

Insecurity and Performance of Small and Medium Enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Onye, Chika Dennis (Ph.D)
School of Business Education
Federal College of Education
'Technical' Umunze, Anambra State
E-mail: dennis2020@gmail.com
DOI: 10.56201/ijebm.vol.12.no6.2026.pg21.36

Abstract

This work investigates the effect of insecurity on performance of small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria. The main purpose of the study was to examine the unemployment, kidnapping, armed robbery and cult war on performance of small and medium enterprises. The study reviewed relevant literatures. Theoretical framework was anchored on structural functionalism theory. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population comprised 2001 SMEs in Anambra State. Sample size is (390) using formular devised by Borg and Gall. Questionnaire was employed as the main instrument of data collection. The study used content validity and the researcher established the reliability of the instrument by using of test retested. The data generated were analyzed using simple percentage analysis, to answer research question, while multiple regression analysis was used in testing the hypotheses. The study find out that kidnapping had a negative significant effect on the performance of Small and medium enterprises, Armed robbery had a significant negative effect on the performance in Small and medium enterprises and cult war had a significant negative effect on the performance of Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study concluded that insecurity had a significant negative effect on the performance of small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study recommended that government need to pay close attention to security of human elements (Small and medium enterprises) than to security of territory by substantively enacting a right-oriented business conduct to protect individuals from smooth running of their businesses. Government serious intervention to cushion the effect of human insecurity by adopting a regulatory framework that will usher defaults to befitting penalty in order to inculcate sustainable virtues like discipline, integrity, honesty, humility. Government at all levels need to pay attention to cult war in Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi respectively lean on daily income for the provision of the basic necessities of life by intelligence system, and build a capable and more proactive security apparatus

Introduction

The rising wave of insecurity in Nigeria which poses threat to lives and properties and to business and economic activities in particular is worrisome. Despite the concerted efforts by government, cooperate bodies and well-meaning individuals to curb it yet it remains unabated, obstinate and festers in the society. The 1999 constitutions of the federal republic of Nigeria section (14)(2) as amended in 2021 states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary responsibility and purpose of government. Security vote is usually given priority attention in yearly

fiscal budget because of its peculiarity and relevance in all sphere and strata to national development. Akinkotu (2018) reported that government spends over 241bn on security votes yearly. In the theoretical perspective, the neo-realist emphasis that security is the primary responsibility of the state while the pluralistic view sees it as the responsibility of non-state. It is disheartening that government has not been able to fully meet up in her responsibility in this unequivocal task despite her concerted efforts and the huge yearly budgetary allocation on security-votes and other measures taken to abate the scourge. Although the Nigerian government enacted and passed the Anti- Terrorism Act in 2021, boosted surveillance and strengthen security agencies yet the rising wave soar high. In a research conducted by Ndujihe Clifford, it was found that smes business in anambra state Nigerians were distory 11 months reported by Omonobi, Johnson, Nkwopara, Agbakwuru and Erunke in Vanguard Newspaper (2019). Small and medium enterprises performance can be understood from a quantitative perspective: efficiency, financial results, level of production, number of customers (Anggadwita & Mustafid, 2014), market share, profitability, productivity, dynamics of revenues, costs and liquidity (Zimon, 2018), and also from a qualitative perspective: goals achievement, leadership style, employee behaviour customer satisfaction (Alpkan, Yilmaz, & Kaya, 2017), product and process innovation, organisational and marketing innovation (Gupta & Batra, 2016). Gopang, Nebhwani, Khatri, and Marri (2017), in their work, considered a series of indicators to describe Small and medium enterprises performance: reputation, productivity, employee satisfaction, profits, sales, prompt order delivery, sufficient working capital, effectiveness in operations of production, product quality, achievement of targets, number of clients, easiness in supervision, reduction in product cost and product diversification. It is not only the study of performance features that is important, it is also relevant to mention that focused on the factors that influence the performance of Small and medium enterprises through digital transformation.

