



## THE UNTOLD REALITY OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BONDING SYSTEM OF PETTY TRADERS IN ODEDA AND OSIELE MARKETS, OGUN STATE

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### ABSTRACT

The emergence of COVID-19 in the world today has greatly affected all other social institutions in the world. Thus, the situation of the pandemic in Nigeria has greatly affected social network and business activities of the petty traders. In Ogun State, the plan of the State Government toward the distribution of palliative measure lack human face due to absence of transparency and accountability in the distribution of the incentives to petty traders leading to increase in poverty, trauma, unemployment, inequality and absolute emotional neutrality among others. Extant publications were reviewed with elite theory for the inquiry. Mixed methods and descriptive research design were adopted. Nonprobability sample method (purposive sampling) was adopted to serve 200 structured questionnaires among petty traders but 185 was found useful in the selected markets while out of 20 in-depth interviews were conducted 15 was found useful for the research. The result on how the emergence of COVID-19 affect income of the petty traders shows  $X^2(8.45)$   $df-1$   $p = 0.000$  ( $P < 0.05$ ), while the relationship between emergency of COVID-19 on psychological and physical well-being of market men and women in Odeda and Osiele were significant at  $X^2(7.81)$ ,  $df-1$   $p = 0.000$  ( $P < 0.05$ ). The result of the in-depth interviews shows that 15 out of the 20 participants interviewed agreed that COVID-19 affected their income and social network system. It is on this ground that the following recommendations were stated, Nigerian government should encourage the improvement and development of traditional medicine for curing COVID-19 pandemic. Nigerians Government should constantly provide loans at zero interest to the petty traders to encourage them in growing their business activities. Embrace constant checking and obeying the vaccination rules and regulations

**Keywords-** COVID-19, Economic, Social, Bonding System, Petty Traders

### INTRODUCTION

Evidence gathered from the reviews of literature shows that there are significant differences between affective affectivity and affective neutrality among people residing in the developed and developing nations due to the cares and attention received by the people affected with the pandemic. The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic in the world today opened up the differences between the developed and developing nations in terms of access to quality education, employment opportunities, health care services or facilities and availability of experts to cater for the less privileged members of the society (African Development Bank Reports, 2020; International Financial Corporation, 2020). According to Akinjugbin (2017) social bonding system is a common practice among Africans which mainly promote social protection of lives and properties of people in their various communities. Likewise, Oduro (2016) further explained that Africans are known for the communal and collective orientation in terms of achieving and promoting the culture of development socially, politically, psychologically, educationally and economically which will lead to social cohesion for promoting social development This is



because it is assumed that problem of one is the problem of others which is against the spirit of individual neutrality experienced in the developed countries.

Globally, the growing nature of COVID 19 pandemic is a threat to the entire world because of the rate at which the menace affected human socio-economic, health, political and educational development leading to increase in death tolls, massive dislocation and unplanned migration, psychological traumatization, increase in poverty, temporary change in employment rate, financial fragility and high rate of insecurity among others (International Financial Corporation, 2020;; Garrett, 2018 & 2020). Likewise, Bertik et al (2022) posit that the damage caused the COVID-19 outbreak cannot be underestimated because during the pandemic period people and businesses were negatively affected This bi-approach adopted by the developed and developing nations in ensuring proper and adequate care for the masses affected in terms of welfare during COVID-19 era remains a global debate especially in the developing nations.

In African continent, one of the challenges associated with the spread of the virus is that initially some African countries refused to close their boarder until when the pandemic gained it spreading momentum into some African countries such as Tanzania, South Africa, and Nigeria among others before embracing total lockdown and social distancing ideology with less attention placed on provision of incentives to the less privilege citizens in the country. The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic negates the business activities of the market men and women, and also the safety of the residents was also affected in different dimensions. While other countries in the continent (Africa) perceived and gave lesser attention to the menace until it became global epidemic and endemic Series of publications reviewed indicated that countries like China, United States of America, Russia, United Kingdom are more negatively affected yet several correctional measures such as proactive and reactive techniques were put in place by governmental agencies to create or provide opportunities for supporting the citizens that are affected with the pandemic to fight the aftermath of the pandemic (International Financial Corporation, 2020). Furthermore in the the developed nations, there are several governmental agencies and multinational agencies such as USAID, World Bank, Governance Global Practices Mission, Agile Treasury Operation, Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the Supreme Audit Institutions among others established to provide support to the citizens in fighting against the spread of the virus through different techniques by introducing rapid process of distributing palliative incentives to help the less privilege members of the State who are forced to stay and work from homes. But in Nigeria, the said claimed supply or distribution of palliative incentives all proved to be mere abstract more than reality because it is more of political drama or gimmick rather than saving lives of the citizens or members of the State (USAID, 2021)

