

Assessment of Production Capacity and Small-Scale Business Enterprises Survival During Covid-19 In Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigates the assessment of production capacity and small-scale business enterprise survival during COVID-19 in Cross River State, Nigeria. To achieve the aims of the study, two research questions were raised, and two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The population of the study consisted of 52 registered small-scale enterprises in Cross River State, Nigeria. The main instrument used was a research instrument titled "Assessment of Production Capacity and Small-scale Business Enterprises Survival Questionnaire" (APSSBESQ), validated by two experts in the department of vocational education at the University of Calabar. The questionnaire was administered by the researchers. The collected data were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance using an independent t-test statistic. The findings indicate that COVID-19 had a significant negative impact on the survival of small-scale business enterprises in terms of production capacity in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State during the global pandemic. It was recommended, among others, that small-scale enterprise management should employ a survival strategy in the operation of small-scale enterprises.

Key words: *Assessment, Production Capacity, Small-Scale Business and Enterprises Survival*

Introduction

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic brought about changes worldwide, including in Nigeria. The changes are summarized as: increased sickness, death, poverty, effect on health, food production, security, money supply, reduced inflow of foreign exchange resulting from lack of export and import of goods and services except for essential products, lack of patronage resulting from restrictions in movement and access, changes in mode of business operation from physical contact to online, and many others. The SMEs suffered and are still being affected by the emergence of the pandemic since 2020. The patronage and cash flow of the SMEs evaluated were seriously impacted by the novel virus plaguing the world economy. This experience triggered negative survival, excitement, and sentiment about the continuous infection of this pandemic. Businesses have collapsed, and many more are on the verge of extinction due to the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, most SMEs with insufficient capital outlay went into economic shock, and it is highly unlikely to recover from this shock in the short run (Atah, Agbogo, Chukwurah, Nwannunu, Udayi, Ben and Emeka, 2023).

According to Chukwurah, Ben, Atah, Wonah, Idike, & Ingwe (2023), The various hardships caused by this novel virus informed many countries in the world to enforce containment measures, which led to restrictions on movements nationally and internationally, total lockdown and closure of business activities, and border-to-border movement restrictions, among others. The prevalence of COVID-19 has instigated various research in economics, health, environment, manufacturing, agriculture, and many more. It is expected that this research will postulate possible coping strategies, mechanisms, and guidelines that will mitigate the future effects of the pandemic on SMEs and the world economy.

Since the coronavirus outbreak was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, COVID-19 has claimed over 4 million lives and infected over 200 million people worldwide (Addi, 2020). The pandemic's impact has touched almost every aspect of modern life, upending public health systems, the global economy, travel, supply chains, community and social ties, and how we work. Unemployment has risen, and the global economy shrank by 4.4% in 2020, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates. The vast majority of nations around the world entered into recessions after experiencing negative GDP growth (Akingbade, 2021).

Developing countries have suffered disproportionately due to the socio-economic fallout from the pandemic. Wealthier nations can afford to institute the crippling lockdowns and restrictions necessary at times to arrest the spread of the virus and to support their populations so they can stay at home in an effort to limit community spread. Many developing countries, however, were often forced to rely on a mishmash of truncated measures to limit the fallout on populations already living in poverty or who rely on daily work for subsistence (Aderemi, 2020). Disruption in operations was evident across enterprises, with at least two-thirds of businesses currently operating in the country having had to close down during the pandemic. The results also shed light on resistance to lockdown directives and regulation by the government, particularly among informal enterprises, of which a third continued to operate throughout the pandemic (Atah, Ushie, Chukwurah, Idike, and Ochui, 2023)

Atah, Ogbuji & Agbor (2019) reported that In March 2020, COVID-19 was discovered in Nigeria, and the following states—Lagos, Ogun, and FCT—fell to record early casualties of the pandemic. The record provided by NCDC in mid-November 2020 indicated many cases of patients who contacted COVID-19 and death rates. In order to contain the spread of the virus, the federal

government instituted several measures, including a complete lockdown throughout the nation. This measure became a major constraint for businesses, specifically SMEs, due to restrictions on movement in market places, transport restrictions, and social distancing orders. Therefore, since SME business operations play vital roles in economic growth and development, efforts should be made to ensure that they do not collapse or go into extinction. Hence, there is a need to provide social protection approaches and other palliative measures by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

In view of Atah, Ogbuji, Idike and Ochui (2023), The vast majority of businesses operating in Nigeria suffered due to the pandemic and the subsequent restrictions imposed on businesses to arrest the spread of infections, including lockdowns, restrictions on movement, and other public health measures. The gravity of layoffs, reductions in hours of operation, and limited access to credit provide insight into its impact on individuals and families whose ability to maintain their livelihoods and generate income was severely curtailed. However, the effects were felt unequally by business enterprises across the country that belonged to different sectors, with notable differences between formal and informal enterprises. At the same time, for a small percentage of enterprises, the pandemic brought about some gains. This section presents key results from the nationwide survey and has been organized in the following manner to assess the impact of the pandemic on different facets and elements of business activity.

