INSECURITY AND PERFORMANCE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

Abstract

Insecurity constitutes nuisance to human lives and properties, impedes business activities, inculcate phobia in both local and foreign investors. Consequent upon this, human security has been encroached due to incessant insecurity menace besetting the peaceful co-existence of individuals residing within and outside the vicinity of Anambra State, Nigeria. This scenario has consistently created vacuum for chaos and disorderliness. In the light of the above, this paper focuses attention on insecurity and performance of business activities in Anambra State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to ascertain the factors militating against the successful operation of business activities in Anambra State, and also to determine the type of relationship that exists between the independent variable (human security) and dependent variable (market share). The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative research design method (triangulation) with sixty eight participants randomly selected. The participants comprised of experienced entrepreneurs from Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka with not less than ten years of experience in their diverse businesses. Structured questionnaire and in-depth interview were simultaneously utilized to elicit reliable, timely and valuable information from the respondents respectively. The structured questionnaire was administered to sixty two (62) respondents while six respondents were orally interviewed. Data generated from structured questionnaire was analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient which is an inferential statistical tool while data elicited from in-depth interview was thematically analyzed. The results revealed that human security had a statistically positive significant relationship with market share. This implies that a proportionate increase in human security will attract commensurate increase in market share and vice versa. The in-depth interview conducted disclosed that family responsibilities, difficulties in raising children, sit-at-home syndrome, insecurity, high cost of goods, low turnover, forced migration, and insufficient capital are the major factors besetting the performance of business activities in Anambra State, Nigeria. In view of the findings above, we recommended serious government intervention to cushion the effect of human insecurity by adopting a regulatory framework that will usher defaulters to befitting penalty in order to inculcate sustainable virtues in them. That is

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why, unequivocally speaking, protection of human rights, dignity, and integrity need to be the greatest concern of government at all levels because life has no duplicate. Also, government at all levels need to pay close attention to sit-at-home syndrome and high cost of goods in the market as majority of the entrepreneurs in Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi respectively lean on daily income for the provision of basic necessities of life.

Keywords: Insecurity, Human Security; Market Share, Performance, and Anambra State

Introduction

Human security as a prerequisite for lasting peace is conceived as very crucial to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the full development of human intellectual capacities and profundity. Human Security is conceived as protecting, safeguarding and expanding in all ramifications peoples' vital freedoms. It involves freedom from fear, that is, protection against any form of violence and freedom from want which addresses poverty. Human Security is an essential element that connotes economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, education security and political security. The interplay of these variables paves way for human security as its sole aim is prevention unforeseen circumstances. It gives primacy to human beings and their complex technological, political, social and economic interactions. Prevention, however, focuses attention on the root causes of vulnerabilities, emerging risks and stresses, proactive action in a bid to step up cohesion and further advance respect for human rights and dignity.

However, one of the fundamental human rights as enshrined in 1999 Nigerian Constitution is security and welfare of the people which serves as the primary objective of government as captured in section (14) sub-sections(2) of the constitution. This is because human security is a veritable tool for addressing the challenges of development at all levels. Human security and human development are vital elements which complement each other, although, human security is a relative condition while development is a continuous process. This is evident because human security is influenced by developmental processes. Nevertheless, impediments to development create human insecurities, and hence improvements in human development enhance human

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security. Human insecurity is a real threat that makes individuals to focus interest on basic survival, safety and protection of lives as we recently witnessed in Anambra State during the just concluded election of 6th November, 2021. Insecurity per sec, ranges from ill-health, poverty, disease, lack of education, absence of basic sanitation, access to clean drinking water, malnutrition, environmental degradation, natural disasters, rapid population growth, political repression, violence and armed conflict (Ball, 2001). Achieving human security involves protecting individuals and groups from threats and reducing their vulnerabilities to physical and psycho-social harms.

