

# The Impacts of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group in Ilorin, 2020-2021

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Received: 06 December 2021 / Revised: 08 April 2022 / Accepted: 26 October 2022 / Published: 09 November 2022

## ABSTRACT

The paper examines the impacts of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Company Limited, Ilorin. The outbreak of COVID -19 began in Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province of China. The World Health Organization reported the first case of coronavirus on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. This virus is common in an animal like cattle and camels, but in animals to humans is rare. However, the report of coronavirus to humans was traceable to bats while some suggested pangolins. The report was unclear on how it spread to humans. In Nigeria, COVID-19 was confirmed on 27th February 2020. The objective of the study is to examine the impacts of coronavirus on Kam Holding Group Ilorin, Kwara State as a case study of analysis. The theory employed in this study is Human Capital Theory; this theory is very relevant to the development life of many countries, especially in the 1970s which depend on the quality of human resources. The methodology of the study relied on both the primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data relied on key informant interviews and questionnaires. The questionnaire is carried out among 100 respondents, 30 of the respondents are administrative officials while 70 of the respondents are factory workers. The secondary data relied on newspapers, magazines, journals, texts and articles. The study identifies COVID-19 as a great challenge to the economic security and survival of the employees in Kam Holding Group, which resulted in unemployment. This has increased the unemployment statistics in Kwara State and Nigeria at large. Kam Holding Group has not been able to get out of economic depression since 2020 to date due to the low demand for its products caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The study recommended solutions to the existing problem and measures to curtail in a case of re-occurrence of a sudden pandemic phenomenon on the livelihood of the citizens. One of the prime recommendations is that citizens should be diversified in their skilful capacity to meet the wing of unknown economic depression in emerging situations.

**Keywords:** Coronavirus Pandemic, Economic security, and Unemployment.

## 1 Introduction

The coronavirus pandemic that hit the whole world released different kinds of insecurities to the global system of which reduction in economic security is of high numeric strength, both the developed and developing countries felt the negative effects. The blows of the pandemic resulted in repression, poverty, hunger and economic depression in some countries. COVID-19 was a blessing to some countries in the long run, while for too many, it was more of a damaging impact. In Nigeria, COVID-19 was confirmed on 27th February 2020. According to World Health Organization (2021) from January 2020 to 13th September 2021, there have been 199,151 confirmed cases of coronavirus with 2598 deaths, the total number of vaccine doses of 5,712,019 were administered as of 12<sup>th</sup> September (Guardian, 2021). The National Action Plan on Health Security (NAPHS) has taken some measures in managing the risk involved in COVID-19 pandemic diseases in Nigeria. COVID -19 was a blessing to Nigeria as well as some developing countries; it did not destroy the world order but restructured it, narrowing the gaps within structures in some parts

(Akinyemi, 2021). The pandemic checked the financial recklessness of politicians through travel allowance, parties, medical tourism and other unnecessary expenditure.

Kwara state as one of the oldest component units in Nigeria witnessed the first COVID-19 case which was discovered in Ibadan Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) test centre where the test confirmed that Kwara State has two cases of COVID-19 on the 6th April 2020 (Guardian, 2020). There were 49 new cases of COVID-19 infection as of the 4th of September, 2021. The total number of confirmed cases was 3,611, while 3,207 patients have so far been discharged and 59 deaths have been recorded on 3rd, September 2021. (Abdulrazaq, 2021). However, the negative implication of the COVID-19 bedevilled the whole international system. The consequence of this pandemic was economic insecurities and a high level of poverty which increases the criminalities rate in Kwara State. The increased level of unemployment increases the challenges to the livelihood of Kwara State citizens. The paper examines the impact of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group Ilorin. The study will address the prospects and challenges of COVID-19 at Kam Holding Group in Ilorin, Kwara State. The economic implication of COVID-19 and solutions to the case analysis will be given cognizant attention in this paper.

