence of death among those at the age of 70 and above, among those whose families are not stable and among those whose economic statuses are precarious during this period of corona virus (covid-19) are clear indications that pandemics trigger fear in people, that in turn induce negative changes that further depreciate the health of the people. In fact, fear of the unknown in a pandemic is real and one can identify with Rajkumar (2020:3439) who acknowledges that:

Fear epidemic is inevitable in the present era because of the technology that keeps updating the statistics of epidemiology of the infectious disease, the sufferings of the victims and non-victims and the way the public are stringently controlled by defense personnel

3. Corona virus (covid-19): The Nigerian Experience

The political and economic structure of a state, how serious a state is and how a state genuinely and realistically plans, executes and relates with its citizens maybe consciously and unconsciously revealed or made known to the members of the global community through the policies of the state or its response to the demands of the citizens or to emergencies.

Anyone with the least sense of analytic curiosity can admit that the actions and inactions of states in the face of the ravaging corona virus (covid-19) can be an illumination of a sense of leadership of the rulers and on the other hand the level of awareness of its citizens or how civically, environmentally and hygienically conscious the citizens are can reveal states that are giants and states that claim giant status can be known through their actions and inactions in pandemic like corona virus (covid-19). Consequently, many revelations can emerge about states and are still emerging about states during this corona virus (covid-19) pandemic. Nigeria is a classic example of a state where the outbreak of corona virus has opened up many revelations.

The index case of corona virus (covid-19) in Nigeria was confirmed by the Federal Ministry of Health in Lagos on February 27th - 2020. The case was an Italian who works in Lagos and returned from Milan Italy to Lagos Nigeria on February, 25th - 2020. The Minister for Health Osagie Ehanire, through the official website of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control said the following "I wish to assure all Nigerians that we have been beefing up our preparedness capabilities since the first confirmation of cases in China, and we will use all the resources made available by the government to respond to this case" (<https://nndc.gov.ng/news/227/first-case-of-corona-virus-disease-confirmed-in-nigeria>).

The remark of the Minister of Health is full of assurances and one can be correct to say that it points in the direction that infrastructure, personnel and necessary equipment for eliminating or mitigating the ravaging onslaught of corona virus (covid 19) were all available in Nigeria. Practically, the increase in the number of people infested by the virus in Nigeria proved the Health Minister wrong as Nigeria became as at Saturday June, 13th 2020, the fourth state in Africa with the highest number of people with corona virus (covid-19 virus)

Hospitals and professionally trained health personnel were in short supply and majority of the hospitals existed without the basic and fundamental equipment for efficient service delivery. The most shocking revelation was the fact that machines used for corona virus (covid-

19) testing and machines for testing other life threatening ailments were non-existent in most University Teaching Hospitals in Nigeria and corona virus (covid-19) became a central political issue between states and federal government on which health institutions should receive machines that were provided by the federal government and multinational corporations during this period of outbreak of corona virus (covid-19). That this conflict can exist during this period is an indication that the pandemic may overwhelm the Nigerian health sector.

The extent in which the pandemic has overwhelmed the health sector in Nigeria can be attested to in the way health workers and other groups of professionals who are in the frontline in the fight to eliminate and mitigate the pandemic have become victims. The Presidential Task Force on corona virus (covid-19) has announced that 800 workers have been infested by the virus. The handling of the pandemic in Nigeria is a source of worry and concern as committees that are entrusted with corona virus issues are mainly made up of politicians and not health professionals. The true picture of the situation of things in Nigeria's health sector in this period of corona virus (covid-19) is one in which corona virus (covid-19) has overwhelmed the health sector across the length and breadth of Nigeria so much that policy summersault, which has become norm in Nigeria reared its ugly head.

At the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) in Nigeria, the government banned private health institutions from treating corona virus (covid-19) cases but the extent in which the pandemic overwhelmed the government health institutions caused the government to direct private health institutions to commence the treatment of corona virus (covid-19) patients. Following this summersault, a million dollars question that is begging for answer is: What are the possibilities that private health institutions can effectively handle and manage corona virus (covid-19) cases especially when corona virus (covid-19) basic testing machine costs as high as sixteen million naira.