Humanly speaking, it is obvious that insecurity is a huge threat and unavoidable obstacle to the general well being of the people with its disastrous effects on the areas of illnesses; low life expectancy; low quality of life and even death, which are in correlation with human elements. On the economy, Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented security challenges in all ramifications since the demise of our God's-sent President of Federal Republic of Nigeria(President Mohammed Yar'adua).The alarming rate of insecurity has led to the destruction of businesses, properties and equipments; relocation and closing down of businesses according to (Adeleke, 2013) . All these anomalies were witnessed severally in numerous States in Nigeria including Anambra State. A typical example was the recent development in Imo State where five incumbent governors and head of security agencies in the South-East, region held meeting in Owerri, Imo State capital termed: 'The first South-East Security Summit'. They intentionally resolved that the Inspector-General of Police and other security chiefs should invite Ohanaeze Ndigbo and Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) to find out the reason for increasing insecurity in the South-East. The researchers in their opinion questioned the authenticity of such statements! We wondered whether it was geared towards ameliorating the insecurity situation in the Eastern-Region or not! Hence, how can the leaders in the South-East Region be oblivious of security challenges bedeviling its populace? This is incredible and disastrous! The researchers captured them as a bunch of clueless power mongers or heartless leaders in action. In fact, a week before the summit, there was a major security breach in Owerri when accidentally unknown gunmen raid the Owerri Correctional Centre and set free about 1844 inmates and set the police headquarters ablaze uninterrupted. It was observed that over fifty (50) vehicles were destroyed and the entire police command was bastardized. However, these inept and

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lackadaisical attitude displayed by our leaders could be attributed to the fact that decision makers are human elements who have their strengths, weaknesses, emotions, wills, bias, personal preferences arid world views. In view of the forgoing, this paper aims to highlight the major factors militating against performance of business activities in Anambra State via in-depth interview and to ascertain the type of correlation that exists between human right and market share.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

2.1.1 Concept of Human Security

Security is a part of human existence and sustenance. It depicts freedom from threat or violence which could transcend to the loss of lives and properties. Human security is a situation whereby individuals or groups are free from any form of threats to life, properties, poverty, unemployment, human rights and diseases. According to United Nations Development Programme (1994), human security is captured as protection from hidden and harmful disruptions at homes, offices, communities and states. This implies that human security ensures peoples' safety and protection from every emerging threat to their lives and peaceful co-existence. The Commission on Human Security (2003) perceives human security as the protection of important aspect of human lives in a way that would enhance human freedoms and fulfillment. Human security encompasses freedom from pangs of hunger, poverty, harm, fear and the freedom to take appropriate actions without any form of impediment. It is also the assurance of future well being and freedom from threat. Without human security, there can no political, environmental, social, health, education, economic stability in any nation no matter how developed that nation may be. That is why Williams (2008) who defines security from the socio-political perspective opined that security entails the ability to pursue cherished political and social ambitions. Therefore, in order to achieve political and social ambitions, security of lives and properties must be the urgent priority of government at all levels since it involves protection of individuals from diverse threats ranging from social, educational, economic, technological, environment and vice versa. For instance, Lack of education hinders people's abilities to make informed decisions concerning their lives. In the views of Otto and Ukpere (2012), security relates to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and the protection of human and physical resources or the absence of crisis.

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2.1.2 Human Security and Performance of SMEs in Anambra State

Human insecurity has raised a lot of dust in almost all the States in Nigeria as its numerous costs remain unquantifiable. This is in sync with the enormous loss of both human and material resources associated with threats of life and destruction of properties. The fundamental human rights violation is arguably alarming and people can no longer air their views and defend their rights in an acclaimed politically democratic ordained country like Nigeria. However, it has become crystal clear that insecurity has a far reaching impact on people's lives and well-being to a great extent, and government is expected to live up to her responsibility of guaranteeing security of life and properties. This is because when people are assured of security, they feel free mentally, physically and spiritually, carrying on their daily business activities without fear of victimization, molestation by Boko Haram, unknown gunmen, kidnappers, ritualists etc. For us to experience absolute peace in Anambra State, the physical, psychological, social, material well-being of the people must be catered for and given utmost priority (Meddings, 2001).Human rights are those fundamental and inherent rights that human beings are perceived to have for the mere sake of being human (Donnelly, 2003; Griffin, 2008), thus they are perceived to be valid unconditionally and universally.

