

Impacts of Covid-19 on Socio-Economic Characteristics of Households in Kano, Nigeria

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Abstract

One of the pandemics that affected the entire world in recent times is the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on socio-economic activities is ruinous and can even be more cataclysmic when COVID-19 combines with other existing social and economic challenges in any society. The purpose of the study is to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on households' socio-economic activities in Kano, Nigeria. A location that is already facing severe challenges in terms of high poverty rate, unemployment, and other social and economic difficulties. The study used a primary source of data, collected among a sample of 426 respondents that constitute household heads drawn from the three (3) regions in Kano using stratification method involving four stages. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data collected from the respondents. Findings revealed that COVID-19 pandemic had significant negative impacts on socio-economic activities of the households in Kano. The finding indicates that a large number of household's respondents have divergent views of whether COVID-19 is real or fake, despite a broader awareness concerning the virus and preventive measures against the virus. COVID-19 pandemic has exposed government effort in the healthcare system in the study area. Besides government measures related to socio-economic to assist poorest in society that suffered from the loss of income during the imposed lockdown through palliative has been marred with a lot of irregularities.

Keywords: COVID-19, Kano, Poverty, Lockdown, Palliative

JEL Classification: I32

1. Introduction

The impacts of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on socio-economic variables is shaping up into catastrophic unless something drastic is put in place to control the wide spread of the pandemic in the world. For instance, according to a recent World Bank report, COVID-19 impact has pushed more than 70 million additional people into extreme poverty by the end of June 2020 from the initial pre-COVID-19 figure of 595 million individuals globally (Mahler, Lakner, Aguila & Wu, 2020). The report viewed the number of people pushed into extreme poverty under two (2) different scenarios, namely the baseline projection and the

downside projection. The projection under the baseline presumes that the pandemic will be stationary or remains at an expected level. In contrast, activities are expected to pick up before the end of the year. Subsequently, using the International Poverty Line (IPL) of US\$1.90 daily, the projection estimated more than 70 million individuals to be destitute (Mahler et al., 2020).

On the other hand, the downside projection assumed the pandemic to persevere for a more extended period than expected thereby forcing the maintenance or lockdown conditions to continue or to resurface again, which will subsequently result in exposed businesses to quit and a sharp decline in vulnerable household's consumption (Mahler et al., 2020). At the same time, financial stress would immediately set in among the low-income and middle-income nations of the world (Mahler et al., 2020). While an estimated 71 million people are expected to be pushed into extreme poverty under the baseline projection that of downside projection estimated about 100 million people. This, therefore, translate into global economic growth contraction of 5% under baseline projection and 8% under the downside projection (Mahler et al., 2020).

Lakner, Mahler, Negre and Prydz (2020) stresses that uncertainty is eminent in 2021 and beyond, even with the expected increase in global economic productivity estimated at 4% due to COVID-19 pandemic. Poverty estimates show that there would be no changes between the number of people in extreme poverty in 2020 and 2021 majorly due to the growth rates in countries that warehouse more than one-third of the world's poorest like Nigeria, India and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Lakner et al., 2020). The predicted per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the three countries are estimated at -0.8%, 2.1% and 0.3%, while the rate of population growth is 2.6%, 1% and 3.1% respectively (Mahler et al., 2020; Lakner et al., 2020). Subsequently, COVID-19 pandemic had cast doubt, as to whether the world would achieve one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is eradicating or reducing the level of extreme poverty by 3% in the world by the year 2030 (Lakner et al., 2020; Sumner, Hoy & Ortiz-Juarez, 2020).

COVID-19 is an Acute Respiratory disease associated with β -coronavirus, also known as Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). The origin of the virus can be traced to Wuhan in Hubei province, China in December 2019, when cases of Pneumonia was reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), which has a link to the food system (Zhu et al., 2020). The Chinese Centre for Disease Control (CDC) subsequently identified the pathogen of COVID-19 from the affected patient's swab sample test (Xi et al., 2020). Despite the outstanding effort put in place by the Chinese government to contain the COVID-19 from further escalating in the world revealed that by February 15th, 2020, an estimated 68,584 people were infected by the virus. Presently, as of November 11th, 2020, there was an estimated reported confirmed case of over 51 million infections in the world with over one million deaths. America alone accounts for around 43percent of the global confirmed cases and 52% of confirmed death of COVID-19. United State of America (USA), India and Brazil recorded over 47% of the total global confirmed cases and over 41% of the global death (European Center for Disease Prevention and Control [ECDC], 2020; Johns Hopkins University [JHU], 2020). At the same time, the United States

of America (USA) and Brazil recorded over 10.3million patients and over 240,000 deaths and 5.6 million cases and 162,802 death respectively. On the other hand, Asia has a confirmed case of COVID-19 estimated at over 14.4 million with over 255,858 deaths. India and Iran recorded the highest confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Asia with over 8.6 million and 703,288 patients respectively and fatality rate of 127,571 and 39,202 respectively. Europe recorded a confirmed case of COVID-19 estimated at over 12.8 million and over 305,294 confirmed deaths. On the other hand, Africa has a documented record of over 1.9 million cases of COVID-19 and 45,947 recorded deaths (ECDC,2020; JHU, 2020).

