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## Prevalence of Insecurity and Survival of Entrepreneurial Business in Imo State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

*The study sought to investigate the prevalence of insecurity and survival of entrepreneurial business in Imo State, Nigeria. A correlational research design was adopted for the study and the study area was Imo State in Nigeria. The population of the study comprised all business entrepreneurs in Imo State and a stratified sampling technique was used to select 200 business entrepreneurs which constituted the respondents used for the study. The instrument titled "Insecurity and Survival of Entrepreneurial Businesses Questionnaire (ISEBQ)" was used for data collection. Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert to ensure that the instrument recorded accuracy while Cronbach Alpha technique was used to determine the level of the reliability of the instrument. Interestingly, the reliability coefficient obtained was 0.86 which was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics and simple regression. The study revealed that there is very high extent of insecurity in Imo State. It also revealed various mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State, including application of CCTV in shops and offices. Finally, the study revealed that there is significant influence of insecurity on entrepreneurial business in Imo State, Nigeria. One of the recommendations made was that awareness needs to be created to the business people in Imo State on the need to have CCTV installed in their business premises as is done in major super markets in order to curtail the issues of insecurity.*

**KEYWORDS: Prevalence of Insecurity, Entrepreneurs, Survival of Businesses and Imo State**

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### Introduction

The rising wave of insecurity in Nigeria which poses threat to lives, properties, businesses and all other economic activities in particular are so worrisome (Oriazowanlan and Erah, 2019).

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. Coupland (2007) observed that insecurity has a far reaching impact on people's lives, wellbeing and even on their businesses and for this singular reason, the government has to be alive to its responsibility of guaranteeing security. When people's security is guaranteed, it gives them the freedom, physically and mentally to get on with their businesses without fear of molestation or violent death. Thus, to experience a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing security is essential (Meddings, 2001), without security, there can be no stable society rather there will be prevalent fear and danger from violent death. On the impact of insecurity on the economy, (Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro, 2013) the productive aspect of most manufacturing business depends largely on the availability and regular supply of raw materials for production. Insecurity has cut off the supply of such raw materials hence, jeopardizing production activities. Besides this, insecurity affects marketing of finished product as there is a continuous exodus from areas of insecurity. There is also an increase in security spending as most business organisations operating in Nigeria spend a lot in maintaining private security outfits. The destruction of their business building, properties and equipment is tantamount to loss of capital which has ruined not a few businesses in Nigeria (Achumba, et. al., 2013). According to Nwagboso (2012), insecurity is a risk factor which business owners and managers dread and avoid by relocating their businesses elsewhere. In the case of Nigeria, there is also evidence of some businessmen and manufacturing companies having to relocate particularly from the North in recent times to other peaceful parts of the country. Adegami (2013) noted that insecurity has led to the destruction of business and properties, equipments, relocation and closing down of businesses. Many business operators who were residing in the northern part of Nigeria have either close down or relocated their businesses due to Boko Haram insurgents. The incessant clashes between herdsmen and farmers were some other disasters which affected rural dwellers and their farming businesses.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, Nigeria has been witnessing unprecedented level of insecurity despite the fact that huge allocation of the national budget has been allotted to the security. It is obvious that the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically states that "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Unfortunately, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for citizen lives, properties, conduct of business and economic activities. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased the crime rate and terrorists' attacks in different parts of the Nigeria, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and business growth. This problem of insecurity has generated a national concern, to the extent that citizens and some entrepreneurs are worried about the threats and fears of this unpleasant act by the perpetrators in our society who do not see the need to be patriotic to the nation. It is quite obvious that many businesses in Imo State find it difficult to survive as a good number of them have closed down and leaving their staff frustrated. It is on this premise that this study is conducted in order to find out the level of the prevalence of insecurity and survival of entrepreneurial business in Imo State due to the insecurity.

