

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51547

Date: 14-05-2025

Title: The Devastating Socio-economic Impact of Sit-at-Home Orders on Small and Medium Businesses in South-Eastern Nigeria: A Call for Resilience and Recovery

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....YES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			√	
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity		√		
Significance			√	

Reviewer's Name: Mr Bilal Mir

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Abstract:

The abstract effectively encapsulates the central theme of the paper, which is the severe socio-economic impact of the sit-at-home orders in South-Eastern Nigeria. The specific focus on the impact on small and medium businesses, job losses, economic stagnation, and insecurity is clearly articulated. The abstract also introduces statistical data that quantifies the losses, lending credibility to the analysis. Furthermore, the mention of both economic and social dimensions, such as the impact on education and the "brain drain," adds depth to the narrative. The call for resilience and recovery is a compelling conclusion to the abstract, outlining the study's intended focus on solutions.

Introduction:

The introduction sets the stage for the analysis by outlining the significance of the South-East region of Nigeria as a commercial hub. The explanation of the recurring sit-at-home orders and the role of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPoB) in enforcing these orders is clear. The introduction emphasizes the severity of the disruption and provides context for understanding the broader socio-economic challenges faced by businesses in the region. By incorporating both economic and social dimensions, the introduction offers a well-rounded perspective on the crisis.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Data and Methodology:

The study draws on a range of data sources, including reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), SMEDAN, and independent sources. This diverse approach to data collection strengthens the credibility of the findings. The paper offers specific figures, such as the estimated losses between ₦655 billion and ₦3.8 trillion from 2021 to 2023 and the weekly losses of ₦88.08 billion, which effectively quantify the economic devastation. The data, while alarming, are presented in a manner that is accessible and informative.

Analysis and Discussion:

The analysis effectively links the economic losses to key issues such as the disruption of business operations, job losses, decreased investment, and the decline in the educational sector. By highlighting the relationship between insecurity and reduced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the paper presents a comprehensive understanding of the far-reaching effects of the sit-at-home orders. The mention of the specific impact on regions like Anambra, with its substantial weekly losses, further strengthens the argument. The connection to the brain drain and the collapse or relocation of businesses adds a social dimension to the economic discussion.

Relevance and Contribution:

The manuscript provides valuable insights into the socio-economic impact of the sit-at-home orders in South-Eastern Nigeria, a topic of growing importance. The analysis is particularly relevant to policymakers, business owners, and stakeholders in the region who are seeking ways to mitigate the economic damage caused by the crisis. By providing concrete data and offering a comprehensive review of the situation, the paper contributes to the broader discourse on regional economic resilience, insecurity, and the challenges faced by small and medium businesses in Nigeria.

Clarity and Organization:

The manuscript is well-organized, with a logical progression from the introduction to the presentation of data, analysis, and conclusion. The language is clear and accessible, with technical terms explained appropriately. The use of statistical data and real-world examples enhances the clarity of the argument, and the structure allows readers to easily follow the analysis.

Overall Assessment:

This manuscript offers an insightful and well-researched analysis of the socio-economic impact of the sit-at-home orders in South-Eastern Nigeria. It presents a balanced view of the economic losses, insecurity, and social consequences, supported by relevant data. The study is timely and relevant, providing a solid foundation for discussions on resilience and recovery strategies in the region.
