



Re-Strategising Government Palliative Support Systems in Tackling the Challenges of COVID-19 Lockdown in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract This research covered the palliative material distribution project in Lagos State, Nigeria, during the lockdown and restriction on movement because of COVID-19 pandemic. The study engaged reports from extant literature and tertiary data sources such as the newspapers, the Internet, and website source. Relevant data gathered from these sources were conceptually analysed and discussed along with extant literature. The research also adopted the use of rich pictures for further presentation of the research. A key finding from the research is the need to redesign the distribution process and consider proper structuring of the project. And further engagement with the affected stakeholders to address crucial issues such as marginalisation that can defeat the purpose, which is to emancipate the affected indigents of the State from the harrowing effects of COVID-19 lockdown and other emergencies-related critical incidences such as starvation and criminalities. The study proposed a model for a resilience approach to effectively address the current palliative distribution process challenges in Lagos State, the epicentre of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

Keywords COVID-19 pandemic · Lagos State · Nigeria · Palliative material distribution · State interventions · Stakeholder involvement

JEL Classifications O17 · O38 · O31 · A20 K2 · K42 · K1

Introduction

The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in critical challenges as well as the strive by the government to meet the populace's social welfare needs. Many developing countries' economies have remained with the struggle for survival and advancement, especially in meeting the social welfare needs and overall improvement in the standard of living. However, COVID-19 pandemic, which has compelled certain drastic decisions, such as total lockdown and restriction on movement, tended to have further complicated the challenges of meeting the populace's welfare needs across national boundaries. This has also become a conspicuous challenging incidence faced by the Nigerian government, especially in Lagos State focused in this research, where the population density is highest in the country (Osabuohien et al., 2020; World Population Review, 2020). The Lagos State government strives to provide palliatives; it seems the process constitutes a wicked problem situation that resulted in many interknitted parts and sometimes resulted in other problematic issues that further draw the State government's attention (Grint, 2005; Peters, 2017; Business Day Report, April 19, 2020).

The challenges associated with the outbreak of COVID-19 in Lagos State, Nigeria, are widely recognised as a profane issue of concern to both the State government and other key stakeholders, especially the populace. This left

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