



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE IPOB SIT-AT-HOME ORDER ON SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE BUSINESS IN NNEWI NORTH OF ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA: A SURVEY-BASED ASSESSMENT.

UGOCHUKWU MMADUABUCHI ONWUNYI ¹, ESTHER VICTORIA EKOKO ²

¹Department of Political Science, Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Delta State. ² Department of International Relations, Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Delta State.

ABSTRACT

The sit-at-home rule on Mondays continues to cause annual losses for businesses in Southeast Nigeria. The study's main goal is to determine how much sitting at home affects economic activity in the Nnewi North Local Government Area. A questionnaire was used to gather the data, which were then analyzed using descriptive statistics, regression analysis, and the t-test. Durkhiem's theory of social solidarity served as the theoretical foundation for the investigation. According to the report, the majority of business owners want the sit-at-home directive to be lifted. Once more, the study showed that all economic activity ceased on each IPOB sit-at-home day. Even the wealthy are impacted as the impoverished get poorer. Sitting at home continues to impoverish the Nnewi, Anambra state, and the South Eastern areas rather than providing relief to the area. Therefore, Nnewi's economic activities are seriously threatened by the IPOB sit-at-home edict. An internal conversation between the traditional rulers, the current governors of South East Nigeria, and the purported leaders of IPOB across the region's states is urgently needed, according to the report. Instead of destroying enterprises, this will allow them to come to an agreement on how to accomplish their goals. Once they are able to express themselves, this will help the group feel like they belong. This will enable them to reach a consensus on how to achieve their aims rather than destroying businesses. Again, the Nigerian government should as a matter of urgency free the acclaimed leader of the group (Mazi Nnamdi Kanu) from detention and then dialogue with the group (IPOB) with regards to their claims and demands rather than strong military approach. This will make the group have a sense of belonging once they are able to express themselves.

Keywords: Anambra State, economic activities, sit-at-home, insecurity, IPOB

Corresponding Author

Ugochukwu Mmaduabuchi Onwunyi

Email Address: E-mail: ugochukwu.onwunyi@dou.edu.ng; Telephone Number: +2348138394223

Received: 10/4/2026; **Revised:** 27/6/2026; **Accepted:** 11/7/2026; **Published:** 16/7/2026



1.0. INTRODUCTION

Although Monday remains one of the busiest days of the week for companies and marketplaces, distinct socio-economic activities had persistently been negatively impacted by the Monday-sit-at-home rule and broad compliance. It is crucial to remember that Nnamdi Kanu must come before the court of competent jurisdiction on other days of the week in order to comply with the sit-at-home orders (Emeruwa, 2021). Businesses, especially small and medium-sized organizations that operate on a daily basis, have suffered enormous losses as a result of the complete suspension of economic activity on Monday and other days when sit-at-home policies are imposed. "The sit-at-home order had bad socioeconomic effects as it was later hijacked by hoodlums who created mayhem in the region," claims Ekechukwu (2022:78).

This study is instituted to examine the economic effects of the Monday sit-at-home directive and compliance in the southeast of Nigeria based on the aforementioned. It is well known that the majority of individuals from the southeast make their living via the purchase and sale of goods and services; the market is thought to be the source of their prosperity. Now, every time a sit-at-home order is issued, marketplaces are closed, preventing people from going out to get their daily bread and conducting business because no one sells or goes out to buy because breaking the order could result in fatalities. Additionally, the sit-at-home orders allow thieves to carry out their crimes, such as stealing and setting people's goods on fire.

There are clear indications from scholarly interest on how Newspapers cover armed conflict and secessionist agitations, and this has invariably influenced individual and groups perception of the conflict in recent time, given mass media primary role in information and communication. Fritze and Mathewson were among the first to do some of the earliest studies in the field in 1957. These studies show how unclear and chaotic early-stage crisis coverage in the media can contain conflicting facts and mistakes. A steering group concluded that the coverage of the 1994 Rwandan genocide by the world media was inadequate and misleading (Omenugha & Ukwueze, 2008).

