

## Gender Perspective to COVID -19 Pandemic: Assessing the Impact on Women

**Olajumoke Ganiyat Jenyo**

Research Fellow

National Defence College Nigeria

E-mail: [jenyoolajumoke@gmail.com](mailto:jenyoolajumoke@gmail.com),

### **Abstract**

*Evidently it is no longer news that the pandemic Covid19 effect is beyond health crises. The entire global environment in one way or the other has respond to the pandemic strategically. However, COVID-19 as showed that it is gender sensitive and remains an arrested development to humanity. This research work explores gender perspective to COVID-19 pandemic: assessing the impacts on women. The aim of this paper is to highlight the challenges and problems confronting women at this point of our life which many as referred to as 'New Normal' through a conceptual approach. Feminist theory was adopted. This research work is motivated by the question; what are the peculiar and specific issues confronting women in this pandemic era? As part of it findings, this research work discover the following ;death, rape, sexual exploitation, sexual and gender based violence, human rights abused, lost of livelihood, job loss, murder, humiliation and gender disparities are recurrent threat to women under COVID-19 phenomena. Meanwhile, gender is a variable key in development and compels nations globally to signed and ratified international commitments on gender equality and equity. With the outbreak of the pandemic and impact on women, we expect government to put in place realistic policy and programes to reduce, alleviate and limit women suffering under the COVID-19 pandemic as well as measures towards the achievement of gender mainstreaming and equality. The study therefore recommends; gender balance, women's economic empowerment, palliative, security, protection, and awareness regarding gender specific issues arising from COVID-19 pandemic as government's commitment that must move away from paper to practical policies prism, at all levels of governments.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Coronavirus, Gender Perspective, Women, Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, Development, Gender Based Violence, development*

### **1. Introduction**

COVID-19 is a human, economic and social crisis affecting everyone, and Africa, like the rest of the world, has not been spared (Rita, 2020). For instance, the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020 declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic. Moreso, contemporary worsening socio-economic and security conditions reflect the future of women, which Uduak, (2020) pointed to the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to major disruptions in social and economic activities in virtually all the sectors in all countries in the world. Obviously, humanitarian crises, including health emergencies affecting men and women differently is on the increased with women greatly impacted negatively. As COVID-19 continues to spread there are overwhelming concerns over its impact on women and girls, with vulnerabilities feared to worsen as the pandemic overwhelms health systems and socio-economic operations (World Economic Forum, WHO, UNAIDS and AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, 2020). Thus, far this situation stemmed from the rapid rise of coronavirus infections.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), coronavirus is a disease caused by novel virus with a characteristic of sporadic transmission with the speed of light. Its kind was experienced first in 1960s with the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-COV). History avail us such prevalent and infectious diseases causing great harms to humanity by drastically reducing the population (WHO, 2020). As described by the World Health Organization (WHO), COVID- 19 is a viral infection that causes respiratory illness. The disease is basically transmitted from person to person through contact with droplet of an infected person (Omaka-Amari et al. 2020). However, COVID-19 as showed that it is gender sensitive and remains an arrested development to humanity. The aim of this paper is to explore the challenges and problems confronting women at the outbreak of coronavirus that has significantly change the way of life and how will do things globally, which many as referred to as 'New Normal'. This paper employed Feminist theory as it theoretical framework of analysis. Additionally, the research work is motivated by the question; what are the peculiar and specific issues confronting women in this pandemic era? While it is also in the context of this essay objective to interrogate the gender perspective to COVID-19 pandemic: assessing the impacts on women.

## **2. Theoretical Framework: Feminist Theory**

This study adopts the Feminist theory with its origin in an opposition to an acceptance of unequal privileges based on gender. Feminism can be seen as a term that expresses the relationship between men and women in society from a gender angle. As a theory, that is also of prism, feminism is an avenue to question and challenge the origins of oppressive gender relations and it attempts to develop strategies that might change the relations for the better which attained scientific prominence with the publication from scholars such as Mbilinyi (1992); Meena, (1992); Soper (1990); Black, (1989) and Mannathoko (1982). Feminism is expresses as the recognition of the systematic discrimination against women on grounds of gender and a commitment to work towards change (Meena, 1992). Mannathoko, (1992) submit, that feminist theorizing has been a consideration of activities aimed at making a woman inclusive within the rights of a man as a human being. As Black, (1989), contend feminism can be been seen as sharing in an impulse to increase the power and autonomy of women in their families, communities and society. It is a belief system operating within groups with a desire to increase autonomy for women. In this regards, feminism does not just deal with issues of justice and equality, but also offers a critique of male dominated institutions, values and social practices that are oppressive and destructive to women and girls life and their existence.

