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AN ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ON COVID 19 AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DAMATURU AND GUJBA LGAS, YOBE STATE

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Abstract

The present research deal with the socioeconomic effect of Covid-19 and the responses. The) pandemic and related government measures is having great impact on North East Nigeria, a region already experiencing high levels of insecurity and violence, which usually leave the women and girls at the receiving end. Measures taken in response to the pandemic in the North East states varies, In Yobe state, the first Covid-19 case was confirmed on 29 April 2020. Inter-state and 7 international borders were closed on 31 March and a curfew put in place on 4 May 2020. This study focused the various governmental measures on women and girls in Damaturu and Gujba local government areas of the state. The study use qualitative method for data collection and analysis. It adopted a multi-stage cluster sampling technique. To ascertain the reliability and validity of this research instrument, the questionnaire was subjected to two different tests; Guttman Split-Half Coefficient and Pearson correlation for reliability and validity, respectively. Since the One-Sample Chi-Square value (21.951) is less than minimum expected value (82), its reject the null hypothesis that says Covid-19 Restrictions has not exposed women and girls to sexual exploitation and abuse and concluded that most women and girls have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation during Covid-19 lockdown. The study recommend a proactive measures to induct the population on culture of hygiene obedience professional advises and guidance to prevent future occurrence.

Keywords: Coronavirus, lockdown, Socio-economic, women, and girls

Introduction

The World all over wake up to the dreaded and unprecedented threats of untimely death and sudden illness as a result of the emergence and swift spread of the novel coronavirus disease in late 2019 (Covid-19). By the end of April 2020, Covid-19 infections had exceeded 2.8 million cases worldwide, with the death toll nearing 195,000, and 210 countries and territories affected (ILO, 2020). Nigeria had 46,068 confirmed cases of Covid-19, with 975 death and 36,497 recoveries as at August 17th, 2020. There is no doubt that the

pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on economies all over the world including Nigeria due to the international and local lockdown and other Covid-19 preventive interventions that led to a recession. Other secondary consequences of increasing levels of unemployment and deprivation sprouted to cause more vulnerabilities cases as a result many people fall into poverty. This is premised on the fact that beyond this pandemic being a health crisis, it is also to translate into a jobs and livelihoods crisis and a humanitarian crisis; which counter the progress made towards Vision 2030.

At the initial stage, it is estimated that over 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide due to the Covid-19 incidences disruption, and that labor income losses could plummet to a range of US \$860 billion to \$3.4 trillion. Small and medium enterprises, the self-employed and daily wage earners are expected to be hit hardest. In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that 68% of the labour force is employed in the informal sector, without much access to social protection to cope with the Covid-19-induced lockdown (ILO, 2020). Hatayama, Li, and Osborne (2022), observed that the causes of job losses was predicated on the need to work from homes prominently prescribed by many countries, whereby workers from the manufacture, construction and other engineering companies cannot work from homes. Hence, by June 2021 the United Nations news reported that job losses resulting from Covid-19 hit 200 million in 2022. The analysis carried out, show the effect of Covid-19 on unemployment via difference-in-difference assessment shows that the Nigeria's unemployment rate ranked 30.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020 Adebimpe, Adeniyi, Chijioke and Hieu (2021). It is good to note that unemployment is higher in urban (14 per cent) than in rural areas (6 per cent) and with the COVID-19 problem, this problem is likely to skyrocket. In Nigeria, individuals working in the informal sector tend to earn and save less and therefore, are at a greater risk of falling into poverty, since they have no social or job security against the economic shocks.

Adebimpe, et al (2021), analyzed the macro-micro simulation which shows more than 10 million Nigerians could be pushed into poverty by the economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis.

MOFPED (2020) equally anticipated that this crisis will affect the country's economic growth expecting it to drop from 6.0 per cent to 5.2-5.7 per cent. Due to the low activity in industry and services sectors, these have resulted in loss of jobs and an increase in the level of poverty. The Government of Nigeria estimates that over 65 million urban poor living in Abuja and other urban areas nationwide whose livelihoods depend on hand-to-mouth survival like casual laborers, hawkers, public transport workers and many others will need exceptional

food assistance during the Covid-19 outbreak (UNCDF, 2020).

In reality women are unable to access healthcare, especially Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services. Women and girls cannot freely attend clinics due to movement restrictions, reduction in transport, harassment by security agents and community militia, fear of going to health centers and the likelihood of being tagged as Covid-19 infected.

Before Covid-19 pandemic, women and girls suffered the deadlier effects of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Nigeria. At least one in four girls and one in ten boys experience sexual violence before the age of 18 (National Population Commission, US Centers for Disease Control and UNICEF, 2014). Early and forced marriage is common in some regions of the country e.g.: 67.6 percent of girls in the North West and 56.6 percent of girls in the North East are married before their 18th birthday (NBS and UNICEF, 2017). Meanwhile, 49 percent in the South East and 47.5 percent in the South West of girls and women aged 15-49 years have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) (NPC and ICF International, 2014). These challenges continues into adulthood were: 17.4 percent of girls and women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their intimate partners at least once in their lives. Therefore women and girls are always at the receiving ends of negative incidences in the society. They have experienced high levels of abduction, denial of resources, the advent of Covid-19 equally added ominous to these deadly plight of the women and girls in our communities given the facts that restriction were imposed and several numbers of these women and girls depends on what they can make on daily basis to survive.