All over the world react sensitively to factors and forces in their immediate environment, such as government policies, economy climate, competition and security. However, insecurity is one of the most impactful factors that capable of crumbling business activities in a short span of time. Small and medium enterprises performance imply the activities of opening or setting up new business in response to needs or opportunity seen in the society (Opusunju 2019). Also, there are other aspects of Small and medium enterprises such as growth and enterprise sustainability. Successful Small and medium enterprises require to record consistent operation and steady growth. The rising wave of insecurity in Nigeria which poses threat to lives and properties and Small and medium enterprises performance and economic activities in particular is worrisome. Despite the concerted efforts by government, cooperate bodies and well-meaning individuals to curb it yet it remains unabated, obstinate and festers in the society. Insecurity is taking different dimensions in Anambra State, and changing from one form to another; while security outfits jump from one strategy to another to curb the menace. The security challenges currently bedeviling Anambra State spares no entity; and businesses and business operators continue to count their losses (Yusuf, 2018). Nigeria has been battling with various internal crises, social unrest and crimes for decades. However, the last decade has witnessed the metamorphosis of common social unrest into insurgency, kidnapping, armed robbery, assaults, religious conflicts, among others (Owolabi & Ayenakin, 2015); and have affected different aspects of our daily lives and entrepreneurial activities. It is disheartening that government has not been able to fully meet up in her responsibility in this unequivocal task despite her concerted efforts and the huge yearly budgetary allocation on security-votes and other measures taken to abate the scourge (Ajayi 2016).

Insecurity could be referred to being susceptible to imminent danger which affects individual interest and society core values, that is; lack of peace, safety and protection as well as exposure to danger in an environment or society due to economic, political, socio-cultural, ethno-religious conflict, inequitable distribution of natural resources, poverty and unemployment, porous border and weak security system among others. Ekpo (2017) decried the high level of incessant kidnapping issues in Nigeria that scared away many potential foreign investors and illustrious Nigerians who reside in abroad who would have been Proceedings of 3rd Annual National Conference, willing to come home to invest in businesses. Okojie (2015) reported a study by World Bank on investment climate in nine African countries which revealed that 36% of business operators in Nigeria perceived insecurity as a major constraint to investment. The high rate of criminality resulting to insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria seems to threaten the unity and peaceful co-existence of our great nation and this is at the expense of developmental strives in all spheres including business particularly SMEs operations. Observation has shown the enormous consequences and adverse effect of insecurity on economic development especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are so volatile, susceptible and easily vulnerable to attack. Potential business and existing business owners are now at a fist, scared and reluctant to take calculated risk in new investment opportunities or expand existing ones due to high insecurity threat to their businesses and lives. This study examines the effect of insecurity on Small and medium enterprises performance in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The quagmire in which security challenges has placed this Anambra State is unquantifiable. A Anambra State endowed with both human and natural resources are suffering from severe pains of hunger to the detriment of the citizenry. This scenario has prompted many youths to engage in nefarious and precarious activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, child abduction etc. Youths who are leaders of tomorrow were neglected. This ugly situation has resulted in migration of youths from one country to the other in search of greener pastures where many have lost their lives. Therefore, it is crystal clear that the state of insecurity in Anambra State is largely a function of government failure and lackadaisical attitude towards the poor masses. This is showcased by the inability of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses like social amenities, and infrastructural facilities. However, the last decade has witnessed the metamorphosis of common social unrest into insurgency, kidnapping, armed robbery, assaults, religious conflicts, among others. The paucity of basic needs by the people of Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent. The argument here, is that, Nigeria has the resources to provide for the needs of her people, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for office holders to focus on the provision of basic needs for the people. Nigeria earns a great deal of revenue through oil sales, but fails to use these earnings to meet the needs of its people and to develop infrastructure as well as the economy. When these situations exist, crime rate is bound to rise and the security of lives and properties cannot be guaranteed. Without security, the economic, social and political stability of the nation is in jeopardy. Insecurity in the country do not only affects foreign direct investment and business activities, it also affects business confidence and stability as numerous firm and individual losses confidence in establishing businesses in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this study is to determine the effect of insecurity on Small and medium enterprises performance in Anambra State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study is seeking to:

- i. Investigate the effect of kidnapping on the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria
- ii. Determine the effect of armed robbery on the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria
- iii. Ascertained the effect of cult war on the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Research Question

In line with the objectives of the study, the following research questions were formulated to guide this research.

