

Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on the Economic Activity and the Spread of the Virus in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract: *This study was conducted to examine economic impact of COVID-19 in Ekiti state, Nigeria. which were formulated to guide the study. One hundred and twenty (n=120) Ado-Ekiti local government staff were randomly selected for the study and questionnaire was used for data collection. Random sampling technique was used to select the population size. The questionnaires were filled and returned to the researcher and data collected was presented and analysed using simple percentage. The hypotheses were tested using chi-square statistical method. The study revealed among others that COVID-19 had severe impact on the economy of Ado-Ekiti, and total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 had significant impact on economy of Ado-Ekiti. There is reduction in the economic development of Ekiti state which has affected the finance since the family income depends on the economic growth of any country, most of the families in Ekiti State are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic lockdown; some of the vulnerable families having their children under the federal government free feeding scheme are being faced with the challenge of going in search of food for their children while they are with them at home. Based on the findings of the study, recommendations were made. The State government should dedicate substantial portion of funds to cushion the hardship suffered by their citizens particularly the vulnerable ones. In addressing these daunting economic challenges, the current considerations to revise the budget downward is inevitable.*

Keywords: COVID-19, Economy, Impact, Ado-Ekiti

1. Introduction

Economic crises are not new in Nigeria. During the 2016 economic crisis, the monetary authority in Nigeria defended the local currency from forced devaluation against the dollar and adopted a managed-float foreign exchange system, which worked well from 2016 to 2019. After the 2016 economic crisis or recession, it was widely believed that the unexpected and sustained decline in oil price was the most important cause of economic crises in Nigeria. But in 2020, nobody thought that a public health crisis could trigger an economic crisis in the country. What made the 2020 economic crisis different from other economic crises or recessions in Nigeria was that most economic agents, who could have helped to revive the economy were unable to engage in economic activities due to fear of contracting the COVID-19 disease. Also, economic agents did not engage in economic activities when the government imposed and enforced its social distancing rules and movement lockdown in Ekiti state on the 30th March of 2020.

An optimistic projection of the future trajectory of the effect of the pandemic on the global economy is that it would result into a relatively mild and short-lived global recession, followed by a V-shaped recovery (Wren-Lewis, 2020). It is therefore important for emerging markets to understand the best approach to cushion the effect on their economies. This becomes imperative to position the economy to attract the necessary investment needed to undertake meaningful developmental policies.

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a way of providing food palliatives to the residents of the State to cushion the effect of the lockdown. The distribution of the food palliative kicked off on April 6, 2020, in the State capital and was later moved to other local governments (Oke, 2020; Ashube, 2020). The governor on April 22 announced that the palliative is meant for the vulnerable in the society.

Needless to say that the lockdown affected the business and income-generating abilities of men and women alike, but it had more effect on the female sex because they are more concentrated in the informal sector of the economy. They depended on daily income from goods sold to feed their family, especially when they are in female-headed households. Even the few in the formal sector hardly fared better, as outstanding salaries were not paid, coupled with an increase in food consumption by children in the course of the holiday. As if adding salt to injury, a few women who could not but bring out their wares for sale to ensure the provision of necessities for their household had their wares destroyed and burnt for defying the Ekiti State lockdown orders (Ogunjobi, 2020). These further compounded the woes of the affected traders as some were beaten as they made attempts to salvage the confiscated or destroyed items. The lockdown, which had prevented many from carrying out their day to day business activities, has exposed women to a greater degree of marginalisation because many are losing their means of livelihood. This, though, was corroborated by the United Nations (2020), who stated that the pandemic would result in women experiencing an increase in the pre-existing inequalities they face in every sector of life.

Essentially, a low income State like Ekiti already battling with poor performance of basic development indices is likely to aggravate her challenges with the permanent changes that the pandemic has brought to the world. Given the heterogeneous households and firms characteristics, it is important to understand the home-specific characteristics as the state continues the gradual relaxation of the nationwide lockdown in order to protect livelihoods and save the economy from collapse.

