



A CRITIQUE OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 REGULATIONS ON NIGERIA SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Abstract

This study investigated the impact of COVID-19 regulations on Nigeria school system. A critique approach was introduced in this study, which involved critical discourse of issues pertinent towards this research. However, this study findings showed that additional effort is required towards ensuring better implementation of COVID-19 regulations in Nigeria educational system. Thus, relevant conclusion and recommendation were made based on this study findings.

Keywords: *Critique, COVID-19, Educational Technology, Nigeria, Regulations.*

Introduction

The Coronavirus pandemic created new culture within the Nigeria society. The outbreak of COVID-19 led to the closure of all establishments in Nigeria except those offering essential services like security firms. However, this closure was a very difficult decision to take as it affected the students educational progress in Nigeria.

The Coronavirus was a wake-up call that triggered the resuscitation of Nigeria schools by using online activities since all students were mandated to stay at home. Although, the use of online activities came with numerous challenges. For instance, some of these challenges were related to socio-economic issues, which affected the procurement of stable power supply and quality internet in Nigeria during COVID-19 lockdown (Stanley, Nkporbu & Stanley, 2020).

Besides, there exists limited research that adequately addressed issues critiquing the impact of COVID-19 regulations on Nigeria school system. For instance, Ozili (2020) addressed issues relating to COVID-19 without critiquing matters related to the pandemic in Nigeria school system. Also, Maijama, Musa, Isah and Adamu (2020) addressed issues related to COVID-19 and Nigeria economic growth with limited consideration of issues related to the pandemic in Nigerian schools.

The Critique

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused the replacement of some old-fashioned digital equipment in Nigeria schools. Also, it was socially evident that educators became more conscious of the importance of embracing the acceptance of online teaching and learning in Nigeria school's system. There was increased sensitisation on health safety precautions to be considered in Nigeria schools. For instance, some of these precautions were face mask wearing, hand sanitisation to mention few.

However, the impact of the COVID-19 regulation created stress for some Nigerian citizens that relied on daily paid jobs to survive. Also, salary earners were advised to take pay cut to support the Nigerian economy during the pandemic. Some businesses had to lay off workers due to COVID-19 negative impact, which led to reduction in their income.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic was not only felt in Nigeria as it likewise impacted other parts of the world like Europe. For instance, Menut, Bessagnet, Siour, Mailler, Pennel and Cholakian (2020) study emphasised that COVID-19 had effect on parts of Europe. Menut et al. (2020) also mentioned that COVID-19 regulation impact caused the reduction of pollutant in the atmosphere due to reduced human activities.

The available literature evidence further revealed that the impact of COVID-19 regulation is stricter in developed countries. For instance, Di, Pullano, Sabbatini, Boëlle, and Colizza (2020) expressed in their research the extent of studies conducted to understand the nature of COVID-19 in a part of Europe. Di et al. (2020) mentioned that these studies were aimed at reducing the rate of COVID-19 spread. However, Anyanwu, Festus, Nwobi, Jaja, and Oguttu (2020) reiterated on the weak execution of COVID-19 regulations in Nigeria.

Lau, Khosrawipour, Kocbach, Mikolajczyk, Schubert, Bania, and Khosrawipour (2020) recommended stricter means towards controlling the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in some Asian cities.

The COVID-19 regulations in Nigeria are poorly implemented. For instance, some Nigerians handle COVID-19 regulations with levity. Also, the penalties associated with flouting the COVID-19 regulations are poorly implemented. Some of these penalties are related to 'fine and imprisonment' (FGN, 2021, p.7). Also, available literature evidence showed that Nigeria has some densely populated areas that makes the implementation of some COVID-19 regulation like social distancing very difficult (Makinde et al., 2016; Coetzee & Kagee, 2020).

Conclusion and Recommendation

This study critiqued the impact of COVID-19 regulations on Nigeria schools' system. The reason being that the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged across the face of the earth like wildfire and Nigeria is presently not excluded from its impact. Hence, the COVID-19 has been a disaster causing havoc to innocent people around the world. However, the COVID-19 regulations are meant to safeguard people from the deadly virus.

Besides, this study findings showed that the COVID-19 regulations have not been very effective in some Nigeria school system. The reason being the high density of students gathering to learn in a classroom at the same time. The online teaching and learning activities that was meant to replace the face-to-face teaching and learning activities has not been very effective during this pandemic era due to poor electricity supply, internet facilities to mention few.

Thus, this study recommends that subsequent research must scrutinise the impact of COVID-19 regulations on Nigeria school system using either quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods to provide empirical evidence on this discourse.

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