Nnewi, which is well-known for its thriving business operations, especially in the industrial and automotive industries, has suffered a large loss. Every time a sit-at-home order is issued, marketplaces are shuttered, preventing people from conducting their enterprises because no one sells or goes out to buy due to life-threatening situations and noncompliance. Additionally, the sit-at-home orders allow thieves to carry out their crimes, such as stealing and setting people's goods on fire. With each IPOB sit-at-home order, an estimated 8 billion naira (8 billion) is lost. The enormous sums of money lost due to the IPOB sit-at-home directive may have been used to improve Nnewi's social and economic circumstances.

Socioeconomically, the illegal declaration of a sit-at-home order has led to a decrease in the number of traders entering the Southeast region of Nigeria on each sit-at-home day; marketplaces and operations have been closed or shut down; travel has been restricted; financial institutions throughout the region have been completely shut down; and public and private educational institutions have been closed. Hoodlums (also known as Unknown Gunmen) were able to carry out their crimes of murder, theft, and arson of stores and commercial vehicles thanks to the sit-at-home directives. However, the effectiveness of the Nigerian government's and the governors of the South-East states' responses to these security threats is questionable because the IPOB sit-at-home orders are still in place and



continue to instill fear and panic in the minds of the populace. The residents of the Southeast region view these orders as a regular weekly holiday, and those who disobey them occasionally face dire repercussions. This is the rationale for the researcher's audacious endeavor to investigate the degree to which the IPOB's sit-at-home directive has impacted the South-east region's economic activity in the particular domains of education, transportation, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in recent years.

2.0. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on theory of Social Solidarity theory. The theory of social solidarity was propounded by Durkheim in (1893). The theory is based on individuals in a society's inter connect, which allows them to believe they can improve the lives of others. This theory is based on the fact that diverse groups in our society have similar values and beliefs. Solidarity is a human connection or association with one another that leads to an unusual bond that binds persons or groups together. Solidarity is motivated by a variety of factors: affection shared values and ideas, and self-interest for some (Douwes, Stuttaford & London, 2018). The social solidarity theory is of two types: Mechanical and Organic Solidarity. Mechanical solidarity is the social organization of individuals in society who have one belief system. This single belief system sparks up individual members to cause them to work cooperatively and harmoniously. Organic solidarity is a social organization that manifests due to one's need for one another. The theory was used to find individual acts and extrapolate what could happen collectively. So, in terms of how this theory relates to the study, IPOB declared a mandatory Monday sit-at-home order, which every southeasterner and sympathizer of the group complied with in solidarity for Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's prompt and unconditional release. Individualistic action snowballs into a group action working together to achieve a central goal, in this case, the unconditional release of the IPOB leader by the Nigerian federal government (Osita et al, 2022).

The theory was used to find individual acts and extrapolate what could happen collectively. So, in terms of how this theory relates to the study, IPOB declared a mandatory Monday sit-at-home order, which every southeasterner and sympathizer of the group complied with in solidarity for Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's prompt and unconditional release. Individualistic action snowballs into a group action working together to achieve a central goal, in this case, the unconditional release of the IPOB leader by the Nigerian federal government (Osita et al, 2022).

2.2. Empirical Framework

The empirical study have shown that micro and nano enterprises in Southeast Nigeria loss #4.618 trillion (10.495 billion US Dollars) every year due to the sit-at-home directive on Mondays, (Anudu, 2023). In order to protest for the release of their freedom warrior, Mazi Nnamdi Kalu, several sit-at-home orders have been issued in the southeast of Nigeria (Ayitogo, 2021). Nnamdi Kanu is required to appear before the court of competent jurisdiction on other days of the week, with the sit-at-home orders typically being observed on Mondays (Emeruwa, 2021). The stay-at-home orders apply to states in the North Central (Benue, Kogi State), South-South (Delta, Rivers), and Southeast (Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra, Imo, and Abia State) of Nigeria (Ayitogo, 2021).



According to Ugwu (2022), the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) claim ownership over the country's southeast as well as a few states in the previously indicated geographical zones where these decrees are in effect. Nearly every geopolitical region of Nigeria is impacted by the sit-at-home edict. This is because on the days the directions are to be followed, travel into the Southeastern states from other geopolitical zones of the country is restricted (Ozibo & Okorie, 2022). On days when the directives are to be followed, economic activity is suspended because no one is permitted to conduct any transactions inside or between states. Those who disobey the directives will either be put to death or made to obey (Ugwu, 2022).