Ekiti state made strict regulations to curb the spread of the corona virus disease with measures like curfew, ban of vehicular movement and human movement except those on essential services, business activities were banned before the lockdown was eased in May 2020 while those who refuse to comply were sanctioned accordingly, the use of face mask was made *primus inter pares* for anyone going to the markets, supermarkets. This paper is aim to assess the economic impact of COVID-19 in Ekiti state, Nigeria.

2. Statement of the Research Problem

Ekiti State Nigeria is a State in the South West region of the country. The State is seen as the poorest in the region, and the second poorest in Nigeria based on internally generated revenue, and the low allocation it gets from the federation account (Ekiti State Government, 2012). Besides this, the State depends majorly on the civil service, with few industries and companies in existence; leaving the State with few choices of employment. Women in Ekiti State are either engaged in petty trading or service rendering activities like tailoring, and hairdressing among others for a living. This made the people of the State to depend largely on salary payment of civil servants (Ekiti State Government, 2012).

Consequent upon government measures to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly to lockdown the economy, appears to have spelt untold hardship on an already vulnerable group in the State. Besides, it was widely reported that despite lockdown rules and the high-handedness of government aides and Taskforce officials saddled with the responsibility of enforcing lockdown rules; many traders still defied the rules to display their wares (Ogunjobi, 2020). This, although unlawful, it attested to the desperation of many people, many of which are breadwinners of their families, to make money, against government orders. Particularly, as the palliatives provided by government were grossly inadequate. This work, therefore, concerns itself with the impact of COVID-19 on education and economy in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

2.1 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine the economic impact of COVID-19 in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti state. Therefore, the study specifically assess the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of the virus in Ekiti state.

2.2 Research Questions

- Does COVID-19 have impact on the Informal sector of the economy of Ado-Ekiti?

- Does total lockdown policies adopted affects the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti?

2.3 Research Hypothesis

The following hypotheses were formulated to be tested statistically at 0.05 level of significance:

- COVID-19 have no significant impact on economy of Ado-Ekiti.
- Total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have no significant impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti.

3. Literature Review

Some Nigerian studies on COVID-19 have emerged in the recent literature. Olapegba et al (2020) assess the knowledge and perceptions of Nigerians about COVID-19. They find that some Nigerians have misconceptions about COVID-19, for instance, some respondents believe that COVID-19 is a biological weapon of the Chinese government. These misconceptions prevented them from taking maximum preventive measures. They suggest that evidence-based campaign should be intensified to remove misconceptions and promote precautionary measures.

Ozili (2020) show that Nigeria had the highest number of COVID-19 cases in West Africa and the third highest cases in Africa between March and April. Ohia et al (2020) predict that the effect on COVID-19 will be severe in Africa because African countries have fragile health systems. They argue that Nigeria's current national health systems cannot respond to the growing number of infected patients who require admission into intensive care units. They suggest that Nigeria should explore available collective measures and interventions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jacob et al (2020) show that the COVID-19 pandemic affected higher institutions in Nigeria through the lockdown of schools, reduction of international education, disruption of academic calendar of higher institutions, cancellation of local and international conferences, creating teaching and learning gap, loss of man power in the educational institutions, and cut in budget of higher education.

Adegboye et al (2020) examine the early transmission of COVID-19 in Nigeria, and show that the COVID-19 cases in Nigeria were lower than expected. Adenomon and Maijamaa (2020) examine the impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian stock exchange from the 2nd January 2020 to 16th April 2020. The results revealed a loss in stock returns and high volatility in stock returns during the COVID-19 period in Nigeria.

