
TRAVELLING WITH A FACE MASK FROM YAOUNDE TO KUMBA: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The first case of the coronavirus in Cameroon was first discovered in February 2020. Since then, the government with the recommendations of the WHO put in some measures to prevent and fight against the coronavirus. Subsequently, the measures were relaxed though insisted that the wearing of face masks remains obligatory in public places including schools and inside buses and taxis. Many people have neglected the wearing of the face masks. This article describes how passengers use the face mask from Yaounde to Kumba. It also describes people's reactions and views towards the wearing of the face mask. This research is qualitative and uses ethnographic techniques like participant observation, informal interviews and discussions. Many people use the face mask out of coercion and because they think that the virus has disappeared. The government insists that face masks be put on in public places. Police and gendarmes control its wearing on highways. Most people put them on for fear of punishment. More sensitization needs is needed including the imposition of sanctions. Education is the key in making people to respect the barrier measures.

KEYWORDS: Coronavirus (covid-19), face mask, barrier measures, WHO

1. INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is a new illness but it is caused by a coronavirus of the type first identified by Dr Almeida in 1964 at her laboratory in St Thomas's Hospital in London (Brocklehurst, 2020). A novel coronavirus designated as 2019-nCoV first appeared in Wuhan, China in late December 2019 (Phan, 2020). Retrospective investigations by Chinese authorities have identified human cases with onset of symptoms in early December 2019 (WHO, 2020). While some of the earliest known cases had a link to a wholesale food market in Wuhan, some did not (WHO, 2020). Many of the initial patients were either stall owners, market employees, or regular visitors to this market (WHO, 2020). The outbreak of the new virus was named by WHO as covid-19 but popularly known as coronavirus. The World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, has declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic (Cucinotta and Vanelliic, 2020). At a news briefing, WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the WHO is "deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction," and he called on countries to take action now to contain the virus. "We should double down," he said. "We should be more aggressive" (Cucinotta and Vanelliic, 2020). The WHO went ahead to recommend measures that world governments would apply in their respective countries to fight against the coronavirus. It is from those measures that most governments then went ahead to put in place these WHO measures including

other measures decided at their respective countries. Apart from the WHO measures, some of the measures that countries took included a total or partial lockdown of their countries, closing down their borders including air, land and sea borders. Most public places in many countries were locked down. As time went on, most governments started relaxing the measures by reopening of the borders, reopening of public places but imposing the public wearing of face masks. The wearing of the face mask is the main issue of discussion in this article. While these have been going on, pharmaceutical companies have been working hard to find vaccines and other medications to prevent and also fight against the coronavirus. Many European countries and the United States of America (USA) are currently vaccinating their populations against the coronavirus.

1.1.The issue at stake

The coronavirus has been ravaging many countries in the world especially Europe, America, Asia and African countries especially South Africa (that has the highest number of cases in Africa) more recently. The world over has now recorded at least 82 million cases of infections and about 2 million deaths (WHO statistics for December 30th 2020). The U.K. (United Kingdom) has identified a new variant of the coronavirus that appears to spread more quickly, sparking fresh fears that the Covid-19 pandemic may continue to accelerate even as governments begin administering the first vaccine shots (Lovelace and Feuer, 2020). For this reasons, other countries are closing up their borders or preventing UK citizens or travelers from the UK from entering their countries for the fear of being contaminated with this new strand. The coronavirus continues to have more and more victims around the world. Every day, the number of infections and deaths keep increasing (detailed and precise statistics may not be provided here because they may change by the time of the publication of this paper). The number of cases has been increasing fears in the government and the citizens of mostly the countries that have been having high waves of infections.

The WHO and the governments of various countries in the world have put in place many barrier measures to fight against the spread of the disease. In Cameroon, the government has but in place many barrier measures. The measures were very strict at the beginning of the pandemic especially in the month of March 2020 when the measures were put in place by the government. The measures saw all schools in Cameroon closed down for about three months (examination classes) and close to seven months (non-examination classes), many public gatherings limited, international travels by government officials suspended, and the wearing of the face mask imposed. Masks should be used as part of a comprehensive strategy of measures to suppress transmission and save lives; the use of a mask alone is not sufficient to provide an adequate level of protection against COVID-19 (WHO, 2020). These were a few of the measures put in place amongst others. The Cameroonian government announced it has partially relaxed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions in place as of Thursday, April 30 (GardaWorld, 2020). According to reports, the decision was made after a high number of reported patient recoveries from COVID-19 and a relatively low mortality rate in-country (GardaWorld, 2020). Apart from the reasons given above, the government of Cameroon also relaxed the measures in order to avoid a general economic collapse for the country and for individual citizens.

