COVID-19 Pandemic: Response and Recovery among Adult English Language Students in Southwest Nigeria

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Abstract
This study examined effective Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery measures of most adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria using a self-developed validated questionnaire. The study had two research objectives, while the descriptive survey research design was employed to generate data from a sample of 384 consenting adult English language students within the Southwest Nigeria. The Social Learning Theory (SLT) served as the framework for the study, while frequency counts and percentages were used for the data analysis. Findings showed that most adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria do not believe in the existence of COVID-19 or efficacy of foreign COVID-19 vaccine. Continuous public enlightenment and inclusive decision making against the spread of COVID-19 by both Federal and State Governments in Southwest Nigeria was recommended.

Key words: Adult English Language Students, COVID-19, Southwest Nigeria, Recovery

Introduction

COVID-19 has been considered a global menace after it was experimentally discovered in a China laboratory in the year 2019, but its rapid spread across different continents in the world within a few months made it a pandemic, as well as its defiance against medical solution at the moment (World Health Organization, 2020). COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected various facets of life for everyone, of which most adult English language learners are not exempted from its socio-economic, health and education scourge (Elgin, 2020) Notwithstanding, the coping response and recovery from the impact of COVID-19 differs from one person to another (adult English language students in southwest Nigeria inclusive) , with respect to their social, cultural, educational, psychological, healthcare, linguistic, environmental and medical measures that they are predisposed to (UNESCO, 2020).

According to Thelma and Adedeji (2020), the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has consequently modified the mode/method of teaching and learning by adult English language learners, with divergent appeal towards online learning to keep up with their academic pursuits. To further worsen the situation, most campaigns against the spread of COVID-19 seem to be in media which are not either easily accessed or requires electrical power to function appropriately, this condition makes it a deterrent to the aspirations of most adult English language learners, as majority are either financially handicaped or resides in remote areas where there is no electricity in their places of abode (Onyema, 2020) .

The importance of English language in this dispensation can be traced to west Germanic language which was first expressed in early medieval England and till date is still being utilized as official lingua franca in most countries colonized by Great Britain, as well as in some countries colonized by the French and German empires both in Africa and beyond (Crystal, 2003; Gomes, 2010). So, for adult English language learners in Southwest Nigeria, the learning of English language can better enhance an individual's response and recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, if infected by the virus (Estonia, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting every aspect of people's lives in an unprecedented manner, with diverse implications such as confinement-related psychological distress and social distancing measures, which is having its toll on different age groups in distinct ways (Edeh, Nwafor, Faith, Shuvro, Fyneface, Aabha, Alhuseen, 2020).

Etheridge and Spanting (2020) assert that there is need for systematic change in the way government reacts to problem management and implement the recovery rates because many concerns are, among others; the increase in the levels of both the youth and adult unemployment, need for intergenerational justice, as well as the well-being of all (adult English language learners inclusive). An all-encompassing way to respond to and recover from COVID-19 pandemic needs to be put in place to help individual recovery rates of different ages. Thus, every necessary factor should be considered to see that no one is left behind in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic (Wuhan Municipal Health and Health Commission, 2020). It is against this backdrop that this paper examined COVID-19 pandemic, with respect to response and recovery measure among adult English language learners in southwest Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

Improvement of students' health can increase students' capacity to learn, reduce absenteeism and improve mental alertness. However, with the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, a positive response, as well as adoption of a positive recovery measures by adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria is the only way to staying healthy. The academic performance of adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria is strongly and negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, this susceptibility to COVID-19 in Southwest Nigeria, may lead to failure in English language test or examinations. This work therefore examined COVID-19 pandemic, with focus on response and recovery measures among adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria, and to

postulate measures that will enhance their health and boost their academic performance.

Objectives of the study

The broad goal of this study was to examine **COVID-19 pandemic,** with focus on response and recovery measures among adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria. The specific objectives of this paper include:

1. to examine the perceived impact of **COVID-19 pandemic** on adult English language students in southwest Nigeria.
2. to explore the responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language students against **COVID-19** in Southwest Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What are the impacts of **COVID-19 pandemic** on adult English language learners in Southwest Nigeria?
2. What are the responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language studentsagainst **COVID-19** in southwest Nigeria?