The Impact of COVID-19 to the Nigerian economy

There are five main ways through which the COVID-19 pandemic spread over into Nigeria. One, the COVID-19 pandemic affected borrowers' capacity to service their loans, which gave rise to non-performing loans (NPLs) that depressed banks' earnings and eventually impaired banks' soundness and stability. Subsequently, banks were reluctant to give additional loans to borrowers as more and more borrowers struggled to repay the loans granted to them

during the COVID-19 outbreak. Two, there were oil demand shocks which was reflected in the sharp decline in oil price. The most visible and immediate spillover was the drop in the price of crude oil, which dropped from nearly US\$60 per barrel to as low as US\$30 per barrel in March. During the pandemic, people were no longer travelling and this led to a sustained fall in the demand for aviation fuel and automobile fuel which affected Nigeria's net oil revenue, and eventually affected Nigeria's foreign reserve. Three, there were supply shocks in the global supply chain as many importers shut down their factories and closed their borders particularly China. Nigeria was severely affected because Nigeria is an import-dependent country, and as a result, Nigeria witnessed shortage of crucial supplies like pharmaceutical supplies, spare parts, and finished goods from China. Four, the national budget was also affected. The budget was initially planned with an oil price of US\$57 per barrel. The fall in oil price to US\$30 per barrel during the pandemic meant that the budget became obsolete and a new budget had to be formed which had to be re-priced with at low oil price.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the Nigerian stock market. Major market indices in the stock market plunged when investors pulled out their investments into so-called safe havens like US Treasury bonds. Stock market investors lost over NGN2.3 trillion (US\$5.9bn) barely three weeks after the first case of coronavirus was confirmed and announced in Nigeria on January 28, 2020. The market capitalisation of listed equities, which was valued at NGN13.657 trillion (US\$35.2bn) on Friday, February 28, 2020 depreciated by NGN2.349 trillion to NGN11.308 trillion (US\$29.1bn) on Monday 23 March 2020. The All-share index closed at 21,700.98 from 26,216.46 representing 4,515.48 points or 20.8 per cent drop (Atkeson, 2020).

Government Response to Corona Virus Pandemic in Ekiti State and Nigeria

The novel Coronavirus disease first broke out in Wuhan City of China in the late 2019, which earned the virus, the named COVID-19. It is a viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome, which is highly transmittable. Coronavirus is not alien to the human race, as China recorded as a type of Coronavirus in 2003 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) while Saudi Arabia in 2012, barely ten years later recorded another type, which was referred to as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (Global Health Now, 2020). The disease is highly transmittable from person to person through close contact with droplets that could be airborne from an infected person (Kumar, Malviya & Sharma, 2020). COVID-19 had since its discovery spread through the world infecting thousands of people, leading to the death of many and grounding the world economies (Shereen, Khan, Kazmi, Bashir & Siddique, 2020). In containing the spread of the virus, many countries had to shut down its economy, close borders, close schools and prevent movement of a person from one place to the other.

Nigeria recorded her first case of Coronavirus on February 27, 2020, through an Italian expatriate who worked in Nigeria and returned from his country to Lagos, Nigeria, with the second case being someone who had contact with him. Both the index case and the second case were duly taken to isolation centres where they were treated. The third

case was a Nigerian returnee from the United Kingdom who tested positive to the virus on March 17, 2020. The virus has since had continuous spread in Nigeria through contact with infected persons and travellers from high-risk countries, reaching over eight thousand infected persons as on May 25, 2020 (Shaban, 2020).

Ekiti State in the South-West geo-political zone of Nigeria had her first index case on March 18, 2020, through an American returnee who in turn infected his driver (Toromade, 2020). The government of many states in the federation then ordered the use of hand sanitiser and encouraged hand washing in the public places. Several State Governments, on the March 20, ordered the closure of all schools (from primary to tertiary), which Ekiti State also embarked upon, this, however, could not deter the spread of the virus. The closure of schools was preceded by the abrupt end of the mandatory 21 days National Youth Service Corps orientation camp on March 18, 2020 (Awojulugbe, 2020). As a continuous measure, Ekiti State due to her inability to accommodate massive outbreak of the virus, on March 29, 2020, announced a lockdown on economic activities and closure of her borders against interstate and intrastate travels with the exemption of essential workers and food suppliers (Eromosele, 2020). Ani (2020) explained that the lockdown was meant to ensure that the people of Ekiti abide by the stay-at-home policy of the State. These resulted into the closure of offices (both private and Government-owned) and lock up of shops and markets for two weeks with effect from March 31 to April 13, 2020, which was later extended. The governor, to ensure compliance, set up a COVID-19 Response Taskforce.