Statement of the problem and justification

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Yobe state had significant gaps in health and services delivery provision. There are insufficient funding for services, most of which continue to be reliant on donor funds. Responses mechanisms rely on personal passion rather

than institutional commitment. Shelters do not exist, or inadequate to meet needs of teeming population. Security and support for survivors, who face intimidation, threats, and violence from perpetrators and stigmatization and victim blaming from health professionals, police officers, families, and communities, are inadequate. As the pandemic rise its ugly head, Yobe state government (YSG) put Covid-19 response teams in place, turned existing facilities into temporary isolation centers, and engaged in public health campaigns. Yet there have been challenges, especially for the population of the rural and uneducated segment of the society.

Many people cannot or are unable to adhere to public health guidance on physical distancing, hand washing, and wearing of masks, in such observing the Covid-19 protocol becomes a huge challenge for both the government and the communities, talk less of the cost of the items to fulfill the needs of the etiquette. Despite the threat to seriously enforce the Covid-19 by the taskforce, when the state had its first experience of the pandemic on 3rd may 2020. Yet which people do not comply with the guidelines specified by the state taskforce committee. People do not take the infection risk seriously. Issues such as high heat, lack of food stock and financial reserve makes it difficult for people to stay indoors. However, women and girls bear the burn of the restrict as several repercussion began to unravel, school closure, incidences of race, stealing and other nefarious activities involving women as victims or perpetration necessitated the conceived of this research to understand the extent of the effects and what government could have done to avert a future reoccurrence.

Literature Review

Scholars have established that there is connection between Covid-19 pandemic and livelihoods, poverty, and social welfare as it affect women and girls. Recently, the relationship between women, girls and Covid-19 is being investigated as a result of the outbreak of the virus. It is palpable that Covid-19 affects individual household livelihoods. Since the pandemic affect the capabilities of people to perform their routine economic activities as they you to. The economic consequences of the pandemic have not fallen with equal severity on all.

Existing vulnerabilities have not been exposed, and inequalities entrenched (ILO & OECD, 2020).

Humanity will continue to remember December 2019 when the strange virus emerged. Since then, it threatens to become one of the most difficult tests faced by humanity in contemporary world with huge potentiality to take lives, overwhelm health systems and trigger lasting socio-economic change (Anthony, 2020). The IMF Report in 2020 observes that in the face of Covid-19 pandemic, the global economy faces its worst downturn since the great depression. Also, Oxfam International in her 2020 report warned that half a billion people could be pushed into poverty as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic (Anthony, 2020). These assertions are more precise in the Northeast region of Nigeria where the generality is already facing the severity of insurgency activities for a decade. A situation that had already knocked the population down, hence, for arrival of the Covid-19, it is an undertaker's finishing job.

Viruses / pandemics and their effects on the economy

Generally ill health and widespread infections slowdown economy activities, as a result of non-disposability of the move of the economy. Shang, Li and Zhang (2021), noted that:

Infectious diseases are one of the major causes of death responsible for the quarter to one-third of the mortality worldwide. Despite major developments in the pharmaceutical industry, the spread of infectious diseases is rising due to globalization, increased travel and trade, urbanization, populated cities, changes in human behavior, reviving pathogens and improper use of antibiotics. The recent virus outbreak Covid-19 shows that infectious diseases spread easily due to open economies and easily threaten nations' economic stability.

This was viewed that since some families of the coronavirus have visited the world health system some years before now, the pharmaceutical companies should have deemed it fit to develop to some certain extent some remedy that could slow, if not treat the outbreak of the virus into pandemic. Henderson (2020), substantiated this belief when he says:

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the capitalist dysfunction, which is considered to be partly based on the priority given to profit rather than people's need. Pharmaceutical companies would have started developing the vaccine for coronavirus a long time ago if the society had not been capitalist. The novel coronavirus spreading fast around the world belongs to the family of coronavirus (SARS and MERS) that are already familiar to us for a long time. It could have been possible to begin search for coronavirus vaccine and treatments long time ago so that the most recent outbreak of coronavirus could be prevented to some extent. But pharmaceutical companies did not initiate this research because the treatment did not seem to be profitable enough.

True to Henderson assertion, the pharmaceutical companies end up reaping the huge profit from the draining economies through the production of (un) preventable items - facemask, sanitizer, and other ineffective antibiotic for the purpose of taming the virus. Therefore, the blame for the pandemic itself could be mounted on the drug producing countries and company. The unwarranted losses incurred by the society were uncalled for, while the economies also went to sudden shock, yet without remedy insight.