### **1.1 Statement of Problem**

The views of scholars and people on COVID-19 perception on the economy is of a different dimension, some believe that coronavirus is of blessing to many countries particularly developing countries and manufacturing industries (Akinyemi, 2021). The other side of the view is that coronavirus retard the manufacturing sector which hindered the production and supply of goods and services in Africa (Binta, Hafsai, & Firdausi, 2021). That is the manufacturing sectors in Nigeria and component units felt the negative effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. To this end, it is not clear whether COVID-19 harmed Kwara State manufacturing sectors. It is against this background, that the study examines the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy of Kam Holding Group in Ilorin.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

In the light of the above, the study shall provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the impacts of COVID-19 on the financial capacity of Kam Holding Group Ilorin?
2. What are the impacts of COVID-19 on the livelihood and economic security of employees in Kam Holding Group?
3. What are the preferential treatments enjoyed among the employees in Kam Holding Group?
4. How can the challenges of COVID-19 be addressed in Kam Holding Group?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective is to examine the impacts of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group Ilorin, Kwara State. The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the impacts of COVID-19 on the financial capacity of Kam Holding Group Ilorin.
2. Examine the impacts of COVID-19 on the livelihood and economic security of employees in Kam Holding Group.
3. Investigate the preferential treatments enjoy among the employees in Kam Holding Group.
4. Show how the negative impact of COVID-19 can be addressed in Kam Holding Group Ilorin

### **1.4 Basic Assumptions**

- The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a poor state of financial capacity for Kam Holding Group.
- COVID-19 is a challenge to the means of livelihood and economic security of employees in Kam Holding Group.

- There is more preferential treatment for foreign employees than Nigerian employees in Kam Holding Group.
- Advancement of science and technology can prevent the re-occurrence of any emergency or pandemic.

### **1.5 The Significance of the Study**

The significance is of two-fold, practical and theoretical significance. The study will be of importance to the government, organizations, company employees, academic institutions, students, and fellow researchers. The findings of this study will be able to provide the Kwara State government with a way of achieving a high level of livelihood security for the people. The study revealed the impact of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group. Therefore, the study will be of potential significance to Kam Holding Group, private companies in Kwara State, and Kwara State government officials for them to take policies and programmes concerning pandemics important for the survival of the livelihood and economic security, to enhance the economy of Kam Holding which will have a positive impact on employment in Kwara State and increase of revenue income. And also the study will be able to emphasise advancement in science and technology as prerequisites to ensure the prevention of pandemic occurrence in Kam Holding, which is one of the reliable industries in the Ilorin capital of Kwara State.

The study will be of benefit to equip students of political economy and developmental security on how policy is to be structured to enhance economic security both in the private and public sphere. It will also show the benefit of COVID-19 and its positive impact on human development, and political and economic survival. Likewise, the study will be able to add to the existing literature on COVID-19 studies with specifications on Kam Holding Group Ilorin, Kwara State, with the intention of objectivity and credibility work. This study will also be of benefit to other fellow researchers which may serve as a background for their study and it will be of importance to political economy scholars whose aim focuses on a likely topic. That is, the study will be useful for any researcher working on the related subject matter.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study is carried out in Kam Holding Group, Ilorin the Capital of Kwara State one of the component units in Nigeria. Kam Holding Group is a case study of analysis of the COVID-19 phenomenon since Kwara State was a less industrial state. Kam Hold Group is a manufacturing company that contributed to the economic security of Kwara State, is one of the companies that employ the useful population of Kwara State. KAM is the only 100% indigenous steel and allied manufacturing company in Nigeria with a wide range of production capacities such as nails, wire mesh, binding wire, roofing sheets and stone coated roofing tile. It has the capacity of employing up to 3000 workforces for direct and indirect labour. The impact of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group can go a long way in showing the strength or weakness of the company, which also has an impact on settlers and citizens of Kwara State.

## **2 Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

### **2.1 Conceptual Clarification**

#### **2.1.1 Coronavirus**

This is a disease also known as COVID-19 it is an illness caused by a novel coronavirus called hard acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China (David, 2021). The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic, an illness caused by SARS-COV-2. Coronavirus is a virus that is traced to bats or pangolins, but its scientific origination is not clear in humans.

### 2.1.2 Pandemic

A pandemic is a disease outbreak that spreads across countries or continents. It affects more people and takes more lives than an epidemic (World Health Organization, 2021). A pandemic is an outbreak of disease that cut across different continents of the world; it is not attached to a particular region. It is a global outbreak disease of severe illness that has strong damage on the people, which needs emergency control. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), the number of lives lost in a pandemic depends on: How many people are infected? How severe of an illness does the virus cause? How vulnerable certain groups of people are? Prevention efforts and how effective they are?

The WHO's pandemic alert system move from a lower concentration to a higher concentration, that is move from phase 1 a low risk to phase 6 a full pandemic. Phase 1: A virus in animals has caused no known infections in humans. Phase 2: An animal virus has caused infection in humans. Phase 3: There are scattered cases or small clusters of disease in humans. If the illness is spreading from human to human, it's not broad enough to cause community-level outbreaks. Phase 4: This is spreading from person to person with confirmed outbreaks at the community level. Phase 5: The disease is spreading among humans in more than one country of the WHO regions. Phase 6: At least one more country, in a different region from phase 5, has community-level outbreaks (WHO, 2021).