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the United Nations (2020), who stated that the pandemic would result in women experiencing an increase in the pre-existing inequalities they face in every sector of life.

Sociological Perspective of implications of COVID-19

This section of the review is aimed at analyzing the positive and negative implications of COVID-19 in a sociological perspective. It also emphasizes the importance of a sociological analysis in a pandemic situation. Naturally, anyone would think of a pandemic situation in very negative terms due to its emotional, socio-economic, environmental, political and cultural factors. However, it is also positive due to certain factors that help to reintegrate and reorganize the social system as a whole. Thus, it is important to understand what the positive implications are. They are given in the following: People are adapting to a pandemic situation, and they also understand what the ideal social behavior is in a similar situation. This may include government pandemic management systems and policies

They learnt about social distancing and its rules, conditions and procedures. Especially, how painful it is but useful within the family and the community. Also, they adapt themselves to the situation whilst contemplating the difference between a normal situation and a pandemic situation. As a result of social integration, families and communities engage in a high level of social cohesion or social conscience to face the difficult situation. Hence, everyone is getting used to a common lifestyle, sharing and caring for others, especially the elderly people. The death of an elderly or chronically ill person results in a reorganization or reunion of the family unit. Though it is not an easy task to bear the psycho-social factors, finally they come to certain common conclusions. Similarly, the government and regional organizations in the global context may reunite to face the pandemic situation. For example, the SARRC countries reunited over COVID-19 and set up financial allocations for supporting poorer nations. The recent SAARC video conference on COVID 19 has resulted in the establishment of a fund for regional cooperation to combat the pandemic. (World Bank [2020c](#)).

The giant country India contributed USD 10 million followed by Sri Lanka which contributed USD 5 to the fund. This fund can be utilized for the improvement of domestic and regional production whilst aiming at an uninterrupted supply chain in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors. Medical systems in any country will be improved to sustainable levels to face a pandemic situation. They will understand the existing gaps in these systems. Especially, many South and East Asian countries will focus on their indigenous medical systems and how it should be integrated with the biomedical system which shows poorer results. Their dominant authority may be challenged by indigenous medical practitioners due to the strength of the indigenous medical systems to treat COVID-19 patients. global hegemonic power would change and a new hegemonic power relation is taking its place without any brutal war conditions and much economic and social costs. It seems that the USA may lose the hegemonic power, which would be replaced by China and within such a scenario China could achieve its long-term goals. However, it can be delayed and disturbed by the USA through certain economic

restrictions against China. Recently, the USA announced that they are willing to withdraw their investments in China. Under such circumstances South Asian countries, particularly India can offer much better economic policies to attract US investments in India. Similarly, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh can grab some such opportunities in certain industrial fields. This may help in improving supply chain values and efficiency in South Asian countries. (World Bank [2020a](#)). The new hegemonic power may extend its supporting hands to the developing nations and poorer countries. Thus, there will be a competition amongst China, USA and India to support regional countries in South East Asia. The new world order may be a novel experience to the countries and their people. At the beginning it will be optimistic as per the conflict theory in sociology. If it suits the supply chain system in these countries then the people may accept the new order.

There will be many discoveries and innovations in all affected sectors or spheres at national, regional and global contexts. Most of these would be medical, environment, industry and socio-cultural related. These discoveries and innovations will help to manage the supply chain in South Asian countries. The potentials would be in domestic production and services to maintain local traditional lifestyles rather than adapting to modernity. People may repose their trust in many local-level trades and business firms rather than depending on the supermarket systems. These trends strengthen the supply chain network at national and regional levels. Perhaps, there may be some new trading opportunities too amongst regional countries. Domestic production could increase due to family or cottage level agricultural practices including other small-scale handicraft productions in society.