Authorities announced that bars, restaurants and leisure facilities will be allowed to extend their closing time after 18:00 (local time) with immediate effect as of April 30 (GardaWorld, 2020). Customers and users of these establishments must continue to respect and adhere to social distancing measures, including respecting barriers put in place and wearing face masks (GardaWorld, 2020). Public transport, including buses, taxis and mototaxis, are continuing operations as normal, though they must adhere to social distancing measures by only allowing the mandatory number of passengers on board and they must ensure passengers wear face masks (GardaWorld, 2020). However, the face mask remained to be worn mandatorily especially in public places. Many people who wore face masks did so to stay away from sanctions. In Yaounde, Moki Edwin Kindzeka (May 2020) revealed that police in Cameroon have detained several hundred people for not wearing face masks in public, as COVID-19 cases in the central African state (Cameroon) continue to rise. But in fact, many people in Cameroon have not been respecting this measure. They have various thoughts on the existence of the virus in Cameroon. They have not been used to the wearing of the face mask in spite of the continuous existence of the coronavirus in Cameroon. A mass infection rate in Cameroon would mean many deaths because the country's hospital system cannot cope with the situation that does not have enough infrastructure, man power and financial means to cope with the situation. Several reasons have been advanced by people for not wearing of the face mask. It is the case with many travelers and school children. Many school children and students have forgotten that they have to constantly put on their face masks while in school. Many travelers have neither been using the face masks nor respecting social distancing in public transport as are put in place or recommended by the government. It is the reason why we asked the following questions: Why do travelers not put on their face masks when travelling as it is put in place by the government? What are the views of the people on the existence of the coronavirus? What should be done to make travelers and other people in Cameroon put on the face mask?

We went ahead and advanced some hypotheses. Many travelers do not put on the face mask because they either think that the coronavirus has disappeared from Cameroon or does not exist. There is the need for more sensitization on the public use of the face mask so as put make the citizens be more responsible in fight against the coronavirus. It is for this reason that we carried out a research on the wearing of face masks by passengers who travel between Yaounde and Kumba between the months of September 2020 and December 2020. Yaounde is the capital of Cameroon and the capital of the Centre Region of Cameroon. Kumba is the capital of Meme Division that is found in the South West Region of Cameroon. Kumba is found in one of the two English speaking regions of Cameroon.

1.2. Definition of some Terms

1.2.1. Coronavirus:

The name "coronavirus" is derived from Latin corona, meaning "crown" or "wreath", itself a borrowing from Greek, "garland, wreath". Official names have been announced for the virus responsible for COVID-19 (previously known as "2019 novel coronavirus") and the disease it causes (WHO, 2020). The official names are: coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which is the disease and the virus is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Following WHO best practices for naming

of new human infectious diseases, which were developed in consultation and collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO has named the disease COVID-19, short for “coronavirus disease 2019.” (WHO, 2020).

1.2.2. Face mask:

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (1999), a face mask is a mask or protective covering for the face or part of the face. Medically according to this dictionary, it is a covering (as of polypropylene fiber or cotton fabric) for the mouth and nose that is worn especially to reduce the spread of infectious agents (such as viruses or bacteria). Medical masks are surgical or procedure masks that are flat or pleated (some are like cups); they are affixed to the head with straps (WHO, 2020). Wearing a medical mask is one of the prevention measures to limit spread of certain respiratory diseases, including 2019- nCoV, in affected areas (WHO, 2020).

1.2.3. Passengers:

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, it is a person who is travelling in a vehicle but is not driving it, flying it, or working on it. It is also a traveler on a public or private conveyance other than the driver, pilot, or crew.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research is purely qualitative. It is an ethnographic description of travellers’ views and experiences on the use of the face mask when travelling. We are describing how people use the face mask while travelling from Yaounde to Kumba. We carried out this study between the months of September 2020 to December 2020. We used participant observation and informal interviews and discussions to actually see the behaviour of people towards the use of the face mask in the fight against the coronavirus in public places especially during travelling in inter urban buses. We travelled with several bus agencies like General Express, Mondial Express, Golden Express and other nameless buses probably owned by private individuals. General Express transported us from Yaounde to Douala from where we took Golden Express from Douala to Kumba. Mondial Express transported us from Yaounde directly to Kumba. On other trips, we also took Golden Express from Douala to Buea and other nameless buses from Buea to Kumba. Throughout these journeys from Yaounde to Kumba and from Kumba back to Yaounde, we observed the behaviour of the passengers, we conducted informal interviews and discussions.

