
THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY OF COVID-19: THE THIRD WORLD PERSPECTIVE; A STUDY OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the global political economy of COVID-19 from a third world perspective, with a focus on Nigeria. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant social and economic impacts on countries around the world, particularly in the Global South. The work examines the political cum economic implications of the pandemic COVID-19, especially how it impacted on the third World Countries looking at their socio-political cum economic realities. To achieve this, we interrogated the economic implications of Covid-19 on Third World countries especially Nigeria, and the long-term implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on Nigeria's economic and political development, as well as what policies can be implemented to mitigate these effects? To provide answers to these research questions, secondary data collection was employed, materials used were gathered from documented evidence, and descriptive and qualitative data analysis was employed. The theoretical framework of Global Political Economy, which combines Critical International Political Economy and Postcolonial Theory, was used to analyse the work. This is because GPE and Postcolonial Theory provided a comprehensive framework to understanding the complex interplay between economic and political factors in shaping global inequalities and power relations, while also highlighting the importance of historical power relations in shaping contemporary global politics. We found out among other things that COVID-19 caused a great disruption in the global economic, social and educational sectors, causing job losses and increased poverty levels; it also caused millions of deaths globally. Improve Healthcare Infrastructure and manpower, collaboration with international organizations such as the WHO and UN for technical and financial and business assistance to the citizens were recommended as ways to cushion the impacts of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

Key Words: COVID-19, Political Economy, Third World Countries, Post Colonial Theory, WHO.

INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 and Its Impact on the Global Political Economy

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global health crisis caused by the novel corona virus SARS-CoV-2, which was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 (World Health Organization [WHO], 2020). The virus according to some conspiracy theories escape the laboratory and like a wildfire spread to countries around the world, leading to widespread illness, death, and economic disruption (Chen, 2020). The pandemic has had significant implications for the global political economy. The global economy has been disrupted by measures such as travel restrictions, lockdowns, and social distancing measures, which have led to significant reductions in economic activity (Depetris-Chauvin & Özak, 2020). The pandemic has also disrupted global trade, with many countries implementing restrictions on imports and exports in an attempt to contain the spread of the virus (Chen, 2020).

The impact of the pandemic on the global political economy has been felt most severely in Third World countries. These countries often lack the resources and infrastructure necessary to respond effectively to the crisis, and as such are vulnerable to economic shocks (Ayittey, 1992). The pandemic has also highlighted the unequal distribution of power and resources between developed and developing countries (Gopinath, 2020). Despite the significant impacts of Covid-19 on the global political economy, there is still much that is not yet understood about the pandemic and its implications.

Understanding the Third World Perspective in Analyzing the Covid-19 Pandemic

Understanding the Third World perspective is crucial for analyzing the Covid-19 pandemic, as it provides insights into the unique challenges faced by developing countries in responding to the crisis. As Ayittey (1992) notes, Third World countries often lack the resources and infrastructure necessary to respond effectively to global crises, such as pandemics. This is particularly true in the case of Covid-19, where access to healthcare, testing, and protective equipment has been a major challenge in many developing countries (Takahashi, 2020). Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the unequal distribution of power and resources between developed and developing countries (Gopinath, 2020). As a result, responses to the pandemic have varied significantly between different regions, with developing countries facing unique challenges in responding to the crisis (Takahashi, 2020).

Understanding the Third World perspective is also important for identifying strategies for responding effectively to future pandemics. Developing countries have a unique set of needs and challenges that must be taken into account when developing policies and interventions aimed at containing the spread of infectious diseases (Gopinath, 2020). By taking into account the perspectives of developing countries, policymakers and researchers can develop more effective and sustainable solutions to global health crises.

In conclusion, understanding the Third World perspective is essential for analyzing the Covid-19 pandemic and developing effective responses to global health crises. By taking into account the unique challenges and needs of developing countries, policymakers and researchers can develop more equitable and sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by pandemics like Covid-19.

To properly interrogate the subject matter of our research, we need to understand the economic implications of Covid-19 on Nigeria's Third World economy, and how the country responded to the crisis. It is also necessary to examine how the global political economy influenced Nigeria's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also good to note the long-term

implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on Nigeria's economic and political development, and what policies can be implemented to mitigate these effects.

Literature Review

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the global political economy, with developing countries facing unique challenges in responding to the crisis. As a Third World country, Nigeria has been particularly affected by the pandemic, with implications for the country's economic and political development.