This may reduce the market demand to some extent and it may also cause negative effects amongst international trades. As mentioned above, the pandemic situation may increase the level of innovations amongst the people. Some creative-minded people may introduce much effective and productive primary and secondary things, efficient ways and means of productions, low-cost productions, technological advancements, etc. These trends too may strengthen the supply chain network at national and regional levels. People may be attracted to traditional foods and consumption practices mainly based on the human family. Intergenerational social integrity will strengthen and be consolidated by youths. There will be a lesser demand for restaurants and hotel sector supply chains in each level such as national, regional and global due to the social and physical distancing. Decline in defence expenditure at national and global levels and minimizing the need or requirements in the arms race, especially in nuclear weaponry systems, at least on a temporary basis. Thus, war fear could be minimized in certain regions. This may in turn influence international terrorism and its supply chain networks. New ideological constructions in many critical subject disciplines, such as medicine, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, robotic sciences, religious and humanistic sciences. (World Bank [2020b](#)).

Hence, research and development activities will expand in every country. Developments in sociological tool-kits and

social engineering skills to deliver efficient services through supply chain networks and management of patients and general public. People getting used to do some optional analysis and adapt to follow optimum use of resources, economizing resources, and sustainable approaches to satisfy their need structure. These trends may reorganize the supply chain networks in national and regional levels. General public may develop some positive attitudes over the special duties performed by various essential services in society, especially, health workers, social workers, police and armed forces who are involved in quarantine processes, etc. However, there should be very efficient supply chains to maintain these services in optimum operation when necessary to society, particularly, in South Asia. Reduction in plastic and polythene use at the domestic level, thus reducing the environmental pollution. As a whole, it may contribute to global environmental protection efforts. Especially, it may temporarily reduce greenhouse gases due to the minimum use of vehicles and industries in the world. Perhaps, there may be some climate changes in the environment. Reduction in the environmental pollution in the world, regional and national contexts. Mainly, air, sound, and water pollution will be reduced. (Malpass, 2020) There are some studies conducted, and they reveal that the pollution level is reduced drastically in all these three sectors. Possible formation of further philanthropic ideas amongst the upper hierarchy segments in society. Thus, the domestic supply chain networks should capture these demands effectively. If the government is successful in managing the COVID-19 instead of developing a pandemic situation, it can lead to a stable political order in society. Perhaps, the incumbent government could win another term in power as the pandemic situation has provided a great opportunity to compare each country and its skills in the governance of their political regimes. Reduction in crimes such as drug addiction, alcoholism, gambling, prostitution or commercial sex, violence and suicide.

Again, the supply chain networks in commercial sex, illicit drugs, etc. may change. Some countries may amend or introduce specific legislation based on their experiences in the management of COVID-19 pandemic situations. Particularly, trading pacts amongst regional countries may change whilst new pacts may also be formulated. Some countries may review policy gaps and take action for policy updates. Sri Lanka needs a policy on indigenous medicine (traditional medicine) which is not covered by the existing health policy in Sri Lanka. It is the right time to respond to the court decision and request a new pharmacopeia with a list of codes. More utilization of the internet for sharing ideas, new knowledge, filtering knowledge gaps, news messages, etc. This may open up more avenues to reduce the stress level of the people. Return migrants who are having strong financial resources may invest in Sri Lanka if the socio-economic and political stability established after complete control and management of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka. Returning migrants with less or poor financial resources may seek jobs in the apparel sector or plantation sector. Therefore, there will be a high supply in the labour market in the country. This situation may impact the new formation of production and supply chain networks. There will be more research on COVID-19, particularly discovering a vaccine and medical strategies which are more

effective in patient management. If any new vaccinations are discovered, there will be a massive demand from each country and new supply chain networks will emerge within the health sector.