- i. To what level does kidnapping affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria
- ii. To what degree does armed robbery affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria
- iii. To what extent does Cult War the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study

H₁: Kidnapping has no significant effect on the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

H₂: Armed robbery has no significant effect on the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

H₃: Cult War has no significant effect on the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Insecurity

The concept of insecurity is not an alien to societies, as it has existed even in the primitive societies of the world. interest and society core values, that is; lack of peace, safety and protection as well as exposure to danger in an environment or society due to economic, political, socio-cultural, ethno-religious conflict, inequitable distribution of natural resources, poverty and unemployment, porous border and weak security system among others. The word insecurity has myriads of connotations. It signifies danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. To be able to give an all-encompassing definition of insecurity, it is important we have a brief look at what security is. The social contract in which the people willingly surrender their right to the government who oversees the survival of all is necessitated by the need for security (Olopade and Olopade 2019). The end of the cold war, there have being attempt to shift conceptualization of security from a static centric perspective to a broader view that places premium on individuals, in which human security that embodies elements of national security, human rights and national development remain major barometer for explaining the concept. At the heart of this debate is an

attempt to deepen and widen the concept of security from the level of the states to societies to individuals, and from military to non-military issues (Njikamp & Poot 2019).

Beland (2015) defines insecurity as the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.” It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This implies that insecurity is an absence of peace, order and security. Achumba, Ighomeroho, Akpor (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. People engaged in business activity, either directly or indirectly, to satisfy unlimited human wants. Therefore, business has become part and parcel of human existence in particular and global world in general. United Nations Development Programme (1994) defines Security as protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the daily activities, at homes, offices or communities. In the opinion of McGrew, (2018), the security of a nation hangs on two important pillars which are; the maintenance and protection of the socioeconomic order in the case of internal and external threat and the promotion of a preferred international order, which minimizes the threat to core values and interests, as well as domestic order.

Security is an all-encompassing condition which suggests that a territory must be secured by a network of armed forces; that the sovereignty of the state must be guaranteed by a democratic and patriotic government, which in turn must be protected by the military-police and the people themselves; that the people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from devastating consequences of internal upheavals such as unemployment, hunger, starvation, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation and pollution cum socioeconomic injustices. Olorunfemi (2018) extended the view expressed above by saying that; Nigeria’s security should be based on a holistic view which sees the citizens as the primary beneficiaries of every security and developmental deliverable that the state can offer. In the view of Ogbole (2016), Nigeria’s security will involve efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria so it can advance its interests and objectives to contain internal and external aggression, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth and improve the welfare and quality of life of every citizen. The antithesis of security is insecurity, which can be seen as the absence of security as discussed above. The common description of insecurity is uncertainty, hazard, and danger, want of safety, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded and protected, lack of protection and being unsafe, instability and others. In the words of Olaniyan (2017), the common descriptors outlined above point to a condition where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property or livelihood.

To them insecurity is state of not knowing, a lack of control, and the inability to take defensive actions against forces that portend danger or harm to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable security borders on ensuring safety of lives and properties. Williams (2008) who sees security from the socio-political perspective opines that security involves the capacity to pursue cherished political and social ambitions. That is, security is socio-political in nature as without security there can be no political stability and consequently social activities will be in chaos. Myriads of factors have been attributed to have contributed to magnitude of insecurity in Nigeria. Many erudite scholars have identified several causes of insecurity in Nigeria that are inimical to

socio-economic growth and development (Ali, 2013; Okorie, 2011; Jega, 2002; Salawu, 2010; Onyishi, 2011; Ezeoba, 2011; Lewis, 2002; Achumba and Akpor 2013).

These causes have bedeviled the smooth flow of business activities in Nigeria. They include but not limited to the following:

Kidnapping: The kidnapping of all manner of persons has gained ascendancy in Nigeria. A malady previously unknown to the people has rapidly become domesticated. In the last ten years, the volatile of the Anambra State witnessed this phenomenon on a large scale with the target being mostly expatriates and Nigerians in business. It has spread throughout the country extending to places as far as Anambra South senatorial Zone, Nnewi South, and Orumba North and South local government have become known as the kidnappers' playgrounds of Anambra State. Kidnapping seems easier compared to other forms of serious crimes. According to Davidson (2020), a group of criminals armed with guns and cell phones apprehend unsuspecting victims and drag their victim into a secluded spot and begin to make phone calls to whomever and demand for a ransom. The police with a mandate to provide security for the people are often unprepared for the task at hand. They think their job is done if they manage to secure the kidnapped, but of the kidnappers nothing much is ever heard. As we all know, the police are poorly trained and poorly equipped, but beyond these inadequacies there are worrying signs that their loyalty is suspected. Some whistle blowers have come to grief for confiding in them. The primary role of government is the provision of security for its own people. In Anambra State Nigeria this role has been largely ignored. The Anambra State no longer provides security for the people. Anambra State have compulsorily become religious as whole families barricade themselves at night in prison-high walls and pray that God protection. But kidnapping as a variant of armed robbery is infinitely more disturbing as it often occurs in the open among persons going about their normal business.

