

X-Raying Post COVID-19 in Relation to Socio-Economy Development in Nigeria: A Review

Jamil Hassan Abdulkareem^{1*}, Abdulmumini Yusuf Ochu², Yusuf Yahaya Miya³, Fatima U. Danyaro⁴ and Kombo Abdullahi Salihu⁵

¹Ministry of Natural Resource Bauchi, Bauchi State Nigeria.

²Environmental and Sanitation Unit Office of the VC Federal University Kashere Gombe State.

³Department of Medical Laboratory, Galaxy College of Health Technology, Bauchi Nigeria.

⁴Dolphin Maria Collage Bauchi, Bauchi State Nigeria.

⁵Department of Environmental Health, School of Health Technology Minna, Niger State Nigeria.

*Correspondence:

Jamil Hassan Abdulkareem, Ministry of Natural Resource Bauchi, Bauchi State Nigeria.

Received: 04 Jun 2024; Accepted: 22 Jul 2024; Published: 31 Jul 2024

Citation: Jamil Hassan Abdulkareem, Abdulmumini Yusuf Ochu, Yusuf Yahaya Miya, et al. X-Raying Post COVID-19 in Relation to Socio-Economy Development in Nigeria: A Review. Glob J Emerg Crit Care Med. 2024; 1(1); 1-5.

ABSTRACT

It is on record that mobility restriction measures taken to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, in the form of local and global lock downs, travel restrictions and cancelation etc., did directly and indirectly strain and retards the global economy. In addition, for the very first time, Nigeria government removed fuel (petroleum) subsidy in 2023 which resulted to decline in number of vehicle on the Nigerian road while small, and middle scales businesses operator that utilized petroleum to fuel their generator resort to use solar energy, however this development lead to decrease in greenhouse emission into atmosphere thereby providing relatively clean atmosphere. Consequently, the Nigerian also witness increase in poverty rate due to COVID-19 episode couple with bad governance in the country, this development give birth to raise in crime rate as well as resulted into mass killing of innocent citizen of the country.

Keywords

Economy, Environment, Poverty and Crime, Nigeria.

Introduction

Experts suggest that Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and market with a population of 200 million people, with threatening economic spells in the near future, in view of her own peculiar circumstances. The situation is compounded by the economic impact of the pandemic and the consequential partial or wholesale shutdown of several of its cities and states. Couple with recent removal of fuel subsidy which has exhibit serious challenge to Nigeria small and middle scale businesses which in turn increase the level of poverty in the country [1]. The perennial affliction of the Nigerian economy is its overdependence on a single commodity, petroleum, as a source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenue. This is a malady that Nigerian economic planners have been unable to wean the country from. The state depends on petroleum

for 90 per cent of its export earnings and for between 60 per cent and 80 per cent (depending on the performance of the oil market within any given year) of its revenues [2].

Millions people around the globe have been cooped up indoors more so the natural world outside has continued to reverberation on and the natural world is benefiting from our absence, in the sense that none or little experience of emission in outside world due lockdown episode, rumbles out liberated. Notoriously dirty, the waterways and rivers in the world look cleaner, the air fresher, the smog gone, the haze dispersed and the wildlife has filled the open spaces. [3]. Furthermore, the era of post COVID-19 in Nigeria witness unprecedented change to our environment with removal of fuel subsidy which force many Nigerian motorist resulted to parked their cars, as well small, and middle scale businesses whom operated generator to power their business also resort to use of solar energy is plus to environmental sustainability.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that the outdoor air pollution kills 7 million people each year worldwide and more than 80% urban population is exposed to unhealthy air [4]. Since people stayed home, these last few months have paved significant improvement in air quality, similarly with removal fuel subsidy in Nigeria witness reduction in carbon dioxide emission and greenhouse gases especially in city like Kano, Lagos Port Harcourt and Abuja, these will significantly reduce morbidity and mortality from outdoor air pollution.

Similarly fuel subsidy removal has accomplished with increase in poverty in Nigeria due increase commodity with no increase in workers' salaries with already existing recession and devaluation of naira. "The impact of this is especially hard on poor and vulnerable citizens. Consequently, the current policies by Nigeria government have created intense pressures on cost of living, subjected Nigerians into hardship, with 104 million now living below the poverty line. The World Bank report also indicated that the number of poor people in Nigeria had grown from 95 million in 2021 to 100 million in 2022, while the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, NBS, indicated that the figure was 82.9 million in 2019 and 85.2 million in 2020. 'Inflation rate remains at record high levels for Nigeria, 27.3 per cent Year-on-Year, in October 2023, partly driven by the one-off price impacts of the removal of the gasoline subsidy [5].