### **Research Objectives**

The study sought to examine the prevalence of insecurity and survival of entrepreneurial business in Imo State. Objectively, the study sought to:

1. Find out the extent of insecurity to in Imo State, Nigeria.
2. Determine the mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State.

### Research Questions

1. To what extent is insecurity in Imo State, Nigeria?
2. What are the mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State?

### Research Hypothesis

**H01:** There is no significant influence of insecurity on entrepreneurial business in Imo State, Nigeria.

### Conceptual Review

#### Concept of Insecurity

The Concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety (Isaac, Murat and Ohida, 2019). The term insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection (Beland, 2005). Insecurity is 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 (Achumba, et. al., 2013). Insecurity is continually on the increase thereby engulfing all the inhabitants of Nigeria as the government faces insurmountable pressure to guarantee the security of lives and properties of its citizens (Adegbami, 2013). The insecurity in Nigeria ranges from kidnapping and activities of terrorist and human trafficking in the South-South and the South-East, high level of arms robbery in the South-West and the activities of political vanguards, Islamic extremist in the North. In Yobe state, the incidences of the insecurity that occurred are multifaceted and multidimensional. Activities of political vanguards, killings by hired assassins by political and business opponents and the Islamic extremism by Boko Haram group are a few cases in point. It is however important to be noted that all these forms of insecurity are induced by politicians (Adagba, Ugwu, and Eme, 2012; Lister, 2012). They also maintained that it is no longer a sect of Islamic militants, but has the support of discontented politicians and their paid gangsters.

#### Forms and the Causes of Insecurity

**Political Factors:** The unexpected power shift from the northern hegemony to a minority geopolitical zone of South-south, as a result of the death of President Yar'adua could be linked to the high tempo of insecurity. That is, the death of President Yar'adua resulted in an alteration of the northern perpetual claim on political power in Nigeria. In addition, the refutation of the North-South agreement on rotational presidency within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) is also another major factor, thus the death of Yar'Adua and the ascendancy of Goodluck Jonathan as the president upset careful political arrangement (Ferrell, 2012). Other forms of insecurity include

politically related assassinations. In addition to this is the continuing rancor among political leaders even within same party and rancour between the ruling party and the opposition (Wali, n.d.). There are also several economic related assassinations all over the nation which creates danger to the nation's economy. Furthermore, there is the power play and over-ambition of politicians who willfully encourage the procurement of weapons in order to pursue their inordinate political ambition (Egbewole, 2013).

**Leadership Factor:** The Nigerian state for some time now has not had the benefit of being administered by good leaders as most of the political leaders are in office for pecuniary gains. Often, sadly, these crops of political leaders oppress the citizens with the looted money, train thugs and hooligans who later turn to robbers or engage in other forms of crime when they are dumped by the politicians after elections thus constituting a major threat to the security of the nation.

**Unemployment Factor:** Idle hand, they say, is the devil workshop. So as the rate of unemployment continues to rise, so does the wave of crime and its attendant effect. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) cited in Ogah et. al., (2011) puts unemployment in Nigeria at 23.9 percent and still raising. These unemployed people now employ themselves by engaging in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, bunkering, and other nefarious activities.

**Job Racketeering Factor:** Today in Nigeria, jobs are for sales and only for the highest bidders. Jobseekers to this extent have continued to suffer great losses, as often a lot of money has been collected from them without getting the promised jobs. For instance, recently job seekers filled online application for recruitment into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and were asked to pay certain amount of money into designated bank accounts or cash to some persons who claimed to be consultants to the Corps (Vanguard, 2013). On job racketeering also, the erstwhile Comptroller-General of Immigration (CGI), Mrs. Rose Uzoma, was sacked over alleged job racketeering at the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS). This has brought to the fore the shady deals that permeate recruitment exercises in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria. Reports had it that the recruitment scandal was blown open when a House of Representatives Committee probed the CGI for carrying out a recruitment exercise without advertising it in the media as was usually the practice (Sunnewsonline, 2013).