Nigeria in West Africa has a confirmed COVID-19 case recorded as at 11th November 2020 estimated at 64,516 with about 1,162 confirmed deaths and 2,617 active cases out of the samples tested estimated at 687,952 out of over 200 million population (National Centre for Disease Control [NCDC], 2020b). The figure represents only 0.2% of the population tested so far; however, by far among the highest in fatality in West Africa (Sobowale, 2020; Vanguard, 2020). Kano State has an estimated population of about 13 million people, as of 2016, putting into consideration a 2.6% increase annually (National Bureau of Statistics, [NBS], 2017). The State recorded confirmed cases of COVID-19 of 1,756 people and confirmed death estimated at 54 people out of a total tested sample of 46,291 indicating only 0.3% testing capacity of the entire population in the State (NCDC, 2020b). This clearly, revealed the unseriousness the Nigerian government attached toward ending the pandemic. According to WHO (2017), the country's average scores in preventing biological, chemical or radiation is 1.9 across the 15 Joint External Evolution (JEE) indicators, showing a limited capacity. In terms of detecting, the country has an average score of 2.6 out of the 13 indicators, showing some evidence or some level of capabilities to detect new and emerging health risk crisis through surveillance base on real-time as well as laboratory tests. However, sustainability is a challenge in the country. In terms of responding, the country scores an average of 1.5 against 20 indicators, an indication of low capacity to respond to an urgent health crisis.

The country presently has about 2,500 testing capacity daily as at 30th June 2020 an estimated 138,462 individuals were tested against the entire population of 200 million, while in South Africa a country with a total population of 58 million has tested about 3% of its total population against less than 0.3% of Nigeria. In the same vein, before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were about 350 ventilators and 350 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds for the total population. By April 2020 the country acquires extra 100 ventilators against an overwhelming case of COVID-19 in the country (Ogunbameru et al., 2020). This clearly, leaves much to be desire in the fight against COVID-19 in Nigeria, which has devastating effects on economic activities in the country (Ibekwe, 2020).

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) oil, which is the main export commodity of the country has fallen sharply due to low demand globally due to COVID-19 pandemic. While conflict among the member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) especially, Russia and Saudi Arabia are further compounding the problem (IMF, 2020). Conflict alone resulted in one of the

recent falls in the price of Brent crude oil witnessed in over 30 years by about 24% from US\$34/barrel to US\$25.7/barrel. Nigerian oil export is expected to decline in excess of US\$26 billion, which will subsequently affect the fiscal and external position of the country (IMF, 2020). The country's economy is estimated to contract by 3.4% in 2020, an indication of about six percentage points drop amid pre-COVID-19 projection, thereby creating a wide margin in the fiscal and external financing in the country (IMF, 2020).

Nigeria's economy is expected to plunge into a severe recession never seen in the last four decades in 2020 (World Bank, 2020a). In the best-case scenario using baseline, the country's economy is predicted to contract by 3.2% in 2020 under the assumption of average oil revenue price of US\$30 per barrel annually. In the same vein, the spread of COVID-19 will reduce drastically by the end of the second quarter of 2020 and subsequently continue in the 3rd quarter as well. This will result in a 5% point's reduction in the pre-COVID-19 growth projection prediction by 2.1%. By implication, the predicted recession will be costlier than the 2015-2016 recessions by almost twice and the deepest since the 1980s (World Bank, 2020a). In the same vein, NBS (2020) estimated the country's recession to be -4.4% averagely in 2020. However, it should be noted that the growth of the economy is highly uncertain and depend on the economy and the oil price recover which is currently caused by a conflict between Russia and Saudi Arabia and the impact of COVID-19 lockdown. Nigeria's failure to control the spread of the pandemic domestically will inflict a significant problem on the already drained healthcare system in the country, which will subsequently result in a spike in disease and death rate, specifically among the low-income households and vulnerable in the community (World Bank, 2020a; Singh & Chauhan, 2020).