In Africa continent, there are diverse orientation in terms of language, meaning and thoughts associated with different ethno-religious, political, and economic groups, but the continent was known for practical element of communal spirits which increases the level of bonding system experienced all over the continent. The negative experiences faced by the residents on the account of the pandemic and the submission of the residents, business tycoon and petty traders in Africa especially in Nigeria skewed towards negative implications.to the living standard of the people and businesses in Nigeria. The bonding system among the families in Nigeria still determines the mode of operation used for promoting culture of collective orientation and bonding value system (Ogunmefun & Okuneye, 2020; Daniel, 2020). The bonding system in Nigeria is eroded due to adoption of modernization and urbanization which led to the ever-increasing corruption demonstrated by the Nigerian Government at all level (Ogunmefun & Oyeyemi 2021). The established corrupt practices and the recent attacks posed by COVID-19 tend to erase the principle of collective communality replacing it will emotional neutrality in the country. This is because large number of Nigerians were not really agitating for what the Nigerian government can do to enhance their living conditions socially, politically,



psychologically, educationally and economically but most Nigerians clamour for what they can do themselves or designed means of making the goals at the expense of the conformists in Nigeria. (Ninalowo, 2012)

The concept of the law of social contract and the understanding of the relationship between the citizens and the government seems not to be clearly understood by the party in relationship in Nigeria (government and the citizens). The misinterpretation of the laws of social contract needs to be adjudicated for and meaningful spread and positively interpreted among the Nigerians so that they might have better understanding of what ought to be and the established reality in terms of the agreement in the delivering of progressive contract, The gravity of the regeneration of poverty and increasing rate of insecurity experienced by the market men and women during COVID-19 period is worrisome and poses as threat to economic growth and development (International Financial Corporation 2020; Bertik et al 2022). Even little money borrowed by the petty traders to run their petty businesses from a private financial home such Renmoney, LAPO and Gbomula lantern (Put your breast on lantern in local meaning due to the fact that money was borrowed to run the business). All these financial homes were run by individuals to aid the growth and development of the petty traders that needs financial assistance to develop their businesses leaving behind the ulterior motives of lending organization which is structured towards interest accumulations at the expense of the traders who are expected to be paid back the money lend with interest to the lending institutions through weekly contribution to banks used by the organizations. The pandemic era became worst for petty traders since it is very hard for them to carry out their petty business activities on a daily basis because of lockdown in various market zones in Nigeria.

In Ogun State, several local and international policies were adopted and implemented by the State government to remedy, support, and fight against the spread of COVID 19 pandemic among market women, men, and community residents by introducing lockdown policy for controlling the spread of the pandemic and adopting the distribution of palliative measure for supporting the market men, women, and community members during the pandemic. The above statement remains debatable and subjected to different scholarly interpretation which is one of the major reasons for carrying out this study to know all effort put together by the State government and financial institutions for assisting the market men and women and the type of available support to the residents in the selected communities where the market zones are located\

### **Research Questions**

- 1) What are the factors that lead to the emergence of the spread of COVID-19 in Ogun State?
- 2) To what extent did the lockdown policy on COVID-19 affected the social bonding system of the petty traders in Ogun State?
- 3) How has the COVID-19 affected the economic activities of the petty traders in Ogun State?
- 4) What are the subjective interpretations of petty traders on the distribution of palliative incentives provided by the political elites in Ogun State?

### **Elite Theory and Current Literatures**

The paper adopted elite theory propounded by Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923) for the justification of the inquiry. According to Pareto, society is divided along two major actors which are; (1) Lion and (2) fox. The lion are the leaders who may either super impose themselves or be voted to position of power by citizens. while the fox are the followers or citizens in the country that are expected to be a patriotic citizen in the country. However, the major historical and constitutional responsibility of the lions was to protect the interest of all the citizens that entrust



their sovereign power in their hands in the State in the agreement of the contract. More so, the lions are expected to enact public oriented laws that will enhance the living standard of the people in the contract while the citizens in the other way are the fox historically and constitutionally expected to pay tax regularly and obey national calls or services (Haralambos & Holborn, 2016, Ritzer, 2015, Giddens, 2014, Ninalowo, 2010). In addition, Soyombo & Oyekanmi (2015) moved the assertion forward when they explained that positive agreement and strong degree of the established constitutional relationship expected between the government and citizens based on value consensus will leads to semblance of orderliness. They stressed further that when the government (the lion) play and enact public oriented laws by providing needed assistance for the use of the citizens and the citizens also play their historical responsibility by paying taxes and obeying national calls or services the society will remain balance and equity for justice will play its role in terms of growth and development. But when the case seems otherwise, the situation will lead to eminent contradiction of underdevelopment characterized by insecurity, high crime rate and delinquent activities, thuggery, hooliganism, poverty among others

