



Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Students' Activities in Tertiary Institutions: A Case Study of Federal Polytechnic Ede, Nigeria.

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Abstract - The Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on students' activities in tertiary institutions with a case study of Federal Polytechnic Ede, Nigeria has been carried out. Online questionnaire was adopted for the data collection process and was designed to capture some of the main dimensions which could impact students' activities in tertiary institutions due to Covid-19. Three hundred and four respondents completed and submitted the questionnaires. Data from the questionnaires were collated and analyzed using bar charts. The research finding showed that there was good power supply, adequate network service but about half of the respondents did not have browsing phone. Information dissemination from institution to the students was poor and only few lecturers sent course materials to their students or organized online classes during Covid -19 lockdown or restriction orders. Government could not respond adequately in putting in place facilities for virtual education and distance learning programmes. The only means of socialization among the students and to the outside world is through social media and that also increased cybercrime. New skills were developed during the period which helped them monetarily. Covid-19 lockdown posed uncertainty in the future of education in Nigeria

Keywords: Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), lockdown, Likert scale, questionnaire, bar charts, pandemic.

1.0 Introduction

In November, 2019, series of cases were observed and diagnosed with novel corona virus disease, which first came out and reported in Wuhan, Hubei, China. (Zhou, et.al, 2012; Yunlu, et.al, 2002). It was initially reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 31, 2019. WHO advised to avoid place and close contact to inflected persons and pet animals. Firstly, corona virus (2019-ncoo) was isolated from Wuhan market china at Jan 7, 2020. On February 12, 2020 WHO officially termed the disease as corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19 -19). COVID-19 spread around the world which prompted WHO on March 11, 2020 to declare it a global pandemic (WHO, 2020) . The pandemic is one of its kinds and even has unknown features that human being has never been confronted with. Corona passed on human to human or human to animal through airborne droplet (Paules, Marston and Fauci, 2020; Takian, Raoofi and Kazempour-Ardebili, 2020).

After a slow start among sub-Saharan region, COVID-19 has increasingly spread throughout the African countries with no definite vaccine or treatment. The first confirmed case was announced on February 27, 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On March 9, 2020 a second of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigeria citizen who had contact with the Italian. In response to the cases of Covid-19 pandemic reported, the Nigerian government set up a presidential task force with daily updates. The task force gave out a tool free emergency phone numbers, testing centres were established across some states.

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in collaboration with the task force came up with guidelines such as maintaining of social distancing, restriction of travels and public gatherings including worship centres, establishment of palliative measures to poorest of the poor, imposing a quarantine policy. The wearing of face mask in public places was made compulsory (COVID-19.NCDC, 2020).

The order to close schools, colleges and universities by the federal government on March 19, 2020, was an urgent need of the current situation which existed in most states in Nigeria (Coronavirus, 2020). By this closure, all students' activities have been put on hold. Although the federal government has eased out some of the restrictions on human activities as a result of covid-19, the tertiary institutions remain shut five months after. The continuous closure is as a result of high rate of infection still recorded on daily bases. As at August 13,

2020, 373 new cases were confirmed and 10 deaths bringing a total of 48116 cases recorded, 34309 discharged and 966 deaths recorded in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (NCDC, 2020). Out of school for long would have created impact on students' academic and extracurricular activities. This research is to study the impact of Covid-19 on students' academic and extracurricular activities in tertiary institutions with a case study of Federal Polytechnic Ede, Nigeria

2.0 Methodology

Online questionnaire in the English language was adopted for the data collection process. Online is the most appropriate method to reach the respondents quick and without bridging Covid-19 protocols. The questionnaire had 22 general questions and was designed to capture some of the main dimensions which could impact students' activities in tertiary institutions due to Covid-19. The questions are organised along eight premise blocks. The first one looks into students' personal problems due to COVID-19. The second focuses on the impact contributed by the institution. Questions from the third block covered lecturers/students relationship during the pandemic. The fourth and fifth blocks centered on government response on students and cybercrime respectively during the restriction caused by Covid-19. The sixth block focused on students' social life during the period while the seventh block premise on skill learnt for the period restriction lasted. The eighth block centered on the uncertainty facing the students in near future.

The questionnaire is made up of multiple-choice questions with predefined answers offering respondents the possibility to choose and rank among several options or the possibility to grade on.