The impact of COVID-19 in terms of the human cost in Nigeria will elevate much higher than loss of life, especially, as the economy contract, while the per capita income as well dropped. The pandemic is expected to push extra five (5) million people to leave under poverty as against the pre-COVID-19 projection. For instance, about 83 million people were living below the poverty line nationally, which translate into four (4) people out of every ten people in the country, with millions living just above the poverty line, leaving them vulnerable falling into the poverty trap, once a shock happens like COVID-19 pandemic. Over 75% of the country's poor are residing in the Northern part of the country. At the same time, a large chunk depends solely on agriculture for their daily bread as compared to the population living in the Central and Southern parts of the country where there is a high concentration of jobs (World Bank, 2020). According to Andam et al. (2020) Nigeria suffered a loss of US\$ 16 billion due to COVID-19 lockdown, with chunk amount coming from services sector.

Agriculture is the predominant activities and a source of employment among the populace in the country especially people residing in a rural location (Andam et al., 2020). The agricultural activities have been seriously affected by the impact of COVID-19 as a result of various measures to mitigate the spread of the pandemic. Globally agricultural resilient was tested by COVID-19, which saw a drop of about 20% in the prices of agricultural commodities. According to Andam et al. (2020)

Nigeria has suffered a loss in output production during lockdown estimated to be around 13.1%, which translate into US\$1.2 billion loss. Other sectors of the economy severely affected by the impacts of COVID-19 include manufacturing industry, education, financial, healthcare and pharmaceutical, hospitality, tourism and aviation, information technology, media, research and development, real estate and housing (Nicola et al., 2020). COVID-19 impact can also be traced socially; for instance, there was an increase in domestic violence during the lockdown period and increase in poverty rate among the households in Nigeria.

Pre-COVID-19 poverty rate projection was 0.1% points from 40.1% in 2019 to about 40.2% in 2020. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, the poverty rate is expected to increase to additional 2.4% points, which translate into 42.5% in 2020 suggesting that an additional 7.2 million will be pushed into poverty. COVID-19 impact alone is expected to increase the number of individuals push into poverty by additional 4.9 million people in the country in 2020, while a projected 6 million people will be pushed into poverty by 2022 because of COVID-19 (World Bank, 2020b). The pandemic has also affected the inflation in the country; for instance, food prices rose by about 14.7% in December 2020. However, by the end of March, the inflation rate in the country was 19.7% due to lockdown, which has the consequence of reducing the household's consumption (World Bank, 2020b).

The impacts of COVID-19 on households' consumption in Nigeria will be dire, together with an immediate health crisis, the tendency of reducing the household's income generation is exceptionally high. Leaving households unable to meet up with essential consumption requirement, thereby affecting household's food security status (Mukhtar, 2020a; Mukhtar, Mukhtar, Kamaruddin and Applanaidu, 2018a; Mukhtar et al., 2018b). Subsequently, this means that one in every two households are expected to reduce food consumption, to cope up with the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 pandemic will bite harder on the household located in urban, than those in rural due to high dependency of income from services; this call for government programs and assistance to help the poor households in the country (World Bank 2020b).

The country has put forward various measures to help the poor households during the pandemic. For instance, the National Social Safety Net Program; however, the impacts of the program is considered minimal, especially when the population of the country is put into consideration. For example, less than 2% of the population benefited from social protection program known as (Beta don come), which literarily means "good things have come". At the same time, other associated social assistance programs are even lower. However, the only notable exception is the current school feeding program, which feeds an estimated 20.1% school children. Still, the closing of the schools to control the spread of the pandemic has also affected it in addition to their education and nutrition, which will have a negative impact on their human development in the future (World Bank, 2020a).

The world is presently facing enormous challenges due to COVID-19 and getting to know about the COVID-19 and its devastating impacts, especially on socio-economic activities of various households in the world. The pandemic has been

linked to the imminent recession never seen before in the last 20 years in Nigeria and specifically Kano, which has witnessed poverty in a proportionate scale, high rate of unemployment, specifically among the youth and high prices in staple food. Consequently, the pandemic trends of affecting every variable associated with socio-economic activities of households in the study area. The scale of the devastation when combined with COVID-19 pandemic is better imaged.

2. Literature Review

COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have an overwhelmingly negative impact on socio-economics variables directly relating to households. According to Collivignarelli et al. (2020), the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to households is dynamic and varies from one household to another. Messner (2020) on the other hand, noted that the pandemic's impact is more significant among the low-income households and has profound negative impact among the poor communities, especially where the population is highly dense, which can affect the social distance measure. Since the COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting the world, scholars are investing time and resources to discover the impacts the pandemic has had in their society and a measure of reducing its impacts to the minimum level.