Economic activities are disrupted on the days the sit-at-home orders are observed in the Eastern part of Nigeria owing to the fact that productive assets and resources are placed on hold (Okeoma, 2021). In their study, Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci (2021) show how limits on people's freedom of movement harm economic activities, particularly in nations with low economic growth. To Okafor (2022), societal unrest in Nigeria resulted in a cumulative decline in GDP between 2011 and 2015. When compared to other geopolitical regions, the country's Southeast region's GDP has significantly decreased as a result of the sit-at-home edict, according to Odili (2021). Furthermore, Azeez (2022) cited Simon Ekpa as stating that the Nigerian government has lost an estimated \$1 billion in weekly revenue as a result of the sit-at-home directive.

Dimensionally, people have grown irritated with the ongoing stay-at-home order since it interferes with their everyday life and has negatively impacted the eastern Nigerian economy. The economic, social, educational, and other facets of the Southeastern Nigerian economy are all affected by the order (Ozibo & Okorie, 2022). This study is motivated by the idea that the sit-at-home directive is impeding the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in eastern Nigeria. SMEs are essential to the Southeast region's economic expansion and development (Onuoha, 2010). It has been noted that Igbo entrepreneurship is essential to Nigeria's and the region's economies. There is also proof that the money people make from operating their daily businesses has a significant impact on their quality of life in both rural and urban areas. As a result, interruptions like the sit-at-home order would have serious repercussions for the local population's standard of living as well as for the region as a whole.

Some scholarly attempts have been drawn to this theme, which has remained a topic of discussion among academics. There have been many qualitative studies on it, but not many empirical ones. The majority of research concentrated on how the Southeast region's economy was affected by the sit-at-home edict, but it paid little attention to how individuals responded to the situation. In light of this, the researcher is well-positioned to determine how the sit-at-home order has affected the economy of southeast Nigeria from the perspective of small and medium-sized businesses. A study on the causes, effects, and solutions of Biafra separatism was carried out by Ibeanu, Orji, and Iwuamadi (2016). The study, which is both qualitative and quantitative, used information gathered from media stories, interviews, documentary sources, and opinion surveys employing questionnaires.

The study found, among other things, that pro-Biafra agitations and security agencies frequently disrupt economic activity in the Southeast region, discouraging investments, including SMEs. In order to address IPOB's agitation, the research suggested, among other things, the creation of a high-level Peace and Reconciliation Commission. A study on the impact and perception of the IPOB-Sit-at-



home order was conducted by Morgen (2021). The study sought to determine how the IPOB sit-at-home order affected South East Nigeria's social and economic activity. The study used a survey research design and used a questionnaire to collect data.

Accordingly, Ikeh (2021) carried out a study on the impact of sectional agitation for self-determination on national development: a study of IPOB and MASSOB of South-Eastern Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined the effect of IPOB/MASSOB on the socio-economic development of the Southeast-Nigeria. The study employed Survey method and made use of questionnaire as instrument of data collection. Among others, the study revealed that 62.8 percent of the respondent ranked disruption of economic activities by the IPOB via Sit-at-home order as the most serious consequential effect on the region. The study urged Nigerian government to consider the grievances of the group and apply humane measures in dealing with them.

Mark, Obi and Chibuzor (2022) carried out a study on the ills of IPOB sit at home order and its implication on the economy of the South-East Geo-political zone of Nigeria. The paper is qualitative, contently analyzed the data gathered through secondary sources and built on Relative Deprivation Theory. The study established that IPOB has continued shooting the south-east zone on the leg with disruptive consequences on the economy of the Southeast region in the area of business activities which include SME's. The paper recommended dialogue between IPOB and the Federal government of Nigeria as a veritable tool in ending the menace.

The sit-at-home order issued by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has unquestionably had a detrimental impact on the economy of Eastern Nigeria, leading to increased poverty among the people the group claims to protect. This has resulted in a significant economic threat to the daily income earners in the region. By enforcing the sit-at-home order through fear and intimidation, IPOB has alienated many residents who are otherwise supportive of the region's well-being. According to Odili (2021), the sit-at-home order has caused a massive decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Southeast relative to other regions in the country. Moreover, The Cable (2022) reported that the order has caused Nigeria's government to lose estimated revenue of over \$1 billion every week.