### **Concept of Entrepreneurial Business**

In the 20th century, entrepreneurship was studied by Joseph Schumpeter in the 1930s and by other Austrian economists such as Carl Menger (1840-1921), Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) and Friedrich von Hayek (1899-1992). While the loan from French of the English-language word "entrepreneur" dates to 1762, the word "entrepreneurism" dates from 1902 and the term "entrepreneurship" also first appeared in 1902. According to Schumpeter 1976, an entrepreneur is willing and able to convert a new idea or invention into a successful innovation. Entrepreneurship employs what Schumpeter called the "gale of creative destruction Jones et al, (2012) posited that to replace in whole or in part inferior offerings across markets and industries, simultaneously creating new products and new business models, thus creative destruction is largely responsible for long-term economic growth. The idea that entrepreneurship leads to economic growth is an interpretation of the residual in endogenous growth theory and as such continues to be debated in academic economics. An alternative description by Israel Kirzner (1930) suggests that the majority

of innovations may be incremental improvements - such as the replacement of paper with plastic in the construction of a drinking straw - that require no special qualities.

According to Schumpeter, the entrepreneur did not bear risk: the capitalist did. Schumpeter believed that the equilibrium was imperfect. Schumpeter (1934) demonstrated that the changing environment continuously provides new information about the optimum allocation of resources to enhance profitability. Some individuals acquire the new information before others and recombine the resources to gain an entrepreneurial profit. Schumpeter (1934) was of the opinion that entrepreneurs shift the production-possibility curve to a higher level using innovations. Landstrom (2007) states that Initially, economists made the first attempt to study the entrepreneurship concept in depth. Alfred Marshall (1961) viewed the entrepreneur as a multi-tasking capitalist and observed that in the equilibrium of a completely competitive market there was no spot for "entrepreneurs" as economic-activity creators.

### **Classification of Entrepreneurship**

**Small Business Entrepreneurship-** These businesses are small in size of capital, staff strength, product or services produced, etc. This include but not limited to a hairdresser, grocery store, travel agent, consultant, carpenter, plumber, electrician, etc. These people run or own their own business and hire family members or local employee. For them, the profit would be able to feed their family and not making 100 million business or taking over an industry. They fund their business by taking small business loans or loans from friends and family.

**Scalable Startup Entrepreneurship-** This start-up entrepreneur starts a business knowing that their vision can change the world. They attract investors who think and encourage people who think out of the box. The research focuses on a scalable business and experimental models, so, they hire the best and the brightest employees. They require more venture capital to fuel and back their project or business.

**Large Company Entrepreneurship-** These huge companies have defined life-cycle. Most of these companies grow and sustain by offering new and innovative products that revolve around their main products. The change in technology, customer preferences, new competition, etc., build pressure for large companies to create an innovative product and sell it to the new set of customers in the new market. To cope with the rapid technological changes, the existing organisations either buy innovation enterprises or attempt to construct the product internally.

**Social Entrepreneurship-** This type of entrepreneurship focuses on producing product and services that resolve social needs and problems. Their only motto and goal is to work for society and not make any profits.

### **Characteristics of Entrepreneurs**

Not all entrepreneurs are successful; there are definite characteristics that make entrepreneurship successful. A few of them are mentioned below:

**Ability to take a risk-** Starting any new venture involves a considerable amount of failure risk. Therefore, an entrepreneur needs to be courageous and able to evaluate and take risks, which is an essential part of being an entrepreneur.

***Innovation-*** An entrepreneur should be highly innovative to generate new ideas, start a company and earn profits out of it. Change can be the launching of a new product that is new to the market or a process that does the same thing but in a more efficient and economical way.

***Visionary and Leadership quality-*** To be successful, the entrepreneur should have a clear vision of his new venture. However, to turn the idea into reality, a lot of resources and employees are required. Here, leadership quality is paramount because leaders impart and guide their employees towards the right path of success.