The negative implications towards the family, communities, nations, regions and the world push them backward in any sector or socio-economic and political spheres. Several elements which cause negative impacts can be identified as illnesses or COVID-19, pandemic situation, deaths, social distancing, curfew and the lock-down of the entire functional mechanism of a single society and the global network in production, trade, supply chain networks, transportation, social networking and political network. Therefore, this paper has given similar attention to the negative impacts of COVID-19 at the local, regional and global contexts based on the situation in early April 2020. They are given in the following: The pandemic situation has spread as a global pandemic disease which is creating fear, stress, stigma, minimizing social networks, etc. Health and medical systems, especially biomedical systems, have taken their maximum effort but the healthcare system itself is affected due to various conditions in nature. Thus, there are many deaths reported though the biomedical system has made an enormous effort. High rate of deaths due to various illnesses or complications of diseases occurring amongst the patients, especially the elderly who are affected by COVID-19. Impossible tasks and challenges to the medical staff, supporting staff, social workers and health administrators at local, domestic and/or global levels. The World Health Organization (WHO) is the primary entity followed by other United Nations (UN) agencies which are responsible during a regional and/or global pandemic situation. Some countries such as Italy, Spain, USA and China and a few other European countries are facing a much higher disintegration in all subsystems of society. Thus, the social system needs a complete reorganization and integration to survive. Dismantling the family relationship and intimate relationships with relatives, neighbors, various communities, etc.

These conditions may lead to interpersonal conflicts and domestic violence in the family. Losing the knowledge, experience, and services of the elderly would mean that the next generation would not be able to share them for their betterment. Downward trends of family economic conditions and several lower hierarchy social classes facing unbearable economic hardships due to lack of daily or monthly earnings. Though there are market accessibility and supply chain network even under the limitation of social mobility, they do not possess the purchasing power. Disruptions of schools, universities and vocational education segments where they have to seek certain optional strategies to cover up their educational goals. Especially, they may face some irreversible gaps in their education. All supply chain networks in the education field have been interrupted. Some people may face various kinds of stress, social stigma and depression conditions due to the malfunction of the social system.

Possible social conflicts or conflicts of interests the systems and this may lead towards the social system. Some institutions and organizations may not possess sufficient

capacities to find remedial solutions to fill the gaps and issues. Decline in religious belief systems and practices in all religions and people may not believe in superstitious powers, in god and other divine and invisible elements in society. If the government and its subordinate authorities face some inadequate workable decisions or binding decisions and poor policy applications, it may lead to political instability in society. These conflicts of interests may cause political changes in society. Social unrest, stress and social stigma amongst the family members due to their detachment from family as a result of local and international migration. This may get aggravated further through the suspension of continental air transportation under lock-down situations. Disruptions in the productions of primary and secondary items in the society. Especially, issues in the production of primary items may lead to social unrest in society. Less demand and lack of proper supply chain networks may aggravate the existing unrest level. There are many people who are losing their jobs and incomes in the formal and informal sectors in the society. Service providers' (supply chain networks) inability to continue the day-to-day supply of commodities and other services due to the lack of profit margins. It may lead to detachments from such entities or services, and some people may find alternative solutions. Thus, there may be some temporal decline in supply chains in society. People might depend on rumors and other informal channels of information if there is a chaotic condition in formation channels or the dissemination of information. (Parsons 1951a, b; Rocher 1972; Luhmann 1995; Knudsen 2010).

Especially, if there are some loop holes in supply chain networks, these rumors may work rapidly with different social and economic impacts. Certain social classes may display their egoistic ideologies at the time of accumulating primary or essential goods and services. This may cause some negative attitudes amongst other social classes by creating conflict of interests. Global economic recession and increase in poverty level in society. This may lead to financial crises such as a decline in monetary values, share market values and businesses, changes in supply chain networks, and purchasing power of the people. The country has to take alternative action to maintain a stable economy.

