

Cross-Sectional Study Pertaining Beliefs on Covid-19, Protocols Adherence, and Negative Impacts of Colleges Closure on Students from two Colleges in Sokoto, Nigeria

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Abstract

COVID-19 is a major public health threat ravaging several parts of the world. Many facets of human activities were negatively affected due to the ravaging public health emergency of COVID-19. Therewith, education which has mostly been imparted through the conventional physical contacts (classroom interactions) over the years is now been threatened by COVID-19 strategy of lockdown. Students and teachers/lecturers have to stay at home during closure, in turn leading to setbacks on students. The objective of this paper was to determine the beliefs of students on COVID-19, adherence to protocols by school actors (especially students) and the negative effects of COVID-19 on education of students. The method employed was investigative descriptive survey fashion with forty respondents; data gathered (from Shehu Shagari College of Education, and Sultan Abdurrahman College of Education) was managed to yield descriptive statistical parameters of frequency and percentage. The findings revealed that, with regards to belief on COVID-19, most (70%) of the subjects echoed that COVID-19 is false, and 30% agreed that COVID-19 is true. Thus, only 30% of them are in the habit of facemasks wearing and practicing social distancing; while most (70%) of the respondents are not of the habit of observing COVID-19 protocols of facemasks and social distancing. Visual inspection of COVID-19 protocols was employed. 30% of the premises surveyed were practicing social distancing, while 70% were not observing COVID-19 protocols. Half of the halls and strategic places in the colleges are equipped with water supply to wash hands. Other required hardwares are also present. While half of the premises are not having COVID-19 hardwares. 40% of the students were found wearing facemasks. Mostly, 50% are not wearing it in all the cases, while 50% wear it in few or some cases. Based on the findings, effects of COVID-19 lockdown on students academics are: reducing lengths of academic semesters (100%), reducing

curriculum (100%), poor understanding (100%), and increased financial burden due to paying of registrations (95%) in short time semesters. Few students advocated/enjoyed the use of social media in teaching. This study revealed that, there was more to be done in preventive measures against COVID-19 and there was negative effect due to COVID-19 on students.

Keywords: COVID-19, students, academic, teaching, colleges.

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Introduction

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that range from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recent coronavirus (sometimes referred to as the novel corona virus) is called COVID-19, and was first detected in Wuhan, China in December of 2019. Since its first cases in China, COVID-19 has spread to almost every country worldwide (Aliyu *et al.*, 2021).

Universities and college campuses are places where students live and study in close proximity to each other. Recently, the foundations of this unique ecosystem have been impacted significantly by the rapid spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, creating uncertainty regarding the implications for higher education. Thus, over the past weeks, education officials have been forced to cancel classes and close the doors to campuses across the world in response to the growing coronavirus outbreak (Aji, 2021; Jacob *et al.*, 2021).

After spending almost a year while the educational institutions were closed in Nigeria, the institutions have to reopen to continue the educational pursuit. COVID-19 protocols are meant to be followed by educational administrators and students, to avoid spread of COVID-19 during their stay in the learning environment. However, the students perception can positively or negatively shape their compliance to follow COVID-19 protocols during their stay at schools and affect the prevention of COVID-19 spread (Jegade, 2020; Hosen *et al.*, 2021).

Thus, the objective of this paper was to determine the beliefs of students on COVID-19, adherence to protocols by school actors (especially students) and the negative effects of COVID-19 on education of students.

Materials and Methods

The method utilized was investigative descriptive survey on forty respondents using questionnaire, data collected (from Shehu Shagari College of Education, and Sultan Abdurrahman College of Education) was treated to yield descriptive statistical parameters of frequency and percentage. The respondents are staff (8), students through online interview (8), students through physical focus group discussion. Additionally, observation of college's premises using a checklist, was carried out to see adherence to COVID-19 protocols by students and installation sanitation hardwares.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Demographic properties of respondents of students towards Covid-19

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Tribe		
Hausa	50	71.4
Fulani	10	14.3
Education		
NCE	50	71.4
Undergraduate	20	28.6
Age		
20	30	42.9
22	10	14.3
29	10	14.3
30	10	14.3
35	10	14.3
Sex		
Male	30	42.9
Female	40	57.1

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data.