In Ogun State, the law of social contract must be established, interpreted, and made known to the public members especially the petty traders. This is because large number of them did not even know or understand what they are or should be expected from the government in terms of the understanding of the power relations in social contract existing between the two actors which must be well acknowledged and widely understood by the fox (Nigerians). Evidenced gathered from World Bank Reports of 2020 & 2021 indicated the level of transparency in the supports rendered by the governments and multinational organizations in the developed countries such as United States of America, China, Great Britain among others to their various citizens especially those that are directly affected with the pandemic are measurable and statistically balanced compared to what is obtainable in the developing countries. In Odeda and Osiele market, the procedure and strategies adopted for the distribution of the palliative incentives as initially planned will play it role and function if used in a multi-dimension, transparent and accountable manners expected rather than the ill process adopted in distributing incentives through political means in different communities and market in Ogun State. This is because average Nigerians needs to understand the power relation between the governing elite and non-governing elite in the country (Nigeria) so as to understand power of social contract. The set misplacement of priority in term of the distribution of the palliative incentive in Ogun State among the inhabitants, business men and women in the State shows the level of retrogressive development and perceived widen gaps in the implementation of the distribution of the palliatives measure adopted for protection of the non-elites in Nigeria. This is the reason for conducting empirical research on the emergence of COVID-19 on economic and social bonding system in Nigeria precisely among the petty traders in Odedah and Osiele markets areas respectively in order to fill gaps in knowledge on the topic of interest under consideration

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The research inquiry was conducted in Ogun State among petty traders in Odeda and Osiele markets respectively. Although, there are four (4) well known major market zones in Odeda Local Government area in Abeokuta, which are (1) Odeda market, (2) Olugbo Market, (3) Osiele market and (4) Olodo markets. But for the purpose of this study two markets were randomly selected for the study namely Odeda and Osiele markets respectively. The two selected market zones did not have established study population or statistics of people that carry out business transactions in both markets on a weekly basis. This is the main reason for adopting purposive sampling estimation size of 200 as sample size to be served in the market zones to participants who are willing to partake in the research exercise. After coding,



screening, and editing 185 structured questionnaires was found useful for the analysis for the two market zones in Odeda Local Government Area in Ogun State. At the level of the interviews conducted among the market men and women to include community residents in the selected areas 10 per cent of 200 quantitative sample sizes 20 in-depth interviews were estimated. But at the end of the in-depth interviews conducted 15 in-depth interviews was conducted and found useful for the qualitative analysis through the use of unstructured questionnaire for collecting information from the participants (market men, women and residents) with the use of use of field note because the participants did not want their voices to be recorded. The research team follows all ethical standard such as informed consent, confidentiality among others in achieving and carrying out the research inquiry in the selected markets. Several methodological and techniques were adopted such as mixed method (Quantitative and qualitative) Structured and unstructured questionnaires were designed for data collection, Descriptive and cross sectional survey methods were adopted while the targeted sample size was purposively designed and estimated to two hundred (200) participants for the quantitative data collection and the use of ten (10%) of the two hundred (200) quantitative data for drowning out twenty 20 petty traders for the In-depth Interviews in the selected markets. But after screening, coding and editing 185 participants were found useful for the quantitative analysis while 15 in-depth interviews were also found useful for the study (qualitative data). Non-probability sampling techniques was adopted precisely the use of purposive sampling. Purposive technique was also used to administered the structured questionnaires to the petty traders so as to collect adequate information using face to face method for the distribution of the instruments (structured questionnaires) in the selected markets respectively while snowballing technique was adopted for identifying the key participants to interview before purposive sampling was adopted for the In-depth interview since large number of the petty traders did not want their voices to be recorded so field-note play an important role in the collection of the in-depth information from the participants in the selected market zones. The method of data analysis and interpretation adopted was anchored on descriptive and inferential statistical method through the use of chi-square for the quantitative data while content systematic method of data analysis was adopted for the qualitative data collected from the petty market men and women selected for the study in Odeda and Osiele markets in Ogun State



**RESULT****Table1a: Socio demographic characteristics of the participants in various market zones selected for the inquiry**