In addition to the substantial burden on healthcare systems, the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics (2021) narrated that:

Covid-19 has had major economic consequences for the affected countries. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused direct impacts on income due to premature deaths, workplace absenteeism, and reduction in productivity and has created a negative supply shock, with manufacturing productive activity slowing down due to global supply chain disruptions and closures of factories. For example, in China, the production index in February declined by more than 54% from the preceding month's value.

The impact of Covid-19 on the societies is far more than impacting the health of the affected. It is affecting the societies as well as the economies at the basic level. It is severe and vary from one country to another. It is likely to increase the economic costs among nations and

increase the inequalities at a global level between develop and less develop nations. It has equally disrupted the lives of people and affected world trade and movements.

At this stage, the pandemics negatively affect the manufacturing sector. Various industries and sectors have slowed down because of the disease, such as tourism, pharmaceutical industry, solar power sector, information, and electronics industry. There have been short-term challenges like a halt in tourism and entertainment and long-term consequences such as disruptions in trade and investments (Walker, Whittaker, Watson and Baguelin; et al, 2020). Certainly, the disease has extensive consequences on the healthcare, economic, and social sector.

Onset of Coronavirus and the Nigeria economic

Spillovers from the Covid-19 pandemic precipitated a decline in demand for oil products as well as constrained economic activities following the enforcement of the physical distancing policies (Ozili, 2020). The degree of economic crises caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is unprecedented; there is no doubt that it has left dramatic rippling effects across the global economy, significantly constraining the level of economic activities in every region of the world. The impacts is even greater it the Nigeria case, resulting from the nature of its economy dependency. Ozili (2020) mentioned that, the Covid-19 pandemic has so far had its toll on economic activities and there seems to be no end in sight for now. This has led to a significant impact on social policies as well as the social and economic well-being of citizens, especially the drastic reduction in economic activities. And this is more pronounced in Nigeria than any of the third world countries.

For instance, the Nigeria economy is most dependent on international economic situation; hence, whatever happens in the international markets directly affects it to the core. Thus, the occurrence of the pandemic deals an unexpected blow to Nigeria economic, small business and government tax (Dushime and Osele, 2021; Engidaw, 2022; Abayomi 2022). Dushime and Osele (2021), observed that:

The shock impact of the Covid-19 pandemic hit the industry hard, resulting in a significant reduction in demand for products, as well as plummeting prices and income. In Q4 2020, the industry contributed 5.87 percent to total real GDP, down 19.81 percent from the previous quarter's contribution of 7.32 percent. The industry's contribution to GDP has progressively decreased from Q1 2020 to Q4 2020, at 9.50, 8.93, and 8.73 percent, respectively. Finally, in Q1 2021, the oil sector's contribution to the country's GDP increased to 9.25 percent.

The oil and gas industry which is the backbone of the Nigeria economy was at a very devastating stage resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Dushime and Osele (2021), mentioned that:

During this time, crude oil prices plummeted. In the first quarter of 2020, the average price of a barrel of crude oil was 33.91 US dollars. The decline in income caused by the flooring of crude oil prices finally resulted in a reduction in federation revenue for all units, including the federal, state, and local governments. This had a direct impact on the government's ability to fulfil its obligations while simultaneously pursuing growth and development objectives.

Oil price worth less than nothing in the next 20 month of the pandemic, when it was reported that oil price stand at \$ 15 per barrel (Statista, 2022). During active period of the pandemic, crude oil prices plummeted. In the first quarter of 2020, the average price of a barrel of crude oil was 33.91 US dollars. This led to decline in income caused by the flooring of crude oil prices, finally resulted in a reduction in federation revenue for all units, including the federal, state, and local governments. This had a direct impact on the government's ability to fulfil its obligations while simultaneously pursuing growth and development objectives, as well as taking preventive measure against the pandemic, including expenses on palliatives for the population.

The lockdown and its effects on small scale economic and livelihood

The effects of the global pandemic of Covid-19 are more impacting on Nigerian people than anywhere else. The relief international reported that:

- i. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the plight of families living in poverty area in Lagos State, Nigeria and left many people struggling to afford food and meet other basic needs.
- ii. Survey data shows federal and state government support, including cash transfers and food assistance, reached only a fraction of families going hungry.
- iii. The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the critical need for a functioning social security system to allow all Nigerians to achieve an adequate standard of living (Human Right Watch, 2021).

Generally, one of the preventive measures taken to curtail the spread of Covid-19 is lockdown and restriction on public activities, such as markets, gathering, trading and any situation that can attract more than 20 persons. Most people at the local and community levels depended on these activities to survive. Therefore, locking people at the homes means placing them in hunger and needs. Of course, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) declared to have been giving palliative to the people but majority seems to be aware, as the distributions are shrouded in secrecy and to selective individuals.

Since the people were been prevented from moving around to source for their livelihood, whereas situation in the Northeast has already dealt a hard blow on the inhabitant of the region. Live became unbearable to endure. These situations as affected the women more, since majority are the bread winners for the family. The losses of the men to insurgency are yet to overcome before the advent of the pandemic.