Respondent indicates degree of agreement and disagreement with a variety of statements on each block. This is based on Likert 4 points Scale (Hamed, (2017)). The scales are summed across statements to get the respondent score in the form of; Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree

3.0 Results and Discussion

Three hundred and four (304) students (here referred to as respondents) of Federal Polytechnic Ede from various departments and levels completed and submitted the questionnaire. Responses to each question (Likert 4 points scale) were collated and expressed in percentage. Each block of questions were further analyzed using Bar charts.

Figure 1 depicts the responses on block one which centered on individual uneasiness during the COVID-19 restriction order. 47.7% (strongly agree) and 36.8% (agree) of respondents were apprehension of the corona virus disease especially on their academics. Only 28.3% and 6.3% disagree and strongly disagree that they were adequate network coverage in their area leaving majority in affirmative.

About half of the respondents did not have browsing phone and might not have been equipped with trending information during the restriction while above average had optimum power supply during the period. 65.5% and 29.9% strongly agreed and agree respectively that COVID-19 pandemic affected their reading while 91.5% strongly agree/agree that they were stressed up as days went by.

Block two looked at the institution/students relationship during the COVID-19 restriction period (Figure 2). Only 37.6% strongly agree/agree that they were getting updates and information from the institution. Likewise 12.2% of the total respondents strongly agree/agree of hearing or participating in online classes during the restriction or lockdown. 91.8% strongly agree/agree that closure of institution due to COVID-19 would affect the scheduled semester examination. On issue of examination planning and rescheduling 61.4% disagree/strongly disagree of being involved.