Relating this discourse to the gender perspective to Covid-19 pandemic: assessing the impacts on women, UN Women, (2020) mirrored the situation through the lenses of the traditional gender roles ascribed to women has the primary care-givers for sick family members, a situation which exposes them to the risk of contracting and transmitting the coronavirus. They argued that, as primary care-givers for sick family members, women's access to accurate and reliable information and their access to adequate healthcare is critical, to enable them protect themselves and their families from the virus. For instance, they maintain that, many women and girls living in rural areas, poor urban settlements, and IDP camps often have limited access to reliable information and adequate healthcare (UN Women, 2020).

In this context, women all over the world and in real sense Africa for example are people who became victims as a result of their vulnerability due to the absence of the requisite capacity of possessing the knowledge and information; couple with the discrimination in the society they live in , and to defend themselves. The implication of this on women has been great. It included the destruction of means

of livelihood that significantly affects women income, through lockdown of economic activities, especially informal market for women who depend on selling in these markets; heightened pressure from parents of young girls to drop out of school, or get married Another is the issue of unwanted pregnancies, and transactional sex and/or prostitution women and young girls were subjected to. Coincidentally, the consequences of this and many others on women from a gender perspective analyses provided us a deep insight of rethinking, as feminist theory did proof the difference that accounts for the contradictions resulting in the exclusion of the female gender in the general liberation and emancipation of women in a male dominated society and institutions.

### **3. Empirical Incidence of CONVID-19 Impacts on Women**

Women, especially those in poor countries tend to have been impacted with the incidence of covid-19 toughly. Many of the negative impacts of covid-19 on women have been known to happen at the instance of composite-intrinsically linked conflicting relations in their societies. A recent study by UN Women found that reports of violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, have increased in several countries as security, health, and financial worries create tensions and strains accentuated by the cramped and confined living conditions of economic activities lockdown (UN Women,2020). More so, according to the World Bank Report on Convid19, pointing to the reality of economic hardship due to COVID-19 is also greater for women, especially, the informal workers, most of whom are women, account for more than 90% of the labour force in sub-Saharan Africa. Informal sector jobs are particularly at risk during the pandemic (World Bank Report, 2020).

Titan, et al (2020) stated that the lockdowns triggered by COVID-19 are taking a disproportionate toll on women in the labour market, as the sectors with high rates of female employment are experiencing heavier job losses as well as increased childcare needs during school closures exert an outsized impact on working mothers. They postulated option that allows working parents, especially women, to keep their jobs. For women who are able to continue working, employers such as universities should explicitly account for the need for increased flexibility to perform childcare in tenure and promotion systems, they suggested; for those who lose their jobs, unemployment insurance and other government assistance programs should take into account childcare needs that prevent parents from seeking new jobs as schools are closed. They conclude by warning that, job loss, particularly during a recession, can leave ‘economic scarring’ that reduces earnings and promotion opportunities of women for many years. In a similar vein, Alon et al. (2020), exhibit a plethora of purpose of their study focus on the impact of economic crisis triggered by the pandemic will have on women and men in the labour market. They observed that during the pandemic, women’s employment opportunities are likely to be more strongly affected than those of men, noting that this are some of the long run causes for optimizing the impact of the pandemic on gender equality. For example, women in Africa make up 58% of the continent’s self-employed population. And obviously, in this regards women-owned businesses are particularly vulnerable to shocks, as they are disproportionately operating in the informal sector that is less-profitable, full of uncertainties, and unsecured.