***Open-Minded-*** In a business, every circumstance can be an opportunity and used for the benefit of a company. Hence, an entrepreneur should be unbiased and progressive.

***Flexibility-*** An entrepreneur should be flexible and open to change according to the situation. To be on the top, a businessperson should be equipped to embrace change in a product and service, as and when needed.

***Know your Product-*** A company owner should know the product offerings and also be aware of the latest trend in the market. It is essential to know if the available product or service meets the demands of the current market, or whether it is time to tweak it a little. Being able to be accountable and then alter as needed is a vital part of entrepreneurship.

### **Insecurity and Entrepreneurial Business**

Insecurity in Nigeria has affected the activities of business in Nigeria especially Imo State where shops and offices are closed by 5.30PM due to theft, Army Robbery, Kidnapping, Assassination and Fraud as well as killings. These insecurities cause operation management to stop production or utilization of available resources such as material, men, machine etc which invariably affect the performance of selected small business in Imo State. The assurance of businesses survival in Imo State is very low since shops and business centers closed early and some of the shops or small centers experienced arm robbery activities after they have closed or on their way back home. Insecurity affected the production department and as well designed and controlled the process of production and redesigning business operations in the production of goods or service in order to enhance the performance of small business in Imo State. Recently, Imo State and many of its local government areas have experience activities of theft, Arm Robbery, Kidnapping, Assassination, Fraud and killing among youths in the society. And the government of Imo state have deployed security personals like the police, Nigeria army and other force, to different location in order to arrest the criminal activities that result to business short-down or temporary closure by 5PM in order to minimize these activities and help them redesign and control production activities and increase performance of small business in Imo State. Yet, there are frequent activities of theft, Arm Robbery, etc. and this have stunted the growth and performance of entrepreneurial business in Imo State.

### **Mitigation of Insecurity Effect on Entrepreneurial Business**

To overcome insecurity, there is need for intelligence gathering and surveillance, so that law enforcement agents could become proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near accuracy rather than being reactive. According to Achumba et al (2013), the menace of insecurity calls for a new approach founded on creditable intelligence gathering. Government should not only

continue to engage the security personnel, it should rather more than ever before, recognize the need to devote more attention to security intelligence, capacity building to meet the global best practice standard and acquisition of modern technology. Although, the Nigerian government has introduced the use of Computer-based Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in public places in Abuja to monitor and record events that take place in a particular location, Ogunleye in Achumba et al (2013) have argued that for it be effective, government should ensure that these cameras are properly managed and maintained, ensure proper recording, with good quality images and incidental records on cameras should be followed up by the police or appropriate authority.

There is the need to modernize the security agencies through capacity building in advanced training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivation and change of orientation. This will enhance the operational capabilities of the security agencies by identifying avenues that would enable them respond appropriately to internal security challenges and other threats. There should equally be complete overhaul of the security institutions in Nigeria to reflect international standards of best practices in order to pre-empt security breaches. The consistent pattern of post damage responses to national security is as result of dearth of pre-emptive intelligence amongst security personnel. There should be an institutionalized approach rather than the episodic and reactive responses adopted by government. Government at all levels should not compromise in enforcing the law, particularly in corruption cases. The judiciary ought to have time scales for corruption and security cases at this stage of our development. In Nigeria, the law has ceased to act as a deterrent since corruption and insecurity have largely been compromised. The law enforcement agencies should be given incentives, good conditions service and social security if they would become incorruptible and fare better in course of discharging their duties.

## Methods

A correlational research design was adopted for the study and the study area was Imo State in Nigeria. The population of the study comprised all business entrepreneurs in Imo State and a stratified sampling technique was used to select 200 business entrepreneurs that constituted the respondents used for the study. The instrument titled “Insecurity and Survival of Entrepreneurial Businesses Questionnaire (ISEBQ)” was used for data collection. Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert to ensure that the instrument was recorded accuracy while Cronbach Alpha technique was used to determine the level of the reliability of the instrument. Interestingly, the reliability coefficient obtained was 0.86 which was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical techniques such as percentage analysis and simple regression. The test for significance was done at 0.05 alpha level.