Economic Implications

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant economic implications for Nigeria, with the country's GDP growth decline by 3.4% in 2020 as projected by World Bank, (World Bank, 2020). This decline is due to the pandemic's impact on Nigeria's key economic sectors, including oil production, agriculture, and manufacturing. The pandemic has also affected Nigeria's foreign investment and trade, with a decline in both due to global economic uncertainty (Ezike, 2021).

Political Implications

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant political implications for Nigeria as well, with changes in government policies and political stability. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of effective governance and political leadership, as well as the need for transparency and accountability in decision-making (World Health Organization, 2020).

Global Political Economy

The global political economy has played a significant role in shaping Nigeria's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nigeria's relationship with international organizations such as the IMF and World Bank has influenced the country's economic policies and stimulus measures (Ezike, 2021). The pandemic has also highlighted the unequal distribution of power and resources between developed and developing countries, with developing countries facing unique challenges in responding to the crisis (Takahashi, 2020).

Public Health Measures

Nigeria's response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been shaped by a variety of factors, including its public health measures. The country has implemented a range of measures, including lockdowns, social distancing, and contact tracing, to limit the spread of the virus (Oleribe et al., 2020). However, the country's healthcare system has faced significant challenges in responding to the pandemic, including a lack of resources and infrastructure (Ibem, 2020).

Economic Policies

Nigeria's economic policies have also played a significant role in the country's response to the pandemic. The government has implemented a range of stimulus measures, including tax relief, loan forbearance, and financial support for small businesses (Ezike, 2021). However, the effectiveness of these policies has been limited by challenges such as corruption and a lack of transparency (World Health Organization, 2020).

Long-Term Implications

The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have significant long-term implications for Nigeria's economic and political development. The pandemic has highlighted the need for investments in healthcare infrastructure and social protection programs (Oleribe et al., 2020). It has also

underscored the importance of diversifying Nigeria's economy and reducing its dependence on oil production (Ibem, 2020).

Challenges and Opportunities

While the Covid-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges for Nigeria, it has also created opportunities for the country to address longstanding issues such as poverty, inequality, and political instability (World Health Organization, 2020). The pandemic has highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration at both the national and international levels in responding to global health crises.

Previous studies have shown that pandemics can have significant impacts on the global political economy, ranging from economic disruption to changes in international relations and governance structures. Barry Eichengreen and Kevin O'Rourke examined the impact of the 1918 flu pandemic on the global economy. They found that the pandemic led to a significant decline in international trade and financial flows, as well as a shift in economic power from Europe to the United States. The study suggests that the pandemic contributed to the economic and political instability of the interwar period (Eichengreen and O'Rourke, 2010).

Another study by Jeffrey Sachs and others examined the economic impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. They found out that the epidemic had significant economic effects, including reduced productivity, increased health care costs, and a decline in foreign investment. The study suggests that pandemics can have long-lasting economic effects, particularly in countries with weak health care systems (Sachs et al., 2006). More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has also had significant impacts on the global political economy. A study by the World Bank revealed that the pandemic led to a global recession, with particularly severe impacts on low-income countries and vulnerable populations. The study suggests that the pandemic highlights the need for greater global cooperation and investment in health care systems (World Bank, 2021). Overall, these studies suggest that pandemics can have significant impacts on the global political economy, with effects ranging from economic disruption to changes in international relations and governance structures.

Furthermore, pandemics can also exacerbate pre-existing political and social tensions, as seen in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has led to increased nationalism, border closures, and disputes over vaccine distribution, highlighting the need for greater global cooperation and multilateralism (Bollyky et al., 2021). Another impact of pandemics on the global political economy is the shift in economic sectors and patterns of consumption. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the trend towards digitalization and e-commerce, while traditional industries such as tourism and hospitality have been severely impacted (UNCTAD, 2020). This shift can have long-lasting effects on the global economy and may require policy adjustments to address the changing economic landscape.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the global political economy, with developing countries facing unique challenges in responding to the crisis. As a Third World country, Nigeria has been particularly affected by the pandemic, with implications for the country's economic and political development. The existing research highlights the importance of understanding the Third World perspective in analyzing the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on Nigeria. While the pandemic has presented significant challenges for Nigeria, it has also created opportunities for the country to address longstanding issues such as poverty, inequality, and political instability. Moving forward, policymakers and researchers should consider investing in healthcare infrastructure and social protection programs, diversifying Nigeria's economy, and improving transparency and accountability in

decision-making to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. Additionally, developing effective governance and political leadership, and strengthening Nigeria's relationship with international organizations such as the IMF and World Bank could help address the long-term implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on Nigeria's economic and political development.