No doubt, Nigerian Economy is presently bedeviled by unhealthy circumstances orchestrated by the horrible effect of insecurity and its accompanying challenges like Covid-19 Pandemic. Its influence has truncated and eaten deep into the fabrics of our great nation.(Anoke, Nzewi, Onu Tukura(2021). SMEs as we all know are the engine house of every great nation that want to grow her economy optimally and enjoy dividends of economic growth and development. Entrepreneurs are economic drivers and trailblazers of economies that are rated high in World Bank Easy of Doing Business Ratings because of their huge contributions to economic growth and development. Sequel to the recent happenings in Nigeria in particular, Onalu, Uchechukwu, and Okoye (2020) averred that the whole world is in a state of pandemonium and unparallel economic disaster. This is evident in the magnitude of violent conflict manifesting daily in the nook and cranny of all states in Nigeria, which is detrimental to human security. The level of insecurity affects more the SMEs operators owing to incessant sit-at-home syndrome and other unfavourable variables influencing its successful operation. This sit-at-home syndrome as

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evident in the Eastern Region of Nigeria has not been palatable. Human security which is supposed to be a critical component of the local, national, international, global political and development agenda, has been jettisoned, and close attention is accorded to trivial issues in this contemporary era. Where are we heading to? Shall we continue to experience fire on this planet earth? All hands must be on desk to quell this quagmire weighing us down. Why? SMEs prerequisites for survival include peaceful atmosphere, order and physical security. This relates to the pathetic statement made by Japan Prime Minister (Obuchi Keizo) in 1998:

> *It is my deepest belief that human beings should be able to lead lives of creativity, without having their survival threatened or their dignity impaired*."

It suffices to buttress his point of view that man's inhumanity to man hampers creativity and innovative spirit and kills entrepreneurial dexterity. This is in concomitant with the fact that it is only insecurity that threatens business survival and creates tension capable of impinging human growth and development to an astronomical proportion.

DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN SECURITY

Human security enshrines all the seven dimensions reflecting almost all of the key components of human development. These dimensions include:

Table 1 Dimension of Human security

Human Security	Conceptualizations	Main Threats
Economic security	Provision of the basic necessities of life (Food, Shelter and clothing).	Abject poverty, hunger, unemployment
Food security	Physical and economic access to food for all people at all times. Hundreds of millions of people in the world remain hungry either through local unavailability of food or, more often, through lack of entitlements or resources to purchase food. Also, relief aid meant for increasing food security	Hunger, famine

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	for communities.	
Health Security	Access to medical treatment and improved health conditions. indigent people in general have less health security and in developing countries, the major causes of death are communicable diseases. Finally, Rebuilding the health care system is a prerequisite.	Infectious deadly diseases like Covid-19, unsafe food, education deficits, malnutrition, paucity of access to the basic health care services.
Environmental security	Living in a healthy physical environment which is devoid of environmental threats that endanger people's survival.	Environmental degradation, resource depletion, natural disasters, financial crisis and conflicts, pollution of diverse kinds.
Personal security	Security from physical violence that could be detrimental to their peaceful co-existence.	Physical violence, crime, terrorism, kidnapping, domestic violence, child Labour/trafficking
Political security	Living in a society that guarantees, honours and appreciates the basic fundamental human rights.	Political repression, human rights violations
Community security	Most people derive their security from membership of a social group (family, community.	Inter-ethnic, religious and other identity based tensions.

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	organizations, political grouping, ethnic group, etc.). Tensions often arise between these groups due to competition over limited scarce resources and opportunities.	

Source: Authors' compilation, (2021)

3. 0 METHODOLOGY

The major thrust of this study is to examine the effect of human security on the performance of business activities in Anambra State. Survey research design was adopted. The choice was informed by the nature of the study. The SMEs in Anambra State were considered favourable for this kind research because of their generally acclaimed entrepreneurial dexterity. The Anambra people are business tycoons, and they have wide range of experiences in diverse businesses which attract men and women of timber and caliber to them for business purposes. Taking the target group into cognizance, they are largely illiterates. Hence, methodological appropriateness rather than orthodoxy" is given utmost consideration.