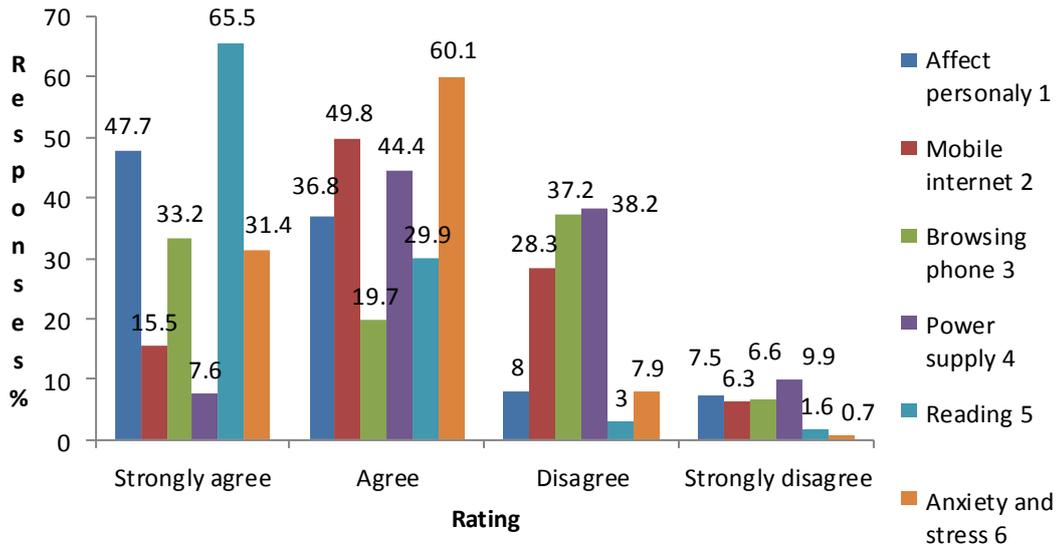


Figure 1: COVID-19: Students' personal problems

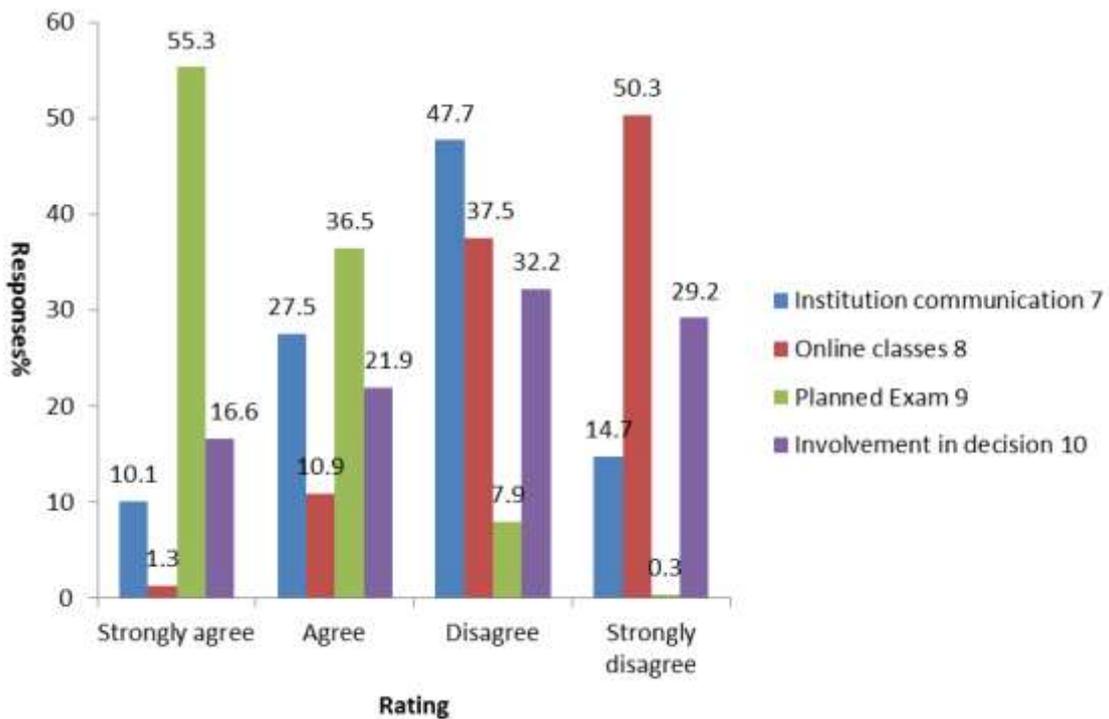


Figure 2: Covid-19: Institution/Students

73.4% could not receive any course materials from their lecturers while 84.9% disagree/strongly disagree of having good relationship with their lecturers during the Covid-19 lockdown or restrictions (block three, Figure 3).

Block four (Figure 4: COVID-19: Government/Students) focused on government supposed intervention during the lockdown and subsequently restriction of movement. 69.9% of the respondents (strongly agree/agree) that the COVID-19 could have effect on educational sector. On virtual education majority of the respondents (84.2%) affirmed that government should shed more attention to virtual sector of education since that was the only option on ground. 51.5% of the respondents (strongly agree/agree) were in affirmation that distance

learning could help to mitigate loss of learning hours while 48.5% has reservation in its working which could be attributed to the problems discussed in block one.