A wide range of causative factors are responsible for the kidnapping that troubled the good business people of Anambra State. These factors can be viewed distinctively, yet they are intrinsically linked to one another as one concept directly leads to another especially when observed from a sociological perspective.

Armed Robbery: Armed robbery involves the use of weapon and violence (Conklin, Mouzos & Carcach, 2021; Cassel & Bernstein, 2017). The twenty youths interviewed have been labelled "armed robbers" because they attempted to carry out, abetted or carried out a robbery or robberies with a weapon or weapons either as a group or as individuals. The weapons may have been used to threaten, intimidate, maim or even kill the victims at some point. Armed robbers are desperate to get money by all available means. Whether they disguise themselves or not during their operation is immaterial, but their involvement in armed robbery is an innovation geared towards attaining the required cultural goals in society. As strain theory earlier suggested, deviant form of innovation is disproportionately present in those strata where legitimate opportunities for reaching the cultural goals are limited or inaccessible (Featherstone & Deflem,). Since some offenders can wear masks and others cannot, however, the use of any weapon in robbery intensifies the crime

Cult war: Activities of cult groups in the country have assumed a more frightening dimension as there is hardly any day that passes by without reported cases of clashes being recorded. The last few months have been a harrowing experience as hoodlums, social miscreants and cultists have engaged themselves in bloody battles for supremacy in many states while the law enforcement agents appear helpless in abating the tide despite the increased number of people being injured,

maimed, killed and enormous properties destroyed. Due to the secret nature in their modus operandi, taming cult-related activities could really be herculean but this is not insurmountable. Cult activities are often associated with rituals that are characterized by set of practices, belief system or thinking usually disclosed only to their inner caucus. Many studies have been carried out on cult-related matters in the country, unfortunately many of the researchers have failed to come up with workable solutions that could curb this social problem. This result from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training (Achumba et al. 2023). Students of secondary schools, tertiary institutions and hoodlums are mostly part of the criminally-minded individuals that have made our campuses, the streets unsafe while various groups have been known to attack each other when they cross the path of members of their groups. No doubt, living under environments where terror is the norm could have severe consequences for the human mind, security and the general well-being of the people, as children risk developing negative trait habits because of exposure to constant violence and bloodletting. (Achumba and Akpor, 2023)

Performance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)

Typically, performance is ultimate outcome expected in every business activity (Muhammad et al., 2019; Ahmed et al., 2018; Roespinoedji et al., 2019). SME performance is the total performance of the firm and is showed by the aggregate of performance of finance, business, and human resource functions of the organization in a given time. Firms formulate goals and objectives to be achieved within a given time frame. Performance measures the organizations' effectiveness against these set objectives. Thus, organizational performance refers to the ability of an organization to attain its goals such as high-profit margin, product quality, and larger market share, better financial results at a stipulated time and by applying the relevant strategy. Organizational performance has many dimensions which may be difficult to quantify (Rowley, 2017) opines that, both financial and non-financial indicators have been used to measure performance. The financial indicators were sales growth and percentage profit margin. In the service industry, employee productivity has been used as a measure of performance (Mishra, 2018). Gavrea, I lies and Stegorean, (2017) SME performance shows the actual output or results of an organization as measured against its proposed outputs (or goals and objectives). It is one of the most important variables in the field of management research today. Although the concept of SME performance is very common in academic literature, its definition is not yet a universally accepted concept. Richard et al, (2016) view SME performance as comprises three specific areas of firm outcomes: financial performance (profits, return on assets, return on investment and others product market performance (sales, market share, and shareholder return (total shareholder return, economic value added, others. Waiganjo, Mukulu & Kahiri, (2016) note that SME performance may be assessed in terms of its multiple objectives of profitability, employee satisfaction, productivity, growth among many other objectives. Proponents of the balanced score card performance management system have suggested a broader performance appraisal approach that recognizes both the financial and non-financial measures including sales, profitability, return on investments, market share, customer base, product quality, innovation and company attractiveness. Richard et al, (2019) explains that SME performance includes the actual output or results of firms as measured against its intended outputs (goals and objectives). Kunze (2013), has defined SME performance as consisting of both SME and operational dimensions of performance. To survive and succeed in a potentially austere environment, Small and medium enterprises must effectively deploy and combine their physical, human and organizational assets. Thus, they will

develop long-term competitive advantages and, in turn, achieve superior performance (Lonial & Carter, 2015). However, due to their limited resources, Small and medium enterprises need to identify and exploit other means to be able to enhance their competitiveness and performance (Gomezelj Omerzel & Smolci, Jurdana, 2016).