Anambra state governor, Chukuma Soludo, stated that the state alone loses N19.6 billion every Monday due to the sit-at-home order (Daily, March 2022). The cumulative effect of 52 lost Mondays in a year, as a result of the sit-at-home order, amounts to an estimated N4.618 trillion (\$10.495 billion) in revenue losses for micro-businesses. This represents the overall economic toll on the region for adhering to the sit-at-home order every Monday (Ugwu, 2022).

The impact on individual businesses is also evident. One example is Mr. Clement Aniago, a vulcanizer in Anambra State, whose business suffered as a result of the sit-at-home order. His vulcanizing machine and tools were destroyed by those enforcing the order (Guardian, 2022). The South-East region, known as a trading hub, experiences significant losses on Mondays, typically the busiest and most productive day for traders. The estimated trading loss is between N700 billion (£1.3 billion) and N3 trillion (£5.55 billion) (Punch, 2022).

Owoeye, Ezeanya and Obiegbunam (2022) carried out a study on separatists' strategy: appraising the effects of IPOB Monday sit-at-home order political economy (socio-political and economic activities) of the South-East Region of Nigeria. The study is descriptive; qualitative and built on Systems theory.



The paper established that the IPOB Sit-at-home order has negatively affected the educational system, transport system and market operations. The paper suggested an urgent need for the Nigerian Government to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of resources among the six (6) geo-political zones of Nigeria via proper federal character system.

More so, Chukwudi, Gberebie, Abasilim and Imhonopi (2022) carried out a study on empirical investigation on how IPOB agitations affect political stability in Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined the effects of IPOB activities on socio-political activities in the areas of education, investments and participation in election. The study adopted Survey research design and made use of both qualitative (interview) and quantitative (questionnaire) data. Among others, the study revealed that the rate of the IPOB agitation via sit-at-home results in socio-political instability of the South East region and Nigeria at large.

Furthermore, Gbenemene (2022) conducted a study on separatist movements, conflicts and insecurity in the South East Nigeria. The study aimed at examining how the IPOB occasioned conflicts and security challenges in the South East, Nigeria. It adopted qualitative research; gathered data from various documented evidence and built on Social identity theory. Among other findings, the study established that IPOB agitation/strategy have caused serious security challenges; particularly on movement, education and government facilities in the South East zone of Nigeria.

3.0. METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the survey research design. In addition, survey research focuses on people, the vital facts of people and their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivation and behaviours (Osuala, 1991). Therefore, this form of research is appropriate in the study. They nonetheless, are advantageous for assessing large and small population especially where a small population is to be derived from a large one. Again cost is effective when these methods are adopted and employed.

Nnewi is a commercial and industrial city in Anambra State, southeastern Nigeria. It is the second largest city in Anambra state after Onitsha . Nnewi as a metropolitan area has two local government areas, which are Nnewi North and Nnewi South, all centred on the Nnewi town. Even Ekwusigo local government area is now part of Nnewi urban area, as urbanization continues to spread from Nnewi to neighbouring communities. The population of the study is 1,301,000 which were gotten from the four (4) villages that made up Nnewi North Local Government Area, Anambra state, which are Otolo, Uruagu, Umudim and Nnewichi. This is represented in the table below:

Table 1: Population Distribution in the Study Area

VILLAGES	POPULATION	STATUS
Otolo	360,200	Semi-Urban
Uruagu	350,250	Urban
Nnewichi	270,550	Semi-Urban
Umudim	320,000	Urban
Total	1,301,000	-

Source: Field Work (2026)

The sample size of this research work is Four hundred (400). The research used Yaro Yamane's Formula to determine the sample size from the population.



Questionnaire was used to collect every data used for this study. Other instruments used such as personal observation and interview were employed where necessary to authenticate and ensure accuracy of data gotten through questionnaire.

Data used for this study have two main sources: primary source and secondary source. For the primary source, questionnaire was extensively used to get the required data. Interviews and personal observation were also used on few occasions in order to authenticate the data gotten through questionnaire and where they are the most appropriate instruments.

The secondary sources come from the review of existing literature. Much of text books, journals, academic research project and the internet were used to gather relevant data needed for the study.