S/N	GROUP	Options	N= Frequency	%=percentages
	AGE	Less than 18years]	12	6.5
		19 – 24 years	27	14.6
		25 - 30 years	53	28.6
		31 – 36 years	32	17.3
		37 – 42 years	16	8.7
		43 – 48 years	22	11.9
		49 - 54 years	10	5.4
		55 years and above.	13	7.0
	Total		185	100.0%
2	Gender	Male	33	17.8
		Female	152	82.2
	Total		185	100.0%
3	Marital Status	Married	143	77.3
		Singled	17	9.2
		Divorced	2	1.1
		Separated	8	4.3
		Widowed /Widower	15	8.1
		Others Specify		
	Total		185	100.0%
4	Religion Affiliation	Christians	98	53.0
		Islam	82	44.3
		Traditional Worshipper	4	2.2
		Others Specify	1	.5
	Total		185	100.0%
5	Educational Attainment	No formal education	42	22.7
		Vocational Skill	41	22.2
		Primary education	60	32.4
		Secondary education	31	16.8
		ND / HND / B. A / BS.c	9	4.8
		Others Specify	2	1.1
	Total		185	100.0%
6	Ethnic Background	Yoruba	122	66.0
		Igbo	42	22.7
		Hausa / /Fulani	16	8.6
		Others Specify	5	2.7
7	Total		185	100.0%
	Names of Markets	Odeda Market	96	51.9
		Osiele Market	89	48.1
8	Toal		185	100.0%
	Nationality	Foreigners	5	2.7
		Nigerians	180	97.3
			185	100.0%

The socio-demographic characteristics of the participants in the two selected market zones (Odeda and Osiele) were stated as follow. The result on the age distribution of the participants indicated that. 53(28.6%) of the participants were within the ages of 25 to 30years, 32(17.3%) of

them were within 31 to 36 years, 27(14.6%) of them were within 19 to 24 years, 22(11.9%) of them were within the ages of 43 to 48 years, 16(8.7%) were within 37 to 42 years, 13(7.8%) were within 55 years and above, 12(6.5%) were within less than 18 years while 10(5.4%) were within 49 to 54 years as at the time the research was conducted The outcome of the result on gender status of the participants indicated that 152(82.2%) of the participants were female participants while 33(17.8%) were male counterparts in the two market zones selected for the study, The result of the marital status of the participants indicated that 143 (77.3) of the participants were married, 17(9.2%) of them were singled, 15(8.1%) of them said they were widows/widowers, 8(4.3%) of them were separated from their individual partners while 2(1.1%) of them submits that they are divorced as at the time the research was conducted, The findings derived from religious affiliation of the participants show that 99(53.0%) of the traders were Christians, 82(44.3%) were Muslims, 4(2.2%) of them were traditional worshippers while 1(.5%) claim to practice Buddhism religion. The question on education attainment of the participants shows that 60(30.4%) of the participants obtained primary school certificate, 42(22.7%) of them have no formal education, 41(22.2%) of them have vocational skills, 31(16.8%) of them obtained secondary school certificate, 9(4.8%) of them submit that they obtained ND/HND/B.A / BS.c while 2(1.1%) of the participants were recorded under specify indicating that they are profession in a field before they joined market business for buying and selling of goods in the market as at the time the research was carried out.. The ethnic background result of the participants shows that 122(66.0%) of the participants were Yoruba's, 42(22.7%) were Igbos, 16(8.6%) were Hausa/Fulani while 5(2.7%) were from other tribes such as Cottonu The result of the numbers and numbers of participants interviews that 96(50.9%) of the participants interviewed were from Odeda Market zone while 89(49.1%) were from Osiele market zones. The result gathered on nationality of the participants indicated that 180(97.3%) of the participants were Nigerians while 5(2.7%) were foreigners as at the time the research was conducted in the two market zones respectively

**Table 1b: Knowledge and Perception based Questions**

S/N	Knowledge and Opinion based question	Options	N-Frequency	% Percentages
9	How did COVID-19 enter Nigeria	Through Airport	102	55.1
		Through Rich men and women	21	11.4
		Ignorance	8	4.3
		Greed	52	28.1
		Others Specify	2	1.1
	Total		185	100.0%
10	What are the factors responsible for the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria	Through Community spread	86	46.5
		Hospital Errors and Mistake	23	12.4
		Untimely close of the Nigerian Airport	51	27.6
		Through sexual intercourse	20	10.8
		Others Specify	5	2.7
	Total		185	100.0%
11	What effort did Nigerian Government Put in place to control the spread of COVID-19	Lock Down Policy	162	87.6
		Public Sensitization	9	4.8
		Provision of Palliative incentives	14	7.6
	Total		185	100.0%
12	How did the pandemic or lockdown affect you	Financial Difficult	138	74.6
		Affected my family bonding	12	6.5