### 2.1.3 Economic Security

International Committee of the Red Cross (2015) asserted economic security as the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity. Economic security is composed of basic social security, defined by access to basic needs infrastructure of health, education, dwelling, information, social protection, and work-related security (International Labour Organization, 2019). Economic security is of many components which can also stand as variables for measuring economic security such as employment and job security, income rate or turnover, food consumption and an adequate standard of living. Economic security is the condition of having a stable income or other resources to support a standard of living now and in the foreseeable future (Freebase, 2015). Economic security is the strength of an individual for the survival of livelihood in a country considering food consumption, income level and job security.

### 2.1.4 Economic Depression and Unemployment

Economic depression and unemployment are positively related, they are variables to discuss negative production based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rate in a country or international system and the low standard of living or poverty rate of the people in a particular country respectively. Economic depression is an occurrence within an economy in bad condition. That is a state of financial turmoil (Corporate Finance Institute, 2021). Here are the causes of economic depression:

- Low production or decrease in the manufacturing of goods and services
- Investment crash, stock flaws, and deflation.
- Market failure, the forces of demand and supply and oil price hike
- Government poor policy of economic flaws and loss of consumer confidence.

Unemployment refers to a situation when a capable person is searching for employment but is unable to find a job opportunity (Adam, 2021). Unemployment is one of the variables to explain the state of underdevelopment of a country or a component unit. Unemployment is a state of poverty, hunger, inequality and low standard of living. Economic depression, economic insecurity and unemployment are more paramount to the developing countries of the world than the developed countries.

## **2.2 Related Literature Review**

Manufacturing has played a prominent role in the economic development of developing countries of the world (UNIDO, 2016). To increase economic opportunity, reduce poverty and a better life; manufacturing is a tool to support national development goals (Habtamu, 2020). The effects associated with COVID-19 varied across 54 African countries and Africa's economic integration as an instrument of development is flying away without notice. Coronavirus has brought about uncertainty to the progress of 54 African economies from micro to the macro base economy because of endogenous trade between African states such as Nigeria, Angola, Republic of the Congo, Chad, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, and others (Binta, Hafsat, & Firdausi, 2021). The pandemic has put the destruction of Africa's economy in the setting. Nigeria and other African countries felt the hit of the pandemic as more of their exporting incomes are from oil, mineral resources and agricultural products.

This pandemic broke out at a time when there were no clarities in the African economy (Mario & Evangelos, 2020). The impact of coronavirus causes more havoc in developing countries where financial resources are very limited and the institutions are fragile (David, 2020). The manufacturing sector in Nigeria is challenging due to the sudden attack of the coronavirus pandemic in the world. The unexpected situation retarded the economy, increased the budget deficit in the country during the pandemic and additionally increased unemployment. Africa's Lagos is the most populous city with the highest numeric density in Nigeria, operates a large economy, which is facing transportation challenges in the face of the pandemic and this, reduces travel needs (Emmanuel, 2020). The essence of education is to contribute to national development and develop the potential for manifestation in citizens through high-level manpower training and development. COVID-19 saga paves way for lockdown and destabilizes the whole education process in Africa and Nigeria (Binta, Hafsat, & Firdausi, 2021). However, COVID-19 is a challenge to all faces of lives such as education, transportation, health, infrastructure and manufacturing.

## **2.3 Empirical Literature Review**

### **2.3.1 Nigeria and COVID-19**

COVID-19 in Nigeria was part of the global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019. The first confirmed case in Nigeria was announced on 27th February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On 9th March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State a Nigerian citizen who had contact with an Italian citizen (Guardian, 2020). In Nigeria from 3 January 2020 to 14 September 2021 there have been recorded 199,538 cases of COVID-19, with 2,619 deaths and a total number of 5,712,019 vaccine doses have been administered (WHO, 2021). The argument that COVID-19 is a blessing is more of social advantage. The total lockdown sealed many families together and checked the financial mismanagement of politicians through travel allowance, parties, medical tourism, and other unnecessary expenses (Akinyemi, 2021).