The data analyses employed in this study were both descriptive and inferential analysis. Percentages, Mean and standard deviation were used to answer research questions raised in the study. A criterion mean of 2.50 was used as the benchmark for decision making for each item, since a four-point rating scale was used for the study. Thus any item with a mean of 2.50 and above was considered as accepted by the respondents, while any item with a mean below 2.50 was considered as unaccepted by the respondents. Independent sample t-test was used to test for the hypotheses raised at a significant level of 0.05. Analysis was done with the use of Microsoft Excel and the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 25.

4.0. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Presentation of Results

For this study, four hundred (400) questionnaires were administered, out of which three hundred and seventy (370) copies were retrieved. The number retrieved represents 93 percent of the total number administered in Nnewi North Local government area of Anambra state. The results presented in Table 2 reveals disparities. From the 400 questionnaires distributed, at the end of the day, 370 questionnaires was retrieved, while 340 questionnaires were filled properly while 30 questionnaires weren't properly filled.

Table 2: Returned Rate of Questionnaires

No of Questionnaire administered	No of Questionnaire Returned	No of Properly filled Questionnaire	No of Invalid Questionnaire	Percentage of Properly filled Questionnaire
400	370	350	20	85

Source: Researchers` field Report, 2026.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The purpose is to present the frequency distribution of the respondents by their socio-demographic characteristics.

**Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Gender**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	185	53
Female	165	47
Total	350	100

Source: Researchers` field Report, 2026.

Table 3 shows the gender respondents which recorded about 185 male responded to the questionnaire with a percentage of 53 percent, while 165 female reacted to the questionnaire with the percentage of 47 percent respectively.

Table 4: Respondents Age Distribution

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-25	120	34
26-35	105	30
36-55	75	21
56 & above	50	14.1
Total	350	100

Source: Researchers` field Report, 2026

Table 4 explains the respondent's age distribution. From the questionnaire that was properly filled, about 120 respondents were in the age bracket of 18-25 years, while 105 respondents were in the age bracket of 26-35 years, also 75 respondents are in the age bracket of 36-55 years and finally 50 respondents are of the age of 56 years and above.

On the basis of education attainments, the results in Table 5 identify trend among respondents. This shows that 160 respondents attended primary school which has 46 percent, while 114 respondents attended secondary with the percentage of 32 percent; also 76 respondents attended tertiary institutions and as well did some advance programs.

Table 5: Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	160	46%
Secondary	114	32%
Tertiary & Advanced Programs	76	22%
Total	350	100

Source: Researchers` field Report, 2026

Analysis on Research Question

Table 5 shows a clear analysis of the properly filled questionnaires on the effect of IPOB sit at home order on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nnewi North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Item Statement 1: From the table, 214 respondents which is 61 percent Agreed that IPOB sit at home order has reduced the income generation, while 136 respondents representing 39% strongly agreed that IPOB sit at home order has reduced the income generation.

**Table 6: Effect of IPOB Sit at Home Order on Economic Activities in Nnewi North LGA**

S/N	Item Statement	A	SA	D	SD	UC
1.	Reduced Income Generation	214	136	-	-	-
2.	Disrupt Economic Activities	156	194	-	-	-
3.	Financial loss on every IPOB sit at home days	120	230	-	-	-
4.	Delayed Expansion or investment plan	26	52	97	125	50
5.	Increased Hardship	96	159	23	35	37
6.	Disrupt Supply Chains	63	115	52	77	43
7.	Reduced Customer`s Foot Traffic	155	195	-	-	-
8.	Reduced Business Days of Operation	164	186	-	-	-

Source: Researchers` field Report, 2026

Item Statement 2, 156 respondents representing 45 percent of the total population Agreed that IPOB sit at home order disrupt economic activities in Small and Medium Enterprises(SMEs) and 194 respondents representing 55 % Strongly Agreed to that.

Item Statement 3: The above table shows that 120 respondents which is 32.3% of the total population, agreed that financial loss is been experienced on every IPOB sit at home days while 230 respondents representing 65.7% Strongly Agreed to the statement.