Theoretical Framework

This study is hinged on structural functionalism theory propounded by August Comte (1857). Structural functionalism theory state that within human society, there exist some structures such as political, economic, religious, educational, technological and social structures that work together in an interrelated and interdependent manner to promote solidarity and stability. Hence, any flux in one part of society causes flux in other parts. Functionalists like Herbert Spencer (1903) and Robert Merton (2003) maintained that our society is a living organism that has interacting and interdependent parts, such that failure in one part affects others. Thus, like other living organism whose parts work together for its survival, the different parts of society must work together enable or enhance its survival. These parts are regarded as social institutions, which are strongly related to form functional social structures and perform specific roles towards maintaining the whole. Thus, all structures in a society must work to contribute to its safety, orderliness and development. Malfunctioning in any part of society or its structures has consequence on the other parts of the society. This applies to the cases of entrepreneurial venture and insecurity. If some set of individuals make society insecure, small and medium enterprises and operators that form the other part surfer. This study is thus, anchored on structural functionalism based on the conviction that insecurity has the propensity to determine the performance of entrepreneurial venture.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive survey approach. Descriptive statistics was applied because of its capability to summarize large quantities of data using understood measures in form of graphical and numerical techniques (Burns, 2000). Descriptive studies are said to be a type of survey design that can give specific or group characteristics for a sampled population (Kothari, 2006).

Area of the Study

The study was be carried out in Anambra state, Nigeria. Anambra is one of the 36 states in Nigeria located in the South-East Nigeria. It has an estimated area of square1236 kilometers. The State is densely populated and has an estimated population of 3.2 million people (National Population Census, 1991). Anambra has a total of 21 local government areas with 179 communities. It is bounded to the East by Enugu State, to the South by Imo and Rivers state, to the west by Delta State and to the North by Kogi state. The indigenous of Anambra State are predominantly Igbos and they speak Igbo language. Nonetheless, some people in Anambra west speak Igala language. The state has two commercial and industrial cities of Onitsha and Nnewi.

Population of the Study

Population of study refers to a group of people, objects or events which a researcher deliberately decides to study, primarily to obtain necessary data to solve a given problem. The population of the study comprised 2001 of the management and staff of Small and medium enterprises in Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha in Anambra State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

Cooper and Schindler (2003), state that the size of a sample should be a function of the variation in the population parameter under study and the estimate precision by the researcher. The statistical formula devised by Borg and Gall (1973) was employed to determine the sample size. The formula state thus:

$$n = (Zx)^2 eN$$

Where n = Sample size

N = Population Figure

e = Margin error and this case= 0.05

Z = Confidence level and for 0.05 it is 1.964

Substituting the population variables of this study into the formula above, the sample size can be computed as follows:

$$n = (1.964)^2 0.05 \times 2001$$

$$n = 390.2$$

Therefore, n=390

Validity of the Instrument

The researcher used face and content validity in this research work. Validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences which are based on the research results, and the degree to which the results obtained from the analysis of data actually represent the phenomenon under study (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2002). The instrument was given to two lecturers in the department of Business Administration for validation before the supervisors finally face validated it. Their corrections and suggestions were incorporated into the final draft of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is attached as an appendix 1 to this work.

Based on the threshold, they were found to be reliable for the study.

Method of Data Analysis

The need to enhance easy comprehension and analysis prompted the use of the frequency distribution table to present the data gathered. The tools used in analyzing the data collected include simple percentages, descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. The study also employed Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA) method to determine the effect of stress on employee productivity.

Data Presentation and Analysis

In this section, the data generated from the employee of the sampled small and medium scale enterprises were presented, analyzed and interpreted.