Martin, Markhvida, Hallegatte and Walsh (2020), investigated the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on household's consumption pattern and poverty. Using San Francisco Bay Area, and microeconomic model to evaluate the impact of social distancing on household socio-economic variables like income, savings, consumption and poverty. Finding reveals that the moment individual witnessed a drop in income, then savings are used as alternative to sustain consumption. At the same time, recovery necessitates household to save to replace the already depleted savings to the initial level of pre-COVID-19. Buheji et al. (2020) examine the degree to which COVID-19 pandemic has influenced socio-economic impact on world poverty, using integrative Literature Review (LR). The study identified how difficult and challenging it is to observe social isolation or lockdown measures put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The study, therefore, suggested an immediate plan to reduce the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the livelihood and socio-economic activities among the low-income families.

Ozili (2020) investigated COVID-19 in Africa: socio-economic impact, policy response and the opportunities associated with COVID-19 using discourse analysis. Findings reveal that the continent of Africa has been affected by the pandemic with the highest severity as compared with their counter parts in other regions of the world. Social distancing, depending on its strictness by the country's policies, affected the social interactions and economic activities in the continent. On the other hand, Bashir, Benjiang and Shahzad (2020) also examine the socio-economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19. Findings reveal that there is a positive impact of COVID-19 on environmental factors, which is significant and short-term in nature. At the same time, socio-economic and demographics are at the midpoint of the COVID-19 pandemic, which signified the reason why there is increase in infection, as well as mortality rate, which are closely related to a high-density populated location in society.

Awofeso and Irabor (2020) examine the assessment of Nigerian government response toward the COVID-19 pandemic impact on socio-economic conditions of the citizen, using secondary data. Findings from the study reveal a correlation between the pandemic and low socio-economic livelihood in the country. Government palliatives that were meant to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic is grossly considered highly futile due to poor coordination, high human right infringements as well as insufficient fiscal policy.

3. Methodology

The study area is Kano located in the northwest part of northern Nigeria, sited around the coordinates 90°30' and 10°30' north of Equator longitudes 70°34' and 90°25' East of Greenwich Meridian. Kano has over three million hectares of arable land approximately around 7,214 square miles, with an annual rainfall of 900 millimeters spanning for about four to five months yearly. Average temperature ranges from 30°C-45°C running from February through May every year. Kano is considered as the most populous State in Nigeria, with an estimated population of 9.4 million people according to the last Population Census of 2006 (National Population Commission [NPC], 2006). While considering an annual population growth rate of 2.6 percent, Kano estimated population is currently put at 13 million as of 2015 (NPC, 2016 & NBS, 2016). Note that Census 2006 was the last official census conducted in the country and therefore any figure arrived at afterward is purely on projection by the NPC in the country. The study selects Kano because of the large number of population and a subsequent higher number of poor households.

The study uses household as a unit of study, and one of the eligibilities is that respondents are the household heads. A multistage stratified non-probabilistic sampling method (Purposive) was employed involving four stages. The first stage involved stratifying Kano into Kano Urban and Kano Rural. Further stratification was carried out to demarcate Kano rural into Kano north and Kano south, while Kano urban was classified as Metropolitan. This is to allow for broader coverage among the households in Kano. At the third stage, a purposive selection of ten Local Government Areas (LGAs) from the total of forty-four (44) LGAs in the State, which comprises of two (2) LGAs from Kano Metropolitan, and four (4) LGAs each from Kano North and Kano South. At the last stage, a total of 426 regular households were selected out of 1,603,300 regular households' population in Kano according to the population census of 2006, since it is the last official census in the country (NPC, 2006). The LGAs selected for the survey and the number of households from each LGA include Kano Metropolitan (Kano Municipal – 50 respondents and Gwale – 50 respondents); Kano north (Dawakin-Tofa – 40 respondents, Gwarzo – 40 respondents, Karaye – 43 respondents and Kunchi – 42 respondents) while Kano south (Gaya – 40 respondents, Kura – 40 respondents, Sumaila – 40 respondents and Wudil – 41 respondents). From each of the LGA, four wards were selected, and a questionnaire was distributed using six (6) research assistants.

The study used primary data, which was sourced and collected through the household heads (farming and non-farming households) using a well-structured

questionnaire to capture the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Kano during the lockdown with a strict compliance to all the procedures for COVID-19 preventions. Six hundred questionnaires were distributed among the household's heads in the survey area by the research assistants, 515 questionnaires were returned completed given 85% response rate. Data cleansing was carried out to detect and remove incomplete entries (84) were removed. After thorough scrutiny, a final response rate of 71% was achieved for the survey. Furthermore, the data were collected immediately the lockdown period was suspended in Kano in June 2020.

The survey further used descriptive analysis to analyze the data obtained for the study, specifically by using mean average, tables and figures, since the study intends to find the impact of COVID-19 on households' socio-economic variables.

