

LADY HELEN CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION - ZOOM SUMMIT -

THEME

***THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON CHILDREN AND FAMILY IN
NIGERIA - NAVIGATING THE SOLUTIONS.***

***PRESENTED BY:
Mrs. Ayandiran Folasade
Principal Social Welfare Officer
Gender Department
Social Development Secretariat***

November 26th, 2020

Introduction



The corona virus (Covid-(19) has spread to all the countries in the world which also includes our dear country Nigeria.

Safe to say to has impacted severally in all areas of life and is at much a health crisis as it is a social and economic dilemma. the unfolding situation has disrupted all aspect of life taking a few example.

Effects of Covid 19



- **Children receiving no education**

Evidence shows that many children did not receive any form of education after the closure of schools in the FCT and other states in Nigeria. Children especially from low income families did not learn again as their parents could not afford to pay for the services of private tutors. Thus resulting to no learning for them until schools reopen.

- **Children receiving no teaching**

Majority of children and adolescents were no longer receiving instructions, feedbacks or interacting with their teachers/lecturers. In the case of students who still have access to their teachers during the lockdown, the female child was disadvantaged in the sense; it was easy for the male child to visit the homes of their teachers.

Effects of Covid 19 – Cont.



- **Children learning less through distance education**

Students study fewer topics or less content through distance learning such as attending online classes, downloading information's from the internet. Children from low income backgrounds could not even afford this luxury. Many children do not have the discipline to learn without someone teaching them.

- **Poverty and hunger**

There has been an upsurge in the reported cases of hunger and poverty in the society. Families that relied on getting paid through day to day jobs now have little or nothing to bring to their families at the end of the day. most of these were affected by the larger society withdrawing from excessive expense on services and rather channel their resources into things that would sustain them through this trying times, thereby, receiving less or no services from those who offer them which in turn affects the latter families.

Psycho Social Impact



As we all know, Covid 19 has brought a different routine to what we were used to. Restrictions put in place to combat and protect us against the virus have had multiple disruptions on the social life of our kids.

Children's proper wellbeing depends not only on nutritional and medical care but also on proper social interactions and relationships.

Home confinement imposes immediate and lingering psycho social impact on children due to the drastic changes in their lifestyle, physical activity and mental excursions. Children who are being quarantined in facility have it worse as it renders them completely isolated from their parents, families and society. Getting detached from parents at this critical point in time may result in post-traumatic stress, frustrations, anxiety, feeling of abandonment, depression, etc.

Psycho Social Impact – Cont.



The spiritual life of families has also been adversely affected. During the lockdown, families were not able to go to their places of worship which created a spiritual disconnect in them. Staying at home idle has been difficult for kids, female kids have seen increase in the house chores than their male counterparts. Early marriages were likely to happen due to idleness.

- Gender department witnessed increase in children brought to our existing facilities for custody due to poverty and inability of parents to take care of them.
- There has been an upsurge in cases of gender base violence especially against the girl child.

ACTIONS TAKEN



- Palliatives were distributed to cushion the effect of covid-19 on FCT residents.
- Our sexual and gender based violence unit has being on red alert to attend to all cases.
- Increased consultation unit registered children's homes on how to accommodate more children.

CONCLUSION



The corona virus pandemic has had multiple ripple effects on families, children, communities and the world at large. I implore every one of us to contribute in Evert capacity to help cushion the effect of the pandemic on the society and the world at large so we can get back to the beautiful world which we had before the global pandemic

THANK YOU