In the view of UNDP (2020), it was reported that many businesses and countries in the world are facing severe financial and economic crises resulting from the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As proclaimed by Albert Einstein, "Amid every crisis lies great opportunity" for managers, the COVID-19 crisis creates an opportunity to foster transparency and thus better cope with the next pandemic (Craighead, 2020). Ukah & Atah (2021) opined that small-scale businesses are those that are owned, financed, managed, and controlled by a sole proprietor or partners of about two persons with total assets of less than four million naira (12,698 USD) and less than fifty employees at the same time. 50% of the Nigerian population operates one form of small-scale business or another as a means of livelihood and survival. Chukwurah & Atah (2019) posits that a business enterprise will be called a small-scale business undertaking if investment in fixed assets, such as plants and machinery, whether held on an ownership basis, on a lease, or on hire, does not exceed 1,587 USD and it is in no way owned, controlled, or a subsidiary of any other industrial undertaking. Atah & Bessong (2018), in his own words, views small-scale enterprises as those that do not employ more than 50 employees and have an initial capital of 1,905 USD. The business must be independent, managed autonomously, and small in size, both in terms of sales and employees; the capital to operate the business is supplied by only one person or by a few people who are the managers of the business. It is usually a sole proprietorship, a partnership, or a family-owned corporation. They are responsible only to themselves and are independent of a board of directors or a "corporate office." The study therefore seeks to examine the analysis of COVID-19's impact on small-scale business enterprises in Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

There are many infectious diseases in the history of the world, but the COVID-19 has proven to be highly infectious, viral and contagious. The effect of this infection on human life is highly unprecedented. This has led to many operators of SMEs to close down business operation, social distancing, and also total compliance to lockdown directives by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The effect of this containment measures also led to a negative effect on the cashflow,

supplies, revenue, and lack of patronage on SMEs businesses generally and specifically in Abuja, Nigeria. In addition, the containment measures such as; total lock down, restrictions on movement affected production level, reduced sales, reduced revenue, caused cash trap, hunger, illness, death, unemployment, poverty among others. These challenges hampered the performance of SMEs in the world at large and specifically on SMEs performance in Abuja since prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic. The effect of these on SMEs spurred many researchers to commence in-depth study into identifying and defining coping strategies and measures that policy makers, institution and many other stakeholders can adopt in order to avoid similar effect in the future.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study was ascertained the assessment of production capacity and small-scale business enterprises survival during COVID-19 in Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to ascertain:

1. Impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State
2. Impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is the impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State?
2. What is the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State?

Statement of hypotheses

The following null hypothesis was raised to guide the study and was tested at 0.05 level of significant.

1. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of male and female respondents on impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on gender
2. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on years of experience

Methodology

The study adopted survey design. The study was carried out in Calabar Municipal Government Area of Cross River State. The populations for this study comprising of 52 registered small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipality. The respondents were used as the study to make an in-depth analysis about Assessment of the impact of COVID -19 on small Scale Business Enterprises in Calabar Municipality Council Area of Cross River State. The entire population of 52 registered small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipality was used for the study. Census sampling techniques was used for the study. A 10-items structured questionnaire tagged titled

"Assessment of Production capacity and small-scale Business Enterprises Survival Questionnaire". The instrument, made up of two sections, section "A" centered on personal information about the respondents such as sex, age, and years of service and level of education. While the section "B" consists of items that used to generate data that was used to answer the research questions. The consisted of a four-category rating item scale based on the above stated areas. The ACISSEQ was structured on four-point scale of Strongly Agree (SA) 4 points, Agree (A) 3 points, Disagree (D) 2 points, and strongly disagree (SD) 1 point respectively. The instrument was submitted to the project supervisor, who provided input. Two experts in business education validated the instrument and their input was significant. Questionnaire was the main instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire was administered to registered small scale enterprises in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area in Cross River State. The targeted sample was address to response objectively to each item of the questionnaire absolute sincerity, and that information obtained was treated with all amount of confidentiality and used as data for the research work only. The questionnaire was administered by the researchers. Procedure for data preparation and scoring of Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on small scale enterprises in Calabar Municipality Local Government Instrument was a four (4) point likert scale of strongly agree (SA) 4 points, Agree (A) 3 points, Disagree (D) 2 point and strongly disagree (SD) I for all positive worded item and reverse was the case for all negative worded item. The mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research question, and an independent t-test statistic was used to test the research hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance. For the hypotheses, if the t-value calculated was greater than the p-value at the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was accepted; if not, it was rejected. The hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance.

