**TOPIC: COVID-19 AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS: CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS: CASE STUDY OF HOSPITALITY, CATERING AND TOURISM INDUSTRY.**

**JUNE, 2020**

**Introduction:**

The covid-19 pandemic has incurred a substantial economic and social impact around the world. Many sectors have been drastically affected but the tourism and hospitality sectors was one of the hardest hit by the covid-19 outbreak globally.

The pandemic has also worsen the mental health of business owners of the tourism and hospitality industry in Nigeria. This discussion will center on economic and social impact on the tourism and hospitality industry in Nigeria.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) 2020, covid -19 pandemic has incurred a significant economic and social impart around the world.

A recent report by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) on May2020, stated that sectors like hotels, restaurants, catering, travel and tourism related services were among the top five vulnerable sectors during the crisis of covid-19 pandemic. According to the (IPAs) reports, hotels, catering and restaurants are affected by the pandemic by 84%

**ECONOMIC CHALLENGE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**The economic impact of codvid-19 pandemic includes;**

1. Financial loss.
2. Reduction in customer demand at international and national level.
3. Disruption in the logistics and distribution channels.
4. Relationship between the suppliers, customers, and employees are affected negatively.
5. Loss of purchasing power due to inflation.
6. High employee turnover.

**Social impact of covid-19 pandemic**

1. Depression
2. Irritation and anxiety
3. Stress among the business owners about the present and future conditions
4. Psychologically drained, the symptoms of depression, apprehensions and anger
5. Restlessness, loneliness appears more prominently among business owners
6. Using of artificial intelligent as alternative to physical handling of services by staff

**Implication of covid -19 to employees**

* Structural unemployment
* Negative impact of social distance on jobs
* Promotion of construct/casual jobs
* Digital menu/contactless customers
* Job in piece rate/ time schedule
* Job insecurity and Occupational Safety and Health Challenge (OSH)

**TRADE UNION STRATEGY TO MITIGATE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Since trade union core functions has been severely affected due to the way work is organized now, the central role of trade union organization in an all-inclusive role of workers representative in promoting social dialogue. Hence there must be deliberate effort on the part of trade union organization to get the movement backon track. The following strategy should be adopted by our union leadership;

* Trade union education
* How is covid-19 able to raise capacity to influence policy making and engage in inclusive and effective social dialogue
* What capacity do trade union have to be the voice of all workers
* To what extent workers/people relied on trade unions during the crisis to improve labour and social protection
* Trade union representation and service, that is, addressing the concerns about declining trade union membership and the encouragement of innovative and promising practices to organize, represent and serve members
* Trade union consolidation, that is, addressing the great diversity and even divisions between trade union organizations so that they can act and speak in one voice on matters that are fundamental for workers
* Internal governance of trade union, including democratic deficit, women’s participation in management, representative of young workers and communication strategy
* Inclusive and effective social dialogue on the issues of today and tomorrow
* An important platform for trade unions to engage in social dialogue on broader social-economic and sustainable development issues that affects workers globally is the; 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

**Conclusion**

This is not the first crises and it won’t be the last, trade unions have shown resilience over the years, and I believe that trade unions have the capacity to continue adapting to changes in world of work and in society overall. Trade unions have to continue playing a central role in building forward better and advancing inclusive human development and active citizenship, as well as in strengthening democracy and promoting social justice.

**CLASSWORK**

1. How is Russia/Ukrain war affecting Nigeria Social Economy?
2. What do you understand by the phrase “Win-Win” in collective bargaining?
3. The world is a global village; Explain
4. What do you understand by “Johari Window” using a personality in the union hierarchy, Explain
5. What is the social effect of covid-19 pandemic?
6. In your own opinion, explain the phrase “social change” what prospects for workers in the 2023 Elections. How would you mobilize workers to participate massively in the election?
7. Assuming that you are HOD Education, what new programmes would you introduce to re-jig the objectives?

**COMRADE DR. SUCCESS LEKE**

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