3. WHO Measures and the Cameroon Government Measures put in place to fight against the Coronavirus.

When the coronavirus broke out in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, it started spreading very fast to other countries of the world. In order to stop the rapid spread, the WHO recommended some measures to the world’s governments and then the governments of the various countries used these WHO measures and included theirs to overhaul the rapid spread of the virus to their respective countries.

3.1. WHO Measures:

The WHO put in place some general measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Protect yourself and others by making these 6 simple precautions your new habits (WHO, 2020):

- Clean your hands often
- Cough or sneeze in your bent elbow - not your hands!
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

The following should be monitored in schools (WHO, 2020):

- effectiveness of symptoms-reporting, monitoring, rapid testing and tracing of suspected cases
- the effects of policies and measures on educational objectives and learning outcomes
- the effects of policies and measures on health and well-being of children, siblings, staff, parents and other family members
- the trend in school dropouts after lifting the restrictions
- the number of cases in children and staff in the school, and frequency of school-based outbreaks in the local administrative area and the country.
- Assessment of impact of remote teaching on learning outcomes.

Based on what is learned from this monitoring, further modifications should be made to continue to provide children and staff with the safest environment possible.

3.2. The Cameroon government measures:

The government of Cameroon in the month of March 2020, put in place measures to fight against the coronavirus. Some of the measures included the constant washing of hands, the use of hand sanitizers, limiting public gatherings, respecting social distancing of at least two metres, the wearing of face masks, closing down of all schools, closing down of public entertainment places like bars and restaurants as from 6pm daily. It had so many consequences especially on businesses and the education sector. The government later on relaxed the measures by allowing bars to operate fully. The wearing of face masks remains mandatory in public places. In the month of October 2020, the government decided that schools should reopen however, by respecting some very strict measures put in place by education authorities in Cameroon. The four main challenges the Cameroonian educational authorities found themselves facing at the onset of the pandemic were (1) how to ensure continuity of formal education; (2) how to minimise exacerbation of already existing educational inequalities; (3) which tools to choose for ensuring continuity; and (4) how to enable pupils and students at exam stage to progress to the next level of their academic career (Beche, 2020). The consequences of the measures put in place by the education authorities saw many public schools having two shifts because only forty students were to be in each classroom, systematically disinfecting the school space daily, testing of

students' temperature daily and the wearing of face masks by all who enter the school environment. From all these, measures, the government after relaxing the measures to fight against the coronavirus, has continue to impose the wearing of the face mask in all public places.

4. THE OUTCOME

Travelling from Yaounde to Kumba, we discovered that most passengers hardly put on the face mask. We took Mondial Express or General Express from Yaounde in our several journeys. We took buses from these two travel agencies having sixty places or seventy places. While in the buses, at least 95% of the passengers hold their face masks in their hands or in their bags. At least, 20% of the passengers buy their face masks at the bus station in Mvan in Yaounde from the street hawkers. These face masks range between 300 FCFA to 500 FCFA depending on the quality. After buying them, the passengers either put them on immediately or put them in their bags. The buyers and sellers hardly consider the hygienic conditions of the face masks. The ignorance about the hygienic conditions simply shows that the passengers buy such face masks just for convenience or fear of reprisals. It is worse when it comes to the respect of social distancing in the buses.

From the Mvan bus stations, the journey begins from Yaounde. The first control post is found at a locality known as Nomayos. This is where we have a mixed control of police and gendarmes. Just about 100m to this control post, the bus driver or his assistant reminds the passengers to put on their face masks before they reach the control post. At the control post, the police and gendarmes ask all the passengers to get off the bus and show their identification papers. The police and gendarmes here control both the identification papers and the wearing of the face masks. Passengers who fail to wear their face masks are either rebuked or some end up paying a fine which may cost about 1000 FCFA. After this level, the passengers remove their face mask again and hold them or put them in their bags. In the course of the journey, discussions are going on and some passengers make a mockery of the coronavirus. Almost no one respects coughing in the ankle, avoiding handshakes which are among the most common measures. Some passengers believe that the coronavirus does not exist in Cameroon. Others think that even if it was in Cameroon, it has been completely eradicated. They attribute the eradication to the consumption of some local foods and other things like ginger, garlic, herbs, "bitter kola" and others. To such passengers, there is no need to put on the face mask.