METHODOLOGY

Secondary data collection system was applied in the course of this research work, materials for this study was from sources such as government reports, policy documents, academic articles, and media reports. These sources provided context and background information on the research topic. Descriptive data analysis was used to analyze the data collected for this study. This approach enabled us to explore and analyze the impact of the global political economy on the COVID-19 pandemic from a third world.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Dependency theory and Postcolonial Theory were adopted as tools of analysis to analyze the impact of pandemics on Third World countries in this work. According to Dependency theory, Third World countries are dependent on the global North for trade and investment, and as such are vulnerable to economic shocks such as pandemics (Frank, 1967). Dependency theory argues that Third World countries must reduce their dependence on the global North and develop their own economies in order to achieve sustainable economic growth.

The Third World perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic can be best understood through the lens of critical international political economy (CIPE) and postcolonial theory. CIPE emphasizes the role of power relations and inequalities in shaping global economic systems, while postcolonial theory seeks to understand how colonialism and imperialism continue to shape contemporary global politics.

One key aspect of the Third World perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic is the unequal distribution of resources and access to healthcare. As Keshab Das argues, "the pandemic has exposed the limitations and inequities of a global economic order that prioritizes profit over human well-being, leaving the vast majority of people in the Global South without access to basic healthcare and social protection" (Das, 2021, p. 27). This is a core concern of CIPE, which emphasizes how global economic systems perpetuate inequalities and limit access to resources for marginalized populations.

Postcolonial theory is also relevant for understanding the Third World perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic. As Arjun Appadurai (2020) argues, "the pandemic has exposed the continuing legacies of colonialism and imperialism, as well as the persistence of global inequalities that are shaped by historical power relations". Postcolonial theory seeks to understand how historical power relations continue to shape contemporary global politics, including access to resources and healthcare.

Overall, a theoretical framework that combines CIPE and postcolonial theory is best suited for understanding the Third World perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic. This framework emphasizes the role of power relations and inequalities in shaping global economic systems, while also acknowledging the ongoing legacies of colonialism and imperialism in shaping contemporary global politics.

The theoretical framework that combines Critical International Political Economy (CIPE) and postcolonial theory is known as Global Political Economy (GPE). GPE is an interdisciplinary

approach that seeks to understand the complex interplay between economic and political factors in shaping global inequalities and power relations. GPE draws on CIPE to analyze the role of global economic systems and structures in perpetuating inequalities, and on postcolonial theory to examine how historical power relations continue to shape contemporary global politics (Lacher & Mert, 2020). GPE is particularly suitable for analyzing the Third World perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic because it provides a framework for understanding how global economic systems and power relations shape access to healthcare and other resources.

The Global Political Economy of Covid-19

The global political economy of Covid-19 is a complex issue that requires a multidisciplinary approach. The pandemic has affected economies worldwide and has exposed the vulnerabilities and inequalities in the global economic system (Akyüz, 2020). One of the main impacts of Covid-19 has been on global supply chains, which have been disrupted due to the closure of borders and the lockdown measures imposed by governments (UNCTAD, 2020). This has had a significant impact on developing countries that rely heavily on exports, particularly in the manufacturing sector (UNCTAD, 2020).

Furthermore, Covid-19 has exposed the weaknesses of the international financial system, with many developing countries facing difficulties in servicing their debts (Akyüz, 2020). The pandemic has also highlighted the need for greater international cooperation and solidarity in addressing global health crises (Fidler, 2020). Overall, the global political economy of Covid-19 requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the economic, social, and political dimensions of the pandemic. It requires international cooperation and solidarity to address the systemic issues that have been exposed by the pandemic (Akyüz, 2020; Fidler, 2020; UNCTAD, 2020).