Item Statement 4; From the table, 26 respondents that is 7.42 percent of the total population Agreed that IPOB sit at home order delays business expansion, 52 respondents which is 15 percent Strongly Agreed that IPOB sit at home order business expansion, 97 respondents which is 27.7 percent Disagreed that IPOB sit at home order does not delay business expansion while 125 respondents which is 36 percent Strongly Disagreed IPOB sit at home order delaying business expansion and lastly, 50 respondents that is 14 percent are Uncertain about the issue.

Item Statement 5; In the above table, 96 respondents which is 27 percent, Agreed that IPOB sit at home order increased hardship while 159 respondents representing 45 percent Strongly Agreed that IPOB sit at home order increased hardship, 23 respondents that is 7 percent Disagreed to the fact that IPOB sit at home order increased hardship, 35 respondents which is 10 percent, Strongly Disagreed that IPOB sit at home order did not increase hardship and 37 respondents, 11 percent are uncertain.

Item Statement: 63 respondents representing 18 percent of the total population Agreed there is Disrupt Supply Chain as a result of IPOB sit at home order, 115 respondents that is 33 percent Strongly Agreed that IPOB sit at home order Disrupt Supply Chain, 52 respondents which is 15 percent Disagreed to the fact that IPOB sit at home order disrupt supply chain, 77 respondents representing 22 percent Strongly Disagreed and 43 respondents which is 12 percent are Uncertain about the item statement.

Item Statement 7: 155 respondents which represents 44 percent, Agreed that IPOB sit at home order reduced customer`s foot traffic and 195 respondents which is 56 percent, Strongly Agreed that IPOB sit at home order reduces customer`s foot traffic. Further still, item Statement 8 indicates that 164 respondents which is the 47 percent of the total population, agreed that business days of operation has reduced because of IPOB sit at home order while 186 respondents which represents 53%, Strongly Agreed that IPOB sit at home order has reduced business days of operation.



Test of Hypotheses

Table 6: Mean responses of the respondents' on how the impact of sit-at-home order on the economic activities of Southeast Nigeria

S/N	Item Statement	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Disrupt economic activities=	2.85	0.94	Great Extent
2	Reduces income generation	2.90	0.94	Great Extent
3	Reduces productive work hours	2.89	0.91	Great Extent
4	Reduces total economic output	2.86	0.93	Great Extent
5	Increase hardship	2.82	0.98	Great Extent
	Grand Total	2.86	0.94	Great Extent

Total Number of Respondents 350

The results presented in Table 1 showed the mean and standard deviation of respondents' responses on the impact of sit-at-home order on the economic activities of

Southeast Nigeria. The results showed that the Monday sit-at-home order disrupted economic activities, caused a reduction in income generation, productive work hours and total economic output of the region. The sit-at-home order also contributed to the rise of hardship the region ($\bar{X} > 2.50$).

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the mean responses of male SMEs operators and female SMEs operators on the impact of the sit-at-home order on the economic activities in Southeast Nigeria

The Results of Hypothesis 1 are presented on table 2

Table 7: t-test analysis of difference in respondents' responses on the impact of the sit-at home order on the economic activities in Southeast Nigeria

Respondents	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	t-cal	df	P-value	Decision
Male	287	2.87	0.52	0.60	382	0.62	NS
Female	97	2.83	0.76				

Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; t - calculated value; N = Number of respondents for each category; df = Degrees of freedom; Sig = Significant at 0.05 level; t-critical = 1.96; NS = Not significant;

This hypothesis was tested by carrying out an independent sample t-test by comparing respondents' views on the impact of the sit-at-home order on the economic activities in Southeast Nigeria. There was no significant difference in the mean response for male ($\bar{X} = 2.87$, $SD = 0.52$) and females ($\bar{X} = 2.83$, $SD = 0.76$), $t\text{-cal}$ (350) = 0.62, $p = 0.62$ at 0.05 level of significance. Following this result, the null hypothesis is upheld.

The sit-at-home order imposed by the IPOB had a negative effect on the socioeconomic activities of Southeast region. This result is in consonant with the findings of Ozibo and Okorie (2022) who in their study revealed that economic activity was negatively affected by the IPOB sit-at-home. Economic activities were disrupted causing productive work hours to shrink from what it used to be. Thus, income-generating power of SMEs is negatively affected. The sit-at-home order also contributed to the rise of hardship in the region. Of course, this is more likely to be expected since SMEs is the major source of livelihood in the region.