Findings of the study

Research Question one

What is the impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State?

The data providing answers to the above research question are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Mean rating of Responses of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State

S/No.	Items on survival of Small-Scale Enterprises	N	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	During COVID-19, my SSE suffers failure.	52	2.64	0.95	Agree
2	My SSE was not sustained during COVID-19.	52	3.26	0.79	Agree
3	My SSE suffers setbacks during COVID-19.	52	3.19	0.92	Agree
4	My SSE loses patronage during the COVID-19 period.	52	2.61	1.05	Agree
5	My SSE did suffer patronage during the COVID-19 period.	52	2.53	1.33	Agree
Grand Mean		52	2.84	1.01	Agree

Based on the result in table 1, in items 1 through 5, the respondents agree that COVID-19 had a negative impact on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State, However, the grand mean of 2.84 shows that COVID-19 had a negative impact on the survival of small-scale enterprises in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State. The standard deviations for all items are within the same range, indicating that the respondents' mean ratings are homogeneous.

Research Question two

What is the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State?

The data providing answers to the above research question are presented in Table 2

Table 2: Mean rating of Responses of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State

S/No	Items on small scale enterprises on production capacity	N	Mean	SD	Remarks
6	My production capacity was adversely affected.	52	2.84	1.16	Agree
7	COVID-19 had suffered my productivity.	52	2.69	1.01	Agree
8	My production capacity was financial constraints	52	2.75	1.13	Agree
9	During COVID-19, I reach my production level.	52	2.51	1.3	Agree
10	There was no production for sale during COVID-19	52	2.01	1.21	Agree
Grand Mean		52	2.84	1.01	Agree

Based on the result in table 2, in all the items 6 to 10, the respondents agree that COVID-19 had a negative impact on the small-scale enterprises on production capacity in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State, also the grand mean of 2.70 confirm COVID-19 negative impact on the small-scale enterprises on production capacity in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State. The standard deviations for all items are within the same range, indicating that the respondents' mean ratings are homogeneous.

Research Hypotheses One

There is no significant difference in the mean rating of male and female respondents on impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on gender

Table 3: Independent t-test of mean rating of respondents of male and female respondents on impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on gender

Items	Category of Respondents	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Df	t-cal	Alpha	P-val	Decision
1	Male	38	1.4737	.97916	50	.149	0.05	.807	NS
	Female	14	1.4286	.93761					
2	Male	38	3.4474	.64504	50	2.841	0.05	.866	NS
	Female	14	2.7857	.97496					
3	Male	38	3.2105	.93456	50	.231	0.05	.939	NS
	Female	14	3.1429	.94926					
4	Male	38	1.4211	.88932	50	-2.286	0.05	.737	NS
	Female	14	2.1429	1.29241					
5	Male	38	2.6053	1.36638	50	.591	0.05	.641	NS
	Female	14	2.3571	1.27745					
	Male	38	12.1579	4.81446	50	-0.30	0.05	0.798	NS
	Female	14	11.8571	5.43169					

Key: level of Sig. =0.05; NS = Significant; S = Significant

Analyzed data in Table 3 shows that the t-value calculated of -0.30 is less than the p-value of 0.798 at 0.05 levels of significance and 50 degrees of freedom. This demonstrates that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of male and female respondents on impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on gender. As a result, the null hypothesis was accepted.