		Increases crime rate in my area Increase in o fear and disorder Restrict my Movement	8 6 21	4.3 3.2 11.4
	Total		185	100.0%
	Did the emergence of COVID-19 affected your Income/Wages	Yes No	178 7	196.2 3.8
	Total		185	100.0%
13	Did COVID-19 restriction affect social interaction with friends and families/ colleagues at work and home	Yes No	174 11	94.1 5.9
	Total		185	100.0%
14	Did the pandemic affect your relationship with others in your community	Yes No	123 62	66.5 33.5
	Total		185	100.0%
15	If yes, to question 14, then in which ways	Increase in crime and insecurity Lockdown of all economic activities Reduces social interaction in my family Increases poverty rate No responses	47 61 22 2 62	25.4 33.0 11.9 1.1 33.6
	Total		185	100.0
16	Did the pandemic affect the way you interact with people at home or places of works	Yes No	108 77	58.4 41.6
	Total		185	100.0
17	What is the implication of the pandemic to you	Increase in insecurity and crime Increase in poverty Lack of trust among people Increase in the gaps between the rich and the poor Societal disorderliness Others specify	73 33 21 28 27 3	39.5 17.8 11.4 15.2 14.6 1.6
	Total		185	100.0
18	What is the implication of the pandemic on economic or business activities in your market	Poor gain Poor investment Others specify	96 82 7	51.9 44.3 3.8
	Total		185	100.0
19	In what way(s) has COVID-19 pandemic affected the social well being of your family or families	Highly Affected Moderately Affected Not at All	112 71 2	60.5 38.4 1.1
	Total		185	100.0



20	What has Nigerian Governmental agents and medical practitioners do to help in meeting the needs of the market men and women in your market zones	Lower the bank charges rate on loans from banks	20	10.8
		Create more job opportunity in the country	31	16.8
		Lower the amount of taxes needed to be paid to Local Government authority	134	72.4
Total			185	100.0

Source—Fieldwork Reports 2021

The outcome of the result collected from the marker men and women in the two selected markets in Ogun State were explained along the knowledge of the participants concerning COVID-19 pandemic. The question that intends to inquired into how COVID-19 entered Nigeria shows that 102(53.1%) opines that COVID-19 entered Nigeria through lack of close down of the Nigerian International Airport as at when due, 52(28.1%) said through greed demonstrate by the Nigerian leaders, 22(11.4%) of them claim that it is through uncontrollable travelling aspect of the rich men and women, 8(4.3%) submit that it was through ignorance on the part of the Airport authority to control traveling out of the country while 2(1.1%) said that the blames for everybody because we all need to be blame due to the fact we over rely on foreign ideology to move on in life. The result gathered on factors responsible for the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria shows that 88(46.5%) of the participants explains that the spread of COVID-18 in Nigeria is related to community spreading, 51(27.6%) of them claim that the spread is due to untimely closure of the Nigerian International Airports to people travelling in and out of the country, 23(12.4%) submits that the spread was due to hospital errors and mistakes in Nigeria, 20(10.8%) of them submit that the spread was due to uncontrollable sexual intercourse among Nigerians while 5(2.7%) of the were recorded other specify category such as kissing, romancing and sweat on a regular basis. The outcome on the result of the efforts put together by the medical experts and the Nigerian government to control the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria deciphers that 162(87.6%) of them submits that the Nigerian government introduced lockdown policy to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, 14(7.6%) of them opines that policy of palliative measure of distributing supports items were introduced while 9(4.8%) of them submit that the Nigerian government in conjunction with Nigerian medical experts introduced sensitization policy to awake the consciousness of Nigerians concerning the spread and the consequences of been affected with the COVID-19 pandemic. More so, the question on how the lockdown policy introduced by the Nigerian government to the citizens affect their lives shows that 138(74.6%) of them states that the lockdown policy lead to increase in financial difficulty in their lives, 21(12.4%) said the lockdown policy affected their movement in their various communities, 12(6.5%) of them claim that the lockdown policy affected their family bonding system, 8(4.3%) submit that the lockdown policy increases crime rate in their communities while 6(3.2%) of them explains that the lockdown policy increases fear and disorderliness in their various communities. The question on how the emergence of COVID-19 affected the income or wages of the participants, thus, the result shows that 178(96.2%) of them explains that COVID-19 affected their income or wages while 7(3.8%) of them claim that it does not affect their income or wages. The question that intends to understand how the policy of restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic affect the social interaction of the participants shows that 174(94.1%) of them explain that the restriction placed on individuals and economic activities affected their social interaction while 11(5.9%) of them claim that the policy of restriction did not affect their social interaction during the COVID-19 period. The result of the question whether the COVID-19 pandemic period affect individual relationship with others in their community shows that 123(66.5%) of them said the period of the COVID-19 pandemic affect their personal relationship with other people in their community while 62(33.5%) of them posit that the period