Globally recognized policy measures that work in other climes for the elimination or mitigation of corona virus (covid-19) such as lockdown and quarantine assumed different dimensions as such policies become well designed and well-orchestrated strategies to witch hunt enemies and political opponents. Governors in some states in Nigeria use the period of the lockdown to autocratically and tyrannically show that they are "in-charge" and to demonstrate that one is in-charge is to come up with policies and decisions that inflicted injuries and pains into the citizens. Governments in civilized climes use period of lockdown to achieve what Reperant and Osterhaus (2020) call coordinated testing, contact tracing and strict quarantining of all contacts of confirmed cases, but none of such three step measures or approaches happens in Nigeria, rather lockdown is a "political buzzword" under whose cover government locks up citizens in their rooms and at the discretion of the government; lockdown is relaxed without any coordinated action from the state. So in Nigeria, lockdown is a discretionary decision of the powers that be. The paradox, ineffectiveness and lack of direction in the use of lockdown to checkmate the spread of corona virus (covid-19) during this period can be attested to in the way the government locked down some local government areas and some states when the number of infested persons was small and manageable but lifts the lockdown when the number of infested persons has phenomenally and astronomically increased.

Because the government of Nigeria seems not to be focused on its policies on the elimination or mitigation of corona virus (covid-19), such measures as travel restrictions and number of persons to be carried by a taxi or a bus in intra-state movements are not obeyed by the citizens. It is possible the attitudes of the citizens in the form of not obeying regulations that are targeted at eliminating or mitigating corona virus (covid-19) in Nigeria may derive from the cumulative lack of seriousness or lack of focus on the part of the government in terms of providing the people good and quality governance. It may be difficult to believe that most state governments in Nigeria did not know some inter-state roads linking their state to other states until

commercial transport vehicles made nonsense of their travel restrictions and ban on interstate travels. Because rulers in Nigeria have not taken the business of governance seriously and have made lying a fundamental policy of the state, Nigerians have also developed corresponding attitudes not to believe whatever the government says. A clear indication to this is the fact that despite the global mayhem that corona virus (covid-19) has caused across the globe, many Nigerians are yet to believe that the pandemic is real.

Lockdown generally and the lockdown of hotels, viewing centres and relaxation spots in Nigeria has revealed that many Nigerians are homeless across major cities in Nigeria. The predicaments of Nigerians in this category seem not to have come to public notice prior to the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) as prior to the lockdown, this group of Nigerians have been putting up in the various hotels, viewing centers and relaxation spots across the length and breadth of Nigeria. The fact that many Nigerians in the 21st century are homeless can increase the spread of corona virus (covid-19) as well as stimulate many philosophical and sociological reflections in the mind of rational thinkers especially against the background that Nigeria is the giant of Africa. In the same way, continuous lockdown of public institutions like schools, markets and commercial have potentials to negatively affect both the economy and human capital development. This is self-evident because activities that boost the economy can be completely paralyzed and the effect of this on the economy can be visible through the disarticulation in the chain of the production process. As the lockdown prevents free movement of goods and people, production of goods and services and the distribution of the produced goods and services to consumers can be adversely affected. Human capital development is the most affected variable as educational institutions which are responsible for the general empowerment of man are closed down.

Corona virus (covid-19) took the world by surprise and most states especially developing and under developing states responded to the

pandemic from deficit positions across all indexes that can be effective in eliminating and mitigating the pandemic. Nevertheless, states that are conscious of moving to the next levels can turn the challenges posed by the outbreak of Corona virus (covid-19) into opportunities. This can be in the form of assuming that the present deficit levels states find themselves can be a wakeup call, a springboard and a launching pad that can launch the states into planning, repositioning and addressing the general infrastructural, policy, management and human capital development issues. How Nigeria can reposition in readiness for responding to the present and future pandemic shall be the focus of the next section of this paper.