Research Hypotheses two

There is no significant difference in the mean rating of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on years of experience

Table 4: Independent t-test of mean rating of responses of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on years of experience

Items	Category of Respondents	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	Alpha	P-val	Decision
6	Below 15 years	21	2.4286	1.32557	50	3.243	0.05	.724	NS
	15 years and above	31	1.4516	.85005					
7	Below 15 years	21	1.7143	1.05560	50	.129	0.05	.854	NS
	15 years and above	31	1.6774	.97936					
8	Below 15 years	21	1.8571	1.15264	50	.556	0.05	.868	NS
	15 years and above	31	1.6774	1.13687					
9	Below 15 years	21	2.7143	1.41926	50	3.256	0.05	.803	NS
	15 years and above	31	1.6129	1.02233					
10	Below 15 years	21	2.2857	1.41926	50	1.314	0.05	.801	NS
	15 years and above	31	1.8387	1.03591					
	Below 15 years	21	11.0001	6.37232	50	1.69	0.05	.810	NS
	15 years and above	31	8.25806	5.02452					

Key: level of Sig. =0.05; NS = Significant; S = Significant

Analyzed data in Table 4 shows that the calculated t-value of 1.69 is less than the p-value of 0.810 at 0.05 levels of significance and 50 degrees of freedom. This demonstrates that there is significant difference in the mean rating of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on years of experience. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. This is because both small-scale businesses with experience and those without were all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This negative impact of production capacity on small enterprises affects all levels of business. This could imply that the operators are lacking funds to engage in production as a result of the shortage of patronage received during the pandemic.

Discussion of the findings

Impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises

The result of the finding shows that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of male and female respondents on impact of COVID-19 on the survival of small-scale enterprises in Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on gender. This because the Analyzed data in Table 5 shows that the t-value calculated of -0.30 is less than the p-value of .798 at 0.05

levels of significance and 50 degrees of freedom. The study is line with Abideen (2020) whom findings provided an insight of the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the performance of SME business and its survival in a research study in Nigeria. The result of the study revealed the significant negative relationship with the SMEs performance. He further stressed that negative effect COVID-19 pandemic was a posing to the business performance of SMEs in Nigeria, most of them are reducing staff strength in order to cope with the overhead expenses, revenue is decreasing and declining geometrically, defaults in the repayment of loans are also being recorded due to inadequate cash inflow. Ironically, most of the SMEs are reducing staff strength, revenue is decreasing geometrically, and defaults in the repayment of loans are being recorded.

In consonance with the study of Enesi and Ibrahim (2021) who findings revealed effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Performance of Small and Medium Business Enterprises in Abuja-FCT, Nigeria. It is obvious that corona virus pandemic has seriously disrupted the world economy and continuing to ravage the existence of businesses. The small and medium businesses are worst hit. This study specifically identifies the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the performance of SMEs business in Abuja and providing recommendations on how their businesses can improve and perform effectively during this falling economy and the numerous challenges caused by the pandemic. The study adopted a quantitative research technique using data collection method through the administration of structured questionnaire and on 10 selected SMEs with 100 respondents in Municipal Area Council in Abuja which were selected purposively to elicit insights into the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on their businesses. Findings from the analysis indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic's effect includes: loss of competent staff resulting from reduction in staff salary, low revenue or income generation, lack of patronage, and lack of sincerity on the part of government to reduce the prevalence of the pandemic. The SMEs are often faced with problems such as: inability to pay salaries, repay loans and rent. Most respondent suggested that government should introduce a well monitored and structured palliative schemes, poverty alleviation programs, reduced interest rates, relax loans and defer tax payments. There are related variables that were not mentioned in this study. It is therefore necessary to consider them in future research work. In agreement with Busari & Jayeoba, (2021) findings revealed the effect of COVID-19 on business that, business that were reopened after lockdowns continued to experience lingering effects of the pandemic and its restrictions on movement and production.

Impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises

Analyzed data in Table 6 shows that the calculated t-value of 1.69 is less than the p-value of .810 at 0.05 levels of significance and 50 degrees of freedom. This demonstrates that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the production capacity of small-scale enterprises in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on years of experience. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. This is because both small-scale businesses with experience and those without were all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This negative impact of production capacity on small enterprises affects all levels of business. This could imply that the operators are lacking funds to engage in production as a result of the shortage of patronage received during the pandemic.

The finding is line with Brounen and Derwall (2020) who revealed that COVID-19 bought effects of pandemics to terrorist attack, which inhibit trade and business activities within affected areas, and has the capacity to lower productivity. Srivastava & Agarwal (2020) work indicated that

the pandemic has posed the greatest impact on stock markets around the globe, and has caused worst economic meltdown since the 2008 global financial crisis. In recent times, Goodell (2020) agrees that natural disasters and terrorist attacks are similar to the effects of COVID-19 on economic performance, because it inhibits trade and production within places affected. Financial Times (2020) attests to this, noting that the emergence of COVID-19 has created panic in the financial system, causing high volatility in several markets.