did not affect their social relationship with other members in their various communities. The result of the question on if the response to question 14 is yes shows 62(33.6%) of the participants gives no responses to the question, 61(33.0%) of them said that it brings about lockdown in their economic activities, 47(25.4%) of them said it increases criminal and insecurity activities, 22(11.9%) of them submit that reduces social interaction among their family members while 2(1.1%) of them said it increases poverty rate. More so, the outcome of the result on how the pandemic affect the ways by which the participants interact with people shows that 108(58.4%) of them said the pandemic affect the ways they interact with people in their various markets and communities while 77(41.6%) of them said the situation did not affect their interaction with people in their various communities and market zones as at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research question also covers the result of the implication of the pandemic with the result showing that 73(39.5%) of them claim that the implication of COVID-19 is that it increases insecurity and criminal activities, 33(17.8%) of the participants claim that the implication of COVID-19 is that it increases the level of poverty rate among the participants, 28(15.1%) of them said the implication of the pandemic is that the situation leads to increase in gaps between the rich and the poor people in our society, 27(14.6%) of them believed that the implication of the pandemic period is that the situation increases societal disorderliness, 21(11.4%) of them said the situation increases lack of trust among people in Nigeria while 3(1.6%) of them were so silent of the question because they mark others specify without providing any options. The result of the research question on the implication of the pandemic on business or economic activities of the participants shows that 96(51.9%) of them submit that the implication of the pandemic on their economic activities result to poor gains due to the pandemic, 82(44.3%) of them said the implication is that it leads to poor investment while 7(3.8%) of them were indifferent by selecting the two options that it leads to poor gains and investment,. The result of the on how the pandemic affect the social well beings of the family of the participants shows that 112(60.5%) submits that the situation highly affected their family, 71(38.4%) of them claim that the situation moderately affected their family while 2(1.1%) of them selected both moderately anf highly affected categories respectively. In addition, the question on the contribution of the Nigerian government and medical experts in meeting the needs of the of market men and women shows that 134(72.4%) of them submit that they lower the amount of interest on loans collected to restart a business, 31(16.8%) of them claim that the government strive to create more job opportunities for the people while 20(10.8%) of them submit that they established financial homes that will borrow us money for our business.

**Hypothesis One**----The higher the emergence of COVID-19 among market men and women the lower the income gained from the market activities

**Table 2 Income generated during Covid 19 Pandemic**

		Did the COVID 19 pandemic affect your Income * Did the pandemic affect your job Crosstabulation			
		Did the pandemic affect your job		Total	
		Yes	No		
Did the COVID 19 pandemic affect your Income	Yes	Count	178	7	185
		Expected Count	178.0	7.0	183.0
	No	Count	7	0	7
		Expected Count	7.0	2.0	7.0
Total	Count	185	7	185	
	Expected Count	183.0	7.0	185.0	

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.445 <sup>a</sup>	1	.118		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	1.366	1	.243		
Likelihood Ratio	4.409	1	.036		
Fisher's Exact Test				.009	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.433	1	.119		
N of Valid Cases	185				
a. 1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.98.					
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table					

Symmetric Measures			
		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.183	.008
	Cramer's V	.183	.008
N of Valid Cases		185	

The result shows that there is decrease in the income of market men and women in the market zones due to the emergence of COVID- 19 The result shows that there is significant, relationship  $X^2 (3, N= 185) = 8.45, p = 0.000 (P < 0.05)$ . Since the  $P_{v 0.000}$  is lesser than the significance level of 0.05, the alternative hypothesis is accepted while the null hypothesis that the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic decreases the income of market men and women in the market zones selected. The result was concluded that the emergence of = COVID – 19, pandemic greatly affect the income of the selected market men and women in their various market activities.

**Hypothesis Two-----**The more the spread of COVID-19, the lower the pandemic affect the psychological and physical well- being of market men and women

**Table 3: Social interaction outcome during the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown**

Did the Pandemic lockdown affect your social relations/ family bond * Were your Standard of living affected by the pandemic/lockdown					
Cross-tabulation					
			Was you Standard of living affected by the pandemic/lockdown		Total
			Yes	No	
Did the Pandemic lockdown affect your social relations/ family bond	Yes	Count	174	11	185
		Expected Count	173.4	11.6	185.0
	No	Count	65	5	70
		Expected Count	61.6	8.4	70.0
Total	Count	161	24	185	
	Expected Count	161.0	24.0	185.0	