In the other hand crime rate in Nigeria post a significance challenges to Nigerian, consequently it is quite disheartening to see young men of school age involved in various crimes. Education in Nigeria has been so much degraded that most youths view it as a waste of money, time and resources. Due to incessant strikes and other bottlenecks in the high institutions, majority of the students have embraced cybercrimes, internet fraud (Yahoo plus) and kidnapping. The university professors on the other hand are used by the incumbent government to perpetuate electoral fraud and announcement of election results marred by irregularities [6].

In the recent time an article published by Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organized Crime (Enact) Project reveal that the crime index in Africa in 2023 among 10 countries with highest crime rate, ranks Nigeria second, with Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) topping the continental charts when it comes to the scourge of organised crime. "Over the past five years, criminality across Africa has steadily increased and shows no sign of slowing down. Human trafficking remains a serious challenge; the cocaine markets have spiked in East, West and Southern Africa; and financial crimes are endemic in many regions," the report says [7].

Material and Methods

The research for this review was conducted through the period of the study (January to June 2024) which was directed toward x-raying post COVID-19 development in Nigeria, the study seeks to utilized basically the secondary data from Journals, report articles, Nigerian daily and as following trending issues

in Nigeria. This review was carried out according to a method (York Methodology) outlined by Arksey and O'Malley 2005 from the University of York, United Kingdom. This study adopted a qualitative approach, so as to adequately describe the study aims and objectives. Data was collected from (NMDPRA), (World Bank), Nigerian Newspaper, Journals and other related articles and report that met inclusion criteria for this study were selected and reviewed as well. The inclusion criterion was all the data related to Post COVID-19 issues related Air pollution, economy, poverty and crime in Nigeria.

Results and Discussion

Economic trajectory in Nigerian

With the withdrawal lockdown around the global, Nigeria is not exception, Nigeria had been in search of ways of stanching the economic decline before COVID-19 pandemic forced the country, like most other countries across the world, into a lockdown that brought the economy to a halt since March 2020, and would most which end at some point in October to November 2020, with 2170 confirmed cases and 68 deaths as of 1st of May, when Nigeria must push policies that could brighten the post-pandemic outlook. Unfolding global realities now give Nigeria a chance to leverage its vast public assets to raise external liquidity thresholds enough to switch from contraction to expansion by adopting securitization privatization, liberalization, commercialization policies. Global liquidity glut has seen capital inflows to developing countries double in the last decade and Nigeria is well-placed to get a share of that [8].

It indeed the post COVID-19 scenario not only affected Nigeria economic but rather affected large scale, middle and small scale businesses as well as individual per capital income, consequently this development lead liquidation some of individual business owner especially small scale businesses resulting to psychological trauma to some of people, even though federal intervene in some aspect to ensure.

The palliatives however come with different requirements which some SMEs are unable to meet in view of their current operating model. Interestingly, most SMEs have what it takes to take advantage of these palliatives but their priority to scale-up customer-based and generate revenue often mean less focus on other key areas of the business. Hence, keeping proper records of business transactions, tax compliance, financial statement audit, properly structuring the business, online visibility, liquidity/ cashflow management, business continuity and in some cases registration with CAC are reasons why many SMEs are unable to meet prescribed conditions for credit, investment and palliatives [9].

Fuel Subsidy (Petroleum) Removal

According to Premium Time, the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) in 2023 said the country's daily consumption of petrol has drastically reduced following the removal of subsidy by the Federal Government. The daily consumption figure now stood at 48.4

million litres, down from the 66.9 million liters per day in the previous regime Nairametric Survey, [10]. With this development, Nigeria is expected to drastically reduce her use of petrol product and further reduce emission of greenhouse gases from automobile, generators which will slightly improve environmental sustainability with the view to reduce impact of climate change. However, showing a 28% decline in the country's daily fossil fuel consumption by Reuters according to the report given by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), allegedly revealed that the decline in consumption results can be ascribed to the illicit smuggling of petroleum products to neighboring countries like Cameroon, Chad, Benin Republic and Niger. Therefore, it is clear that merely reforming or eliminating fossil fuel subsidies will not suffice for a sustained reduction in emissions. Thus, affected countries must ensure they implement measures that completely eliminate fuel subsidies, remove subsidies from fossil fuel prices through proper taxation, potentially reducing global emissions and establish effective processes that support the use of low-carbon petroleum products or make a complete switch to clean energy and green energy [10]. Governments can reduce emission through stronger policies that encourage low greenhouse gas emissions while also conserving resources and increasing revenue. These outcomes are crucial for national pandemic response and recovery measures, [8]. It's obviously that fuel subsidy in Nigeria has drastically reduce environmental pollution why because statistic from the above shows that there is decrease in air pollution, number of vehicle flying our has reduce small scale to businesses and household that operate generator for purpose of providing energy has turned use of solar energy.