4. Turning corona virus (covid-19) challenges into opportunities in Nigeria

Globally, the challenges posed by corona virus (covid-19) is an inclusive, comprehensive and a multidimensional one so much that in addition to it being a health problem, it is also a social, political, economic, religious, environmental and human capital development problems. At the background of all these is the capacity of the above to combine to negatively affect the quality of life of man and his institutions. In the same way as the challenges of corona virus (covid-19) are inclusive, comprehensive and multidimensional, measures and strategies for the elimination and mitigation of the challenges can produce maximum results when they are equally inclusive, comprehensive and multidimensional. What this points hand to is that states should jettison or repudiate one measure fits all strategy in the fight against corona virus (covid-19) for one sure thing is that old ways of responding to emergencies and pandemic may no longer be effective as corona virus (covid-19) has drastically changed the world and with it are new ways of doing things. The world we use to know can no longer be the same. Interestingly, states that are conscious and desirous of moving to the next level can realistically turn the challenges of corona virus (covid-19) into opportunities.

At the background of any measure or strategy for fighting corona virus (covid-19) or turning the challenges of corona virus (covid-19) into opportunity should be the determination to have a political will that can practically translate such strategies and measure into reality. This is where corona virus (covid-19) as a health challenge needs the actions and commitments of the political class in terms of taking the right decisions and making the right budget for the health sector and corresponding the budget with actual release of fund, purchase and supply of equipment being budgeted for so as to improve the health system of the state.

Political will in the fight against corona virus (covid-19) is also needed in the area of employment of the right caliber of health professionals. Where the right infrastructure and the right personnel exist, the health institutions can no longer be overwhelmed and can no longer operate from a deficit point. Graduating out of a situation where the health sector ceases to operate from a deficit point and ceases to be overwhelmed is possible should the Nigerian state design and make plans for a sustainable health system, where statistics and projections can guide Nigeria into establishing possible health needs of Nigerians and religiously follow up such plans.

It is possible one assumes that the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) can be a wakeup call and a spring board that can launch Nigeria's health system into the level of a state with the attributes of a giant, contrary to what presently obtains. Availability of infrastructure and qualified personnel means that no emergency or pandemic, no matter how serious can overwhelm the Nigerian state the way corona virus (covid-19) has done. For this to be a reality, Nigeria needs to plan ahead not only in the health sector but in other sectors and initiate actions in the forms of physical things that can be seen.

Nobody was prepared prior to the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) and nobody consciously prays and plans for an emergency or pandemic. The extent in which any state responds to an emergency or pandemic is a litmus test that attests to the quality of infrastructure, personnel,

expertise, management and above all the quality of political leadership that a state provides to her citizens. In the case of Nigeria, political leadership and political followership has been unfortunate. Political leadership in Nigeria need to change direction from the culture of greed where the political leaders are there for themselves to a welfarist direction where the general well-being of all the citizens can be a topmost priority. This is necessary because the society is like a chain where any impairment or disconnect in the chain system affects the whole functioning of the entire chain. Undermining the welfare of the poor who constitute the majority can translate to a state abysmally scoring poorly on the indexes for assessing states. On the other hand, there should be massive awareness where political followership or citizens take their destiny in their hands by demanding for good governance as a right from their political leaders and this can be a new direction that the masses can drive from now onwards.

Be this as it may, the type of sensitization or awareness that the Nigerian government is supposed to create is one that can enhance the citizen's adjustment mechanisms to the pandemic bearing in mind that the pandemic has come to stay and consequently not something that can be eliminated or mitigated over right. Nigerians government needs to be reminded that uncoordinated lockdown without necessary coordinated follow up actions can never be a solution to a pandemic like corona virus (covid-19). This is where prolonged and completely lockdown of private and public institutions as a solution to covid-19 need urgent rethinking. Part of the direction that the rethinking can go can be in the form of philosophically reflecting what may turn out to be the fate of man and his institutions should corona virus (covid-19) last for a longer period of five to ten years from now. This is an open reminder that locking down a state without any practical solution or possible directions for solving or addressing the problems that brought about the lockdown will completely translate as attempts in futility.

A plausible line of action for the Nigerian government is to start collaboration with universities and institutes in terms of researches

on solutions to the general problems that have emerged since the outbreak of corona virus (covid-19). Nigeria needs to be practical and realistic in the fight against corona virus and if on the other hand, Nigeria does not trust her institutions and their graduates, then this is the right time to reposition those institutions for effective service delivery to humanity.