The global political economy of Covid-19 is a multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive analysis of its economic, social, and political dimensions. The pandemic has impacted economies worldwide, exposing the vulnerabilities and inequalities in the global economic system (Akyüz, 2020). Developing countries have been particularly affected by the pandemic due to their dependence on exports, which have been disrupted by the closure of borders and lockdown measures (UNCTAD, 2020). In addition to the economic impacts, Covid-19 has highlighted the weaknesses of the international financial system, with many developing countries facing difficulties in servicing their debts (Akyüz, 2020). The pandemic has also exposed the lack of preparedness and cooperation in addressing global health crises, emphasizing the need for greater international solidarity and cooperation (Fidler, 2020). Akyüz (2020) emphasizes the need for international cooperation and solidarity to address the systemic issues exposed by the pandemic. The author argues that policymakers and stakeholders must work together to build a more resilient global economic system that takes into account the needs of developing countries.

Similarly, Fidler (2020) argues that Covid-19 is a test for global health diplomacy and emphasizes the need for a coordinated international response to address the health impacts of the pandemic. UNCTAD (2020) proposes a "whatever it takes" program to address the economic impacts of Covid-19 on developing countries. The program includes debt relief, fiscal and monetary stimulus, and measures to support the most vulnerable populations. The authors argue that such measures are necessary to prevent a humanitarian and economic crisis in developing countries.

The Impact of Covid-19 on the Global Economy and Trade Relations

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the global economy and trade relations, with far-reaching consequences for businesses, workers, and governments around the world. The pandemic has disrupted global supply chains, caused widespread economic downturns, and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities within and between countries (OECD, 2020). One of the most visible impacts of the pandemic has been the disruption of global trade, with border closures and lockdown measures disrupting supply chains and causing shortages of essential goods (WTO, 2020). The World Trade Organization (WTO) predicts that global trade will decline by between 13% and 32% in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, with developing countries particularly affected (WTO, 2020).

Moreover, the pandemic has caused significant economic losses for many countries, particularly those heavily reliant on exports, tourism, and other sectors that have been severely impacted by the pandemic (Akyüz, 2020). Many countries have also experienced a decline in foreign investment, with businesses and investors adopting a more cautious approach due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic (UNCTAD, 2020). The pandemic has also highlighted pre-existing inequalities within and between countries, with the most vulnerable populations, including low-wage workers and those in the informal sector, particularly affected (ILO, 2020). Moreover, the pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of the international financial system, with many developing countries facing difficulties in servicing their debts (Akyüz, 2020).

In response to the economic impacts of the pandemic, governments and international organizations have implemented various measures, including fiscal and monetary stimulus packages, debt relief programs, and measures to support the most vulnerable populations (UNCTAD, 2020). However, the effectiveness of these measures has varied, and there is a need for more comprehensive and coordinated international action to address the systemic issues exposed by the pandemic (Akyüz, 2020).

The Role of International Organizations in Addressing the Pandemic

International organizations have played a crucial role in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, providing coordination, expertise, and resources to support national and regional responses to the crisis. In particular, the World Health Organization (WHO) has played a central role in leading the global response to the pandemic, providing guidance on measures to prevent the spread of the virus and coordinating efforts to develop vaccines and treatments (WHO, 2020). The United Nations (UN) and its various agencies have also played an important role in addressing the pandemic, providing support for vulnerable populations and advocating for a coordinated international response to the crisis (UN, 2020). The UN has emphasized the need for solidarity and international cooperation to address the pandemic, highlighting the importance of ensuring equitable access to vaccines and treatments for all countries (UN, 2020).

Moreover, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have provided financial support to developing countries affected by the pandemic, including emergency funding and debt relief programs (World Bank, 2020; IMF, 2020). These organizations have also called for greater international cooperation to address the economic impacts of the pandemic, emphasizing the need for coordinated fiscal and monetary policies to support recovery efforts (IMF, 2020). In addition, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has played a role in addressing the pandemic by providing guidance on trade-related measures to address the crisis and promoting cooperation between countries to ensure the continued flow of essential goods and services (WTO, 2020).

Despite these efforts, there have been criticisms of the international response to the pandemic, with some arguing that the response has been insufficiently coordinated or that wealthier countries have not done enough to support developing countries (Kapoor, 2020). Nevertheless, international organizations have played a critical role in addressing the pandemic, highlighting the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in addressing global crises.