The sit-at-home order enforced by the IPOB has become an obstacle to the smooth running of SMEs in the region. It has badly destabilized market condition. Business operators no longer order for the usual quantity of goods for the fear of not running into loss. Such has automatically made many business operators to operate below their usual capacity. In similar fashion, SMEs like saloons, phone repairers, computer repairers, photographers and the likes could not meet the demands of their clients because they also operate below capacity. Due to the numerous setbacks caused by the compulsory sit-at-home order, which comes with it unnecessary hardship, SMEs operators wished for an end to the sit-at-home order.

4.2. Discussion of Results

From the first objective of the study with emphasis on the impact of sit-at-home order on economic growth, it was revealed that economic development is negatively affected by the IPOB sit-at-home order. The result was supported by both descriptive statistics outcome and test of hypothesis.

Specifically, variables such as productive assets, household's income level, educational quality, productive work hours, human resources output and total economic output were affected by the sit-at-home order in Southeastern Nigeria. By implication, any order restricting people going about their daily businesses is inimical to economic health of such region. The study findings is in line with the findings of Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci (2021) who established that social unrests have negative effect on economic activities of mostly developing countries. Similarly, Onime (2018) and Dajo and Akor (2022) established such result in their studies.

In justifying the third objective of the study, it was revealed that sit-at-home order has negative impact on social infrastructure in Southeastern Nigeria. The descriptive statistics and test of hypothesis confirmed the above result. The study revealed that social infrastructures such as educational facilities, medical facilities, sanitation on the social environment, housing facilities and water facilities were all negatively affected by the sit-at-home order. The above result is synonymous with reports from UNICEF (2017) that social unrests in Northern part of Nigeria have caused great destruction to social infrastructure in the region. Similarly, Olasupo (2020) revealed that EndSARS protests and activities of the IPOB have caused massive negative pressure on social infrastructure in the country.

5.0. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Conclusion

The study was able to look into the effects of IPOB Sit-at-home order on socio-economic activities in Nnewi North Local Government. The researcher embarked on the study based on proposed thoughts and observations from researcher's immediate environment, Nnewi North Local Government, Anambra state.

IPOB sit at home order which started on the 9th of August 2021 till date was as a result of agitation for freedom/independence of the Biafrans and for the release of the IPOB leader Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and other issues like the ill application of fiscal federalism, corruption and bad leadership in Nigeria government etc.



5.2. Recommendations

Places like Nnewi in Anambra state, have encountered a lot of damages as a result of the sit at home order. People's means of income are being affected mostly the daily income earners who depend and survive by what they earn daily, high rate of killings of both innocent souls. A quick-end to the sit at home will go a long way in resuscitating the about-to-die economy of the Nnewi North Local Government. If not, the continued observance and obedience to this ill may one-day resort to domesticating sit at home as a legitimate approach and practice of the people of south-east region, as against the age-known legitimate norm, practice and character of every day hustle of the people.

Based on findings from the study, the researcher made the following recommendations;

Since Nnewi is well known for businesses as the major occupation and IPOB Sit-at-home order has serious negative effects on the performance and operations of SMEs in the city, there is urgent need for an internal dialogue among the traditional rulers, the incumbent governors the South East, Nigeria and the claimed leaders of IPOB across states in the region. This will enable them to reach a consensus on how to achieve their aims rather than destroying businesses.

There is urgent need for the Nigerian government to free the acclaimed leader of the group (Mazi Nnamdi Kanu) from detention and then dialogue with the group (IPOB) with regards to their claims and demands rather than strong military approach. This will make the group have a sense of belonging once they are able to express themselves. This will put an end to burning of vehicles, killings of passengers on government roads among others).

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that no conflict of interest exist in this manuscript.