The developing countries and poor countries may get more loans and grants for their economy to survive. Thus, there will be more economic and political dependency in these countries. As a result of this condition, countries in the hegemonic circle may directly or indirectly fulfill their hidden agendas in the territories of such dependent countries. Being South Asian countries, there are certain common social and economic characteristics that need to be safeguarded during the pandemic situation. The pandemic situation will directly influence the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined to be achieved by 2030, since some countries may not allocate financial resources to meet the country-specific targets. Internal fragmentation may occur in global hegemonic countries, particularly in the USA and they may attempt to regain the hegemonic power through various economic and political strategies. Perhaps, they may go for direct war strategies with other countries or accelerate existing intervention in the Middle-East region.

4. Methodology

The study was conducted using survey design because the study intended to examine the economic impact of COVID-19 in Ekiti State. Descriptive studies are usually the best methods for collecting information that demonstrate relationships and describe the world as it exists. A survey comes in different flavors, be it interviewing people face to face or handing out questionnaires to fill out. The study took the quantitative approach because it was based on variables measured with numbers and analyzed with statistical procedures. The population of the study consists of all the local government staff of Ado-Ekiti. The sample for the study is 120 respondents selected from the total population using stratified sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was a 7-item questionnaire adapted by the researchers titled 'Questionnaire on Economic Impact of Covid-19 in Ado-Ekiti (QEICA)'. In order to establish both the face, content and construct validity of the research instruments, the drafted instruments were given to the team of supervisors and other experts in the Department of Guidance and Counseling, Faculty of Education, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti for their assessment, corrections, comments and suggestions. The corrected instruments were used for pilot testing to ascertain the reliability of the instruments for this study. The data collected was analyzed using simple percentage and the hypothesis was tested using chi-square statistical method.

5. Result Analysis

Research Question 1: Does COVID-19 have impact on the Informal sector of the economy of Ado-Ekiti?

Table 1: Showing responses on the impact of COVID-19 on economy of Ado-Ekiti

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	80	66.67
Agree	40	33.33
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Total	120	100

Table 1 shows the result collected from research question one which revealed that 80(66.67%) of the respondents strongly agreed that COVID-19 have impact on economy of Ado-Ekiti while 40 (33.33%) of the respondents also agreed with the statement. This indicates that all the respondents agreed that COVID-19 had severe impact on the economy of Ado-Ekiti.

Research Question 2: Does total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti?

Table 2: Showing responses on the impact of total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of the COVID-19 in Ado-Ekiti

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	65	54.17
Agree	35	29.17
Strongly Disagree	5	4.17

Disagree	15	12.5
Total	120	100

Table 2 shows the result collected from research question two which revealed that 65(54.17%) of the respondents strongly agreed that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti while 35(29.17%) of the respondents also agreed with the statement. On the other hand, 5(4.17) of the respondents strongly disagreed that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti while 15(12.5%) of the respondents disagreed with it. This indicates that most of the respondents agreed that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 had impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti.

Testing of Hypothesis

Table 3: Chi-Square showing that COVID-19 have no significant impact on the Informal sector of the economy of Ado-Ekiti

Response	Observed	Expected	O-E	(O-E) ²	Chi-Square (X ²)	P
Strongly Agree	80	30	50	2500	36.67	<.05
Agree	40	30	10	100		
Strongly Disagree	0	30	-30	900		
Disagree	0	30	-30	900		
TOTAL	120			4400		

Calculated value = 36.67

Decision Rule:

Reject Ho: if X² calculated is greater than X² critical (table) value. Accept Ho: if X² is less than X² table value. Since the calculated X² is 36.67 and critical table value is 80% at 5% level of confidence using 2 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis state that COVID-19 have no significant impact on the Informal sector of the economy of Ado-Ekiti is hereby rejected. This indicate that COVID-19 had adverse impact on the Informal sector of the economy of Ado-Ekiti.