In addition, women in the African Region is said to account for around 40% of COVID-19 cases, these ranges from 35% in some countries to over 55% in Southern Africa Region as reported by World Health Organization (WHO,2020). Similarly, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti stated that women face a higher risk of gender-based violence in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. For instance, it observes that the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls is profound. A situation whereby women are disproportionately affected by lockdowns and this result in reduced access to health care and services (WHO- Regional Director for

Africa, 2020). As efforts are focused on curbing the spread of COVID-19, essential services such as access to sexual and reproductive health services have been disrupted. Report from, in Zimbabwe, indicate the number of caesarean sections performed decreased by 42% between January and April 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. The number of live births in health facilities fell by 21%, while new clients on combined birth control pills dropped by 90%. In Burundi, initial statistics show that births with skilled attendants fell to 4749 in April 2020 from 30, 826 in April 2019 (WHO, 2020).

Furthermore, according to a preliminary data released by African Union Member states on April 6, 2020, 53 had shut down their institutions of learning. This left over 20 million learners out of school at pre-primary level, 160 million at primary, 56 million at secondary, and 8 million at tertiary level, with no access to continued learning and teaching facilities across the continent. Accordingly, close to 250 million African children out of school as are result of the pandemic on the continent. Schools typically provide safe spaces for girls. This for instance, prompt Mahama (2020) to assert that, when young girls are in school, they are less likely to be forced into marriage and be abused sexually. In his view, during this pandemic, however, schools are not there to protect girls. This crisis has also increased discouragement among girls and young women, clouded their hopes of success with heightened pressure from their parents to drop out of school, enter the labor market or get married (Mahama,2020). Before the epidemic, and according to UNESCO estimates, 23% of girls were out of primary school compared to 17% of boys. By the time they become adolescents, the education exclusion rate for girls was 39% in comparison to 36% for boys (UNESCO, 2020, UIS, 2019).

In the meantime, as evidently shown above COVID-19 is gender sensitive that have continuously distort women uplifting and development. Ostensibly , Goldin (2010) in his studies dwelled extensively by identifying the lack of flexible work arrangements, especially in business and financial services jobs, as one of the biggest remaining sources of the gender pay gap. In collaborating the aforesaid, Amy, Alison, and Fannie (2020) submit that going forward, addressing gender gaps is a key consideration when designing COVID-19 response and recovery programs, as this will be crucial to protecting women's lives and livelihoods. In addition, at this critical juncture in the crisis response presents to us an opportunity for policymakers to not only lifting the binding constraints to women's economic empowerment but by improving women's access to critical resources that spur for inclusive economic recovery across Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Furthermore, as a measure to reduce impact of COVID19 on women with practical example from what was obtainable during the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Amy, Alison, and Fannie (2020), said that, to support economic recovery in the region, business competitions and soft skills trainings could help women-owned firms bounce back. Business plan competitions, which have proved helpful in addressing capital constraints and encouraging investment in various contexts, could also be implemented during the post-crisis recovery.

#### **4. Gender perspective Induced Covid 19 impact on Nigerian women**

The first recorded case of Covid-19 was on February 27, 2020 in Lagos. And thereafter, the infected number of reported cases keep growing continuously with the federal government of Nigeria responded with lockdown on March 30, 2020 by restricting movements of persons for two weeks in the country's capital Abuja, as well as in Lagos and Ogun States, among other things. In line with this also, states at the regional level followed immediately and invoked the provisions of the Quarantine Act to restrict movements of person, as efforts were made in contact tracing, testing and isolation, and case management infected victims. As at 2.40pm on Friday 19th September, 2020,

there were 56,882 confirmed cases, 48,500 recoveries, and 1,045 deaths in Nigeria spread across 35 of the 36 states and Abuja according to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

In Nigeria, women are already badly been impacted with the spread of coronavirus and government lockdown of economic activities. This, collaborate the views of Amy, Alison, and Fannie, (2020) as they explained that the COVID-19 (coronavirus) diseases spreads across the globe, is projected to take an immense human toll on Sub-Saharan Africa, infecting at least 110 million people in the region. Also with immediate economic consequences of the pandemic for African economies estimated to be severe, resulting in the first regional recession in nearly 25 years and pushing an estimated 23 million more people into extreme poverty. Likewise, Women, Peace and Security Index which provides important insights on the well-being, social, economic, and political empowerment across different countries in the world ranked Nigeria at 145 out of 167 countries in its 2019 ranking profile. We can understand the ranking, in helping us to grasp the condition of women and young girls on before the outbreak of the pandemic as pathetic and the Covid-19 as come to compound their woes significantly. However, the situation has not really changed for the better in Nigeria today. The discussion below present the dynamic impact of covid-19 on Nigeria women, from health issues, social context, and economic disempowerment reality, a comprehensive analysis.