To effectively divulge the essence of this study, the objectives stated above were thoroughly analyzed.

Objective 1: Perceived impact of COVID-19 pandemic on adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria

COVID-19 pandemic has grossly affected social interactions to a great extent in this dispensation, as its adverse effect plays out in every field of study such as medicine, engineering, education, art and law, music etc (OECD, 2020). Similarly, high susceptibility to COVID-19 among adults has made media adverts against the spread of COVID-19 in various societies a paramount necessity which requires the use of comprehensible English language. Notwithstanding, any adult who finds it difficult to comprehend or express himself or herself using simple English language expressions seems might be at a disadvantage in this present changing language world of globalization and may be deluded of vital information relating to COVID-19 on various media (Kantar, 2020).

According to Lau, Khosrawipour and Kocbach (2020), the amount of victims lost to COVID-19 pandemic is enormous and its negative impact has affected the education of students, the businesses of individuals and corporate organizations, the activities of religious worship centres, social interactions, sporting events, ceremonious gatherings etc., thereby making the use of English language in most media advert against the spread of COVID-19a demand which cannot be ignored because English language is the most widely spoken globally. To this end, Haleem (2020) emphasized that COVID-19 pandemic has affected the daily life of individuals, corporate organizations and communities. The damaging effects of COVID-19 prevents government from acting in a specific way and also in a way that will mitigate the spread of the pandemic among the general populace, so as to comprehend media adverts and act accordingly against COVID-19 in their day to day activities.

The fear of contracting COVID-19 readily plays a vital role in not only how people access information relating to COVID-19, but also in their responses to treatment and recovery (Fang, Zhang, Yu, Wang & Deng, 2020). The impact of COVID-19 pandemic is not only felt by adult English language students only, as it extends beyond continental, racial or country bounds, in which integration of technology which are built in English language education become a veritable tool for communication, education, social and business transactions globally, of which most adult English students are indirectly coerced towards embracing technological innovations to further learn English language, for self-development and reliance without seeking the help of English language instructors throughout the period of the pandemic (Campbell, 2020; Ellis, 2020).

The dynamic nature of COVID-19 came with the potential to disrupt each aspect of life. The impact of COVID-19 was so great that European Union had to start preparing for a second wave of the disease, should it arise (European Council, 2020), unfortunately it did arrive .In fact, the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been asymmetric across age groups, with evidence suggesting that young people are less at-risk in terms of developing severe physical health symptoms linked to COVID-19 than older age cohorts (WHO, 2020). However, the disruption in their access to education and employment opportunities as a result of economic downturn is likely to put the young generation on a much more volatile trajectory in finding and maintaining quality jobs and income.

Objective 2: Responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language studentsagainst COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria

Following Campbell (2020), an effective measure covers any response and recovery measure against the spread of Covid-19 that ensures the smooth running of schools, mental well-being as well as provide social and emotional support that will help to reduce tension, depression and fear of contracting COVID-19 disease in any locality. Therefore, the adoption of herbs by most adult English language students in southwest Nigeria for maintaining their psycho-social and subjective well-being of their household could be considered an effective measure against the spread of COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria. In numerous communities within southwest Nigeria, both State and Federal government have provided and disseminated practical advice for prevention of COVID-19, and how to endure when one is confined.

Reason for media publicity against the spread

of COVID-19 is to make people know much about the pandemic, most especially people like adult English language students and those whose health conditions are very critical. In like manner, Campbell (2020) advanced that the schools closure affected students psychologically because they could not get social and emotional support that will boost learning outcome. Likewise, most educators who monitor students academic performance were not exempted from the lockdown.

Hence, the disruptions of examinations in about 70 countries of the world exposed youths, children and adult English language students to momentary uncertainty, anxiety and stress, except who could utilize online search engines for continuous study (UNESCO, 2020).Inclusive decision-making was discovery to be one of recovery measure utilized by most adult English language students in southwest Nigeria. This approach made people volunteer more, and government had the opportunity to harness their sense of agency by engaging them in the formulation, co-creation and/or implementation of policy responses and recovery plans that promoted prevention initiatives that supported recovery efforts against the uncontrollable spread of COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2020).