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.406 <sup>a</sup>	1	.121		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	1.750	1	.186		
Likelihood Ratio	2.591	1	.107		
Fisher's Exact Test				.001	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.394	1	.122		
N of Valid Cases	200				
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 8.40.					
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table					

Symmetric Measures			
		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.110	.121
	Cramer's V	.110	.121
N of Valid Cases		200	

The results show that there was decrease in the psychological and physical well – being of the market men and women is associated with the lockdown policy adopted by the State government in controlling the spread of the pandemic. The result is significant,  $X^2 (3, N= 185 = 7.81, p = 0.000 (P < 0.05)$ . Since the  $P < 0.000$  is lesser than the significance level of 0.05, the alternative hypothesis is accepted while the null hypothesis that there will not be decrease in the psychological and physical well- being will be rejected. We therefore conclude that decrease in psychological and physical well-being of market men and women is as a result of lock down policy adopted by the Ogun State government

### DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The discussion of finding of the result is fashioned behind the specified stated specific research questions. The first research question intends to know factors that lead to the emergence of the spread of COVID-19 in Ogun State. The findings shows that there are various factors that could be held responsible for the emergence of COVID-19 in Nigeria according to various submission of the respondents interviewed at various communities and markets zones selected for the study

*The major factor responsible for the emergence of COVID in Nigeria is rooted on the nonchalant attitudes of the big men and women in Nigeria that are warn not to travel and they embarked on the journey. Later the problem was now spread down to different places in the part of our country*

***IDI/market man/Christian/37yrs/Yoruba/Osiele market zone/12thApril, 2021***

*Another interview conducted in another market zone on the same question avers that In Nigeria, we did not have problem and we are not the owners of COVID-19. It is error and mistake of the white people but later spread to our country. Let be real with ourselves, if our leaders like us they are meant to close our international Airports so that those that have contacted the virus will not com to Nigeria. I am sure the children of the rich men and women in Nigerian studying abroad were still out of the country which is the major reasons for not closing the ports on time*



**IDI/Market woman/ Muslim/46yrs/Igbo/Odeda market zone/14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

*To buttress this question, the same question was directed to a resident of Osiele community and he submitted the following response*

*Nigeria problem is not disease problem but problem of leadership. The spread of COVID-19 should be asked from our leaders. I think it is high time we needs to let them understand what we are going through. It is not easy for Nigerians because we lack support and yet our leaders are creating more problem for us. They are the reason for the spread of the virus I mean COVID-19. If you look back then in Nigeria when the virus started to attack people lot of the death account were pronounce among the rich men and women. They are the people that bring the virus into Nigeria and they are still the reason for the spread of the Virus*

**IDI/Community Elder/Traditional Worshipper/52yrs/Osiele community/16<sup>TH</sup> April, 2021**

*The outcome of the research shows that there are several factors that can be held responsible for the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria which ranges from high level of greed, ignorance, lack of untimely closure of the International Airports in Nigeria, among others are the factors identified by the participants in various field concerning the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria*

The second question intends to know the extent to which lockdown policy due to COVID-19 pandemic affect the social bonding system of the petty traders in Ogun State in Nigeria. The outcome of the quantitative data collected and analysed shows that the emergence of COVID-19 19 strongly affected the social network of social interaction in their various market even at home because the family needs money to run the activities of the home front and the all place to see money is through the economic activities on a regular basis. Even the submission of the in-depth interviews shows that 13 out of the 15 interviews collected were strongly saying that the pandemic era affected their level of relationship with friends, family and associates while 2 out of 15 participants said the period of COVID-19 in Nigeria help them to enjoy social bonding with their families and friends in their various communities

The third question intends to know how COVID-19 pandemic has affected the economic activities of the petty traders in Ogun State. The outcome of the quantitative analyses explain that both qualitative and quantitative data collected for the inquiry after various analysis shows that the pandemic era greatly affected economic activities of the people or market men and women even the residents of the situated market zones were equally affected in a great dimensions. This is because market that are designed to be for buying and selling at all points on a regular basis were striated to once a week and even with a stipulated time in the selected day in the week. This in a dimensional affected the economic activities of the participants, their businesses, investment and the capital or gains in the business

The last

The last question intends to know subjective interpretations of petty traders on the distribution of palliative incentives provided by the political elites and the medical experts to meet their needs in Ogun State. The opinions of the participants were explain below

*The government and medical experts in the era of COVID-19 are not special in their dealings with market men and women. The only things done by the medical experts is on the level of creation of awareness on the rate at with the deadly virus kill people globally. More so, the palliative measure is just to satisfied the politician's in Ogun State. The palliative measure did not do anything to support*