In several countries including Nigeria, evidence shows that women, have seen their livelihood put at great risk that they have been most severely affected by the economic effects of Covid-19. The pandemic has disproportionately pushed them out of employment,

reversing decades of progress on their participation in the labor force Oxfam International (nd).

In the aforementioned observation by the Oxfam, it was revealed that an estimated 47 million women and girls have been pushed into extreme poverty since the declaration of the pandemic. It also observed that worldwide, 740 million women work in the informal economy, and during the first month of the pandemic their income fell by 60% (Oxfam International, nd.).

Thus, other incidences resulting from the Covid-19 that affected the women down on the surge in gender-based violence. Violence against women and girls increased rapidly in the wake of the restriction linked to the Covid-19. No protection effects were forthcoming specifically for the women and girls reported in an Oxfam survey.

Related to the above schools were closed, leaving young women and girls vulnerable. Chukwurah (2020), explains situation this, when she wrote that:

Girls face a higher risk of violence and harmful practices. With schools closed, member organizations report increased sexual and gender-based violence, early pregnancies, unsafe abortions and child marriages. This comes just as support services – including sexual and reproductive health and child protection programmes – are reduced or under strain, limiting girls' ability to report what is happening to them. Girls facing these experiences are less likely to return to schools once they reopen (Chwukwurah, 2020:5).

It is believed that schools provide safe spaces for girls. Thus, when they are in school, they are less likely to be sexually abused. However, during the pandemic, schools are not there to give to protect girls. With the study area several cases of gender-based violence were reported, unwanted pregnancies and others were also reported while the lockdown lasted.

As schools close during the Covid-19 crisis, the gains girls have made in education over the last 25 years, particularly in enrolment and learning outcomes, are at risk of dissipating, especially if closures are protracted. Schools also are often one of the strongest social networks for adolescent girls, providing peers and mentors, and when girls are cut off from these networks,

their risk of violence increases. In contexts where gender norms may preclude girls from accessing the household infrastructure and digital platforms needed for remote learning, such as computers, smartphones and the internet, they may fall behind their male peers while schools are closed. And when schools do reopen, many girls may not return, as observed during the Ebola crisis. The lockdown also affected the women and girl's livelihood most especially the urban dwellers. MCN (2020), reported that the restrictions affect many livelihoods but have disproportionate impact according to levels of pre-existing financial resilience. The population of the Northeast is already battling with the deprivation caused by BHT. Many people, over a decade of violence, saw savings and capitals dwindle and have little resilience to financial shocks or sudden decreases in incomes. The urban poor, reliant on daily wages, are disproportionately impacted.

Efforts of Nigeria's governments in relieving the pains of Covid-19

One of the first steps taking to stem the effects of the pandemic is passage of the Emergency Economic Stimulus Bill 2020 on March 24 by the House of Representatives to provide support to businesses and individual citizens of Nigeria. According to Brookings (2020) report:

The law aims to provide 50 percent tax rebates to businesses that are registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act so they can use this saving to continue employing their current workers. However, while the bill focuses on providing relief to formal sector businesses, 65 percent of Nigeria's total GDP comes from the informal sector, which also employs more than 90 percent of the workforce, and these workers need support to survive. Many businesses in the informal sector are unregistered so it will be difficult for them to get these benefits.

Evidences show that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) makes efforts to cushion the effects of Covid-19 right from it onset in the country. Right from constitutional and legal perspectives. However, the Nigeria factors, in some quarters prevented the gesture to reach the deserving population. It is documented that during the Endsars protest, youths that break into

warehouses did so deliberately to rush on the government palliatives the state governments refused or slow in disbursing. It could therefore, justifiably say that the FGN did what is expected of it. While other tiers of government refuses to compliment and sometimes out rightly obstruct the effort.

The FGN Economic Sustainability & Recovery Plan was one of the biggest efforts by the FGN to tackle the impacts of the pandemic. The BudgiT (2021) reported as follow:

The federal government, having witnessed the pandemic's damaging effects on the economy, lives and prospects, set in motion a plan that aimed to protect the already precarious incomes of Nigerians, business and even states, prevent massive unemployment, diversify revenue generation from oil to non-oil sources and ensure the likely economic downturn (itself caused by depressed demand for commodities, specifically crude oil) would not ravage its revenues. This plan, named the Nigerian Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP), was essentially a stimulus package meant to fight the low economic activity's effects (2021: 14).

The county was at this epoch face multi-dimensional challenges, the dimension of low revenue drive, high expenditure on essential requirement for healthcare services to tame the spread of the pandemic and cure the infected members of population. Also dimension of distribution of palliatives and relief materials to cushion the day to day needs of the people lockdown and dwindle income of the citizenry.

Generally, research conducted in line with Covid-19 does not palpable deal with the effects of the pandemic on the women and girl's livelihood in the Northeast. Whereas, robust research in to the government efforts in dealing with the pandemic in the area is highly necessary for some reasons bordering on the post insurgency situation of the communities in the research coverage.