From another perspective, the impact of COVID-19 has more negative effects on the Nigerian economy. The government's policies such as total lockdown, restrictions on travel and restrictions on the economic and social programmes, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, had a regression effect on income, employment, livelihoods and food security of smallholders in Nigeria (Bedru, Moturayo, Adebayo, Adetunji, Hyacinth & Kwaw, 2020). Yomi (2020) posited that with coronavirus 21 million Nigerians were made unemployed which is almost about 27% of the Nigerian labour force, combined with lower volumes of exports such as oil of which Nigeria's economy has contracted by 6.1% year on year in the second quarter of this year (World Economic Forum, 2020). The World Bank predicted Africa's most populous country is set for its worst recession in four decades due to COVID-19. That is the chance for a quick recovery of Nigeria is slim (World Economic Forum, 2020). The challenges of COVID-19 were clear in developing countries like Nigeria which resulted in economic retard of the country.

### **2.3.2 Kwara State and COVID-19**

Kwara state was one of the states that were hit by the wave of coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The first case of COVID-19 was discovered in Ibadan National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) test centre where the test confirmed that Kwara State has two cases of COVID-19. During this year, there are two epidemiological curves of COVID-19 in Kwara State. The first curve was between July and August, and the tension was down between September and October, at which the people thought the virus was winding down (Oladiji, 2020). The second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak was from November to December with a sharp increase of positive cases. The increases in COVID-19 cases were a result of the ignorance, and nonchalant attitude of many Kwara residents to preventive measures against the disease (Oladiji, 2020). There was a record of 49 new cases of COVID-19 infection, the total number of confirmed cases was 3,611 from January 2020-September, 2021, while 3,207 patients have so far been discharged and 59 deaths have been recorded as of 3rd, September 2021. (Abdulrazaq, 2021). The effects of coronavirus had many negative impacts on Kwara State's economic viability. The winds of coronavirus resulted in low productivity among many companies in Kwara State and close down of some medium and small scale businesses which resulted in low-income rate and standard of living, unemployment and an increase in criminalities rate. The economic health condition of the people in the state was wrecked, due to the total locked down in the country and the nature and the characteristics of Kwarans cannot cope with this complex situation being a civil servant state. The total lockdown in Kwara State denied people their fundamental human rights and a means of livelihood. The plaintiff measure by the state government to the people was not competent to handle this great havoc. However, Kwara State was able to cope with the challenges of COVID-19 by equipping the isolation centres and the professional health workers to the fullness of capacity (Guardian, 2020).

## **2.4 Theoretical Orientation**

### **2.4.1 Human Capital theory**

The human capital theory is relevant to this paperwork, in the sense that the future of every country depends on the quality of human resources. Torado (1993) posits that the development process in non-industrialized countries cannot be accelerated unless there were a store of knowledge and skilled people. The human capital theory assumes that when human resources are well trained and knowledgeable to the level of scientific development, such countries will be industrialized and will be able to maintain the standard of living of the citizens.

The limitation of the theory is that the traditional approach to human relations, historical documents, and the use of intuition and reasoning was substituted for scientific development and training which were the main emphasis of human capital theory. Total ignoring of the traditional approach to human existence may not be possible and even make development impossible.

The human capital theory is of importance to this paper because the scientific development of the people in all ramifications can make a country cope in the period of unforeseen circumstances such as pandemic disease outbreaks period. Countries that are scientifically oriented and have human resource development were able to cope and find a measure to control coronavirus disease in the long run, such countries as China, Germany, Russia and Belgium are in this form. This is an indication that human resource development in all ramifications is one of the preventive measures to cope in the time of irregularities or odd situations in any economy. Nigeria has a country that felt the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy, of which Kwara State as a component unit was affected to a high significant level.

The human capital theory should be embraced by the state administrators in this political dispensation toward youth and human resource development. The ultimate aim of government should be to channel the energy of the citizens toward national development and nation-building. This theory will enable Kwara

State parastatals and the companies to be able to curtail irregularities in case of the re-occurrence of a sudden pandemic phenomenon on the livelihood of the citizens, the unforeseen circumstance.

## **2.5 Overview of the Kam Holding Group**

Kam Holding is a strong company in Nigeria, founded by Alhaji Kamoru Yusuf in 1997 and the headquarter is in Ilorin, Kwara State of Nigeria. Kam Holding is a global business conglomerate operating in 3 countries across 2 continents. The company operated in India known as KAMCOM India Private Limited, also in Wuxi KAM Import and Exporting limited. KAM is the only 100% indigenous steel and allied manufacturing company in Nigeria and produces a wide range of products like nails, binding wire, wire mesh, roofing sheets and stone coated roofing tile. The organization is endowed with great innovation and technological leadership and is backed by a highly driven and dedicated workforce of over 3000 employees and multiple indirect employment opportunities being created for Nigerians and experts (Kamholding.net). The company endeavours to strengthen Nigeria's industrial base by helping infrastructural development, through sustainable development approaches and inclusive growth. It uses its resource to improve education, infrastructure, health, water, sanitation and the environment. Its business innovation has promoted the dignity and the reputation of the company (Kamholding.net).