REFERENCES

- Bitar, N., Hamadeh, M., & Khoueiri, R. (2019). The Influence of Political Turmoil on Foreign Direct Investment in Lebanon. *Asian Social Science*, 16(1), 41-48.
- Douwes, R; Stuttaford, M; & London, L. (2018). Social Solidarity, Human Rights, and Collective Action: Conclusions on the Implementation of National Health Insurance in South Africa. *Health and Human Rights Journal*. Retrieved from: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.01>
- Ekechukwu, E.I., Nwogu, J.N., Ugwukwu, V.O., & Emerho, G.E. (2022). Socio-economic Consequences of IPOB's Sit-at-home Order in South-East, Nigeria: An Initial Qualitative Investigation. *The Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 20(2), 78-90.
- Esho, G. (2022). Nigerian State and IPOB: The Interplay of Social, Political, Cultural, and Religious Factors. Available at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/07/nigerian-state-and-ipob-the-social-political-cultural-and-religious-interplay/> *Guardian*. (2022, January 7). Coalition calls on Northerners to boycott goods from the South East.
- Igboke, C. S. (2020). Advocacy for Regime Change and Political Restructuring: Implications on National Integration and Development in Nigeria. [https://dx. doi./org/10.4314/Uja21](https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/Uja21)



- Odili, E. (2021). IPOB is Impacting the Economy and Social Life of the Southeast. Retrieved from How the Sit-at-Home Order by IPOB is Affecting South-East's Economy and Social Life, Ex-Enugu Governor Reveals - *Legit.ng*
- Ogbonnia, C. A. (November 2, 2021). Re-Lauretta Onochie's Press Statement on the demand for Kanu's release. *NigerianVoice*. Retrieved Nov. 4, 2024, from www.thenigerianvoice.com
- Ogunode, N. J. and Chijindu, O. E. (2022). Implications of Sit-at-home Order (Insecurity) on Basic Education in South-East Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria. *Central Asia Journal of Social Sciences and History*, 3(7), 20-29.
- Ohagwa, P. (August 25, 2021). The Impact of Monday Sit-at-home on the Southeast Economy. Vanguard. Retrieved July 15, 2022, from www.vanguardngr.com Okah, P. (Sept. 21, 2021). IPOB's Sit-at-home Order as a Setback for South East School Children. Retrieved Nov. 23, 2024 from www.blueprint.ng
- Onyebuchi, O. (2018). Effects of Insurgency on Foreign Direct Investment in Nigeria. *International Journal of Operational Research in Management, Social Science, and Education*, 4(1), 1-12.
- Osita, F. C., Anoke, A. F. and Eze, S. U. (2022). Sit-at-home Order by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Economic Activities in South-East, Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Management Research*, 6(7), 1-9.
- Osita, F. C., Anoke, A. F., & Eze, S. U. (2022). Mandatory Sit-at-home Order by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Economic Activities in South East, Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Management Research*, 6 (7), 1-9.
- Owoeye, D. I., Ezeanya, V. E. and Obiegbunam, N. G. (2022). Separatists' Strategy: Assessing the Effects of IPOB Monday Sit-at-home Order on the Political Economy (Socio-political and Economic Ogbu, Akogwu & Ezech Activities) of the South East Region of Nigeria. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research*, 8(1), 93-108.
- Ozibo, B., & Okorie, G.C. (2022). Sit-At-Home Order and Economic Growth of Southeastern Nigeria *GOUni Journal of Faculty of Management and Social Sciences*, 10(1), 189-201
- Punch.(2022,December23).ExaminingtheImpactofSit-at-HomeonSouth-East.
<https://punchng.com/examining-impact-of-sit-at-home-on-south-east/The>
- Cable. (2022, April 18). Fact check: Does Nigeria lose \$1bn weekly owing to IPOB's sit-at-home order? <https://www.thecable.ng/fact-check-does-nigeria-lose-1bn-weekly-owing-to-ipobs-sit-at-home-order>
- U.S Department of State (2020). 2020 Investment climate statement: Nigeria Ugwu, C. (May 22, 2022). Special Report: How IPOB's Sit-at-home Order is Harming Businesses in Nigeria's SE. Retrieved 23 Nov. 2024 from .www.premiumtimesng.com
- Ugwu, C. (2022, May 17). Special report: How IPOB's Sit-at-home Order is Harming Businesses in Nigeria'sSouth-east.PremiumTimes.<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-east/530317-special-report-how-ipobs-sit-at-home-order-is-destroying-businesses-in-nigerias-south-east.html?tztc=1>
- Vaskov, M.H., Pienknagura, S. and Ricci, L. (2021). The macroeconomic impact of social unrest. *IMF Working Paper*, 135