## Result and Discussion

**Research Questions 1:** The research question sought to find out the extent of insecurity in Imo State, Nigeria. To answer the research question, percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

**Table 1: Percentage analysis of the extent of insecurity in Imo State, Nigeria**

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
VERY HIGH EXTENT	115	57.5**
HIGH EXTENT	65	32.5
LOW EXTENT	14	7
VERY LOW EXTENT	6	3*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*\* The highest percentage frequency

\* The least percentage frequency

**SOURCE: Field survey**

The above table 1 presents the percentage analysis of the extent of insecurity in Imo State, Nigeria. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage 115(57.5%) of the respondents affirmed that the extent is very high, while the least percentage 6(3%) of the respondents stated that the extent of insecurity in Imo State is very low, meaning that there is very high extent of insecurity in Imo State.

**Research Questions 2:** The research question sought to find out the mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State. To answer the research question, percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 2).

**Table 2: Percentage analysis of the mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State.**

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Application of CCTV in shops and offices	54	27**
Application of CCTV in streets	46	23*
Involvement of security guards	51	25.5
Involvement of neighborhood watch	49	24.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*\* The highest percentage frequency

\* The least percentage frequency

**SOURCE: Field survey**

The above table 2 presents the percentage analysis on the mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the tagged “application of CCTV in shops and offices” 54(27%) rated the highest percentage of the mitigating strategies, while “application of CCTV in streets” 46(23%) rated the least percentage of the mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State.

## Hypotheses Testing

### Hypothesis One

The hypothesis state that there is no significant influence of Insecurity on Entrepreneurial Businesses in Imo State, Nigeria. To test the hypothesis, regression analysis was performed on the data (see table 3).



**TABLE 3: Simple Regression Analysis of the influence of Insecurity on Entrepreneurial Businesses in Imo State, Nigeria.**

Model R	R-Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change
1	0.93	0.87	0.57	0.87

\*Significant at 0.05 level; df= 198; N= 200; critical R-value = 197

The above table 3 shows that the calculated R-value (0.93) was greater than the critical R-value of 0.197 at 0.5 alpha levels with 198 degrees of freedom. The R-Square value of 0.87 predicts 87% of the influence of insecurity on entrepreneurial business. This rate of percentage is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of insecurity on entrepreneurial business in Imo State, Nigeria. It was also deemed necessary to find out the influence of the variance of each class of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 4).

**TABLE 4: Analysis of Variance of the Influence of Insecurity on Entrepreneurial Business in Imo State, Nigeria.**

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	420.89	4	420.89	1286.31	.000b
Residual	64.79	198	0.33		
Total	485.68	199			

a. Dependent Variable: Entrepreneur business

b. Predictors: (Constant), Insecurity

The calculated F-value was (1286.31) and the P-value as (.000b). Being that the P-value (.000b) is below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is significant influence exerted by the independent variables i.e. insecurity on the dependent variable which is entrepreneur business. The result implies that there is significant influence of insecurity on entrepreneurial business in Imo State, Nigeria. The result therefore was in agreement with the research findings Schumpeter (1934) who noted that entrepreneurs shift the production-possibility curve to a higher level using innovations. The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative was accepted.

## Conclusion

The study concluded that there is very high extent of insecurity in Imo State. It also revealed various mitigation strategies to entrepreneurial businesses against the insecurity effect in Imo State, including application of CCTV in shops and offices. Finally, the study revealed that there is significant influence of insecurity on entrepreneurial business in Imo State, Nigeria.

## Recommendation

The following recommendations were postulated:

1. Awareness needs to be created to the business people in Imo State on the need to have CCTV installed in their business premises as is done in major super markets in order to curtail the issues of insecurity.
2. Imo State government should install CCTV in streets to help monitor the business environment as insecurity possesses challenges to operation and management of business.

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