## **3 Research Methodology**

### **3.1 Research Design**

This study employs a descriptive survey and this type of research design presents the state of affairs as it occurs. It enables the researcher to situate the past event and existing ones. This survey design will enable the researcher to use the key informant interview, and questionnaire to obtain relevant information concerning the impact of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group Ilorin. The descriptive technique gives a clear description of the variables on COVID-19 impact on Kam Holding Group. The design will also be to examine the impact of COVID-19 on financial and economic security of Kam Holding Group. The impact analysis of COVID-19 focus on the Kam Holding Group economy. The target areas of the study are the administrative and production sectors of the company in Kwara State, this is because they are variables under study. To this extent, the sectors constitute the unit of analysis of the study. The process of the design includes the preparation of research instruments, validation and reliability of the instruments, the sampling process to identify the respondents for the study from the target population, the process of data collection, data analysis and outcome, and final report writing.

### **3.2 Area of the Study**

Kwara State is the study area with a total population of 2365,353 in the 2006 population census, and a projected population of 3,192,900 in 2016 (National Population Commission of Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, 2016). The state was created on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, 1967. Kwara State is located in the North Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It has sixteen local government areas. Most of the people here are predominantly civil servants, farmers and business entrepreneurs. The mainstay of the economy is agriculture and commercial activities. It is predominantly a mixture of Muslim and Christian society and African traditional religion with few adherents. Therefore, a proliferation of different Islamic groups and churches dominations exists. It is a peaceful and credible environment with good hospitality coupled with its great agricultural potential and small and medium scale enterprises have attracted people almost from every part of Nigeria.

### **3.3 Sample Size**

The sample size for this study is 100. It was captured by questionnaire using the bowling formula for sample determination. The formula will yield a sample size of 100 in the Kam Holding Group. The study shall adopt Bowling's formula to guide the allocation of samples among the administrative staff and the factory workers.

Bowling's formula for allocation size:

$$n_h = \frac{nN_a}{N}$$

Where  $n$  = Total Sample

$N_a$  = No. of people in each sector

$N$  = Total number of people in Kam Holding Group

### 3.4 Sampling Procedure

The samples will be selected using non-probability sampling with the purposive sampling technique. The choice of purposive sampling will be to ensure that a representative percentage of the population is included in the sample and for the researcher to pick respondents to accommodate or reflect members from each sector of the company related to the variables concerned. Likewise, regarding the questionnaires, only the educated people will be considered in order of their official hierarchy across the administrative and production sectors concerning the Kam Holding Group. This is because of effective communication and writing of information without assistance. Convenience sampling will be introduced to conveniently administer questionnaires to respondents within an industrial company. The choice of convenience sampling after the purposive sampling is to enable the researcher to enjoy some form of flexibility and freedom in generating data for this study. This freedom and flexibility are necessary to balance the sampling technique that was previously adopted. A cross-sectioned data was used to elicit information from the respondents through a structured questionnaire and unstructured interview on September 3rd, 2021 on the effects of COVID-19 on the economic validity of Kam-Holding Group, such as level of production, staff strength, ways or measure of controlling COVID-19, income rate and training at this particular time.

The information was elicited through oral interviews of the key informants and questionnaires that were administered by the researcher and his assistant.

### 3.5 Description of the Survey

#### 3.5.1 Interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted with the top administrative officials and senior factory workers in Kam Holding Group. These people will be interviewed on issues regarding COVID-19 concerning the Kam Holding economy in Kwara State. The format is an unstructured interview. The key informants in the interview are The General Managing Director, General Plant Manager, Human Resource Manager and other top officials in the company. These personalities are selected because of the position they occupied in the company. The interview of these literate components disclosed vital information and adds objectivity to this research work.

The key informant's interview will be conducted through an unstructured interview guide based on the objectives of the study. The main themes for the interview will centre on:

1. The opinion of the respondents on the prevailed situation of COVID-19 on the economy of Kam Holding Group.
2. The views of the respondents on how COVID-19 has improved Kam Holding concerning the health condition of the workers, production efficiency and wages and salaries of workers.
3. The views of the respondents on the impacts of COVID-19 on Kam Holding as regarding Kwara State.
4. The views of the respondents on possible solutions to the problem of COVID-19 in Kam Holding Group and Kwara State.