The next control is on the Douala Tiko highway. Passengers immediately put on their face masks at the sight of the control officers. At this control post, the officers just stand at the bus windows and request all the passengers to present their personal identification papers. Passengers do this with their face masks on. Immediately this exercise is over, the passengers remove their masks again and everything is normal again. The next serious controls where personal identification papers and face masks are controlled before the bus stops in Buea on transit are at mile 14, mile 15 and mile 16 where passengers meet a series of police and gendarme officers. At this level, the control is very rigorous because of the sociopolitical conflict that is causing insecurity in that part of Cameroon. The sociopolitical conflict has been there for about four years today because Anglophone separatist fighters

had taken up arms against the government of Cameroon claiming that they were about to create a separate state which they have termed “Ambazonia”. It is for this reason that the two English speaking regions of Cameroon have been going through turbulent times causing access to this regions to be very difficult.

The bus stops at the Buea mile 17 motor park on a transit to Kumba. Observing people at the park and nearby vicinities, life is very normal such that one would not even imagine of the existence of the coronavirus in Cameroon. The bus leaves the Buea mile 17 motor park and drives through the populated area of Muea where you also find a market. Observing people at the Muea area and the market, there is almost no sign of anyone wearing a face mask or even trying to respect some of the government measures put in place to fight against the coronavirus. The bus passes through this area with the passengers not wearing their masks.

At the time the bus gets to the first control from Muea, the passengers hurriedly put on their face masks before the police officers come by the bus to do a control of identification papers. These controls increase from here such that the bus goes through about four minor control places. These controls here include the police, gendarmes, and sometimes the military because of the sociopolitical conflict that has created a lot of insecurity. The next serious control is at Ekona. After Ekona, other very rigorous control posts are at Muyuka, Yoke, Banga and Mabonji. Mabonji is the final control post and it is found at the entrance to Kumba town. In between these control posts, almost all the passengers are without face masks. They only put them on when they approach or they reach the control points. The bus driver and his assistant in the case where there is one, always remind the passengers to put on their face masks. From observation, their only reason is that they do not want to have delays at those control points with police holding down buses because of passengers who do not have their face masks on. We also observed that most of the bus drivers don't always have their face masks on, but the police and gendarmes on control hardly care about them.

This is the same scenario that we observed in our several journeys in between Yaounde and Kumba or Kumba and Yaounde irrespective of where you take off. Like we had earlier mentioned in this article, we have boarded buses too from Douala to Kumba and from Buea to Kumba which are all transit towns between Yaounde and Kumba.

4.1. Sources of Face Masks

The coming of the coronavirus saw many producers rushing for massive productions especially for two reasons. Firstly, the face masks were not available. Atabong (April 2020) revealed that in Cameroon, face masks are compulsory, but unaffordable for many. At the beginning of the coronavirus, the Cameroon government asked its citizens to wear face masks as a preventive measure. Unfortunately, at that time, the face masks were very scarce. Attention was drifted to the medical face masks worn by medical personnel. These masks could not be found anywhere except at the pharmacy. It was not at the reach of the ordinary Cameroonian. Those found at the pharmacies were expensive

for the ordinary Cameroonian. It cost about 1000FCFA which was beyond the amount that many poor households would survive on for a day in Cameroon. People were wondering how they would be able to acquire the face masks imposed by the government given their limited resources. People also wondered if the government was going to produce the face masks and distribute to every citizen. An informant called Eric Wule from Kumba talked to Atabong (April 2020) saying that the masks are scarce and even seem unavailable and continued that families and friends will use that which is available in turns just to escape police trouble. Because of this scarcity, many local producers started producing face masks with various types of cloth. The demand was high. Other associations and the government bought and distributed masks for free to various communities in Cameroon. For instance, in a bid to stop the spread of the COVID-19 in Cameroon's coastal city of Douala, city officials led by Mayor Roger Mbassa Ndine on Monday (April 6) distributed face masks to motorcycle and taxi drivers (Africanews). People needed the face masks because the government had imposed it in public places and there were sanctions. Even today, it is difficult to access some public offices in Cameroon especially in Yaounde and Douala without wearing the face mask. The explanations given here certainly pushed local producers including tailors to produce face masks.