#### **(a) Health Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Women in Nigeria**

Accordingly, the health impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on women in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized; going by the rapid rise of coronavirus infections, and Nigeria has since passed the fifty thousand (50,000) marks. During this pandemic, many women have been infected by the virus, for instance as we all know most health workers in Africa and particularly in Nigeria. Moreso, majority of the front-line health professionals and workers are most exposed to the infectious diseases are women this includes: medical doctors, nurses, nurse aides, laboratory scientist, cleaners and those providing care to the sick. According to the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Association of Resident Doctors, and the Joint Health and Medical Union (JEHESU), raised the concerned that over eight-hundred (800) health workers have been infected in Nigeria (Punch Newspaper, 2020, p.12).

Furthermore, there has been a sudden rise in the incidence of rape, sexual exploitation and harassment of women and young girls, this is believe could lead to high increased in HIV infection. Due to poverty among most family, especially those in the rural and urban slum, many young women and girls of them have been exposed to transactional sex and/or prostitution. UN Women, (2020) in Nigeria capture this scenario this way, noting that, many women and girls living in rural areas, poor urban settlements, and IDP camps often have limited access to reliable information and adequate healthcare. Women's access to accurate and reliable information and their access to adequate healthcare are critical, to enable them protect themselves and their families from the virus.

Another health challenge arising in this pandemic era that women in Nigeria have to bear the burden are Vesico-Vginal Fistulas (VVF), mental and physical stress on women,. The early pregnancies in younger girls and underage girls and that have resulted into health complications, such as the Vesico-Vginal Fistulas (VVF), and others. More to this is the psychologically effects on they may suffer, they also face risk of exposure to birth and health related complications such as maternal or mortality, premature births, this in a way may have long-term devastating effects on their lives. Forced early marriage of underage girls, are also on the increase, which tend to be in the risk of development of obstetric fistulas during pregnancy and childbirth among other problems. With the pandemic, majority of health care emergency and service focus has been on COVID-19 outbreak, there by

putting limitation to gain access to sexual and reproductive health service and care in Nigeria. In addition, even access to reliable and adequate information has been limited with health and law enforcement services burdened with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, putting pressure on patience and victims to seek alternative health care provider and practitioners that are not professional and sound for humanity and women health well-being.

#### **(b) Social Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Women in Nigeria**

From the social context angle, impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on women in Nigeria have been mutually reinforcing, among these are: burden of household care, rape, sexual exploitation, gender based violence, domestic violence and assault, unplanned pregnancies, forced early marriage for young girls and loss of education learning for school age young women, and as well as human rights violation. Arguably, burden of household care was amplified more with the impact of COVID19 on women in Nigeria, as there was increase women child care, domestic work, alongside taking care of caring of sick members of the family. Obviously, the closing of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic, children of school age are at home and have to be looked after mainly by mothers. The domestic work carried out by women in terms of cooking and housekeeping increase remarkably. In Nigeria, women as mothers are usually responsible for child care and others within families. The effect of the pandemic is perhaps more severe on single mothers because they may not have any additional assistance in childcare nor in financial support during the pandemic (Uduak, 2020).