Questionnaire Distribution Analysis

Table 1: Questionnaire Response Rate

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Copies of the questionnaire distributed	384	100
Copies of the questionnaire Returned	35	92.2
Copies of invalid questionnaire	30	7.8
Total	384	100

Author's compilation 2025

A total of three hundred eighty four 384 (100%) questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which three hundred and fifty four (354 92.2) were properly filled and found relevant to the study 34 (7.8%) of the questionnaires were not properly filled. Therefore, the analysis in this section was based on the three hundred and fifty-four relevant copies. The first section covers the demographic features of the respondents. The second section analyzed the data relevant to research questions.

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

In this section, the demographic features of the respondents such as gender, marital status, age bracket, educational qualification and working experience are presented and analyzed. A total of three hundred and fifty-four respondents were sampled and the results are presented in the table below.

Table 2: Gender Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Female	151	42.7	42.7
Male	203	57.3	57.3
Total	354	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026

The table above shows the demographic profile of the employees of the sampled Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State. A higher proportion of the respondents (57.3%) are male while 42.7% of the respondents are female.

Table 3: Marital Status of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Married	180	50.9	50.9
Single	130	36.7	36.7
Others	44	12.4	12.4
Total	354	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 3 also shows that 139 36.7% of the respondents are single, 180 50.9% are married while the remaining 44 12.48% of the respondents are either divorced or separated.

Table 4: Age Bracket of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
18 - 30 years	130	36.7
31 - 40 years	120	33.9
41 - 50 years	70	19.7
51 years and above	34	9.7
Total	354	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 4 above depict the age bracket of the respondents. The distribution shows that 36.7% of the respondents are between the age brackets of 18 to 30 years while 120 respondents representing 33.9% are within the age bracket of 31 - 40 years. On the same note, 19.7% of the respondents are

within the age bracket of 41 - 50 years while the remaining respondents representing 9.7% are within the age bracket of 51 years and above.

Table 5. Educational Qualification of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
O'Level	20	5.7
OND/NCE	136	38.4
B.Sc./HND	153	43.2
M.Sc./MBA	40	11.3
PhD/Others	15	4.2
Total	350	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 5 shows that 8% of the respondents have Ordinary level, 39% of the respondents have either Ordinary National Diploma or National Certificate on Education as their educational qualification. While 44% of the respondents agreed that they have either Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) or Higher National Diploma (HND). 11% of the respondents have either M.Sc./MBA, while 1% respondents agreed that they have PhD/Others.

Table 6: Number of working Years in business

	Frequency	Percent
Below 5 years	45	12.4
6 - 10 years	136	38.9
1 - 20 years	140	40
21 years and above	34	9.7
Total	350	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026/SPSS

Table 6: also shows that 12.4% of the respondents have worked in the Small and medium enterprises business between zero to five years while 39% of the respondents have worked between 6 to 10 years. On a similar note, 40% of the respondents have worked between 11 to 15 years while the remaining 9.7% have worked for 6 years and above.

Analysis of Thematic Data

Data relevant in answering the research questions and testing the hypotheses are presented in tables below.

Research Question One: To what level does kidnapping affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Table 7: Respondents' Opinion on whether kidnapping affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State in Niger

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	36	10.2
Disagree	29	8.2
Undecided	12	3.3
Agree	184	52.0
Strongly Agree	93	26.3

Total	354	100.0
-------	-----	-------

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 7 shows greater percentages 52% of respondents agree does kidnapping affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State in Niger, 26% strongly agree, 3.3 % are undecided, 8.2% disagree while 10.2%of respondents strongly disagree.

Research Question Two: To what degree does armed robbery affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Table 8: Respondents' view on whether organization's innovation capability arise from the skills and abilities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	89	25.1	25.1
Agree	165	46.6	46.6
Undecided	19	5.4	5.4
Disagree	48	13.6	13.6
Strongly Disagree	33	9.3	9.3
Total	354	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 8 revealed that 25% of the respondents strongly agree that does armed robbery affect the performance Small and medium enterprises, 46.6% agree, 5.4.% are undecided, 13.6% disagree while 9.4% of respondents strongly disagree.

Research Question Three: To what extent does cult war affect the performance Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Table 9: Respondents' view on whether cult war affect the performance Small and medium enterprises

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	68	19.2
Agree	202	57.1
Neutral	26	7.4
Disagree	14	2.9
Strongly Disagree	44	12.4
Total	354	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026

The table 4.9 shows that 19.2% of the respondents strongly agree that cult war affect the performance Small and medium enterprises, Anambra State, Nigeria. 57.1% agree, 7.4% are neutral, 2.9% disagree, while 12.4%of respondents strongly disagree.