Theoretical Framework

Theories shape the direction of a study and possibilities of justification of an outcome. Resulting from these, the research choses the self-determination theory to guide

the research. Self-Determination Theory (SDT) as propounded by the duo of Ryan and Deci (2017).

Important within SDT is the idea that these active propensities for intrinsic motivation, internalization, and social integration are accompanied by, and indeed grounded in, specific phenomenal satisfactions. SDT posits that inherent in such pursuits are satisfactions in feeling competence, autonomy, and relatedness. These proximal satisfactions reflect, in the deepest sense, the essence of human thriving, and they predict any number of indicators of wellness and vitality. Moreover, SDT research documents that in social contexts in which there is psychological support for these satisfactions, people's curiosity, creativity, productivity, and compassion are most robustly expressed (2017: 5).

The aspect of the theory that benefited this study has to do with the cultural contexts and pervasive social influences, economic, and political systems.

The cultural aspect comprises norms, values, and practices that are more or less well internalized by the members of the culture. These internalizations not only regulate the actions of the members, they also frame the very possibilities and meanings people can envision and pursue, shaping their goals, aspirations, and identities. Further, as SDT highlights, internalized cultural mores and practices can be more or less conducive to basic psychological need satisfaction across a society and, thus, the flourishing or ill-being of its constituents (Ryan and Deci, 2017: 591).

In light of these, the aspect of the lockdown measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 violated the cultural beliefs of the generality of the Nigerians and specifically the people of the Northeast, who usually embedded in family and communal living and struggling to cement that relationship dispersed by the BHT activities since 2009.

The economic and political influences

The term political-economic cultures influences convey the idea that individuals are socialized to invest in activities and aspirations that are congruent with their political-economic systems. The resulting internalizations are sometimes explicit and at other times

invisible to those adopting them (Ryan & Deci, 2017: 592). When citizens perceive empowerment, transparency, and voice in governance, they are more likely to see governmental regulations and laws as legitimate and thus, more willingly assent and adhere to them. When they feel controlled, excluded, or without voice, internalizations are less likely to be autonomous and integrated, and they are more likely to be motivated through controlled motivations, passive compliance, or active defiance. Ryan & Deci, (2017), believes that once people are embedded within political and economic contexts that structure how they view the world, what they value, what they worry about, and how they conceptualize their own power and place within their communities, then changing these worldviews is a great challenge.

This implies that people generally want to be free, even in performing certain task. However, the lockdown and other restriction put in place to curtail the spread of the virus affected the economic as well as social interactions of the communities in the study area. Implying that no number of palliatives could redeem this aspect of the human culture, the economic and political aspirations to the satisfaction of the human psychological needs. Hence, several insinuations emanating and suggesting that the Covid-19 was not a disease for the poor, that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should allow people to go their normal businesses, ‘rend the air’ and led to defiance to the protocol of the Covid-19, i.e. Facemask, social/physical distancing, the vaccination and all other measure aimed to reduce the spread as well as cure the Covid-19 virus. In a research by MCN (2020), it was believed that government measures have created more hunger and people feel it is the government against the people, and they need to fight to get meals. The SDT alternative is to begin with the assumption that there is a human nature, which is deeply designed to be active and social, and which, when afforded a “good enough” (i.e., a basic-need-supportive) environment, will move toward thriving, wellness, and integrity.

Yet some of the very features of this adaptive nature also make people vulnerable to being derailed or fragmented when environments are deficient in basic need

supports. Social contexts can be basic need-thwarting, with various developmental costs, including certain defensive or compensatory strategies. When individuals experience need-thwarting environments, such as contexts that are overly controlling, rejecting, critical, and negative or that otherwise frustrate autonomy, relatedness, and competence needs, individuals are more likely to become self-focused, defensive, a motivated, aggressive, and antisocial Ryan and Deci, (2017).

The theory can therefore, be used to operationalize the scenario of communities’ reactions, feelings, and government efforts as well as the level of successes during the pandemic. All the effects made by the government, such as economic, social, health, vacation and other pertinent measures were not appreciated by the communities concerns simply because of some contravening manifestation of the cultural, economic and political beliefs and aspirations.

Data presentation and analysis

For the purpose of this study 200 questionnaires were distributed out of which 182 were recovered. Out of the 182 questionnaires 18 were discarded due to insufficient responses, this leads to a total of 164 questionnaires worthy of analysis. The first part of the questionnaire asked respondents about their background information. Out of the 164 respondents 48% (70 respondents) fall within the age range of 16-25 years which were categorized as girls. The remaining 52% fall within the range of 26 and above which are categorized as women for the purpose of this research. Out of the 164 respondents 42 respondents are civil servant which gives 26%, 28 respondents are self-employed that is 17%, 74 respondents are students which gives 45%, 20 respondents are unemployed which gives 12%. In terms of Local Government Area (LGA) of the surveyed respondents, 110 are from Damaturu LGA which gives 67%, while 54 respondents are from Gujba LGA which gives 33%. Table 1, .2 and 3 present the summary of the demographic data of the respondents.