Table 4: Chi-Square showing total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have no significant impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti

Response	Observed	Expected	O-E	(O-E) ²	Chi-Square (X ²)	P
Strongly Agree	65	30	35	1225	17.50	<.05
Agree	35	30	5	25		
Strongly Disagree	5	30	-25	625		
Disagree	15	30	-15	225		
Total	120			2100		

Calculated value = 17.50

Decision Rule:

Reject Ho: if X² calculated is greater than X² critical (table) value. Accept Ho: if X² is less than X² table value. Since the calculated X² is 17.50 and critical table value is 80% at 5% level of confidence using 2 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis state that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have no significant impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti is hereby rejected. This indicates that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the

spread of COVID-19 had significant impact on the spread of the virus in Ado-Ekiti.

6. Discussion of Result

The results revealed that 80(66.67%) of the respondents strongly agreed that COVID-19 have impact on economy of Ado-Ekiti while 40 (33.33%) of the respondents also agreed with the statement. Also, Since the calculated X² is 146.67 and critical table value is 80% at 5% level of confidence using 2 degree of freedom. The result of the research findings revealed that all the respondents agreed that COVID-19 had severe impact on the economy of Ado-Ekiti. This in line with Adenomom and Maijamaa (2020) examined the impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian stock exchange from the 2nd January 2020 to 16th April 2020. The results revealed a loss in stock returns and high volatility in stock returns during the COVID-19 period in Nigeria.

However, the results further revealed that that 65(54.17%) of the respondents strongly agreed that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 have impact on economy of Ado-Ekiti while 35(29.17%) of the respondents also agreed with the statement. Since the calculated X² is 17.50 and critical table value is 80% at 5% level of confidence using 2 degree of freedom. This indicates that total lockdown policies adopted to curb the spread of COVID-19 had significant impact on economy of Ado-Ekiti. Ani (2020) explained that the lockdown was meant to ensure that the people of Ekiti abide by the stay at-home policy of the State. These resulted into the closure of offices (both private and Government-owned) and lock up of shops and markets for two weeks with effect from March 31 to April 13, 2020, which was later extended. The governor, to ensure compliance, set up a COVID-19 Response Taskforce.

7. Conclusion

This paper examined the impact of COVID-19 on economic impact of COVID-19 in Ado-Ekiti Ekiti State, Nigeria. There is reduction in the economic development of Ekiti state which has affected the finance since the family income depends on the economic growth of any country, most of the families in Ekiti State are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic lockdown; some of the vulnerable families having their children under the federal government free feeding scheme are being faced with the challenge of going in search of food for their children while they are with them at home.

The overall economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic cannot be ascertained at the moment because she has not experienced the peak of the crises yet as more cases are still been reported. One thing that has been established is that its impact on unemployment, additional job losses, contribution to poverty, hunger, coupled with a great decline in oil prices cannot be under-estimated. This study, therefore, concludes that drastic economic policies measure must be institutionalized and formulated to aid struggling businesses and SME's in this time of difficulties, palliatives, soft social loans should also be made readily available for households that are the most hit. Also, this pandemic has revealed the

ills and decay in our medical facilities, hospitals, etc. This should be a wakeup call for the government to work on improving the health sector through the provision of adequate funding for its development, training of doctors, medical research, equitable and reasonable wage payment for them (which are not limited to hazard allowance) -this is in an attempt to ensure we provide worldclass medical facilities that will be accessible and affordable not just to the rich in the society, but also to the average Nigerian.

8. Recommendations

- 1) Government should provide incentives in terms of loans public, particularly those who are below the poverty line.
- 2) The study recommends a deliberate policy action that would stabilize the fluctuations in the economy and enhance the performance of basic macroeconomic variables.
- 3) The State government should dedicate substantial portion of funds to cushion the hardship suffered by their citizens particularly the vulnerable ones. In addressing these daunting economic challenges, the current considerations to revise the budget downward are inevitable.
- 4) Furthermore, cutting expenditures must be done such that the already excluded group and vulnerable are not left to bear the brunt of the economic contraction. The economic and growth recovery program which has the aim of increasing social inclusion by creating jobs and providing support for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society through investments in social programs and providing social amenities will no doubt suffers some setbacks.

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