The Implications of Covid-19 for Third World Countries

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant implications for Third World countries, particularly in terms of their economic and social development. The pandemic has exposed existing inequalities and vulnerabilities in these countries, highlighting the need for greater investment in healthcare, social protection, and economic diversification. One of the most immediate impacts of the pandemic has been on the health systems of these countries, which have often been under-resourced and ill-equipped to deal with the scale of the crisis (Bloom et al., 2021). The pandemic has also disrupted essential health services, including routine immunizations and treatments for other diseases, leading to increased morbidity and mortality (WHO, 2020).

Moreover, the pandemic has had significant economic impacts on Third World countries, which have been hit hard by disruptions in global trade and investment flows (UNCTAD, 2020). The pandemic has led to a significant decline in commodity prices and reduced demand for exports from these countries, leading to a sharp decline in economic growth and rising debt levels (World Bank, 2021). Furthermore, the pandemic has highlighted the need for greater investment in social protection systems, particularly in countries with high levels of poverty and inequality (UNDP, 2020). The pandemic has led to a sharp increase in unemployment and income inequality, exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities in these countries.

Despite these challenges, the pandemic has also provided an opportunity for Third World countries to rethink their development strategies and invest in more sustainable and resilient economic models (UNCTAD, 2020). The pandemic has highlighted the importance of investing in healthcare, education, and social protection systems to ensure greater resilience in the face of future crises.

THIRD WORLD PERSPECTIVES ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Third World countries have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic due to their weaker healthcare systems, high levels of poverty, and limited access to resources and technology (Kawachi et al., 2021). One of the main challenges faced by Third World countries is the lack of access to vaccines, as many wealthy countries monopolized the global vaccine supply (Chen et al., 2021). This led to inequitable distribution of vaccines, with many Third World countries facing vaccine shortages and delays in their vaccination programs.

Furthermore, the pandemic has highlighted the need for greater investment in healthcare infrastructure and resources in Third World countries (Mackintosh et al., 2021). Many countries in the Third World lack adequate healthcare facilities, medical equipment, and trained healthcare professionals, which has made it difficult to respond effectively to the pandemic. The pandemic has also had significant economic impacts on Third World countries, which have been hit hard by disruptions in global trade and investment flows (UNCTAD, 2020). The pandemic has led to a significant decline in commodity prices and reduced demand for exports from these countries, leading to a sharp decline in economic growth and rising debt levels (World Bank, 2021).

In addition, the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities and vulnerabilities in Third World countries, particularly in terms of access to education, social protection, and economic opportunities (UNDP, 2020). The pandemic has led to a sharp increase in poverty and inequality, exacerbating existing social and economic disparities. Despite these challenges, there have been some positive developments in the response to the pandemic in Third World countries. For example, many countries have implemented innovative and low-cost solutions, such as community-based testing and contact tracing programs, to mitigate the spread of the virus (Ahmed et al., 2021). In addition, some Third World countries have taken steps to invest in healthcare and social protection systems, recognizing the need for greater resilience in the face of future crises.

Responses of Third World Governments and Civil Society to the Covid-19 Pandemic

The responses of Third World governments and civil society to the Covid-19 pandemic have varied depending on the country and region.

In many Third World countries, governments have implemented lockdowns, curfews, and other restrictions on movement and gatherings to control the spread of the virus (Mbow et al., 2021). Some governments have also implemented mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing, and hygiene protocols. However, these measures have been difficult to enforce in many contexts, particularly in overcrowded urban areas and informal settlements where physical distancing is a challenge. In addition to government responses, civil society has played a crucial role in responding to the pandemic in Third World countries. For example, community-based organizations, religious groups, and NGOs have played key roles in providing food, shelter, and other essential services to vulnerable populations (Sharma et al., 2021). Civil society has also been instrumental in raising awareness about the pandemic and promoting behavioral change, such as mask-wearing and hand-washing and distancing in the public places like banks, places of worships, market places etc.

Moreover, some Third World countries have implemented innovative and low-cost solutions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. For example, some countries have established community-based testing and contact tracing programs (Ahmed et al., 2021). Other countries have used mobile technology to provide information and services related to Covid-19, such as symptom checking and telemedicine consultations. Despite these responses, there have also been challenges and limitations. For example, many Third World countries have faced shortages of medical equipment, such as ventilators and personal protective equipment (PPE) (UNDP, 2020). In addition, there have been concerns about corruption and mismanagement of resources in some countries, which has hindered the response to the pandemic.