Acute infrastructural deficit has always retarded access to education with resultant denial of educational opportunity to eligible Nigerians and in the face of this acute infrastructural deficit, classrooms that were originally meant for twenty students now accommodate over two hundred students and that can easily transmit a communicable disease like corona virus (covid-19). A situation such as the above is a challenge to effective human capital development and this has serious implications for national developments. The outbreak of corona virus (covid-19) can translate this challenge into opportunities that can be exploited for effective service delivery that can snowball into quality production of human capital whose input can result in quality national development. This is because a classroom that was originally meant for twenty students can following the standard prescribed by the Presidential Task Force on covid-19 accommodate only about ten students. This development has potentials to address the issue of acute infrastructural deficit across all tiers of the education system in Nigeria. The development also has potentials to trigger the employment of more teachers into the education industry and as more teachers are employed, the quality of life of Nigerians and quality of instruction can improve in educational institutions.

The employment of more teachers into the education sector can promote productivity to the point of making individualized instruction a norm in the education industry and this has potentials that can make both teachers and learners to explore the process of critical and creative thinking. Providing platforms for effective exploration of critical thinking can enable teachers and learners to question the validity or otherwise of some learning that now

threatens humanity to the point of extinction. Opportunity for such can draw humanity closer to appreciating the thesis that education is a moral enterprise and every learning should be for the promotion of practices that add moral value to man.

5. Conclusion

Corona virus (covid-19) is a global health challenge that has potentials to affect economic, political, social, moral, scientific and technological development of states. At the outbreak of this pandemic, most states operated at deficit levels in terms of infrastructure, personnel and equipment to fight the virus. Be this as it may, it is appropriate that states understand that this novel various has come to stay and states whose approach to fighting the pandemic is only lockdown without conscious efforts to source for solutions by way of research may not have done the right thing.

This paper has made a case that states that are conscious and desirous of moving to the next level can successfully turn the challenges posed by the outbreak of covid-19 into opportunities that can make them emerge stronger economically, politically, educationally, socially, scientifically and technologically. Such states can transit from their deficit positions in terms of infrastructure, equipment and personnel to one where infrastructure, equipment and personnel can be in abundance.

Anyone with the least analytic curiosity can observe that the world may have been systematically altered by the outbreak of covid-19 and may not possibly return to its old form. The new order or new expectation is one that challenges states and individuals to venture into autonomous solutions including making conscious efforts to develop oneself and one's state. In fact, a lesson covid-19 has consciously taught especially leaders in the third world countries is that they should develop themselves and not look up to the developed world for solutions to their problems and to the developed world, covid-19 seems to remind them to consistently invoke morals in their quest to explore nature and breakthrough new frontiers

of knowledge. In short, that they should learn to give a human face to all that they do and also acknowledge God as the sovereign head of the world.

[com/articles/10.1186/s42522-020-00019-2](https://www.kiu.edu.ng/journal-of-social-sciences/articles/10.1186/s42522-020-00019-2)

References

- Fung, S. T. and Liu, D. X. (2019). Human coronavirus: Host pathogen Interaction. In Annual Review of Microbiology. Online available at www.micro.annualreview.org pp 529-549. Retrieved on 24/6/2020
- Hirst, P. H. and White, P. (2000). The Analytic Tradition and Philosophy of Education: An Historical Perspective. In P. H. Hirst and P. White (eds). Philosophy of Education: Major Themes in the Analytic Tradition Volume 1, Philosophy of Education, London: Routledge.
- Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) (2020). First case of corona virus disease confirmed in Nigeria. Online available at: <https://ncdc.gov.ng/news/227/first-case-of-corona-virus-disease-confirmed-in-nigeria>. Retrieved on 24/6/2020
- Nwaokugha, D. O. and Danladi, S. A. (2016). Language and Communication: Effective tools for Educational Supervision and Inspection in Nigeria. In *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(3), pp 420 – 428.
- Nwaokugha, D. O. and Ihuoma, J. C. (2019). Integrating and adapting Africa's worldviews on education in Nigeria's Educational Practices. In *Educational Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies* (EJMUDIS) University of Port Harcourt, 10(1), March pp 195-205.
- Rajkumar, R. V. (2020). Epidemiological intersection: the revelation of covid-19 pandemic. In *International Journal of Physiotherapy and Research*, 8(2) pp 3438 – 3442.
- Reperant, L.A. and Osterhaus, A. D. M. E. (2020). Covid-19: losing battles or winning the war? Retrieved from <https://onehealthoutlook.biomedcentral.com>