Summary of Finding, Conclusions and Recommendations

Summary of findings

Based on the analysis of the research objectives, research questions and the test hypothesis the following findings were made:

1. That Kidnapping has a significant negative effect on the performance of Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria.
2. Armed robbery has a significant negative effect on the performance in Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria.
3. Cult war had a significant negative effect on the performance of Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Conclusion

From all indications, insecurity had a significant negative effect on the performance Small and medium enterprises operations in Anambra State, Nigeria. The causes of insecurity is as a result of unemployment, kidnapping, armed robbery, cult war, bad government and political factors, are not operating very effective in their various locations due to robbery, kidnapping, bombing and killing of innocent soul, marketer and product distributors find it difficult to reach their target audience because of these activates in Anambra State insecurity is a major challenges, insecurity has some negative implications on human wellbeing and economic development. Lives and properties have been wasted including economic resources has also drastically declined as a result of kidnappings in Anambra State. Form the result of the analysis the study concluded that that insecurity had a significant negativeeffect on the performance of Small and medium enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, therefore the study recommended that:

1. Government need to pay close attention to security of human elements (Small and medium enterprises) than to security of territory by substantively enacting a right-oriented business conduct to protect individuals from smooth running their businesses. This is due to the fact that security encompasses all approach towards safeguarding human as well as material resources in the state against all forms of aggressions or violent conduct.
2. Government serious intervention to cushion the effect of human insecurity by adopting a regulatory framework that will usher defaults to befitting penalty in order to inculcate sustainable virtues like discipline, integrity, honesty, humility, etc. in them. This is because, unequivocally speaking, protection of human rights, dignity, and integrity need to be the greatest concern of government at all levels because life has no duplicate. Human security complements state security, strengthens human development and enhances human rights.
3. Government at all levels need to pay rapt to attention to cult warin Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi respectively lean on daily income for the provision of the basic necessities of life by intelligence system and build a capable and more proactive security apparatus

References

- Abbas, S. M. S., & Sani, M. (2016). Effect of insurgency on operations of small and medium business enterprises: A study on impact assessment in Nigeria. *Indian Journal of Applied Research*, 6(9).
- Achumba, I. C., Ighomereho, O. S., & Akpor-Robaro, M. O. M. (2016). Security challenges in Nigeria and implications for business activities and sustainable development. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(2) 67-89.
- Achumba, I.C., Ighomereho, O.S., & Akpan – Robaro, M.O.M (2023). Security challenges in Nigeria and the implications of business activities and sustainable development. *Journal of economics and sustainable development* 4(2),79– 99
- Adagba, O., Ugwu, S.C. & Eme, O.I. (2022). Activities of Boko Haram and insecurity question in Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of business and management review* 1(9) 77 – 99
- Adeleke, A. (2018). Insecurity: A threat to human existence and economic development in Nigeria. *Public Policy and Administration Research*, 3(6), 34-45.
- Akin, I. (2008). The utility of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) in Intelligence gathering by security operatives in Nigeria. *Proceedings at Conference on Intelligent Security, Lagos*.
- Akinterinwa B.A.(2018). Igeria current security challenges:beyond war on corruption, party defection and chicanery, retrieved from <http://thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/08/12/nigerias-current-security>.
- Amadi, V. C., Ojiabo, U. & Kemi D. A. (2018). Government entrepreneurship development programmes and small & medium scale enterprise success in Rivers State. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research Social & Management Science*, 4(4), 202-219.
- behavior in the U.S.A. and Turkey. *Journal of Global Entrepreneurship Research*, 6(3), 1-32.
- Beland, D. (2019). The political construction of collective security from moral panic to blame avoidance and organized irresponsibly. Centre for European Studies; Working Paper Series 126.
- Chinedu, U. O., Vincent, A., Enaini, S. O., & Abaniwu, P. C. (2018). Industrial harmony and employee performance in food and beverage firms in Anambra State of Nigeria *International Journal of Managerial Studies and Research*, 6(6), 22-35.
- Durotoye, A. (2015). Economic Consequences and Management of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, 3(6), 1247-1276.
- Ewetan O.O. & Urhie E. (2021). Insecurity and socio-economic development in Nigeria. *Journal of sustainable development studies* 5(1) 40- 58
- Hazen, J.M., & Horner, J. (2017). Small arms, armed violence and insecurity in Nigeria. The Niger Delta in perspective. Switzerland small arms survey Institute for economics and peace.
- Inyang, B. J., & Enouch, R. O. (2010). Entrepreneurial competencies: The missing links to successful entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *International Business Research*, 2(2), 22-29.
- Kokcharov, I. (2015). Hierarchy of Skills in entrepreneurship. Retrieved from <http://www.slideshare.net/igorkokcharov/kokcharov-skillpyramid2015>
- Lister, A. (2018). Impact of insecurity on business performance. *International Journal of human resource Management*, 3(2) 44-56.
- Mohammed, D. T., & Ahmed, F. F. (2015). The Effect of Insurgency on Borno State Economy (2008-2014). *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 6(16), 94-104.