*people. I think the measure was distributed based on political ideology but not for the needy*

***IDI/Market woman/ Muslim/46yrs/Igbo/Odeda market zone/14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021***

*The question was asked from another participant and he submits the following I have a lot to say about the claims of the government representatives of Ogun State. Truly I believed the governor was the best international practices for us but the people that surround him are full of operating on vested interest. The persistence of the COVID-19 spread really affect the growth and development of the ideology of palliative measure to assist those that are in needs during the era of the pandemic in Nigeria*

***IDI/Community Elder/Traditional Worshipper/52yrs/Osiele community/16<sup>TH</sup> April, 2021***

The same question was asked from another Participants and he submit that In our community the palliative measure did not get to our community. Those that have access to it are people that are doing politics in our community. It is not everyone or poor people in our community that has access to the program. Please help us tell the government that we still need their helps but if they are coming to assist us again it should not be political affairs or matters when they are about to distribute the items. God bless you. Please help us tell them since you are a student

***IDI/Community Elder/Christianr/46yrs/Osiele community/16<sup>TH</sup> April, 2021***

*The outcome of the question shows that the palliative measure designed to be distributed to the needy or less privilege members of the society are not distributed based on transparency and accountability in the mode of operation. The palliative measure is for all since we are part of the tax payers in the state..*

## **Conclusion**

The research work was conducted among market men and women in Ogun state precisely at Odeda and Osiele markets respectively. Thus, the ideas was to determine the extent to which market men and women perceived the emergency of COVID-19 in Nigeria by surveying into the causes, the effects on family structure and economic structure, governmental support systems and the possible solutions. The outcome of the research was concluded using the specific objectives which shed comprehensive meaning towards the outcome of the research inquiry

The first conclusion was drawn from the question which intends to know various factors that factors that lead to the emergence of the spread of COVID-19 in Ogun State. It was concluded that there are several factors identified by the market men and women concerning the beginning or the origin of the menace of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. Thus, large number of them concluded that the problem is more of the problem that started among the rich people that travelled to any parts of the world due to the fact that they have money to travel to any parts of the world. They felt they are less concerned about the menace and that the problem is more grounded and observed among the rich men or leaders.

The second conclusion was drawn from the research question that intends to what extent COVID-19 pandemic had affected the social bonding system of the petty traders in Ogun State. They concluded that they are not happy because it reduces trust and relationship between even market men and women talk less of the people that are coming to the market to buy goods in the market. The relationship was affected because the pandemic break down



social relationship between, family ties and trust for one another because the market is operating on the principle of helping one another but during the emergence of COVID-19 the trust, relationship and ties was drastically affected due to the pandemic

The third conclusion was drawn from the question that intends to know how COVID-19 affected the economic activities of the petty traders in Ogun State. The research was concluded that the economic activities of the petty traders were highly affected especially among those that deal in buying and selling of goods and services in various market places selected for the research work. The participant submitted that the pandemic period strongly affected the trade of petty traders in the market zones used as study locations

The last research question was adopted to draw out the conclusion which intends to know subjective interpretations of petty traders on the distribution of palliative incentives provided by the political elites in Ogun State. The participants submitted that the plan of Ogun State government is good but the process of achieving the distribution of the palliative incentives to the people is questionable. This is because the distribution was not based on political sentiment rather than transparency and accountability in the mode of distribution in palliative measure. They complain that large number of them did not even have access to the incentives talk less of enjoying the provided incentives.

### **Recommendations**

There are several recommendations that are derived from the study which are germane towards the growth and development of the study. This are stated below

- 1) The market men and women should be sensitized and sanitized properly more on the originality of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria because large number of them felt it is problem of the rich men and women in our society
- 2) The Nigerian government should develop monitoring agents in term of distribution of the palliative incentives to the less privilege numbers if the incentive must be targeted towards the less privilege members of the society. The power of monitoring must be strong and based on transparency and accountability
- 3) The international aids from several International and Multi-national organisations should be properly monitored to see if the donations rendered to assist the developing countries were well utilized for the purpose it was designed for in Nigeria. This will help in the process of determining the transparency of the donations
- 4) The Nigerian Government and Nigerian banks should encourage zero tolerance equilateral for the market men or women in terms of needs to restructure and start up their personal businesses again. This is because large number of the people, especially market men and women should be supported through loans to relieved the market men and women because large number of them borrowed money from different financial institutions which they needs to pay back with interest to the lend organisations respectively
- 5) The problem of COVID-19 is a collective problem that needs collective efforts of the people to fight out the menace. Therefore, all hands must be on desk to fight the menace so as to reduce the reoccurrences of problem among mankind

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