Reliability and Validity and of Research Instrument

To ascertain the reliability and validity of this research instrument, the questionnaire was subjected to two

different tests; Guttman Split-Half Coefficient and Pearson correlation for reliability and validity, respectively. The Guttman Split-Half test was performed due to dichotomous nature of the questionnaire, this will

allow us to get a more robust result and is more appropriate for dichotomous variables (Oluwatayo, 2012). The result of the test is presented below:

Table 1: Split-Half Reliability Test

Cronbach's Alpha	Part 1	Value	.168
		N of Items	4 ^a
	Part 2	Value	.241
		N of Items	3 ^b
	Total N of Items		7
Correlation Between Forms			.557
Spearman-Brown Coefficient	Equal Length		.715
	Unequal Length		.718
Guttman Split-Half Coefficient			.715

Note: a = Q11, Q13, Q15, Q21 and b=Q14, 16 &26

Source: Field survey 2022

To test the reliability for this research instrument we use the Split-Half method rather than Cronbach's Alpha. Split-Half is more suitable for testing the internal consistency of nominal variable's reliability. The result is presented below. Notice that the Cronbach's Alpha (which is more appropriate for continues data (Sijtsma, 2009) value is relatively low compared to the Spearman-Brown Coefficient value (0.715). With this value of 0.72 it will be safe to conclude that the research instrument is

moderately reliable since the value is greater than 0.70. The rule of thumb for reliability test is that the coefficient value should not be less than 0.70 for the instrument to be reliable. The overall Guttman Split-Half Coefficient is 0.72, therefore, it is concluded that the research instruments are reliable. The validity of the research instrument is provided in Table 2 using Pearson correlation analysis.

Table 2: validity of research instrument

Instrument	Total Value	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pearson Correlation	0.538**	0.000

NB: * significant at 1% level. ** Significant at 5% level. N 164. DF = N – 2 = 164 - 2 = 162. See the critical value in the Pearson correlation table (148). Acceptance rule: obtained value (calculated value) has to be greater than the critical value (tabulated value). Therefore, calculated value of 0.538 is > 0.193*, 0.174**

The total value of the Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.54 and is statistically significant. Additionally, the Pearson correlation table was used to obtain the critical value (tabulated value) against the calculated value. This proved to be statistically significant at a 1% level. Therefore, the research instrument is valid for analysis.

Analysis of the impact of school closure during Covid-19 on girls

Even prior to Covid-19, being a girl is already a barrier to education in many countries, especially African countries.

This study investigated the impact of School closure as a result of Covid-19 on girls' child education. Fig. 1 highlights the effect of school closure on girls where 70 percent of surveyed respondents indicate that they were greatly disturbed and affected about the development and when asked about the impact of E-learning program implemented by the government during the lockdown 68 percent of the respondents says it has no impact on their education.

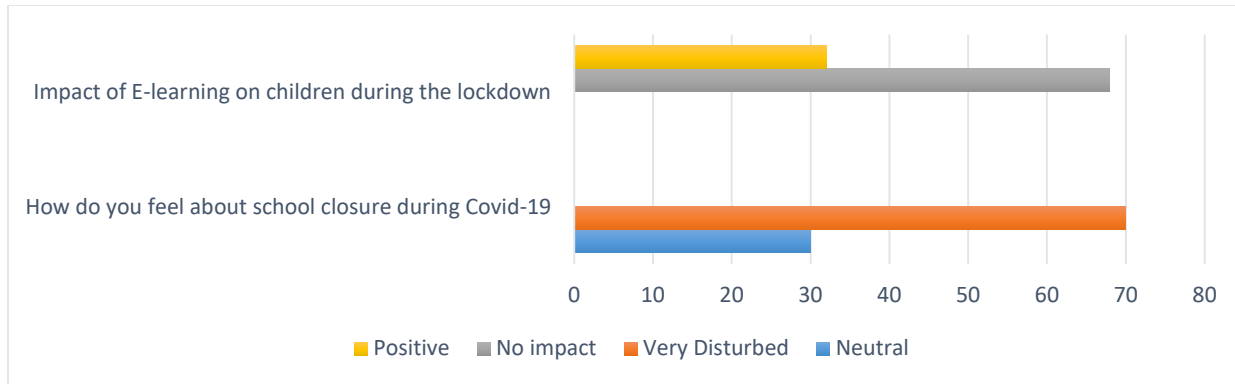


Fig. 1 Impact of school closure on Girls during Covid-19
Field survey: 2022

The result indicates that school closure has negative impact on girl's child education. For a statistical inference, we performed a One-Way Chi-Square test on the below hypothesis to ascertain the generalizability of the findings.

Hypothesis Testing

H_0 : School closure during Covid 19 has no effects on girls.