Furthermore, an effective recovery measure against the spread of COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria will be critical to delivering a more inclusive safer society within southwest Nigeria, as it will bring about positive mental well-being of the populace, increase employment opportunities, boost income, prevent disruptions of academic activities, initiate cordial relationship as well as produce freedom of social interactions (Thelma & Adedeji, 2020).

Methodology

The study involved the recruitment and training of six (6) research assistants for 6 days who were taught how to politely require valid informed consent from the 384 participants (comprising 192 men and 192 women) through simple random sampling technique across the six (6) states in southwest geopolitical zone of Nigeria from 1st of August 2021 to 30th of September, 2021.

Research Question 1: What are the impacts of **COVID-19 pandemic** on adult English language learners in southwest Nigeria?

Table 1: Analysis of impacts of **COVID-19 pandemic** on adult English language learners in Southwest Nigeria.

S/N	Impact Statement	Agreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)
1	The occurrence and spread of COVID -19 is real among adult English language studentsin southwest Nigeria.*	37 (9.6%)	193 (50.3%)	154 (40.1%)
2	Most a dult English language students are affected by COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria*	27 (7.0%)	57 (14.8%)	300 (78.2%)
3	COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the academic progress of adult English language students in southwest Nigeria.*	196 (51.0%)	35 (9.1%)	153 (39.9%)
4	Access to English language instructors by adult English language students in southwest Nigeria has been affected by COVID -19 pandemic.*	194 (50.6%)	32 (8.3%)	158 (41.1%)
5	The period of COVID-19 pandemic provided room for academic improvement for most adult English language students in southwest Nigeria.*	43 (11.2%)	187 (48.7%)	154 (40.1%)
Total		**99 (25.9)**	**101 (26.3)**	**154 (47.8)**

***** Expected Responses**

Categorization of respondents' perceived impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on adult English language students in southwest Nigeria

The instrument used for data collection on research question one (1) was graduated into a Likert scale (e.g. Agree, Undecided and Disagree), data was categorized and analyzed using simple percentage and findings of the study were stated thereafter. On the categorization of e perceived impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on adult English language students in southwest Nigeria, five COVID-19 pandemic impact items were used to arrive at the categorized impact scale. A three-point mark was assigned to 'Agreed', two-points was assigned to 'Undecided' and while one-point was assigned to 'Disagree', making an 18 point scale. Each of the respondents' responses were summed up, frequency and percentage determined. As such, respondents' who score between 0-9 were considered

as having 'weak impact', those who scored >9-18 were regarded as having 'strong impact'.

From the impact score categories, 99 (25.9) of respondents agreed that COVID-19 pandemic has a negative impact on the academic progress of adult English language students in southwest Nigeria, as they lacked access to English language instructors who would have been of help to them, while 154 (47.8%) of respondents refused to believe that COVID-19 pandemic has a negative impact on adult English language students in southwest Nigeria, except that it impeded their learning to a great extent. To this end, attempts at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 among adults in southwest Nigeria will certainly help to bring about improvement in their academic performance, especially in the aspect of English language (Butler, 2020).

The perceived impact of COVID-19 pandemic by the respondents truly represents the effects felt and level of deterred academic progress among adult English language students in southwest Nigeria, but with definite coordinated attempt involving the employment, integration and assistance of qualified/competent English language teachers, the issue of poor/impeded academic performance among adult English language students in southwest Nigeria will be effectively addressed through repeated classroom exercises and assessment.

Research Question 2: What are the responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language learners against COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria?

Table 2: Analysis of responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language students against **COVID-19** in Southwest Nigeria.

S/N	Responses and recovery Statement	Agre ed (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)
1	Symptoms of COVID-19 has been confirmed more among adult English language students in southwest Nigeria.*	0 (0.0%)	57 (14.8%)	327 (85.2%)
2	The use of traditional herbs is an effective measure for the treatment of COVID -19 in southwest Nigeria.*	318(82.8%)	52 (13.5%)	14 (3.7%)
3	The use of foreign vaccine is the most effective antidote to COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria.	12 (3.1%)	22 (5.7%)	350 (91.2%)
4	Self-isolation is the best form of prevention against COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria.*	299 (77.9%)	11 (2.9%)	74 (19.2%)
5	Most adults are willing to present themselves for COVID -19 vaccine as soon as it is provided in southwest Nigeria.*	207 (53.9%)	21 (5.5%)	156 (40.6%)
Total		**167 (43.5%)**	**33 (8.5%)**	**184 (48.0)**

