



“Investing in Africa’s future”

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES, THEOLOGY &
EDUCATION (CSSTHE)**

NHIR 225: RESEARCH METHODS

END OF FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

AUGUST-DECEMBER 2021

LECTURER: A. M RUSERO

DURATION: 5HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ONE question ONLY

Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentations

Background

Like any region in the world, Africa was taken by surprise by the advent of the global pandemic of Coronavirus. Firstly, detected in the Wuhan Province of China in late December 2019, the virus has resulted in a massive shutdown of the world as a result of business closure, suspension of international flights, shutting down of schools, laying off employees in several businesses, with some businesses collapsing all together. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the disease caused by this nCoV is named as “COVID-19” which is the acronym of “corona virus disease 2019” (Wu and McGoogan, 2019). The absence of previous experience in handling the 2019-nCoV was part of the reason why it was hard to contain its spread.

Case Scenario

The Republic of Apple was one of the little states that were severely affected by COVID-19 to the extent that seven million of its populaces died with more than five million people having been affected.

Some of the procedures and consequences undertaken were as follows:

- i) Originally Apple ‘Scientists’ did not believe in scientific measures and proposals to curb the spread of the virus such as social distancing, self-quarantining and closing down businesses and schools “Lock Down” as was the case with several other countries. As a result, 150 000 citizens died and 850 000 citizens were infected.
- ii) Realising that action was supposed to be taken Apple Scientists “discovered” a certain traditional herb which they thought would be the cure. The President of Apple ordered that test trials of the traditional herb would be conducted on prisoners who were sentenced to death and awaiting hanging. After all they were prisoners who would still be killed for their crimes and thus would be of use in the experiments. Of the 250 prisoners selected, 243 died instantly and the other six died only five days later whilst only one prisoner survived.
- iii) Having realised that the traditional herb did not work, the Scientists came with another herb, and this time mixed with another herb which they claimed would immediately avoid loss of life unlike the first one. The President ordered that the herb be administered on criminals charged of rape and robbery. Of the 1500 selected prisoners, 700 immediately became blind, 350 lost their sense of taste for food which the remaining 250 were not affected but showed signs of hallucinations.

- iv) The Scientists blamed the lab technicians for failure to appropriately mix the concoctions. After ‘correcting’ the inappropriate mixture the medicine was administered on the previously 100 surviving prisoners, who all lost their teeth, developed excessive nose bleeding and instantly died. Meanwhile all the developments that were taking place were never made public to the world, they remained a state secret.
- v) Other Scientists argued their case to the President that it was better to develop a vaccine rather than a cure so as to prevent the children and born babies to contract the virus. They came with a ‘vaccine’ which the President of the Republic ordered it to be firstly administered on minors in children’s homes and in refugee camps. All of the children developed measles and some became permanently disabled.
- vi) Realising the recklessness of the Scientists was becoming excessive, Republic of Apple asked their neighbour a monarchical Kingdom of Banana for assistance in terms of drugs, vaccines as well as other paraphernalia. Kingdom of Banana however taking advantage did not tell the begging neighbour that they were also running trials. Instead they said they would dispatch their medical doctors to assist in administering the drugs. Agreeable to the arrangement, the Kingdom of Banana received the team comprising 25 medical doctors and five researchers. The researchers’ immediately started moving around communities mixing with several people and collecting their views on COVID19. Meanwhile the local people were not aware, they just thought it was the usual conversations in queues to buy sugar and mealie meal etc. So, people were divulging information without knowing what that amounted to.
- vii) The 25 medical doctors resorted to test their drug to COVID19 patients on the basis that they paid them first and inject them the trial vaccine. Because of biting poverty, COVID19 Patients agreed and were given lump sums of money. After being injected, all of them lost their hearing. This resulted in the President of Apple deporting the medical experts back to their country.
- viii) Upon arrival in their country, they went on to publish all names of citizens in Apple Republic upon which the trials were run. People back in Apple learnt of their names on social media and amounts of money they had been paid to volunteer for the administration of trial drugs on them. Their government tried them and jailed them for “selling out.”

- ix) In Jail their punishment was to accept the test trials for the vaccine which Apple was generously given as a donation by the neighbouring Carrots island-state on the understanding that clinical trials were to be conducted first. The dilemma was extended when all inmates developed psychological hysteria after the drug and became paranoid in the prison.

From the presented case-scenario, answer any one question: -

Question 1

You have been appointed Research Expert by the World Health Organisation to investigate the several ethical violations that manifested in the respective countries. Write a comprehensive report of not less than **15 pages** outlining the ethical violations and what the countries in question could have put in place to avoid the gross violations [100 Marks]

Question 2

Craft a research proposal on possible avenues of social science research you may derive from the above case. Your proposal should range between **15 and 25 pages**. [100 Marks]

Question 3

The World Health Organisation has entrusted you with the mandate of training data enumerators, data analysts and data collectors to further investigate violations above. Provide a training manual of between **20 and 25 pages** that also reflects the fusion of statistics in your training in relation to the above scenario. [100 Marks]

End of Paper