4. Result

Table 1 reveals the socio-demographic profiling of households in Kano based on a regional basis. Table 1 reveals that 88% of the household head respondents were male in terms of gender status, while about 12% household respondents were female-headed households. Average age among the household respondents is estimated to be around 40 years. Majority or about 51% of the respondents are within their active productive age and ranges from 20-40 years of age. WHO (2020) noted that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is highly devastating among the elderly in the society, especially these with pre-medical conditions like hypertension, diabetic and other chronic illness. Between early March – April 2020 the study area has witnessed numerous death among the elderly in the society and these deaths were attributed to the COVID-19 and lack of medical attentions to these with pre-medical conditions in the study area, even though the assertion was later to be denied by the Kano State government (Kano, 2020). Table 1 indicates that, there are two (2) types of households the farming and the non-farming households. About 49% are farming households, while about 51% are non-farming households in the study area. In terms of marital status, 89% are married respondents, while 4% and 7% are divorced and widowed respectively. Average household size among the respondents is estimated to be ten (10) individuals per household, clearly showing that 63% of the households are within 1-10 individuals household size classification. About 56% of the household size is within the age of 18 years old, which translate into six individuals, while about 44% of the household size are adults. An average of 3 individuals within the age of 18 years attend school, which translate to about 48% of children under the age of 18 years old.

The study discovered that there is public awareness of the COVID-19 pandemic in the study area with 100% of the households fully aware of the virus. However, an appalling finding from the respondents suggested that about 65% didn't believe that COVID-19 is pukka. The study further discovered that the respondents have divergent views about the existence of COVID-19 pandemic. About 61% belief that government is playing politics with the pandemic and using it as a source of mobilizing funds both locally and internationally. This finding is in line with Odima (2020) which also noted that there exists distrust between government and the general public, and that government is only diverting the funds mobilized for

COVID-19. About 22% of those who don't believe in the pandemic, view the virus as disease only meant for the elites and wealthy people in the country and hardly affect common man in the society. This is also in line with finding from Campbell (2020) who also discovered a correlation between COVID-19 and the elites. About 10%, on the other hand, believe that, since Kano has one of the highest temperatures in Nigeria, the survival of the virus is near impossible, especially between February – April when the dry season was at its peak. While the remaining 7% respondents based their view purely on their personal belief and suggested that the virus is a common flu that everybody is used to in the society. Furthermore, about 45% of the respondent households indicated that at least two (2) or more of its household members has indicated the common signs of the pandemic like loss of taste or smell, dry cough, fever and sometime with sore throat. However, there is no scientific evidence to revealed that these symptoms are related to COVID-19.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Profiling of Households in Kano, Nigeria

Detail	Kano North (n=165)		Metropolitan (n=100)		Kano South (n=161)		Aggregate (n=426)	
	%	Average	%	Average	%	Average	%	Average
Gender Status								
Male	93		81		89		88	
Female	7		19		11		12	
Age								40
20-30	21		21		10		17	
31-40	26		39		36		34	
41-50	33		29		38		33	
51>	20		11		16		16	
Marital Status								
Married	92		86		89		89	
Divorced	3		9		1		4	
Widowed	5		5		10		7	
Household Size								10
1-10	59		90		39		63	
11-20	35		9		59		34	
21-Above	6		1		2		3	
Under 18 Years	56	6	53	4	58	7	56	6
Children in School	51	3	61	3	33	2	48	3
Adults	44	4	47	4	42	5	44	4
Household Types								
Farming	59		24		63		49	
Non-Farming	41		76		37		51	

Source: Field Survey (2020).

The first school of thought base their argument on government mistrust of public funds, which simply means diverting public funds for personal gains among government officials in the State. The second school of thought, on the other hand, noted that most of the people infected by the virus are wealthy and elite individuals in the society. This view is very appealing mostly due to the facts that national dailies always carry the news of government officials, celebrities, business moguls, academicians as well as media personalities who are exposed to the virus despite taking necessary precaution against the virus more than anybody. In the same vein Campbell (2020) also observed that majority of the COVID-19 affected individuals were wealthy elites in the societies.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) personal hygiene practices, especially washing hand under the running water with soap for at least 20 seconds or alcohol-based hand sanitizer; physical and social distancing of at least some meters away during any public gathering and the use of face mask are some of the effective ways to protect oneself from getting exposed to the COVID-19 pandemic (WHO, 2020). Sadly enough, the study discovered that an estimated 80% of the respondents displayed consistent neglect on these measures either due to lack of enough running water, high cost of face mask and hand sanitizer which cost about N100 (US\$0.3) and N400 (US\$1) respectively. The rate of the neglect is significantly higher among households in Kano north and Kano south, while in Kano Metropolitan the conformity rate of such precaution is significantly low, and it significantly varies between the household classifications.