Secondly, it brought in more financial benefits. Many local producers saw themselves making brisk business out of the production of face masks. It is not uncommon to find street hawkers in public places selling street masks. Some of them are found around bus stations to sell to travelers because travelers must buy to avoid police and gendarme repression. Some sit around public offices to sell to those who use these public offices. The face masks sold in public places range from about 100 FCFA to about 1000 FCFA. Many people get their face masks from such sources.

5. DISCUSSIONS

Community life in Africa is a culture. It is very difficult to separate an African from the rest of his/her people including friends, neighbours and family members. The coronavirus has come to cause this separation. This is because when we look at the barrier measures put in place by WHO and the Cameroonian government, they separate people from each other for fear of being contaminated by the coronavirus. From the analyses that we will find below in the article, we will discover that people are not ready to do away with their old habits which has been their culture for ages. Containing the coronavirus by applying restricted measures is parallel to African communal spirits. However, in African healing practices, people with contagious diseases are always separated from the rest of the community until healing is complete so as to avoid a contagion. Separation here is different from abandonment. To overhaul the spread of the coronavirus, some level of separation is needed.

The existence of the coronavirus is a reality. Kahn et al (2005) has described historically the evolution of the coronavirus. The history of human coronaviruses began in 1965 when Tyrrell and Bynoe found that they could passage a virus named B814 (Kahn et al, 2005). It was found in human embryonic tracheal organ cultures obtained from the respiratory tract of an adult with a common cold (Kahn et al, 2005). It is important to acquaint oneself with such knowledge so as to enhance the fight against the

coronavirus which has existed and changed into different strands. Since 2003, at least 5 new human coronaviruses have been identified, including the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus, which caused significant morbidity and mortality (Kahn et al, 2005).

The wearing of face masks in Cameroon is not always taken very seriously. Many people have shunned the government measures put in place to fight against the coronavirus. To many people, the virus does not exist in Cameroon. Desmon (2020) revealed that several misconceptions about COVID-19 are common in Cameroon. When we talked with some passengers in the informal discussions, they think that it is a “white man’s” disease. Hence, the coronavirus is a disease that affects only white people. White people here include people living in Europe, America and Asia. Our informants think that the Chinese invented the disease to affect Europeans and Americans which to the Chinese is a tool used to dominate the others. Since Africans cannot dominate the Chinese, the coronavirus has nothing to actually do with the Africans.

Other informants in the course of the discussions in the bus also think that the coronavirus was invented to destroy Africans. They think that the African space is very fertile for economic purposes. In order to dominate the Africans, they needed a tool to keep them under control but unfortunately for them, their plans became a boomerang given that the Africans have been very resistant in the face of the coronavirus. Rather, it is the more reason that people do not need to put on the face mask because there is no disease like the coronavirus. Such thoughts cannot help in the fight against the existing coronavirus. Cameroon as of December 31st 2020, has had at least 26000 cases of which close to 25000 have recovered and 448 deaths (These statistics change every day).

There have been many conspiracy theories on the existence and manifestations of the coronavirus. Some people think that the disease was created for Africans so that when the time would come when the Africans have been very much infected and affected, they would come in with a vaccine or a cure which would be administered to the Africans. After using the vaccines or the cure of the coronavirus on the patients, it would reduce their fertility rates. Our informants in the buses think that the West does not want to see an overpopulated Africa. In order to limit the African populations, it was necessary to create a disease and then bring in a cure that will be used to reduce the fertility rate of the Africans and consequently, it would limit child bearing.

Some travelers think that the coronavirus has never existed in Cameroon because they have never seen an infected person or a dead person. They think that the government of Cameroon faked the existence of the coronavirus in Cameroon just to benefit from international funding. For these reasons, they cared less of the coronavirus and thought that the wearing of the face mask was forced on them. They even exchange handshakes that were prohibited. Some of our informants who originate from the English speaking regions of Cameroon or who currently live in these regions said that they do not want to hear of anything that will increase their sufferings given that they have been suffering for a long time from

the sociopolitical crisis that is in the English speaking regions of Cameroon. Such travelers said that they saw no need wearing of a face mask because the disease does not exist.

