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**COVID-19, LEARNING & DIVIDENDS**

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## COVID-19, LEARNING & DIVIDENDS

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### Abstract

The era of coronavirus pandemic (November 2019 to June 2020) has been a traumatic period for all countries around the globe. It was a very sober period because the virus is a novel one, and mortality and infection rates were on very rapid increase while scientists battled with treatment measures as well as vaccine discoveries to quell the pandemonium. The home front and life style in general changed, while the big question is, was there a benefit? People generally embraced virtual meetings to be able to interact and move on with life. The 16 Plus school in Lagos Nigeria was not left out of these meetings, as such, during one of such virtual meetings for the end of semester assembly, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, we presented this paper to 65 members of staff, 10 parents and 25 graduating students (age 16 and above) with an objective to identify some benefits of the pandemic period. Some methods that were adopted to extract information for this paper include google search of periodicals. It is really nice to note that despite all odds, 'lemonades were made from lemons' in covid-19 era.

**Key words:** *Coronavirus, Covid-19, Dividends, Learning.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is an acronym for CoronaVirus 2019, it is a novel infectious disease that has left the Globe helpless and very sober, as such, it is a pandemic. The world has not recorded an invisible enemy as this ever before and it has led to a lockdown in all aspects of human existence. Economies have gone into recession as a result of inactivity in businesses. Unfortunately, the Education sector has been hit as well. However, in the thoughts of Claes Jonasson (a writer & novelist), and to indicate optimism versus pessimism respectively, it may be quite optimistic to view a cup half full than empty (Jonasson, 2018), and so the menace of Covid-19 may have awoken the digital advantage in Education.

In response to the growing health concerns about Covid-19, on March 20, 2020, the West African Examination Council (WAEC) suspended the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) for school candidates, 2020, earlier scheduled to commence on April 6, 2020 (Ewuzie, 2020). In Nigeria, and all around Africa (Ghana, Gambia, Liberia & Sierra Leone), our children have had to undergo online coaching to be able to stay connected with the classroom learning they had before Covid-19.

## 2.0 DISCUSSIONS

Online applications for International English Language Testing System (IELTS) & Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) examinations are ongoing and coordinated with safe measures with hope that there is life after covid-19 for our children to study abroad.

Other children of school age have had to become technologically savvy, with or without the help of their parents, to be able to cope with the up-beat of technology.

Until the intervention of Education Minister in Nigeria, some secondary schools were prepared to resume 3<sup>rd</sup> term online.

Parents, have been pressured by lockdown, to spend more time, seemingly quality time with family, as such, discoveries being uncovered of their children to possibly better their life.

Hopefully, in Northern Nigeria, Covid-19 may have eradicated 'Almajiria' institutions. A situation where a young boy or girl is denied formal education, care of family and a sense of wholeness due to an ideology of religious benefits (Nwaze, 2019).

The lockdown has encouraged parents to engage children in house chores as well because domestic staff have had to stay home; Many children are able to cook as well.

Indoor exercises have been introduced through online surveys to improve the psychomotor skills. World Health Organization (WHO) could not clearly assert that the novel Covid-19 is airborne transmitted, but the spike in the rate of infections, caused enough fear to make out-door exercise unattractive for our learning children (Eagle, 2020).

It has been quite interesting for many parents to watch children keep to online schedules, engage in zoom meetings with their school management, attend classes etc.

Some children bond with their parents & siblings by playing indoor games such as chess, monopoly, ludo, scrabble etc., thereby improving their cognitive skills.

How about reading? Some children have read more literature than they ever have. It remains the duty of parents to ensure that such books are worth reading for their age.

Family prayer life has improved because of covid-19; parents are ensuring that the basic faith needs of the children are met. Covid-19 has given us the feeling that there is a supreme being beyond scientific knowledge & political power.

The fear of the virus and the impending need to keep safe, has kept children attentive of the news, especially through their smart phones. They have news channels downloaded only for covid-19, but thankfully, they tend to stay current on other news items affecting the world. It is common knowledge for children now to enumerate safety tips for covid-19. This is important, especially because it is obvious that we may need to learn to live with this virus for a while. In some climes, *STAY HOME* is now *STAY ALERT* (News, 2020).

Spending more time with the children has helped parents to meet the health needs of their children; also, higher levels of hygiene is observed at home and society.

In managing conflict in the family, some parents have been able to improve the behavioral skills of our learning children.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

It is however, important to note that, even though, we do have positive dividends of covid-19, some dividends could be negative and must be tackled in our learning children. Parents must be sensitive to observe and limit what the children do online as some of them could engage in dangerous materials. Some parents have resumed work and may need to leave the children alone with siblings or living relatives who could be violent or abusive, parents must play their role effectively.

### **4.0 CONTRIBUTION**

This paper in no small way, has served as a template for students, staff and parents of the 16 Plus school, Lagos, as well as around Nigeria, to reflect on the Covid-19 pandemic era gains and losses peculiar to them in particular for the good of the society.

### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

Beyond the limits of this paper, at the end of the coronavirus pandemic, there will be sufficient data in the National Bureau of Statistic, to enable further scientific research affecting issues on the virus and its effects on the society.

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