Furthermore, Table 2 shows the socio-demographic profiling of farming households in the study area. Table 2 reveals that average farming experience among the households is 28 years with Kano south and Kano north having the highest average years of experience in the farming of 36 years and 35 years, respectively. At the same time, average cultivable land is estimated to be around 4 hectares. This shows that most of the farming in Kano is in small-scale and usually for a subsistent purpose. COVID-19 pandemic has forced many governments to introduce strict measures to control the spread of the pandemic, such as self-isolation and movement restriction (lockdown). Majority of the farmers in Kano have express fears that these measures may influence the outcome of the agricultural production this current season since the lockdown has deterred them from participating in the preparation for the farming season, which has since commence even before the lockdown. Therefore, about 75% of the farmer indicate a total disregard for the lockdown measures put in place by the government, especially farmers in Kano north and Kano south. However, in this regards, years of farming experience may likely play a vital role among the farmers, especially when the government eventually suspends the lockdown (Mukhtar, 2020b;2020c). In the same vein, most of the households were farming on a small-scale base; this will likely affect the food security status of the households in the study area (Mukhtar, 2020d).

Table 2: Socio-demographic Profiling of Farming Households in Kano, Nigeria

Detail	Kano (n=77)		North Metropolitan (n=45)		Kano South (n=103)		Aggregate (n=209)	
	%	Average	%	Average	%	Average	%	Average
Farming Experience		35		12		36		28
1-10 Years	14		68		10			
11-20 Years	43		23		51			
21-30 Years	28		7		27			
31-Above	15		2		12			
Cultivable Land	35	3	28	4	37	4	100	4

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Furthermore, Figure 4.1 shows the distribution of labour committed to farming activities in Kano, with about 33% of the total coming from the family labour. In comparison, the majority or about 67% constituted the hired labour which is also affected by the lockdown. Subsequently, the lockdown had also affected the number of workers that worked in the farm during the farming season, especially the hired labour.



Figure 1% Distribution of Labour Force for Farming Activities
Source: Field Survey, (2020).

There are many indicators of socio-economic characteristics in a household, according to Darin-Mattsson, Fors and Kåreholt (2017) the significant indicators in socio-economic, which in turn influence other variables are occupation, education and income. Table 3 reveals the socio-economic characteristics of households in Kano. In terms of educational background and qualification, Table 3 reveals that 5% of the respondents had an informal education, 7% had primary school leaving certificate. In comparison, 18% had a secondary school certificate. These classifications of education represent the lowest form of education in the study area. Table 4.3 further reveals that 28% and 35% of the respondents had NCE/OND and first-degree certificate respectively, while only 7% had either second or third degree in the form of either MSc or PhD certificate. In terms of occupation, 9% of the household respondents reported loss of job from January – March as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. About 18% are engaged in private occupation. In comparison, the majority or about 42% are engaged in public sector occupation, and only 31% of the respondents engages in farming either as a part-time or full-time occupation. The implication here is the reduction of food security and other financial obligations which were affected by loss of jobs or reduction in monthly intake (Mukhtar, 2020d). Average income among the household respondents in the study area is estimated to be around N178,900 (US\$496) monthly, while average monthly expenditure in the study area is estimated to be around N131,400 (US\$364).

World Bank (2020) projected that prior to COVID-19 majority of the individuals in Nigeria survive under less than US\$2 (2019). This statement reflects a scarier figure in Kano, where a household's monthly average expenditure is estimated at N131,400 (US\$364), which translate into daily average of US\$1.20 if an average of 10 individuals in the study area is considered. The situation is even more frightening when we considered that the average expenditure is inclusive of food and non-food expenditure. This situation alone is enough to make both the

government and the individual households to have a rethink on the way and the manner they view COVID-19 pandemic. According to Andam et al. (2020) households suffered lost of income during lockdown which estimated at about 33%, while an estimated 27 million individuals were pushed into extreme poverty amid COVID-19 lockdown.

Table 3: Socio-economic Profiling of Households in Kano, Nigeria

Detail	Kano (n=165)		North Metropolitan (n=100)		Kano South (n=161)		Aggregate (n=426)	
	%	Average	%	Average	%	Average	%	Average
Education								
Informal	8		0		7		5	
Primary	11		0		10		7	
SSCE/GCE	12		6		37		18	
NCE/OND	34		20		29		28	
Bsc/HND	33		56		15		35	
MSc/Ph.D.	2		18		2		7	
Occupation								
Unemployed	10		13		3		9	
Private	16		29		9		18	
Public	39		46		42		42	
Farming	35		12		46		31	
Monthly Average Income								
Naira (#)		148,100		284,500		104,200		178,900
US\$		410		788		289		496
Monthly Average Expenditure								
Naira (#)		116,600		211,500		66,000		131,400
US\$		323		586		183		364