The study, therefore, utilized in-depth interview and structured questionnaire to illicit timely and valuable information from the respondents. The respondents comprised of sixty eight participants that were purposively selected. The participants comprised of experienced entrepreneurs from Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka with not less than ten years of experience in their diverse businesses. The choice of these three areas is to ensure effective representation of the three senatorial zones in Anambra State coupled with the fact that they are the major cities/business hub in Anambra State. The structured questionnaire was administered to sixty two (62) respondents via Google Platform while six respondents were orally interviewed. Their responses were audio recorded and transcribed after permission was granted by the respondents.

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The interview was guided by these questions carved out from specific objective number one (1): What are the major factors militating against performance of business activities in Anambra State? The questions emanating from research question number one include:

i. What are the major variables that constrain the operation of business activities in Anambra State?
ii. What are the peculiar problems that affect more the operation of business in Anambra State?
iii. What are your experiences with regard to the above pitfalls?
iv. How would you tackle the identified constraints?

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

Objective one: To ascertain the factors militating against the business operation in Anambra State.

Table 2 Participants Information

Names	Gender	Marital Status	Age	Years in Business	Educational Qualification	Location
1.Ngozika Eluke	Female	Married	46	17	WAEC	Onitsha
2.Mr Samuel Ozogbodo	Male	Married	55	15	GCE	Onitsha
3. Mr Ezokafor	Female	Married	45	13	WAEC	Awka
4.Mr Bazil Anekwe	Male	Married	53	16	GCE	Awka
5.Mrs Maria Eze	Female	Married	60	25	GCE	Nnewi
6.Mr Henry Kenechukwu	Male	Married	57	20	WAEC	Nnewi

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork (2021)

From the table 2 above, the participants' information were clearly revealed as they were interviewed face-to-face to obtain all the relevant facts concerning them. The six participants

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were interviewed after getting the demographic information and the responses from the interviews conducted were analyzed for content. The analysis of questions posed to the interviewees were thematically arranged as

Follows:

Constraints/Barriers to Business Operations in Anambra State

The following constrains were highlighted by virtually all the respondents interviewed.

- Sit-at-home syndrome
- Family responsibilities and difficulties in raising children
- High cost of goods in the market
- Scarcity of essential goods
- low turnover accruing from dwindling income of buyers
- Forced migration
- insufficient capital

What are the peculiar problems that affect more the business operation in Anambra State?

Most of the respondents interviewed pointed out sit-at-home and high cost of goods in the market as the major obstacles militating against successful operation of business activities in Anambra State which is the epicenter of business activities in Nigeria.

What are your experiences with regard to the above pitfalls?

Most of the respondents lamented bitterly over the issue of sit-at-home syndrome, narrating their ordeals and the resources they have been losing in concomitant with the scenario**.** One of participants **(57years spare part dealer in Nnewi**) stated categorically that he has been financially incapacitated since the inception of incessant sit-at-home which has been perturbing us in the Eastern Part of Nigeria. Again, from Ngozika Eluke (**46 years old business woman in Relieve Market, Onitsha**), stressed that despite the challenges created by sit-at-home and other factors, she stated that she has had the opportunity not only to cook delicious meal for her family but also to enjoyed adequate rest as well. She also reported that sit-at-home dwindle her finance. The participant three (**45 years old electronics dealer in Eke-Oka Market**) opined that the recent shut down and even sit-at-home inflicted more problems to him in particular, as he deals majorly on perishables. According to him, he was hard-hit financially which he is still suffering even at present.

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How would you tackle the identified constraints?

According to the participants, when we raised the question, practically all the respondents although interviewed differently at different occasions almost averred that they cannot help themselves. Some said they are leaning on God for miracles and divine interventions. From the desk of participant six (6), he insisted that traders should travel outside Nigeria in search of green pastures and for security purposes. He also opined that travelling is one of the ways to ameliorate the identified challenges to the best of his knowledge. Also, participants four (4), is of the opinion that government should come to their aids since their hard-earned capital has dwindled. He maintained that the negative impact of the above listed problems is not palatable to human growth and existence, that it would rather deteriorate the economy the more which will still adversely affect us as time progresses.