- Nakayama, T. (2016). Entrepreneurial motive in Japan: An Empirical Study on Japanese University Students. *International Journal of Business and General Management*. 5(3), 81-96.
- Nuridan, O., & Rivenburgh, N. K. (2016). Entrepreneurial motive: Antecedents to entrepreneurial
- Nwachwuku J.O. (2019). Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Projects (SERAP) demands details on how security vote funds were spent between 2021-2015. Retrieved from [dailypost](http://dailypost.com).
- Nwagboso C.I (2022). Security challenges and economy of the Nigerian state (2007-2021). *American International Journal of Contemporary research* 2(6)244-258.
- Obadan M.I. (12). Research process, report writing and referencing; a guide for researchers and scholars in all disciplines. Abuja: Goldmark press Publisher.
- Ojo, O. D., Petrescu, M., Petrescu, A. G. & Bilcon F. R. (2017). The impact of innovation on entrepreneurial success: Evidence from Nigeria. *African Journal of Business Management*, 2(3), 12-47.
- Okonkwo R.I, Ndubisi O.P. & Anagbogu T. (2015). Security challenges and the implication for business activities in Nigeria: a critical review. *Journal of policy and development studies* 9(2)157- 168.
- Omede, A.J. (2021). Nigeria: analysing the security challenges of GoodLuck Jonathan Administration. *Canadian Social Science* 7(5)90-102.
- Omonobi K, Johnson D, Nkwopara C, Agbakwuru J and Erunke J (2019). Insecurity: i'm ready to quit as zamfara gov. *Vanguard Newspaper* (4th Jan, 2019).
- Opusunju, M. I., Akyuz, M., & Ibrahim, Y.O. (2019). Insecurity and business performance: The operation management challenge in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. *American Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics*, 4(4), 132-138.
- Othman M.F., Sule I.Z., Singh R. & Singh D. (2015). An analysis of the impact of book haram insurgents on business entrepreneurship environment in Nigeria.
- Owenvbiugie R.O. & Iyamu E. (2021). Kidnapping a threat to entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *Book of Readings. Association of Business Educators of Nigeria*. 1(11) 38-43
- Owolabi, A., & Ayenakin, O. O. (2015). Insecurity and foreign direct investment in Nigeria. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Policy*, 4(4), 56-68.
- Roberta, F., Priya, B., & Dan, I. (2019). Entrepreneurial attitudes, self-efficacy, and subjective norms amongst female emirate entrepreneurs. *International Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 23(1), 1-11.
- Rutiyomba, F. (2015). The contribution of entrepreneurship education in promoting entrepreneurial intention among young people; case of secondary schools of Kigali City, Rwanda. Unpublished Thesis, University of Rwanda.
- Sambo, S. B., Gichira, R. & Yusuf, I. (2015). Effect of entrepreneurial skills management and funding on small and medium enterprises' performances at the local government level in northern Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 5(6), 22-26.
- Tende, S. B. A. (2014). Government initiatives toward entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. *Global Journal of Business Research*, 8(1), 109-120.
- Tobora, O. O. (2014). Entrepreneurial orientation: A Remedy for receding productivity of small and medium scale enterprise: A Nigeria perspective. *Internal Journal of Production Research*, 2(5), 20-30.

- Ujah O. & Eboh E. (2016). The security factor in business environment across Nigeria states. African institute for applied economics,
- Yusuf, K. (2018). Effect of insecurity on economic activities of peoples in Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State.