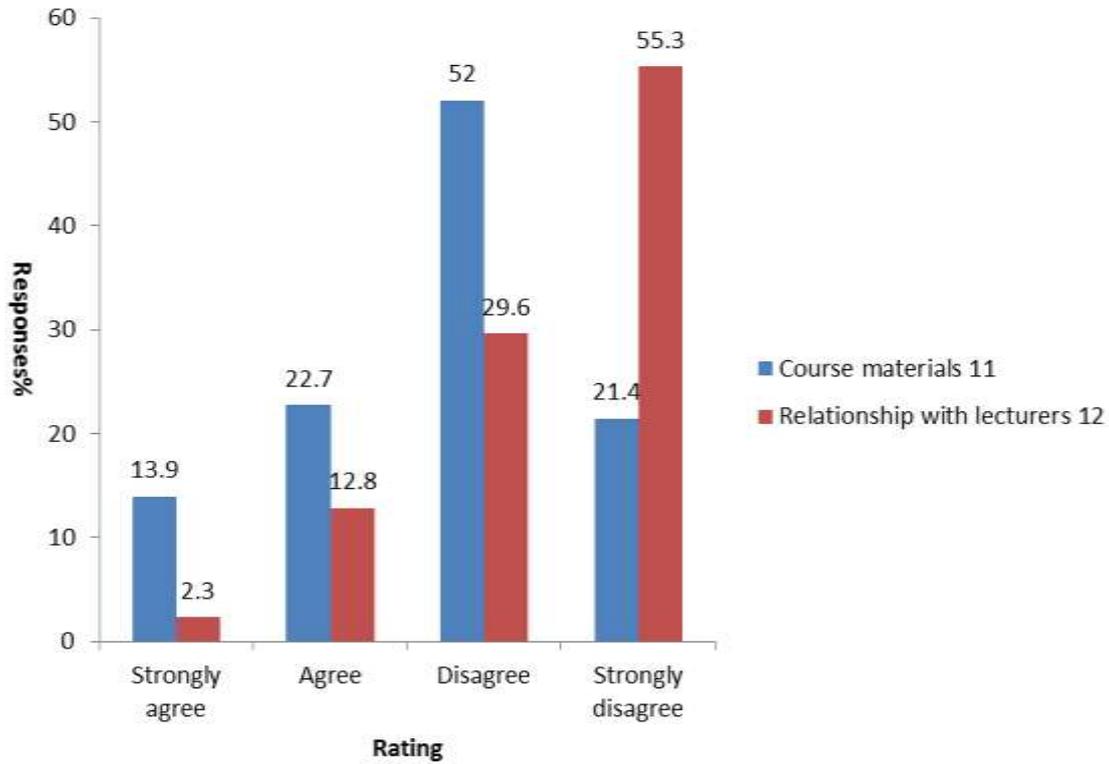


Figure 3: COVID-19: Lecturers/Students

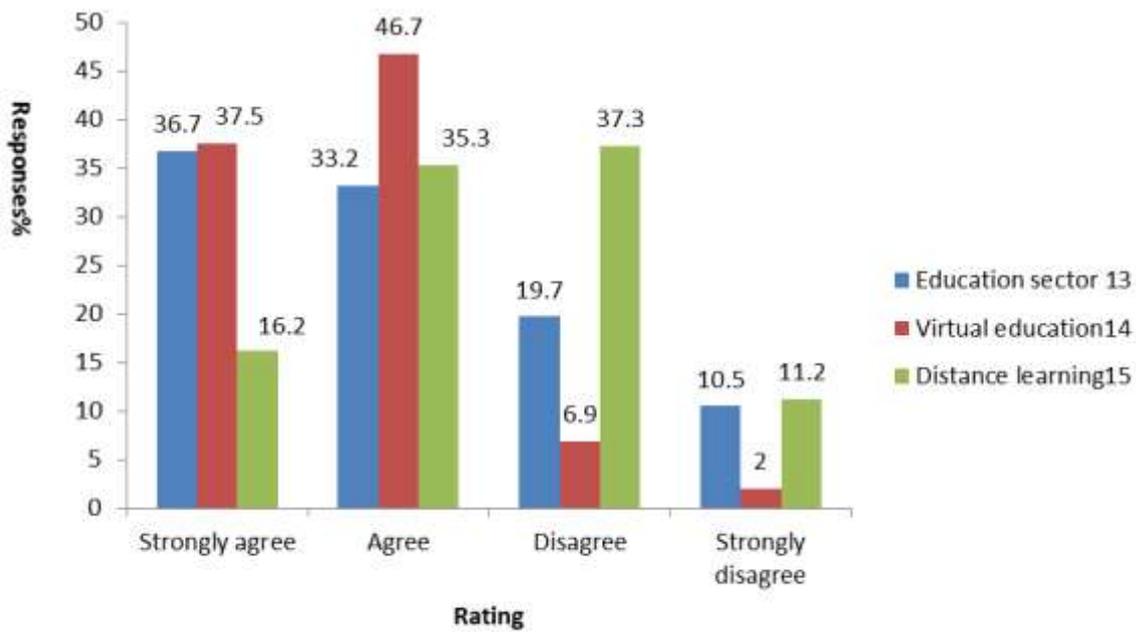


Figure 4: COVID-19: Government/Students

Block five looked at the behavior of the students (respondents) during the lockdown/restriction of movement. There was a rise in cybercrime as asserted by 92.5% (strongly agree/agree) of the respondents (Figure 5). Figure 6, (block six) centered on students social life during the restriction period. On the students relationship among themselves and also with outside world, 91.7% and 84.8% respectively of the respondents asserted that they have been affected.