To test the above hypothesis, One Sample Chi-Square Test is employed, which is a non-parametric statistical procedure. The minimum expected value in this case will be $E = 82$. Therefore, the hypothesis will measure the

expected sample mean against the default population mean using a two-tailed test and $\alpha = 0.05$

The hypothesis is stated as follows.

$$H_0: E = 0$$

$$H_1: E \neq 0$$

The null hypothesis stated that there is no significant difference between the hypothesized value and the observed value as against the alternative hypothesis, which stated the observed value is significantly different from the hypothesized.

Table 3: Impact of school closure during Covid-19 on girls

Parameters	
One-Sample Chi-Square	21.951 ^a
Df	1
p-value	.000

a. There are 0 cells (0%) with expected values less than 5. The minimum expected value is 82.

Source: Field survey 2022.

Table 3 presents the Chi-Square test result with an expected value of 21.951 which is less than the hypothesized value; therefore we have enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis that school closure during Covid-19 has no effect on girls and accept the alternate hypothesis that says school closure during Covid-19 has a negative effect on girls.

Analysis of the impact of Covid-19 lockdown on women and girl's livelihood

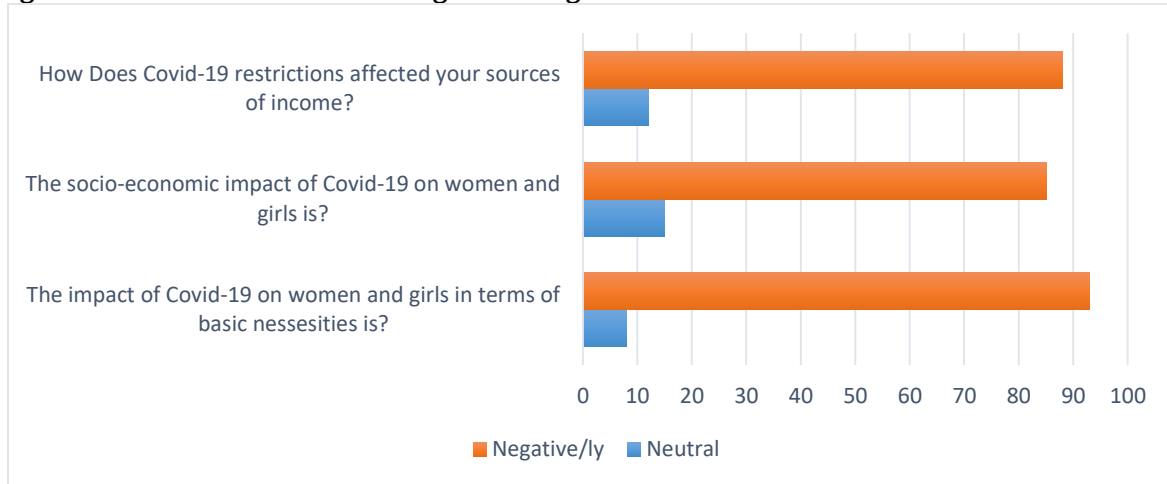
Unarguably, Covid-19 has a disproportionate impact on women and girls. Although earlier data shows men face

higher mortality risk, women and girls were more likely to bear greater socio-economic burden of the pandemic due to gender inequality, especially around employment, education and finances (Kithiia et al., 2020). This section accesses the impact of Covid-19 on the livelihood of women and girls during the pandemic. The pandemic has aggravated the already fragile condition of women and girls' finances in Damaturu and Gujba. Nearly 93% of women and girls surveyed in this study reported that they are having difficulties meeting their basic needs such as food and healthcare. Similarly, about 85% of the respondents' reported that the pandemic has a negative

impact on their socio-economic well-being. Consequently, 89% of the respondents report that Covid-19 restrictions have affected their sources of income. This is mostly due to the fact that greater percentage of women

and girls in low-income countries earn their money through informal labor which requires physical contact (Fapohunda, 2012).

Fig: 2 the livelihood of women and girls during Covid-19 lockdown



Source: Field survey 2022.

A hypothesis test will be carried out to find out whether or not this finding should be generalized to the population. For this purpose, we employ a One-Sample Chi-Square.

H_0 : The livelihood of women and girls was not affected during Covid 19 lockdown

The hypothesis is stated as follows.

$$H_0: E = O$$

$$H_1: E \neq O$$

Table:4:: the impact of Covid-19 lockdown women and girl's livelihood.

Parameters	
One-Sample Chi-Square	122.951 ^a
Df	1
p-value	.000

a. There are 0 cells (0%) with expected values less than 5. The minimum expected value is 82.

Source: Field survey 2022.

Based on the One-Sample Chi-Square result we reject the null hypothesis that the livelihood of women and girls was not affected during Covid-19 lockdown and concluded that Covid-19 lockdown had significantly affected women and girl's livelihood.