In consonance with Edgecliffe, Bulurafa and Adamu (2019), find out that 80 percent of enterprises reported experiencing a decrease in production while 14 percent reported increased production levels. No significant differences were observed between formal and informal establishments. Among those reporting a decrease, 24 percent saw a decline in production of less than 20 percent, 63 percent experienced a decrease between 21 percent to 60 percent and 13 percent reported a decline in production greater than 60 percent. The result of Akhtaruzzaman (2020) work affirms by stressing that many financial and non-financial firms across the globe have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as stock returns are trending downwards these days. Busari and Jaiyeoba (2021) noted that even if the pandemic is resolved, its effects on business and economic performance will linger in the short run.

Impact of COVID-19 on the job security of small-scale entrepreneurs

Analyzed data in Table 7 shows that the calculated t-value of 0.80 is less than the p-value of .825 at 0.05 levels of significance and 50 degrees of freedom. This demonstrates that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of male and female respondents on the impact of COVID-19 on the job security of small-scale entrepreneurs in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State based on gender. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. This is because both male and female small-scale business operators were faced with the issue of job insecurity during the COVID-19 global pandemic. In agreement Bulurafa and Adamu (2019) findings revealed that SMEs had no choice but to reduce the working hours of their employees as well.

The study is line with Abideen (2020) whom findings provided an insight of the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the performance of SME business and its survival in a research study in Nigeria. The result of the study revealed the significant negative relationship with the SMEs performance. He further stressed that negative effect COVID-19 pandemic was a posing to the business performance of SMEs in Nigeria, most of them are reducing staff strength in order to cope with the overhead expenses, revenue is decreasing and declining geometrically, defaults in the repayment of loans are also being recorded due to inadequate cash inflow. Ironically, most of the SMEs are reducing staff strength, revenue is decreasing geometrically, and defaults in the repayment of loans are being recorded.

In consonance with Barro; Ursua, & Weng, (2020) findings revealed great effects COVID-19 on youths, they found due to business closures and losses, youth proprietors and workers were forced to move from the urban city centers where their business was normally doing well, to the rural areas to conduct their business activities. This was since they found that the pandemic did not hit hard in the rural areas in comparison to the urban centers. Altogether, we can see that youth attempted to provide as many solutions as possible to re-earning their income, whether that was moving from the urban to the rural centers for better business opportunities, or even to turn to crime-related activities, simply to sustain themselves financially as prior business owners or

workers of SMEs. The findings further revealed that pandemic period brought with it an increase in the nationwide unemployment rate, which went from 27 percent to 33 percent between Q2 2020 and Q4 2020. Businesses resorted to laying off employees in order to survive, and shutdowns of enterprises severed crucial livelihood lines for households that depended on them for income, coupled with the lack of new business opportunities and reduction in capital investment further limiting new job prospects. Layoffs and new hires Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the median fulltime staff strength of formal and informal enterprises stood at 12 and five, respectively. During the pandemic, these figures declined and stood at ten and four for formal and informal enterprises, respectively. Across the sample, this results in 20 percent of the initial fulltime work force losing their jobs during this period. Among the formal enterprises, this figure is slightly higher at 21 percent compared to 15 percent among informal enterprises.

In agreement of with the findings overall, 58 percent of businesses were able to maintain their staff strength, while 28 percent lost up to 50 percent of their initial work force with the remaining 14 percent losing more than 50 percent of their initial work force. These figures however differ between formal and informal enterprises with 62 percent of informal enterprises able to maintain their staff strength during the pandemic compared to 56 percent for formal enterprises. The accommodation and food services and construction sectors reported a relatively higher proportion of enterprises with losses in employment compared to enterprises in the agriculture or utilities sectors, for instance. By Q4 2020, for 52 percent of enterprises, the work force was the same as before the pandemic, and 9 percent of enterprises had hired new employees while for 39 percent, the total workforce had shrunk in number

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that there was a significant negative impact of COVID-19 on small scale business enterprises' production capacity for survival in the Calabar Municipal Council Area of Cross River State during the global pandemic. This is to say that COVID-19 had negative effect on small-scale enterprises. It is advisable now for SMEs to assess the damages their companies may face and strategically address protection measures that will assist in mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Small scale enterprise management should employ a survival strategy in the operation of small-scale enterprises.
2. Small-scale enterprise management should strive to engage in large production capacities in order to ensure the sustainability of small-scale enterprises.

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