Unstructured interview questions are administered to each interviewee. The information was elicited through oral interviews of the key informants by the researcher and his assistant.

### **3.5.2 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire is developed and administered to 100 respondents. The questionnaire will be segmented into two. Section 'A' contains 9 items that comprise the personal data of respondents while section 'B' comprises 5 items of questions on the impacts of COVID-19 on Kam Holding.

Data is analyzed using descriptive statistics. All the questionnaires received are guided jealously for proper reference to guide against irregularities. Items in the questionnaire are coded to facilitate data entry. After carefully checking all the data entries to avoid errors, descriptive statistics and frequencies will be estimated for all variables and information presented in form of tables. These questionnaires will give responses to the questions on COVID-19 and Kam Holding, and the answers are administered by the researcher. The questionnaire will be used to capture both independent and dependent variables. The questionnaire will address the issue related to the objectives of the study, research questions, and basic assumptions. It covers close-ended questions. The close-ended questions will guide against unnecessary bias to gain objective results.

### **3.5.3 Secondary Data**

Secondary data are sourced from relevant documents on COVID-19 and Kam Holding which include books, conference papers, official documents, journal articles, monographs, newspapers, and magazines. The researcher also makes use of reliable information from the internet.

### **3.6 Validity of the Survey**

Further, the researcher seeks the assistance and advice of experts and scholars in the field of political economy. The researcher incorporates the experts' recommendations and corrections on the key informant interview, and questionnaire. This is because they are well endowed in research work and the study is related to the area of their specialization.

### **3.7 Reliability of the Research**

Reliability is established by the analysis of a pilot system administered to 20 respondents that will not be part of the study. The questionnaires were administered as the pre-test to the respondents across the variable sectors in Kam Holding Group Ilorin, and the data generated is subjected to a reliability test. The retrieved questionnaire is coded, scored and subjected to percentage analysis. The outcome rendered the research instrument to generate data for the real study.

### **3.8 Procedure for Data Collection**

In regard, to the interest of the researcher on carried out research on the impacts coronavirus pandemic on the manufacturing industry in Kwara State. The study undertakes three (3) stages as follows:

1. The researcher visited the various sectors of investigation on the impacts of COVID-19 in Kam Holding and introduces himself, to relate and to gain the respondents' consent for involvement in the study.
2. The researcher and the research assistant administer the questionnaires on the impacts of COVID-19 on the Kam Holding economy, with an assurance of confidentiality to the respondents regarding the information.
3. The respondents were given a maximum of two weeks after which the questionnaires were collected. However, within this period the respondents that did not meet up, the researcher seek the indulgence of the respondent, the time he can come for the collection of the questionnaire within a short time frame. Since the respondents have the liberty to accept or reject filling out the questionnaire, their

opinion was not ignored depending on the situation they found themselves in. This method is adopted for the collection of the questionnaire, considering the questions and confidentiality character of the respondents. The interview is at the convenient schedule of the respondents for in-depth interviews and explosive discussion which will enhance a proper collection of data.

### **3.9 Method of Data Analysis**

Descriptive statistics and key informant interviews with simple percentages were used to describe and explain the impacts of COVID-19 on the economic validity of Kam Holding in Ilorin. 100 questionnaires were sent to administer of which 90 respondents responded, 20 administrative officials and 70 factory workers, 10 respondents out of these 90 respondents cannot proceed because of incomplete information. The survey had a margin cover of plus or minus 10%. The secondary data will be analysed textually from authoritative sources that target the field of study to complement the outcome of the study

## **4 Prospects of COVID-19 on Kam-Holding Group**

COVID-19 has put every company on their toes, Kam-Holding Group has learnt a lesson from the Sudden Coronavirus Pandemic that harm the economic strength of the companies, using the Ilorin organization as a case to study. The respondents in Kam Holding Group said COVID-19 has given the company the potential of making it in the future time because it has raised the consciousness of health security of the workers more than ever before. Kam-Holding health centres are equipped with foreign health facilities and Professionals Health workers, for a conducive environment and health conditions for the administrative and factory workers. The continuity of environmental sanitation was paramount and everybody was carried along with exerts instructions on Pandemic discussion beyond COVID-19. This will go a long way in giving the company prospects of increasing quality production capacity in the nearest future.

### **4.1 Challenges of the COVID-19 on the Economy of Kam-Holding Group**

The hit of Coronavirus 2019 was challenging with the sudden release of the Pandemic which caught the global system unaware. This Pandemic has negative effects on the economic productivity of Kam-Holding Company such as low production and income return. The force of demand and supply has not been favourable to both the company and the customers due to the total lockdown and financial decline capacity of the people in Kwara state.