Note: US Dollar (\$) exchange for an average of CBN rate of #361 March-July (CBN, 2020)

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Figure 2 shows the structure of a household's expenditure in the study area, with 61% of the expenditure spent on food items, while about 39% on non-food expenditure. The implication is that a large chunk of household's income is spent on food expenditure during the lockdown period. Subsequently, this will affect investment and savings in the study area. About 75% of the respondents attributed panic buying and the high cost of foodstuff in the first week before the lockdown as the cause of the increase in food expenditure by households, especially as fear and nervousness forced the household to make a hasten decision on such purchases. This finding is in line with the finding of Kuruppu and De Zoysa (2020). Also, Baker et al. (2020) noted a 50% increase in USA households spending on food items. However, 25% attributed the increase to inflationary pressure, which the country witnessed for the last eight straight months in April, which also closely relate to the challenges of COVID-19. According to NBS (2020), the country's inflation in July was 12.82%, which represents the highest in more than two (2) years. Subsequently, this resulted in increased food index to rise in the price of

yams and tubers, bread and cereals, potatoes, oil, fish and meat, fruit and vegetables.

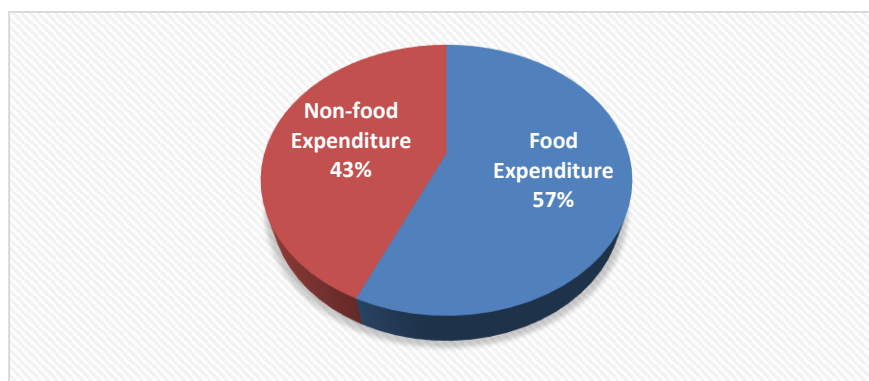


Figure 2: Structure of Household's Expenditure
Source: Field Survey, (2020).

The impact of COVID-19 on socio-economic variables is calamitous, and the impact is even more captivating when other calamities combine with COVID-19 like conflicts or disaster (Mukhtar, 2020e; 2020f). As a measure to control the spread of the pandemic, the State government imposed a lockdown measure in the State. However, the measure comes with grave consequences, especially to the socio-economic activities of households. For instance, in terms of occupation, 10% of the household heads lost source of income due to COVID-19 pandemic; majority of, which are engaged in private sector. In the same vein, economic activities were bought to a standstill as all workers were asked to stay back home and observed the total lockdown measure, while all schools in the study area were as well closed down. Majority of the households expressed concerned of psychological trauma and expected loss of jobs if the condition persisted, especially these in the private-sector.

In terms of education, the lockdown has forced all educational centers to close down since March 2020, which resulted in boredom at home, depression and lack of total freedom to students. As shown in Table 1 each household, has an average of three (3) children attending school ranging from primary to secondary, closing down the school affected their education and subsequently, will affect the school feeding, which in turn affect the nutritional condition of the children in the study area. This estimate is in line with NBS (2020) findings, which also estimated that each child would cost about N70 (US\$0.2) per meal of a day and N1,400 (US\$4) per month. However, this programme is substituted with Home Grown Feed during the lockdown in three States of the nation without Kano. While the study also discovered that only 2% of the respondents were able to employ the service of the private lesson teachers to teach their wards during the lockdown.

About 83% of the respondent's household heads indicated that during the lockdown, they had witnessed a drop-down in their income level due to COVID-19 especially these involved in the private and public sector under the State level of

between 20-30% monthly. In contrast, those in private sectors, especially those in private schools and private business, reveals that to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic their savings and business capital were used for survival during the pandemic. Only households that are employed in the public sector at the Federal level indicate no loss of income. At the same time, those involved in lecturing at the federal university level indicated that monthly income has since been stopped due to the on-going nationwide strike between the university's union and the Federal Government. The study further observed that, there was high disregard to the government instruction on lockdown especially among the private sector employees. About 35% of the respondents indicated their refusal due to the fact that, if they stay at home, they can not afford to feed their family.