Some informants on their part think that the physiological composition of the African (especially those living in sub-Saharan Africa or those of the black race) makes him/her to be very resistant to certain illnesses. They also believe that Africa has what it takes to fight against such diseases. It for this reason that they have been consuming many more foodstuffs that contain disease resistant components like garlic and ginger. Others consume herbs, “bitter cola” and other medications prepared traditionally. They think that these things can fortify them more than the use of the face mask. It is for this reason that to them, the face mask has no place in the fight against the coronavirus.

It is very possible that the coronavirus can cause very ravaging effects if it starts affecting the masses in Cameroon. This is so because the country’s health care system will find it difficult to cope with mass infections. The hospitals still lack infrastructure, man power, financial means and they also have bureaucratic obstacles to manage mass infections. Traditional medical practitioners have been trying to fill the gap that conventional medicine has created by coming up with some medications that can be used to treat the virus. Many Cameroonians got motivated about eradicating the disease from Cameroon when the Archbishop of Douala Samuel Kleda invented Elixir COVID in 2020 to cure the coronavirus. However, these are not yet enough to cope with mass infections. To avoid the case where mass infections are registered, the government and individuals have to respect the measures put in place to fight against this disease in a responsible manner. According to Mendes (2020), the coronavirus pandemic is still in full swing, meaning it's more important than ever to protect yourself and others while travelling.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

The failure of wearing the face mask in public places is very dangerous. No one can know who has the coronavirus just by looking at the faces of people. Only a medical test can determine if a person has the symptoms or is contaminated. It is for this reason that everybody including the government and individual citizens must be more responsible in their actions in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus in Cameroon. The coronavirus truly exists and people have to take it seriously. Just one person who is infected with the virus can easily infect travellers in one single bus because everybody has refused to respect the barrier measures put in place by the government and the WHO. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros, in his regular media briefing cautioned that “we have a long way to go. This virus will be with us for a long time”. He added that “the world cannot go back to the way things were. There must be a “new normal” –a world that is healthier, safer and better prepared” (WHO, 2020).

There have been many diverse views on the existence of the coronavirus. The coronavirus is real and has affected many Cameroonians of diverse origins, backgrounds and statuses. It must be considered very seriously by individuals and the government. In is important to recall here that the government of

Cameroon put in place very strong measures especially at the beginning of the coronavirus in Cameroon. At a certain point, these measures were relaxed because of the economic repercussions. These measures need to be reinforced so as to avoid a second wave of the coronavirus that has started affecting other parts of the world like Europe and America.

Cameroonians need to take the disease very seriously by being individually responsible in all their actions. It is very difficult to find people wearing the face mask in the streets, schools and especially in crowded places like markets and other gatherings. It is only when it is forced on them like the case of the police and gendarme controls that people put on the face mask for the fear of being punished. Others put them on because some offices in the big towns insist on all those entering their premises to put on the face masks or risk not having access, which users put them on. People need to be more responsible in their personal actions.

In educational establishments, the barrier measures put in place to fight against the coronavirus have to be reinforced. This is so because, when we look at most schools today, the wearing of the face mask in schools have become obsolete and optional. Many people do not care about it again. For this reason, the government needs to sensitize the citizens the more and even put in place punishment mechanisms on all those who refuse to respect the barrier measures put in place. School officials have to carry out their responsibilities in sensitizing the school children and the students of the dangers of the coronavirus.

The government needs to sensitize public transport users and owners of public transport means. Punishment mechanisms should also be reinforced so that people will be constantly coerced to respect government barriers and those of the WHO put in place to fights against the coronavirus. Individuals need to take responsible personal actions to fight against the coronavirus which is real.

7. CONCLUSION

The coronavirus is real. It is high time that people become responsible in their personal actions in the fight against the coronavirus. It has been killing people. School officials and students most especially like transporters and passengers have to be on high alert. This can only happen through sensitization and education. Failure to respect the measures put in place by the WHO and the government of Cameroon to fight against the coronavirus will be disastrous to the citizens and the government especially as this can enhance the coming and the spread of a second wave of the disease. From the behaviour of people, there is a need for serious action because just one person having the virus and exposing himself/herself in public places is a high risk to other people.

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