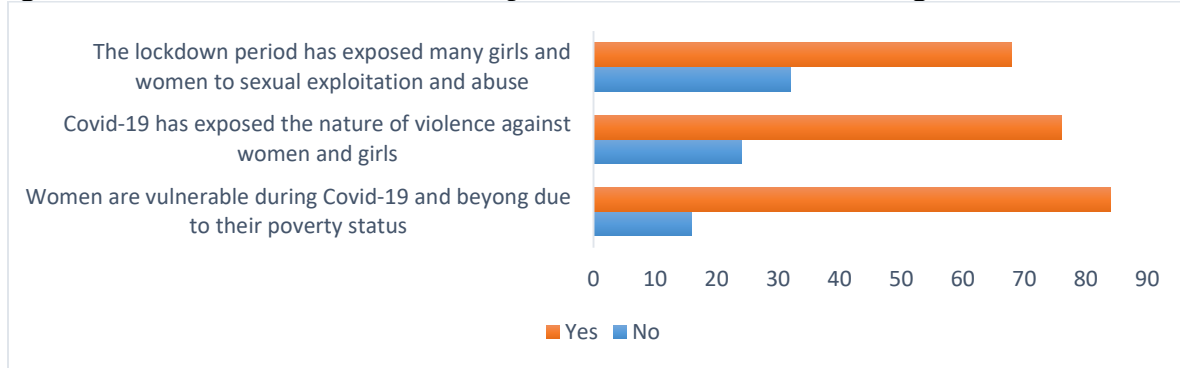
Analysis of the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and the experience of sexual exploitation and abuse among women and girls

One of the greatest concerns about the Covid-19 restrictions and its associated effect on women and girls is the fear of sexual abuse and exploitation due to their

vulnerability. When asked whether women and girls are vulnerable due to their poverty status, about 84% of the respondents believed this to be true. Regarding the nature of domestic violence, almost 76% reported that the lockdown has increases violence against women and children. The financial stressors of the pandemic combined with close confinement during lockdowns, mean that women and girls are at high risk of violence from their immediate family, domestic partners or within a community. This study shows that 68% of the respondents reported an increase in sexual exploitation and abuse during the lockdown period. Figure 3

highlights women and girls' experience during Covid-19 lockdown.

Fig. 3 Covid 19 restrictions and sexual exploitation/Abuse on women and girls



Source: Field survey 2022.

Hypothesis Testing

H_0 : Covid 19 Restrictions have not exposed women and girls to sexual exploitation and abuse

The hypothesis is stated as follows.

$$H_0: E = O$$

$$H_1: E \neq O$$

Table 5: Impact of the Covid 19 restrictions and experience of sexual exploitation and abuse exposed among women and girls.

Parameters	
One-Sample Chi-Square	21.951 ^a
Df	1
p-value	.000

a. There are 0 cells (0%) with expected values less than 5. The minimum expected value is 82

Source: Field survey 2022.

Since the One-Sample Chi-Square value (21.951) is less than minimum expected value (82), we reject the null hypothesis that says Covid-19 Restrictions has not exposed women and girls to sexual exploitation and abuse and concluded that most women and girls have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation during Covid-19 lockdown.

Summary

Research on the Assessment of Government Efficiency on Covid 19 and its Socio-Economic impacts on Women and Girls in Damaturu and Gujba Local Government Areas Recently, study on the relationship between women, girls and Covid-19 is being investigated as a result of the outbreak of the virus. It is palpable that Covid-19 affects individual household livelihoods. Since the pandemic affect the capabilities of people to perform their routine economic activities, the consequence of the pandemic has not fallen with equal severity on all. Even

before the pandemic, Yobe state had significant gaps in services delivery. There is insufficient funding for services, most of which continue to be reliant on donor funds.

Response mechanisms rely on peculiar passion rather than institutional commitment. Shelters do not exist, or inadequate to meet needs of its teeming populace. Security and support for survivors, who face intimidation, threats, and violence from perpetrators and stigmatization and victim blaming from health professionals, police officers, families, and communities, is inadequate. Many states lack clearly determined referral pathway even in the north east which sees a number of humanitarian agencies working on VAWG, improving these mechanisms continues to be raised as a priority even after years of intervention (Nagarajan, 2020).

Surmounting the challenges, the state governments put Covid-19 response teams in place, turned existing

facilities into temporary isolation centers, and engaged in public health campaigns. Yet there have been challenges. This has unadorned effects on women and girls living conditions, especially in terms of shortages of food, water, healthcare, and accommodations, thus, a course for alarm. On the background of this, the study is geared towards assessing the government efficacy on Covid-19 and its socio-economic impact on women and girls who are most vulnerable group among people. The research was justified on real investigation and proffer recommendation which may be useful to the Government, Non-governmental organizations, stakeholders, civil society organizations among others,

on measures or strategies for handling Covid-19 and responses; it would serve as reference for further actions.

Recommendations

- i. Government to support a two-way flow communication campaigns led by those knowledgeable in public health and guidance.
- ii. Improvement on livelihood intervention for the women and girls that could improve their hygienic and survival situation.
- iii. Re-establish community health platforms in ways that are all inclusive so that infectious diseases could be mitigated before spreading.

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