Increase in Poverty Rate

Nigeria Bureau of Statistics reveal that 40.1 per cent (i.e., 82.9 million) of the total Population are vulnerable. This is validated by the World Bank [11] that with 4 in 10 Nigerians living below the national poverty line, about 100 million Nigerians are in extreme poverty and subjected to lack of education, health care facility, good road network, sanitation, safe drinking water and electricity. Consequently, Nigerian was rank as poverty capital of world [12,13]. This development led to prevalence of phenomena such increase crime rate, neonatal and infant mortality, out of school children, inequality, corruption, unemployment, and mental health. Shortly, after the declaration of Nigeria as poverty capital in 2018, there was an outbreak of Coronavirus disease in Wuhan, China, on December 8, 019 – which was declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020, and has since spread to over114 countries [14]. This situation further increase level of poverty in Nigeria as the result of the lockdown enforce in the country with the view contain the spread of the infections thereby restriction of people who usually go out on daily basis to source for money with the view to take of their family.

Meanwhile, poverty eradication, and sustained, economic growth has been a challenge for developing countries most importantly sub-Saharan African. This is the reason why international

community such World Bank, international monetary fund and other communities emphases on sustainable development goals critical to Africa and global development. Africa was off track in achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals that expired in 2015, [15].

Its indeed obvious the economic crisis that West Africa (to which Nigeria belongs) for example, poverty; restriction to access affordable and good-quality health care services, gender equality; low quality of education; lack of sustainable water; non- inclusive growth; and lack of social protection for the poor and vulnerable, are salient issues the member countries are faced with Economic Commission for Africa, 2015. It is unarguably factual that poverty has been massive, pervasive and engulfs a large proportion of Nigerian society.

This results in hunger, ignorance, malnutrition, disease, unemployment, poor access to credit facilities and low life expectancy as well as a general level of human hopelessness. In currently Nigeria is experiencing worsening poverty due increase price of food stuff and other commodity which necessity of life, this development result public health problem in the country [16,17].

Raised in Crime rate

“With many younger people of about 70% of under 35 years of age population of the country turn towards criminality and terrorism to earn a living poverty as result of inequality, injustice nepotism and a lack of economic opportunity are drivers, to confer status, and to survive. Extensive qualitative research has established a clear causal link between poverty and insecurity [18].”

One of the serious threat in Nigeria is the risk of mass killings, or genocide has been witness in recent years for examples boko haram mass killing in many local government area in North East Nigeria as well banditry attack in North West resulting mass killing. As of the end of 2023, Nigeria was the fifth country in Africa with the highest risk of genocide and the twelfth worldwide. This risk is influenced by a population of over 200 million people, a high child mortality rate, ongoing battle-related deaths, the country's own history of mass killing, and its ethnic fractionalization. Political instability, citizen alienation, terrorism and violence define the Nigerian crime scene. Nigeria has recently been included among the countries with the least peace in the world, according to the Global Peace Index [19].

Nigerian population are increasingly living in fear and concerned for their safety and that of their families. More so current cost of commodity in the country has cause untold hardship on over 90 percent low and middle income earners in the country and this development further push people toward involving in criminal activities [20]. Nigeria was ranked third after South African and Angola respectively, with a crime index of 66.2, faces a complex set of challenges, including insurgency, cybercrime, kidnappings, and communal clashes. The country's vast population, economic

disparities, and inadequate law enforcement infrastructure exacerbate the situation, requiring targeted interventions.