Objective Number Two (2):

There is a significant relationship between human right and market share

Test of hypothesis

Table 3 **Correlations**

		HUMAN RIGHT	MARKET SHARE
HUMAN RIGHT	Pearson Correlation	1	.976**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	62	62
MARKET SHARE	Pearson Correlation	.976**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	62	62

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table 3 shows the correlation analysis for Human right and market share, from the table; it shows that the correlation coefficient is .976 while the p- value is .000. The level of significant used is (0.005). The result revealed that relationship observed from the analysis is statistically significant because the p-value is less than the given level of significance. This connotes that

increase in human right will tantamount to proportionate increase in market share. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant positive relationship between human right and market share (r = .976, P<.05).

Discussion of findings

The hypothesis tested revealed that there is a statistically significant positive relationship between human right and market share. It is statistically significant because the p-value is less than 0.05 which is the given level of significance. The r-value which is .976 depicts a positive correlation between the independent and dependent variables. This implies that when the fundamental human right is not violated in any form, people are free to move about on daily basis to transact businesses, hence, increasing their market share astronomically. This corroborates with the finding of Ramasastry (2015) who stated that business and human right emerged mainly from legal scholarship. This synchronizes with the fact that market share is an aspect of business, and protection of human right increases market share

From the in-depth interview conducted, we found out that myriads of factors hamper the efficacy of business activities in Anambra State. According to responses from the respondents, they averred that sit-at-home, family responsibilities, difficulties in raising children, high cost of goods in the market, scarcity of essential goods, low turnover accruing from dwindling income of buyers, forced migration and insufficient capital are factors militating against successful operation of business in Anambra State. This is because the State often fails to fulfill its security obligations and sometimes even becomes the cause of pandemonium, and the source of threat to her people. It, therefore, becomes obvious that the three fundamental human freedoms which refer to freedom from want, freedom from fear of the unknown and freedom to live in dignity has been flawed. The human security, especially in the developing states has not fundamentally improved as detected by (Okolo, 2008). That is why El-Rufai,(2012),in his humble submission suggested that state could be secured against threats ranging from low-level civil disorder, crime, planned violence, to an armed insurgency if they deem it fit. In tandem with their responses of the interviewees, we discovered that sit-at-home and high cost of goods in the market are the major factors obstructing the smooth operation of business in Anambra State at present. Also, most of the participants as indicated in the interview conducted, experienced financial crunch. Hence, they proposed God's divine intervention and travelling outside Nigeria for a greener

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pasture. This is in line with Akin (2008) who proposed that conducive atmosphere be created within which people in the state can go about their normal daily activities without threat to either their lives or properties. That is why CHS (2003) opined that human security requires protecting people in a more systematic, comprehensive and preventative way to avert threats of all kind. Hence, without human security, state security cannot be attained and vice versa.

5.0 Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

In the final analysis, this study examined the human security and performance of SMEs in Anambra State, Nigeria. Specifically, it sets out to determine the factors militating against the operation of SMEs and the nature of relationship between human right and market share. Based on the results of the analysis and the in-depth interview conducted, the findings revealed a statistically positive significant relationship between human right and market share. Also, the outcome of the responses from the respondents unveiled that sit-at-home and high cost of goods in the market are major factors impacting more negatively on the operation of businesses (SMEs) in Anambra State. Relying heavily on the findings of this work, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government need to pay close attention to security of human elements than to security of territory by substantively enacting a right-oriented business conduct to protect individuals from smooth running their businesses,(Giuhani, 2016, Marquis and Qian, 2014). This is due to the fact that security encompasses all approach towards safeguarding human as well as material resources in the state against all forms of aggressions or violent conduct.
2. Government serious intervention to cushion the effect of human insecurity by adopting a regulatory framework that will usher defaults to befitting penalty in order to inculcate sustainable virtues like discipline, integrity, honesty, humility, etc. in them. This is because, unequivocally speaking, protection of human rights, dignity, and integrity need to be the greatest concern of government at all levels because life has no duplicate. Human security complements state security, strengthens human development and enhances human rights.
3. Government at all levels need to pay rapt to attention to sit-at-home and high cost of goods in the market as majority of the entrepreneurs in Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi respectively lean on daily income for the provision of the basic necessities of life.

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Consent

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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