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Editorial Note on Special Issue on Covid 19 by Guest Editor

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The novel coronavirus disrupted the world in 2020. The disease was not only deadly but highly infectious, so countries resorted to extreme measures such as lockdowns, frequent and intense sanitization and social distancing among others to counter the spread of the virus. The pandemic caused massive disruptions in supply-chain lines and temporary closures to businesses such as retail, hospitality and many others. The effects of the pandemic were devastating with most sectors of the various economies around the globe being adversely affected. While shortages in food supply were a common phenomenon, basic items like toilet paper and other necessities were in short supply. The pharmaceutical industry's research and development eventually led to the vaccine development; however, the pandemic had already caused massive disruptions to economies globally.

This special issue focusses on the effect the pandemic had on the economies, data mining, mental health, social infrastructure and other aspects of countries in Africa and around the world. The articles in this special issue identified the problems caused by the pandemic, how the event affected the stock market and other sectors of the economy and recommendations for solutions and other measures to counter the devastation caused by the pandemic. Each article in this covid-19 special issue have a unique approach to research and have added to the body of existing knowledge. Conclusions and recommendations made by the research in this special issue if adapted will facilitate recovery from the devastating effects of the pandemic. This special issue includes six articles as follows.

The first article "Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown on Food intake in Nigeria" by Bosede Kudaisi and P. A. Olomola adds to the existing body of knowledge since the Covid-19 pandemic was a fairly recent occurrence and there was a lot of research needed in the area. The study addressed the effects of the pandemic on food supply in Nigeria in particular. They "observed the rationality theory in consumers as majority of the people stockpiled foods items before the total lockdown" and falling "back on personal savings to smooth consumption." The authors recommend "adequate preparation by the consumers before lockdown and the government to ensure equitable distribution of palliatives to support stockpiled food." Since such studies have been done elsewhere, the sample in Nigeria broadens the existing literature. The recommendation about adequate preparation before lockdowns was also beneficial to counter hardships attributable to the pandemic and future occurrences.

The second article "The effect of trade on economic growth in Nigeria: does covid-19 matters?" by Kehinde Mary Bello and Matthew Oladapo Gidigbi adds to the literature since the Covid-19 pandemic's effect on economies is a "hot -topic" therefore research was necessary in that area. The paper addressed the effects of the pandemic on economies globally, on African countries and on Nigeria in particular. The study recommended "digitalization of trade facilitation as part of viable tools in moving trade forward in the face of the pandemic. More so, "trade-related technological investment and structural change" were advocated as gestures that would help trade in the era of the pandemic and even in the future. In addition, they recommend only partial

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lockdown of trading activities. Since many other researchers have analyzed the global sector, the African and Nigerian piece was original and added to the existing knowledge. Recommendations of partial lock-down was important for regulatory bodies and other authorities in policy formulation.

The third article “Data Mining of Covid-19 Cases and Food Security in Nigeria” by Denge Yuniyus Giroh and Ahmadu Abubakar Tafida enhanced the existing body of knowledge since the Covid-19 pandemic had devastating global consequences and therefore research was essential to revitalize the various aspects of the economies. The paper addressed the effects of the pandemic on data mining and food supply in Nigeria. The study recommended increasing the number of health personnel, medical facilities, and increasing the number of laboratories for testing, detection and treatment in order to reduce the number of mortalities. Furthermore, they recommended “establishment of integrated, climate-smart production systems with food crops, cash crops and agro- forestry to be put in place to enhance livelihoods of the people in the country”. Since many other researchers have analyzed other aspects of the pandemic, the data mining and food supply in Nigeria was relevant and added to the existing literature. Recommendations about establishment of integrated, climate-smart production systems and increasing the number of health personnel and medical facilities was paramount to addressing the problems caused by the current pandemic and any future ones.

The fourth article “Are sectors hit equally by Covid–19 pandemic? some insights from assessing the economic impact of the pandemic on selected sectors in Tanzania” by Innocent M. Pantaleo and Wilhelm M. Ngasamiaku extended the existing research since the Covid-19 pandemic had caused havoc across the globe and therefore additional research was required to understand the consequences of the pandemic to enable and facilitate recovery. The paper used “Input-Output modelling technique to analyze the impact of Covid-19 across different sectors of the economy in Tanzania.” The authors recommend a dramatic overhaul to policies and investment in economic stimulus, and social safety nets, to help recover fast from the COVID-19 pandemic effects. Since many other researchers have analyzed other aspects of the pandemic, the Input-Output analysis across the various sectors in Tanzania was important and added to the existing literature. The recommendations of social safety net and economic stimulus would also help policy makers during the economic recovery.

The fifth article “Mental health status of healthcare providers during covid-19 pandemic: influence of burden of care and work environment.” by Akinbobola, Olusola Iyabode and Ogunwole, Oluwapelumi Boluwatife was an important research topic since there was not a lot of mental health research and the added effect of the Covid- 19 pandemic necessitated additional research. The paper addressed the effects of the work environment and burden of care on mental health using a sample from Nigeria. The authors observe that “if pleasant work environment and burden of care relief was put in place, mental health status among health care providers will be reasonable at a balanced state”. The study recommends “psychological training for healthcare providers to handle burden of care.” They further recommend “improved psychosocial work environment in the organization and policy for improved mental health and health for healthcare providers and all health workers.” The study was original because the sample in Nigeria had never been investigated. The study was relevant since mental health was very essential in day to day well-being of citizens who are the backbone of the economy and ensuring adequate mental health was less costly than treating mental health breakdowns.

In conclusion the devastating consequences of the covid -19 pandemic necessitated research in that area. The articles in this special journal addressed the problems exasperated by the pandemic and offered recommendations on addressing and mitigating the issues caused by the pandemic.