***** Expected Responses**

Categorization of respondents' responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language students against COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria

The instrument used for data collection on research question two (2) was graduated into a Likert scale (e.g. Agree, Undecided and Disagree), data was categorized and analyzed using simple percentage and findings of the study were stated thereafter. On the categorization of responses and recovery measures utilized by adult English language students against COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria, five response and recovery measure items were used to arrive at the categorized COVID-19 prevention scale. A three-point mark was assigned to 'Agreed', two-points were assigned to 'Undecided' and while one-point was assigned to 'Disagree', making a 18 point scale. Each of the respondents' responses were summed up, frequency and percentage determined. As such, respondents' who score between 0-9 were categorized as 'non-recovery measure', those who scored >9-18 were regarded as 'recovery measures'.

From the score categories, 167 (43.5%) of respondents agreed that the use of traditional herbs is an effective measure for treatment of COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria, while 184 (48.0) of respondents disagreed that the use of foreign vaccine is the most effective antidote to COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria**.**

Discussion of Findings

It was found that most adult English language students do not absolutely believe in the existence of COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria and those who do, do not believe that the use of foreign vaccine is the most effective antidote to COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria. The foregoing implies that, the use of traditional herbs is considered by most adult English language students in southwest Nigeria as an effective measure for the treatment of COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria. This finding is in line with Brennen (2020) who affirmed

that various false claims exist as regards the effectiveness of foreign vaccine for the treatment of COVID-19 globally, hence such belief is not strange if found in southwest Nigeria.

Also, the findings of the study revealed that inclusive decision making of adults in support of government's policies against the spread of COVID-19 within southwest Nigeria truly helped in a great deal. This is in line with the study of Butler (2020) who postulated that except majority support in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 in communities, the effort of State government alone, might never be able to quell its spread. Thus, the role played by most adult English language students within Southwest Nigeria with respect to the mitigation of COVID-19 cannot be totally written off or ignored. Correspondingly, findings revealed that most adult English language students agreed that self-isolation is the best form of prevention against COVID-19 in Southwest Nigeria. Implying that most of them engage in such practice.

Notwithstanding, most adults are willing to present themselves for COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is provided in southwest Nigeria. Although, the use of foreign vaccine was least considered as an effective antidote to COVID-19 in Southwest Nigeria. The above finding of the study is in line with the findings of Elgin (2020) who reported that developing a policy response that considers both economic and traditional perspectives might be a tangible recovery measure in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in any community. To this end, diverse innovations that incorporate adult English language students in the fight against COVID-19 must be sought after to drastically contain COVID-19 in southwest Nigeria.

Conclusion

The incorporation of adult English language students by the State and Federal government across Southwest Nigeria in an attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will be considered an innovative approach that will enhance the efforts of the government against COVID-19 in Nigeria. Similarly, any approach adopted by the State and Federal government of Nigeria in the fight against COVID-19 that does not considered the economic and traditional perspectives of residents in Southwest Nigeria, might likely end in futility. Thus, integrating some adult English language students in Southwest Nigeria will certainly aid promotion of trust, strengthen public enlightenment and willingness to embrace foreign COVID-19 vaccine.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following were recommended:

1. Employment and collaboration between well-trained English language and computer educators must be adequately ensured in various extra-murals in different communities within southwest Nigeria, so as to ascertain equal comprehension of information on COVID-19.
2. Continuous public enlightenment and inclusive decision making against the spread of COVID-19 by both Federal and State Governments in Southwest Nigeria, in conjunction with foreign allies (e.g. WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF) should be encouraged.
3. Further qualitative study should be carried out to ascertain and disseminate adequate facts about the usefulness of acquiring English language education in the fight against COVID-19 through the support of both Federal and State Governments in Southwest Nigeria.
4. All adults involved in the learning of English language should be provided free job slots in both rural and urban communities to reinforce the effort of both State and Federal government on COVID-19 across Southwest Nigeria.

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