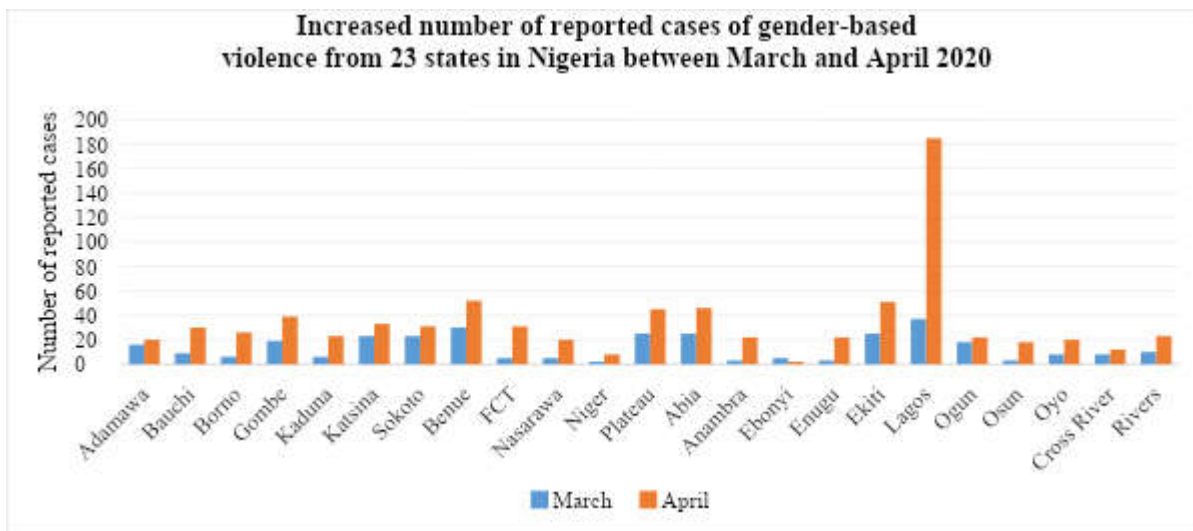
Unfortunately, also for the women and young girls, they were also burden with the issues of unplanned pregnancies. For instance, school closures and curtailed economic opportunities led girls to spend more time with men, increasing their likelihood of becoming pregnant. Another is the issue of forced early marriage, according to the United Nations Development Program reports that a considerable percentage of girls marry by 15 years. The restrictions due to Covid-19 will likely increase the incidence of child marriage and poverty in the northern part of Nigeria and by extension the whole of Nigeria. Child marriage has been an endemic cultural phenomenon in the northern parts of Nigeria. It is not uncommon to see girls of secondary school age being married out by their parents. Child marriages have significant negative effects of girls because of the disruption of education and increase in the risk of developing obstetric fistulas during childbirth problems.

More so, the increase risk of unplanned pregnancies due to Covid-19 lockdown measures has been highlighted and evident in Nigeria. Again, the implication of being trapped by an unwanted pregnancy could be more debilitating for women from poorer households considering the fact that they may be forced to bear the burden of child bearing and nurturing alone. Similarly, in the case, of young women and girls of school age, who have the ambition of returning back to school and furthering their education may end been stigmatized and discourage. Before the epidemic, and according to UNESCO estimates, 23% of girls were out of primary school compared to 17% of boys. By the time they become adolescents, the education exclusion rate for girls was 39% in comparison to 36% for boys (UIS, 2019). Thus, with shuttered schools, women and young girls in Nigeria are at increased risk of abuse, sexual violence, trafficking, social exclusion, and forced labor.

In addition, and women face a higher risk of gender-based violence in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. A recent study by UN Women found that reports of violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, have increased in several countries as security, health, and financial worries create tensions and strains accentuated by the cramped and confined living conditions of lockdown. The UN Women office in Nigeria in recent briefing report highlights some pertinent gender considerations and recommendations to inform immediate responses to the outbreak of the

COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria to includes: inadequate access to information and health services, employment; economic and livelihood impacts; increased gender-based violence (GBV) and protection risks (UN Women, 2020). The United Nations Women Office in Nigeria has provided the following statistics on drug abuse in Nigeria in the below graph.

**Table 1: Increased Number of Gender Based Violence in Nigeria**



Sources: Gender-based violence (GBV) (UN Women, 2020).

From the graph Reports by the United Nations Women office in Nigeria described the increase in GBV due to Covid-19 as a “Shadow Pandemic” in May 2020 across most states in Nigeria (UN Women, 2020). The lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic seems to worsen the situation. This is because prior to the pandemic, partners who had a tendency to be abusive were engaged in activities which took them outside their homes. However, with the restriction of movements due to the pandemic, couples are compelled to stay at home together for weeks, creating additional tensions, perhaps leading to people becoming frustrated and aggressive.

Essentially, from the foregoing, the absent of protection for women as a result of the pandemic, reveals the manifest consequences of social complex pluralism and relations and there social complexities motivated by extraneous factors that are largely internally construed. As these happen, the government is expected to provide better living conditions for and by ameliorating and supplying them with all the needed social amenities required for a good life.

