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African Indigenous Churches and COVID-19 in Nigeria

Conceptually, health and medicine are strongly related to religion in African cultures. Religion in Africa usually serves as a means of knowing the preventive, causes and cure no matter how obscure the sickness and diseases might be. African Indigenous Churches-AICs, so far has been one of the ways in which African culture, which had been relegated by many factors was brought back to limelight and thus regained its values to a certain extent. The phenomenon had given serious attention to healing in its interaction with the society. AICs have paid attention to epidemics and other forms of serious sickness at international, local and individual levels. Going by the aforementioned, it may not be out of place to view Covid-19 in the mirror of AIC. Covid-19, pandemic has knocked-down the wealthy, affluent and non-affluent, famous, poor and the already sick throughout the world. Meanwhile, the statistics indicate that Nigeria has a relatively small number of Coronavirus affected persons compared to some developed countries without the benefits of specific western medications, adequate isolation centres, ventilators and other fast-track ways of getting healed. How may we explain this outcome? Are some of the practices of AICs among the helping factors? If yes, how effective have they been or would these practices been helping Nigerians in prevention and cure of COVID-19? The study is based Ayegboyin and Ishola's postulation that sickness is by far most common reason which people give for attending AICs. The practice of *curadivina* is one of the most important benefactions to its members where there are few hospitals and costly medicine is beyond the reach of the majority. The paper uses qualitative approach with primary and secondary sources from in-depth interview, participant observations and bibliographical sources

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