10 African countries with the highest crime index in 2024

Crime Index by African country

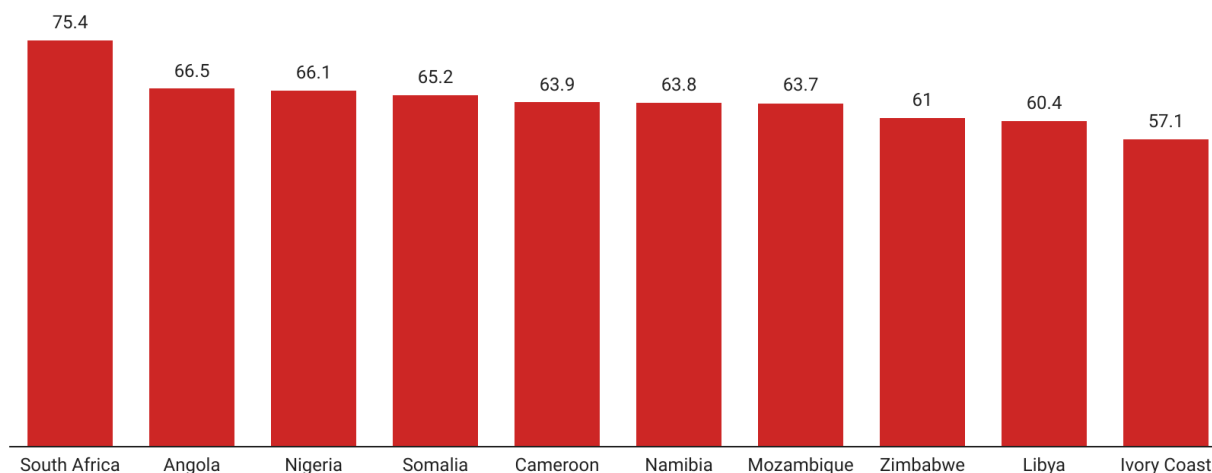


Chart: BusinessDay • Source: Numbeo • Created with Datawrapper

(Source: Business Day Nigeria, 2024)

References

1. Olumide Adesina, 'Nigeria's Bonny Light hits \$12, yet nobody is buying', Nairametrics. 18; 2020. <https://nairametrics.com/2020/04/18/nigerias-bonny-light-hits-12-yet-nobody-is-buy>.
2. Elisabeth Braw, 'China is Bargain Hunting – And Western Security Is at Risk', Foreign Policy. 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/15/china-is-Bargain-hunting-and-western-security-is-at-risk>.
3. NASA-National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA Satellite Offers Urban Carbon Dioxide Insights. <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2957/nasa-satellite-offers-Urban-carbon-dioxide>. 2020.
4. WHO-World Health Organization (2020). Air pollution. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution>. 2024.
5. Vanguard Newspaper (2024). Economy Reforms: Nigeria under Poverty Line Rise <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/12/nigerians-under-poverty-line-rise-to-104m-World-bank/> 2024.
6. Guardian Nigeria Rising Crime Rate in Nigeria Available From <https://guardian.ng/rising-crime-rate-in-nigeria-2023>.
7. Leadership News Nigeria Nigeria Ranks Second in African On Organised Crime: Available From <https://leadership.ng/nigeria-ranks-second-in-africa-on-organised-crime-index-2023>.
8. Proshare Economy (2020). Nigeria's Post COVID-19 Economic Outlook: Available From <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&ul=https://proshare.co/articles/nigerias-post-covid-19-economic-outlook>. 2024.
9. PWC (2020) Assets COVID19 focus on SMES, Available from <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/assets/pdf/covid19-focus-on-smes>. [Accessed-on-17-2024].
10. Nairametric Survey. Fuel Price: Nigerians are buying less generators, switching to solar – Traders: Available From <https://nairametrics.com/2023/07/22/fuel-subsidy-removal-Leads-to-sharp-decline-in-generator-sales-across-nigeria-traders>. 2023.
11. World Bank Nigeria's Economy Faces Worst Recession in Four Decades, says New World Bank Report. Press Release No. 2020/154/AFR. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/pressrelease/2020/06/25/nigerias-economy-faces-worst-recession-in-four-decades-says-new-world-bank-report>. 2020.
12. Banjo D. How corruption, bad governance helped make Nigeria the poverty capital of The world. 18th International Anti-Corruption Conference. 2019.
13. Kazeem Y. Nigeria has become the poverty capital of the world. Quartz Africa. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/africa/1313380/nigerias-has-the-highest-Rate-of-Extreme-poverty-globally/>. 2018.
14. Anjorin AA. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic: A review and an Update on cases in Africa. Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine. 2020; 13:199-203.
15. Kindra J, Wasswa-Mugambwa J. MDGs: An assessment of Africa's progress. Africa Renewal. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2015/mdgs-assessment-Africa%E2%80%99s-progress>. 2015.

-
16. Akinyetun TS. Nigeria and oil production: Lessons for future. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development*. 2016; 3: 19-24.
 17. Omoyibo KU. Leadership, governance, and poverty in Nigeria. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*. 2013; 4: 29-36.
 18. Leadership News Nigeria Nigeria Ranks Second in African On Organised Crime: Available from <https://leadership.ng/nigeria-ranks-second-in-africa-on-organised-crime-index-2023>.
 19. Statista (2023) Crime in Nigeria Statistics and Fact: Available from <https://www.statista.com/topics/7491/crime-in-nigeria/> [Accessed on 30 June 2024]
 20. The Sun Nigeria (2023) Carrying the Nigeria Across: Available From <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=>
 21. <https://sunnewsonline.com/carrying-the-nigerian>