Table 2: Knowledge of students towards Covid-19 in two colleges in Sokoto

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Knowledge of Covid-19 prevention by students		
Washing hands	10	14.3
Wearing facemasks	10	14.3

Social distance	10	14.3
Do you wear facemask?		
Yes	40	57.1
No	30	42.9
Do you believe in Covid-19?		
Yes	60	85.7
No(due to misinformation)	10	14.3
Probably	30	42.9
Confused	10	14.3
Where do you get information on Covid-19?		
School	10	14.3
Health workers	10	14.3
Social media	40	57.1
Television	30	42.9
Radio	20	28.6

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data.

Table 3: Effect of COVID-19 on students in two colleges in Sokoto

Items	Frequency	Percentage
What disturbed you about Covid-19 Aftermath		
Short lecture time	30	42.9
Online lecture methods	20	28.6
Effects of wearing facemask		
Disturb breathing	50	71.4
Comfortable	20	28.6

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data.

Table 4: Use of ICT in two colleges in Sokoto during the Covid-19 period

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Do you agree with the use information technology in teaching(eg PowerPoint, Was sap, Email)		
Yes (phones are portable)	30	42.9
No(physical lecture is better)	40	37.1

Are your lecturers using ICT methods?		
Yes	30	42.9
No	20	28.6

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data.

On 2019, the news of new outbreak of COVID-19 broke, and subsequently spread to other parts of the world, including Nigeria. In a move to contain the spread of this deadly virus, several preventive measures were put in place by governments at all tiers. Some of the preventive measures includes: lockdown, social distancing, social isolation, and use of facemasks (Felix *et al.*,2021). Sokoto State is one of the states of the federation of Nigeria which follows COVID-19 protocols. And the protocols are due to affect education and students in the state. Thus, it is reasonable to determine perception of students on COVID-19, adherence to protocols, and effects on student's academics. The results for this study were shown in tables 1-4. The results revealed that, on belief to COVID-19, most (70%) of the respondents submitted that COVID-19 is false, and 30% believed COVID-19 is true. Thus, only 30% of them are exhibiting facemasks wearing and observing social distancing; while most (70%) are not in the habit of observing COVID-19 protocols of facemasks and social distancing. On belief on COVID-19, Hosen *et al.*(2011) said that the best way to prevention of COVID-19 is to know about the virus and act accordingly. Thus, shows the significance of belief in preventing COVID-19 spread. Good perception or belief spur positive practices of COVID-19 protocols, while negative perception lead to otherwise. This is similar to a study reported by Garba *et al.*, (2020), Hosen *et al.*, (2021).

Visual observation of COVID-19 protocols was performed. Therein, 30% of the places observed were exhibiting social distancing, while 70% were not observing COVID-19 protocols. Half of the halls and strategic places in the colleges are having watersupply for handwashing and other required hardwares, while half of them are not in possessing of COVID-19 hardwares. 40% of the students were found to be wearing facemasks. In most cases, 50% are not wearing it in all the cases, while 50% wear it in few or some cases.

Effects of COVID-19 lockdown on students academics was shown include on table 3. They includes: shortening of academic semesters (100%), shortening of curriculum (100%), poor understanding (100%), and increased financial

burden in fast paying of registrations (95%). The academic semester has to be reduced due to the longtime spent at home during lockdown. This shortening also has led to shortening of curriculum. Student had to be treated in haste and they are overburden with payment of registration fees at few intervals. These affect their academics. In a way to reduce the overdependence on physical contacts some lecturers might imbibe the use of social media to conduct some academic contacts, but the hurdle is faced because not all students are on social media and some of them are not interested in such kind of academic interactions. Those, some students enjoined/enjoyed the use of social media platforms in teaching. The COVID-19 has a negative impact on the entire educational system worldwide. Some of the consequences reported in this study are similar to those reported by Jacob *et al.*, (2021), Jegede (2020). Aji (2021) from Yobe state reported in his study that COVID-19 lockdown causes negative effects on academics of students.

Conclusion

Majority of the respondents are with negative beliefs against COVID-19. This incites them to abandon following preventive protocols in most cases. The students are affected due to shortening of semesters, and payment of registrations within short time frame. Conclusively, this study revealed that, there was much to be done in preventive measures against COVID-19 and there was negative effect due to COVID-19 on students.

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