**(c) Economic Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Women in Nigeria**

Uduak, (2020), observed that the Covid-19 pandemic clearly exacerbates the existing socio-economic problems in Nigeria. Even though the impact of the pandemic is faced by all demographics, it is generally higher among women and young girls. For instance, the informal sector plays a vital role in the economy and contributed about 67% to Nigeria’s GDP in 2017. He noted that, majority of workers in the informal economy are women therefore a policy that disrupts activities in the informal economy affects women in peculiar ways. In this light, the lockdown of economic activities inducing the restrictions on movement in different parts of Nigeria, distortedly impacted women economic power and activities in the informal economy market negatively in different ways.

Women in Africa make up 58% of the continent's self-employed population of which they operate from the rural and urban informal market. However, it said that women-owned businesses are particularly vulnerable to shocks, as they are disproportionately informal and operate in less-profitable sectors, full of uncertainties and unsafe. While, the pandemic as exposed these culpabilities of women in the economic sector. For example, markets are an integral part of any city or urban area in Nigeria as they provide the space and facilities for trading of different forms of agro- and non-agro merchandise. Many of these markets were under locked and keys during the pandemic era in all the cities, towns, even some village markets were not spare of the economic lockdown. Markets are usually dominated by women as part of the informal economy. Given the large number of persons who congregate in markets on daily basis to buy or sell merchandise, it became one of the first places to be shut down as government placed restrictions on movement. The shutting down of markets significantly affects the income and livelihood of women who depend on selling in these markets (AU/CIEFFA Report, 2020; Uduak, 2020).

Similarly, rural-urban transportation of agrarian produce was badly impacted due to the lockdown and movement restriction by the government as a measure to curb the spread of covid19 and control the pandemic. In Nigeria just like other Africa societies, the rural agrarian areas feed the urban centre with much of it needed food stuff. However, the transportation of food items and agricultural produce faced serious challenges, this was scenario was capture by Uduak, (2020), that said even though agricultural produce is excluded from the ban on movement, there was remarkable reduction in the volume of agricultural produce transported due to the high number of security personnel on the roads, presence of several check points which causes delays and damage to the produce, and in-turn loss of potential income to traders who are mainly women. According to Omaka-Amari et al. (2020) even before the outbreak and spread of the coronavirus, Nigeria is already dealing with enormous social and economic impacts exacerbating existing inequalities and creating new inequalities, which are hitting the most vulnerable people the hardest.

Coincidentally, in the face of the human and economic crisis caused by COVID-19, it is noted that in Nigeria as it is reported in other countries during this pandemic, gender inequalities in economic opportunities was obvious and worsen, as was seen in previous large-scale health shocks such as the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemics. In this pandemic, the Nigeria economic is reported by the National Bureau of Statistic, Central of Nigeria and The Federal Ministry of Finance, Abuja as at August, 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 to be heading towards to recession having suffer contraction from the first quarter of 2020 to the third quarters of the same year. Convincingly, what this entails is that that many organizations may shutdown their operations and activities. Even before the foresaid announcement, women and young girls in Nigeria are experiencing worse job losses and may remained out of work longer than men, since women worked disproportionately in the hardest-hit sectors. For instance, in the formal sector of the economy, the service and hospitality industry provides the highest employment opportunities for women. The overwhelmingly tied to the informal sector, showed the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting livelihood and spending patterns, which in turn could have a negative impact on the economy and wellbeing of the people. In this regards, women employed in this industry due to their roles as administrative and support staff, service attendants, leisure and hospitality workers, airline workers, health and social workers, cashiers, receptionists, etc. However, consequently, to the pandemic in Nigeria, they may also lose their jobs, become unemployed, and laid off because plummet in Nigeria economy.



## 5. The Peculiar and Specific Issues Confronting Women in this Pandemic Era

An understanding of the peculiar and specific issues confronting women in this pandemic, as well as the vulnerabilities of different categories of women, will help in addressing the gendered dimensions of the outbreak for more effective policies inclusive solutions. Arguably, also the insights about the peculiar and specific issues, is that of the many broader repercussions that affect women severely. In the mean, we may need to comprehend both the peculiar and specific issues, as in case of Nigeria, women are already at a disadvantage position. For instance, beyond the socio-cultural, religious, political and economic default against women, there are several underlying factors such as infrastructural deficits of electricity; health facility; insecurity; poor road; and inadequate transport system that worsen women conditions. In all as expressed above, from a sheer intelligent and relevance the predicament of most marginalized women and girls, including women with disabilities, women in IDP camps, prisons and detention centers will be dissected.