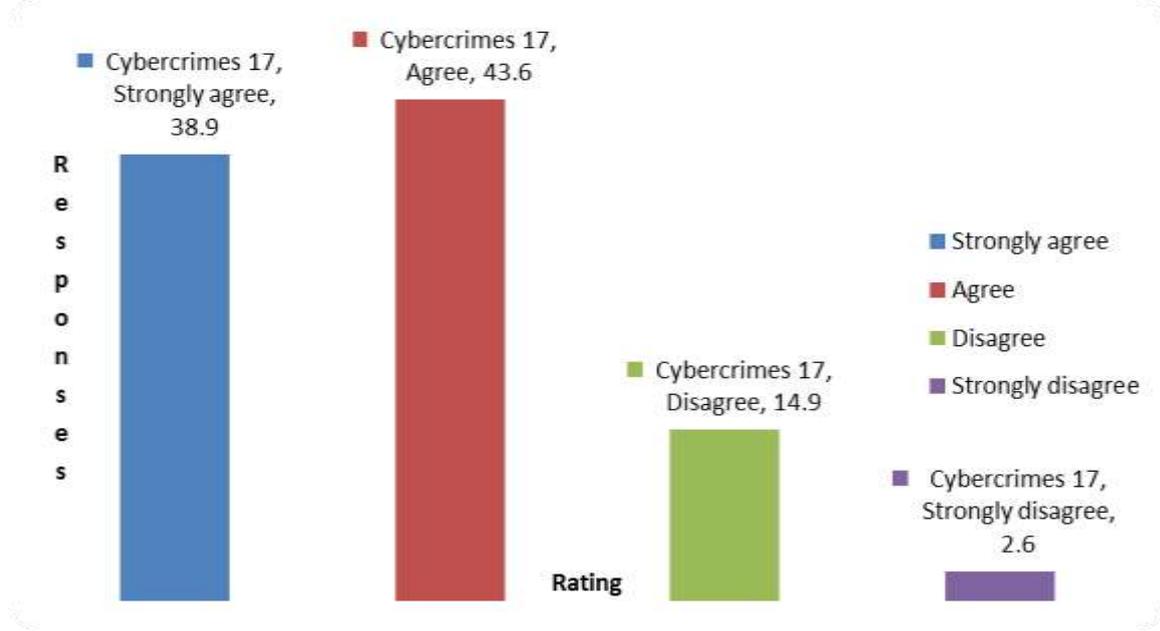


Figure 5: COVID-19: Cybercrime/Students

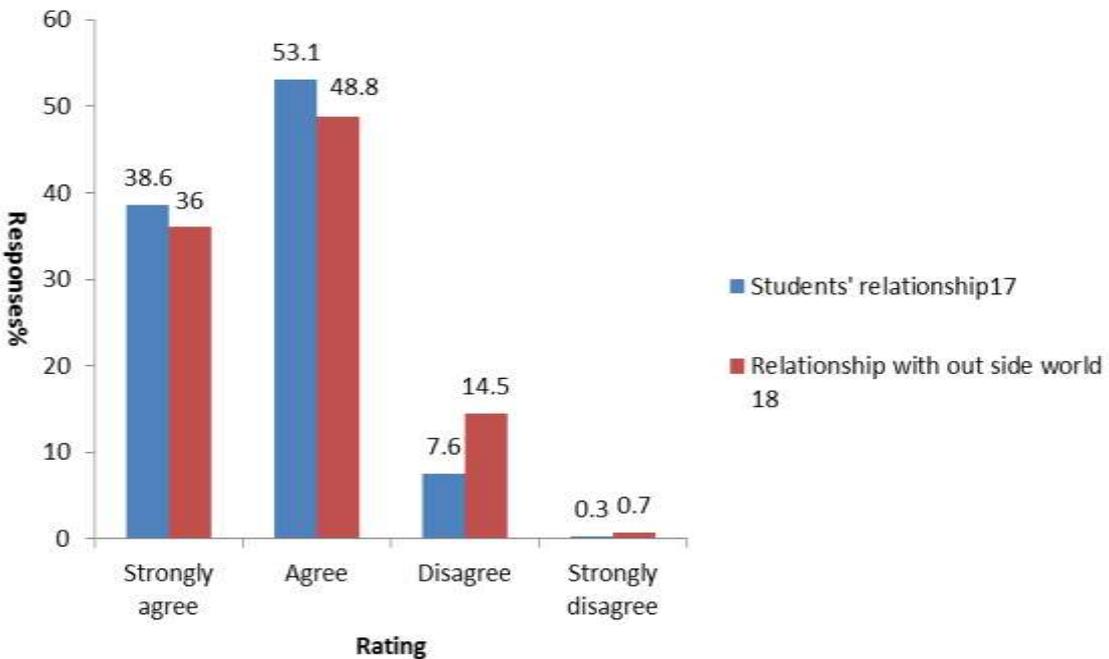


Figure 6: COVID-19: Social life/Students

Figure 7 depicts that 74.1% (strongly agree/agree) of the respondents have been engaging in learning a skill that has helped them monetarily, (block seven). The majority of respondents upheld that COVID-19 pandemic would extend educational year of graduation (96.6%), lower academic performance (93.0%) and cast a negative future in their career prospect (74.0%). Covid-19 therefore posed uncertainty in the future of education in Nigeria, (block 8, Figure 8).



Figure 7: Covid-19: Learnt skill/Students

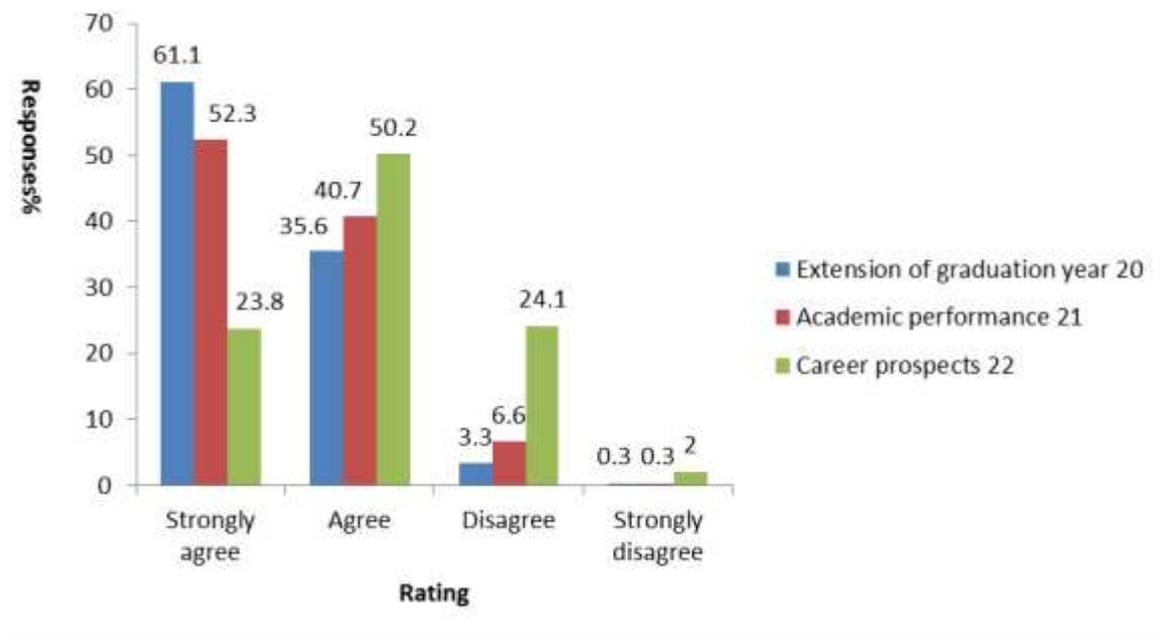


Figure 8: COVID-19: Uncertainty/Students

4.0 Conclusion

Three hundred and four respondents completed and submitted the questionnaires which have probed into the effects of the corona virus disease on students' activities. Although above average of the respondents affirmed good power supply, adequate network service but about half of the respondents did not have browsing phone. There was no proper information dissemination from institution to the students and only very few received course materials from their lecturers or participated on online classes during COVID-19 restriction orders.

This is an indication that there was poor relationship between the institution/lecturers and students. Government could not respond adequately in putting in place facilities for virtual education and distance learning programmes. The restriction order led to bombardment of the internet which caused increase in cybercrimes. The only means of socialization among the students and outside world is through social media. New skills were developed during the period which helped them monetarily. COVID-19 lockdown posed uncertainty in the future of education in Nigeria.

5.0 Recommendations

- Students should be encouraged to have smart phone or make it as part of registration package.
- The institution website should be updated regularly.
- Facilities for virtual and distance learning should be put in place.
- Palliative should be given to indigent students to reduce cybercrime.
- Students should be reassured of brighter future of education in Nigeria

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