### **4.2 Results and Discussion**

Table 1 shows that the majority of the respondents were earning up to 100,000 Naira and below. That is, some of the productive ages in Kam Holding Group fall among lower-income earners. For a citizen under the labour force to fall within middle-income earners such a person must be earning more than 4,000,000 Naira annually (Kareem, Babatunde, Akintaru and Arije, 2014). The respondents asserted that the majority of the workers earning 100,000 and below fall within the group of single or new married youth, who has the potential for development through training and skill acquisition that can pave way for their promotion according to the level of their contribution.

Table 2 shows that COVID-19 negatively affects the economic stand of the Kam-Holding Group. 83.75% of the respondents said COVID-19 has no positive effect on the financial stand of the company. 13.75% of the respondents said COVID-19 has a positive effect on the financial stand of the company, because some of the expenses on transportation of the workers were not there at this particular time, since the workers were not going home. These workers stay together and work in the company for the achievement of the organization. These respondents said the sack of some top administrative officials in the company was a privilege for the company to cut unnecessary wages and salaries, as the best hands and quality top officials were retained.

**Table 1:** *Distribution of the respondents by age, gender and income.*

Age	Frequency
18 – 30	20
31 – 40	31
41 – 50	19
51 – 60	10

Gender Information	Frequency
Females	09
Male	71
Income Bracket (Monthly information)	Frequency
• 50 – 100,000	52
• 100 – 250	18
• 250 and about	10

**Table 2:** *COVID-19 has a positive effect on financial stand of Kam-Holding Group.*

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Yes	11	13.75
No	67	83.75
None	2	2.5
Total	80	100

2.5% of the respondents remain indifferent, they said the salaries of the workers do not increase, but the working loads of each worker increased as some of the workers were lay-off due to COVID-19. The bonus and the salary remain the same compared to the work done. The situation of the company does not show any negative or positive effect on the financial stand of the company. If there is a positive effect of COVID-19 on the financial base of Kam Holding Group, the employees must feel the positive impact, in the area of economic viability and improvement in the standard of living, the respondents claimed the company maintained status quo in this area..

In the course of the interview, one of the respondents said the total lockdown affect the sales and the production level of the company which affected the rate of the profit of the organisation. The respondents show concern as the production unit is finding it difficult to acquire the necessary imported industrial materials from the developed countries due to a deadly pandemic that is affecting the whole world. In reality, the international trade system of Kam Holding was affected in terms of exporting goods and

importing inputs, even though the few available inputs were expensive. The scenario was bad for Kam Holding, one of the manufacturing companies for the survival of people in Kwara State.

A top official asserted in the interview section that COVID-19 shut down the research and scientific development of the organization. The company is at a zero level and stagnant position technology-wise, as the whole world witnessed deadly pandemic diseases. The coronavirus pandemic retard the manufacturing ability of the Kam Holding Group, which hindered the production, training and development of human resources in the company.

**Table 3:** *In what area has COVID-19 affected the economic security of the company?*

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
Reduction in wages and salary	NIL	NIL
Reduction in the right of workers	NIL	NIL
Demotion of workers	18	17.5
Lay off/unemployment	60	80
Total	78	97.5

In table 3, the respondents show that COVID-19 affected the economic security of the staff in Kam Holding organisation as 80% of the respondents confirmed that COVID-19 has resulted in the unemployment of many workers in the organization. According to one of the respondents, about 50% of administrative officers of top rank were laid off while 30% of factory workers both the casual and the full workers were sacked. This affected the economic security of the working force in the company. The strength of unemployment in Kwara state increased numerically in addition to the existing one. 17.5% of the workers according to the respondents were demoted. According to Abdulrahman (2020) the total lockdown as a result of COVID-19 increases unemployment and crime rate in Kwara state. One of the respondents said the 'demotion' was a language used for workers that were asked to step aside till the period of economic boom for the company. According to him, the Kam Holding Company has not recovered from March 2020 to September 2021. The company is still experiencing the wind period of the COVID-19 Saga.

**Table 4:** *In what area has COVID-19 been of benefit to the company?*

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
Social condition and relaxation	NIL	NIL
Workers have more time with the family	NIL	NIL
Cordial Human relations among the workers	10	12.5
Guarantee of more health security for the workers	70	87.5

In table 4, the respondents show that the remaining labour force in the Kam Holding Group enjoys health security and a well conducive environment for working as 87.5% of respondents said yes, While 12.5%, of some respondents, indicate that the benefit of COVID-19 improves cordial relationship among the workers in the organization.