The presentation in table 1 and 2 points to the reality of both the peculiar and specifics issues confronting women in this pandemic era in Nigeria for comparative analysis and understanding.

**Table 2: Identified Peculiar Issues Confronting Women in COVID19 Era**

Infected by covid-19
Rape, sexual abused and sexual exploitation
Economic disempowerment through lockdown
Mental health issue
Unplanned pregnancies
Forced early marriage for younger girls
Gender Based Violence (GBV)
Psychological trauma
Domestic violence and assault
Untimely Death and widowhood within the pandemic era

**Sources:** UN Women, 2020; Uduak, 2020

**Table 2: Identified Specific Issues Confronting Women in CONVID19 Era**

Tension at home as a result of economic hardship
Burden of household care
Limited access to reproductive health care and services
Additional mental and physical stress on women
Exposed to transactional sex and prostitution
Loss of jobs and missing out on employment opportunities
Loss of family members to Covid-19
Loss of income that entrench gender inequality

**Sources:** UN Women, 2020; Amy, Alison, Fannie, (2020); Alon, T, M, et al, (2020)

## 6. Conclusion

There are connections and trickle down impacts associated with COVID19 on women especially from a gender perspective angle. In most circumstances, there are early reports of rising domestic violence as couples and families are forced to hunker down together, which put many women at great risk (Taub 2020), to a great level woman are the receiving ends of suffering greatly under the hammer of Convid19 pandemic. As rightly pointed out by Uduak, (2020), the lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic seems to worsen the situation. This is because prior to the pandemic, partners who had a tendency to be abusive were engaged in activities which took them outside their homes. The

restriction of movements in his view, due to the pandemic, couples are compelled to stay at home together for weeks, creating additional tensions, perhaps leading to people becoming frustrated and aggressive.

Obviously, covid-19 as lead to death, rape, sexual exploitation and turned some Nigerian women into widow within the pandemic era. Also, Nigeria's women economic power is inevitably weakened as impacted by covid19. Critically, the insecurity of women as found by this study reveals that there are; human rights abused of women, lost of livelihood, job loss, murder, humiliation and gender disparities are recurrent threat to women under COVID-19 phenomena in Nigeria. Essentially, we hope governments at all levels are gear up to curb the menace and address it impacts women and young girls all around Nigeria. For us, we believe gender is a variable key in development and compels nations globally to signed and ratified international commitments on gender equality and equity. With the outbreak of the pandemic and impact on women, we expect government to put in place realistic policy and programmes to reduce, alleviate and limit women suffering under the COVID-19 pandemic as well as measures towards the achievement of gender mainstreaming and equality.

## **6. Recommendations**

The study therefore recommends the solution to the situation lies with structural remediation that comprehends the followings:

1. Gender balance, were government provide policies that would address the wider disparity in the society. Such has improved the health of women and girls in Nigeria through policy guidance on the implications of gender, gender-based violence, and access to sexual and reproductive health.
2. Women's economic empowerment, through government and other well meaning organization should provide ample job opportunities for women and young girls to become self-reliant.
3. Palliative, government should provide the women and young girls. With cash transfers can as a tool for women and young girls economic recovery: As this would them women to be engaged in home-based and informal economic activities, like petty trade, retail sales and agriculture produce.
4. Security and protection of women and young girls against GVB, rape and sexual exploitation.
5. Awareness regarding gender specific issues arising from COVID-19 pandemic as government's commitment that must move away from paper to practical policies prism, at all levels of governments.
6. As schools and other real sector of the economic activity re-open, this must followed tailored post COVID-19 strategic plans that take into account both short term and long term policies to safe guides the needs of women and young girl's future and occurrence of any pandemic in Nigeria again.
7. Nigeria government at this point in time must recognized the genuity of data as part of policy measures that can address problems in the short-term and long term against bad situation. Again so as to reduce exacerbate economic situation, as well as minimize the spread of the coronavirus and any another virus in pandemic manner in the future, and avoiding additional long-term economic as well as health problems.

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