For every situation, there is bound to be opportunities that comes along with it, COVID-19 is not exceptional. The pandemic has taught households to maintain a hygienic environment and hygienic lifestyle, specifically 45% of the respondents indicated that they wash their hand regularly in order to avoid or prevent themselves and their family from the COVID-19 pandemic. Another positive impact of COVID-19 noted is in the area of business opportunities, about 25% of the respondents involve in private commercial businesses especially in textiles, provisional stores and some eateries go online to advertise their products and services, while at the same time making home delivery to their customers. Even though such type of businesses highly depends on the availability of strong network service and the electricity supply in the study area which is a big challenge presently. The respondents further stated that their effort is influenced by the presence of numerous police and military checkpoints, which extract money inform of bribery before given the permit to operate peacefully and that makes them increase the prices of the goods delivered to customers during the lockdown. About 62% of the respondents also see COVID-19 pandemic as the cause of bonding among the families, even though this is a positive impact; however, it comes with a lot of negative impacts. For instance, about 15% of the respondents believed that it has also increased domestic violence among the spouses, while children molestation and abuse saw a raise among households during the lockdown. About 20% of the respondent think this lockdown can easily lead to unwanted or unplanned pregnancy, especially with a high level of poverty and a high number of children dependency ratio in the study area, this can easily backfire and push more households into poverty trap in the next one or two years.

Generally, COVID-19 has already exposed the weakness of health service of the country. For instance, according to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) there is likelihood that COVID-19 will kill more than 170,000 children in Nigeria in the next six (6) months, in addition to another 6,800 maternal casualties. Accordingly, this will affect all the achievement made in the last two decades of decreasing preventable child and maternal deaths in the country (UNICEF, 2020). As a result of COVID-19 medical supply chains have been disrupted, lockdown, curfews and disruption in transportation system has forced a decline in hospitals visitation. Consequently, COVID-19 serves as a severe threat to the already existing fragile healthcare system of Nigeria (UNICEF, 2020).

Government efforts to control the pandemic have serious negative consequences to the socio-economic livelihood of the poor and vulnerable in the society, while the effort to sustain the economy has proven defective by all standards. Firstly, there is a poor coordination of the palliative aids to the less privilege in the society, the criteria used for the selection of the less privilege has fallen short of the standard outline by the World Bank (2014). Thus, the tendency of the palliative to reach its target is seriously put into doubt. Majority of the beneficiaries of the palliative are card carrying members of the ruling party and loyalists, while the less privilege individuals whose means of livelihood was negatively influence by the impact of COVID-19 were neglected by the system that is by mere lack of accountability (Njoku et al., 2020). Other States governments deliberately warehouse the palliative without distributing it to the less privilege households, thereby making people accuse the government of intentional diversion of the palliative for personal gains.

5. Conclusions and Recommendation

Kano seem to have flatten it COVID-19 curve going by the recent case recorded by the State, with an average of one (1) of COVID-19 case for the month of September 2020, it has seen the State recording less than 10 cases in the whole month (NCDC, 2020a). However, the State government efforts in terms of fighting the pandemic have left much to be desired in the first wave. The State government should therefore make adequate provisions for the second wave of the pandemic, more especially as there is no universally approved vaccine or medication for the virus presently. Firstly, the State government need to gain back the confidence of the public, so that their can get some level of trust, in such a way that common man can believe and trust any information coming from the State government. The State should therefore fight corruption head on and lead by example in such a way, any culprit should be dealt with irrespective of his position in the society. Government should also make a total overhaul of the entire healthcare systems in the State, especially in the Local Government Areas of the State.

Government policies to cushion the negative impact of socio-economic losses suffered by the households need to be improved significantly, especially the loss in incomes as a result of total lockdown. Therefore, adequate economic policy that is considered sizeable as well as targeted to the poor and less privilege devoid of political appellation should be put in place. In the same veins government should support private firms including private schools that suffered from the consequence of total restrictions on their activities. Specifically, teachers in private schools were left without monthly salaries or a drastic reduction in their salaries during the lockdown period.

Fighting COVID-19 pandemic is all about sacrifice in it totality and there is the need for the public to embrace the new normal of “COVID Safety First”. Therefore, both government and the citizen in the State must sacrifice and follow the preventive measures religiously. Chinese government was able to fight the pandemic majorly because of dedications and sacrifices made both during and after the pandemic. Face mask should be mandated at all level, while government should engage in mass production and distribution at a subsidize rate that the poor can

afford. Government need to be strict with issue of opening its international airport. All measures for the prevention of COVID-19 should be put in place in the two (2) airports to be used for anybody coming into the country, while 14 days isolation centers should be maintain in the airport, with adequate healthcare facilities, especially oxygen concentrator. While it is strongly recommended that the government should operate internationally within the two airports since domestic airline are fully in operation, so as to effectively monitor the inflows of both the citizen and foreigners coming into the country. In terms of schools opening government has found itself in a bit of a pickle between preservation of life, which is of paramount important and the pursuit of educational certificate.

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