According to one of the respondents, he said Coronavirus 2019 was a bad experience for the company when the company lost two key Indian workers as a result of COVID-19 and six Nigerian workers were affected by the virus, which they later recovered. The hit affected the production value and the economic strength of the company because the death of the two Indians was a great loss to the company. Due to the poor state of infrastructure and bad network health system. This arises the health security consciousness of the workers in the organization by the management board. In the interview section the two respondents, who are top officials said that Kam Holding Group is writing a new history of the moment in the COVID-19 period from March to September the first wave of COVID-19 in Kwara state. The workers were staying and living in the company, particularly the factory workers, to avoid the spread of Coronavirus and keep the industry moving.

**Table 5:** *There is the preferential treatment between the Indian workers and Nigerian workers.*

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
Yes	72	90
No	8	10
Total	80	100

Table 5 shows that there is preferential treatment, more in favour of the foreigners than the Nigerians as 90% of the respondents said yes while only 10% said no. This indicates that the Indian workers were great specialists both in the administration and production plants of the company. The result ascertains the need for Nigerians to develop in the area of science and technology regarding quality production and service delivery in the company. The respondents confirmed that the Indian workers contributed to the survival of Kam Holding Group.

The finding of this research discovered that many youths and top administrative officials lost their job as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Kam Holding Company, which increases the statistic of unemployment in Kwara State. The level of criminal activities was more than ever before, people in Kwara State witnessed psychological and social instability, as people were searching for means of meeting their livelihood and protecting their properties. According to the Executive Governor of Kwara State, he said COVID-19 has opened Kwara state to the danger of hoodlum and criminality, and all the people involved in these acts will not go without being punished. The destruction and raiding of Shop-rite Supermarket in Ilorin, Airport warehouse in Ilorin, Mandate Market, and sensitive commercial area, because of COVID-19 gave the bad hands the privilege to bedevil sensitive areas which declined the economic development tendency of Kwara State. The findings show that the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy of Kam Holding are more negative impacts than positive impacts, such as increasing employees unemployment in the company, economic insecurity, shortage of raw materials supply, low production and inadequate quality delivery of services, low-profit turnout, health challenges and inadequate of training and development of human resources required. The speed over effect also affected the Kwara State of Nigeria in terms of an increase in unemployment, poverty and low standard of living.

## **5 Conclusions**

The paper shows the negative effects of COVID-19 on the Economy of Kam Holding Group in Ilorin, Kwara State. The challenges and difficulties that bedevil the company to date are more than the success recorded. The sudden challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic had exposed some workers in this company to economic insecurity which is a great challenge to the livelihood of such people, as the unemployment statistics in Kwara State increased. The company witnessed stagnancy in scientific research development as the whole world was searching and gives more cooperation to measure controlling and managing the

pandemic, with no room for scientific and economic development research. Other effects were low production force, low income or profit return, and the force of demand and supply were not in order, as the customer purchases were low as a result of lockdown. Here are the recommendations to curtail the sudden pandemic phenomenon on the livelihood of the people in Kam Holding and Kwara State: The citizens must be diversified in their skilful capacity to meet the wing of unknown economic insecurity in an emergency. Government should improve the level of research and scientific technology know-how in all ramifications in the Kwara State of Nigeria. This is because a state at the pace of scientific development will be able to control and prevent the spreading of pandemic occurrences, which developing countries were depending on developed countries for survival. The Vaccine used for controlling measures was imported to Nigeria. Kam Holding, manufacturing industries, Kwara State as one of the component units must develop to the scientific level in all ramifications to cope with the sudden emergence of any pandemic which may likely cause economic retarding which are challenging to the livelihood of the people.

## 6 Declarations

### 6.1 Competing Interests

The conflict of interest in this study originated from the different perspectives of respondents on the coronavirus pandemic phenomenon. This is because some respondents believe that the pandemic was a blessing to Kam Holding Group. While many of the respondents were of the view that coronavirus is of great damage to the Kam Holding Group and additional to the economic insecurity of Kwara State. The conflict of interest is from the Protagonist's and Antagonists' points of view on the effect of COVID-19 on the Kam Holding economy.

### 6.2 Publisher's Note

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### 6.3 How to Cite this Article:

Daniel, O. Y. (2022). The Impacts of COVID-19 on Kam Holding Group in Ilorin, 2020-2021. *Advanced Journal of Social Science*, 11(1), 28–42. <https://doi.org/10.21467/ajss.11.1.28-42>

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