Nigeria, like many other Third World countries, experienced the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Nigerian government and civil society organizations played a crucial role in responding to the pandemic. In this section, we will discuss some of the key government agencies and civil society organizations that participated actively during the pandemic and the results of their efforts. One of the key government agencies that played a critical role in the Nigerian Covid-19 response is the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). The NCDC is responsible for leading the country's public health response to infectious disease outbreaks. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the NCDC provided technical guidance and support to the federal and state governments in Nigeria. It also led efforts in surveillance, case management, and laboratory diagnostics (NCDC, 2020).

In addition to the NCDC, other government agencies that participated actively in the Covid-19 response include the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Primary Health Care

Development Agency, and the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19. These agencies worked together to develop and implement public health policies and interventions to control the spread of the virus (Otu et al., 2020). Furthermore, civil society organizations also played crucial roles in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria. For example, the Coalition Against COVID-19 (CACOVID) is a private sector-led initiative that mobilized resources and provided support to the government's response efforts. CACOVID donated medical equipment and supplies, provided food and essential items to vulnerable populations, and supported the establishment of isolation and treatment centers across the country (CACOVID, 2021).

In addition to CACOVID, other civil society organizations such as the Nigeria Red Cross Society, the Women's Aid Collective, and the Wellbeing Foundation Africa also provided support to the Covid-19 response efforts. These organizations provided services such as health education, community outreach, and psychosocial support to affected populations (Adegboye et al., 2020). Overall, the Nigerian government and civil society organizations' efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic had some positive results. For example, the country established a network of testing centers, developed guidelines for case management and infection prevention and control, and established isolation and treatment centers across the country. Additionally, the efforts of civil society organizations helped to increase public awareness about the pandemic and promote behavioral change. However, there were also some challenges and limitations, including shortages of medical equipment, limited testing capacity, and inadequate funding for the response (Otu et al., 2020).

SUMMARY

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the global economy, trade relations, and socio-economic conditions, particularly in Third World countries. The pandemic has disrupted economic activities, causing job losses and increased poverty levels. The education sector has also been disrupted, with millions of students affected by school closures. The pandemic has exposed the existing inequalities in the health care system, which was struggling even before the pandemic. The role of international organizations in addressing the pandemic has been crucial, but more needs to be done to support Third World countries in their recovery and sustainable development. Despite the challenges, Third World governments and civil society organizations have played a vital role in responding to the pandemic, implementing measures to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact on the population. It is crucial for stakeholders to prioritize addressing these challenges to support the recovery and sustainable development of Third World populations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Covid-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on Third World countries, highlighting the need for greater investment in healthcare, education, social protection, and sustainable economic development. While the challenges are significant, there is also an opportunity for Third World countries to rethink their development strategies and build more resilient and equitable societies.

FINDINGS

In the course of this study, the following findings were made:

1. That COVID-19 had a significant impact on the global economy, trade relations, and socio-economic conditions, particularly in Third World countries, Nigeria inclusive.
2. It caused a great disruption in the global economic activities, causing job losses and increased poverty levels.

3. It caused millions of deaths globally especially in Europe, Asia, North and South America, In Africa South Africa was the worst hit in terms of fatalities. The most affected was the elderly and people with severe health history.
4. The education sector has also been disrupted, with millions of students affected by school closures. The pandemic has exposed the existing inequalities in the health care system, which was struggling even before the pandemic especially in the Third World Countries like Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on countries worldwide, including Third World countries such as Nigeria. Here are some recommendations on how Nigeria can tackle the impacts of COVID-19:

1. Improve Healthcare Infrastructure

Nigeria should invest in its healthcare infrastructure, including increasing the number of hospitals and medical facilities, recruiting and training more healthcare workers, and ensuring the availability of medical equipment and supplies. This will help to strengthen the country's ability to handle future pandemics and other health emergencies.

2. Increase Vaccination Efforts

Nigeria should ramp up its vaccination efforts to ensure that a significant proportion of the population is vaccinated against COVID-19. This will help to prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the severity of illness for those who become infected.

3. Collaboration with International Organizations

Nigeria should work with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) to receive technical and financial assistance to fight COVID-19. Overall, Nigeria needs a comprehensive and coordinated approach to tackle the impacts of COVID-19, focusing on both healthcare and economic measures to support citizens and contain the spread of the virus in the future

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