

The Effect of Endsars Protest on Small and Medium Enterprises (Sme's) In Lagos State

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Abstract

This study is centered on the effect of EndSars protest on small and medium enterprises (SME'S) in Lagos State. The specific objectives of this study are to examine the causes of the EndSars protest among youths in Lagos State; and also, to find out if the EndSars protest has any effect on Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos State. Three hypotheses were drawn from the research questions and a self-administered questionnaire was used to measure the relationship between the variables using the filled questionnaires of 350 respondents of entrepreneurs in Ikeja Local Government Council. The analysis of collected data was done through the simple percentage and used Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis to test the hypothesis within the study. It was found that that there is a significant positive relationship between EndSars protest and SME among Nigerian youths in Lagos state also there is a significant positive relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos state. Based on the findings, the study concluded that EndSars protest and Nigerian youths affect SME in Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that the federal government of Nigeria should look into the reasons behind the protest that caused chaos and uproar in all the 36 states in Nigeria and enact laws and structures that bring to an end the brutality of SARS in Nigeria.

Keywords: ENDSARS, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME), Protest, insecurity, product accessibility, political instability

Introduction

Nigerians turned to social media in 2020 to expose the organization's evil practices and to urge for its disbandment (Chukwu 2020). SARS stands for Special Anti-Robbery Squad, a Nigerian police force that is specially trained and equipped to tackle violent crimes. While SARS was established in 1992 to stem the growth in armed robbery situations, it has since developed a reputation for arbitrary arrests, torture, extortion, and extrajudicial killings (Nigerian Daily Newspaper 2019). Due to its classification as a special unit and the fact that its members frequently work in plain clothes and drive unmarked cars, SARS personnel have developed a reputation for crudely extorting innocent young Nigerians and operating outside the law's purview (Akintunde 2020).

SARS police frequently target and imprison young males on the basis of their possession of a laptop or smartphone, and then demand arbitrary and expensive bail costs before releasing them. SARS operatives seize civilian targets and force them to make ATM withdrawals in exchange for their freedom, sometimes at gunpoint. Additionally, the squad is known to target young women, with multiple allegations of women being raped while detained (Sahara reporters 2020). Without evident channels for recourse, the majority of victims are compelled to pay these payments, all the more so considering SARS' frightening reputation for brutality and extrajudicial executions. Amnesty International found "credible claims" in 2016 that SARS agents "consistently commit acts of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against prisoners in their custody." In a rare occurrence, five SARS personnel were convicted in September 2017 of extrajudicially executing two young men (Dailytrust 2019). However, fear of violence and probable death is not the only factor; SARS operatives have been known to threaten victims with illegal

incarceration. This is a characteristic of Nigeria's flawed criminal justice system, which results in 72.5 percent of offenders serving time without being sentenced.

However, as businesses attempted to recover from the pandemic, the oil price drop, and the government's subsidy elimination, Nigerian youths organized statewide rallies dubbed EndSARS in early October. The protests, which lasted nearly two weeks, were in response to the cruel conduct of some rogue police officers assigned to the unit "The Special Anti-Robbery Squad" and a need for substantial police reforms. With over 50% of Nigeria's youth engaged in entrepreneurial activities directly or indirectly, the protests largely impacted company operations (Oyetola, 2018). The mainly peaceful demonstrations quickly devolved into violence across the country, with injuries and deaths reported as a result of battles between hoodlums and security officers. Numerous state governments were forced to impose one- to three-day curfews in order to quell the disturbance, effectively halting much economic activity and interstate movement and wreaking havoc on SME's.

In Nigeria, the survival rate of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises has plummeted this year, owing to a general slowdown in economic activity. On the eve of the coronavirus epidemic, a dramatic drop in global crude oil prices rocked the country's oil-dependent economy. The pandemic, which reached its peak in the first two quarters of the year, has been mostly responsible for choking small and large businesses. However, although larger players have the financial strength to manage the tides, the death rate for small and medium-sized businesses has only increased. According to a 2017 United Nations report, just approximately 20% of SME's in Nigeria survive. This is partly due to negative economic conditions and high transaction costs, which have been exacerbated by the coronavirus outbreak. With the government's resources squeezed, President Muhammadu Buhari ordered the elimination of energy and petrol subsidies in September, only days after interstate movement restrictions imposed to contain the pandemic were restored. For a country where the ordinary inhabitant relies on petrol to power their alternative source of electricity (generator), SMEs were particularly severely impacted, as operating costs increased.

Problem Statement

The protest quickly expanded to other Nigerian states. It began as a peaceful demonstration by thousands of young people but quickly devolved into mayhem when the protests were hijacked by hoodlums, resulting in mob attacks on security officials, protester deaths, and vandalism and looting of public and private property and businesses. At precisely 11:49 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, the Lagos State Government announced the imposition of a 24-hour curfew in all sections of the state in order to restrict property destruction by hoodlums in the name of the state's EndSARS protest. During the EndSARS protests, small and medium-sized businesses were damaged and looted. This has resulted in the loss of important resources and property belonging to shoplifting victims. The demonstrators' obstruction of highways and the state government of Lagos's declaration of a curfew restricted movement and contributed to a decline in demand and supply in companies, as well as high transit fares. This study will examine the effect of the EndSARS protest on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Lagos State.

Objective of the Study

The study's primary purpose is to determine the impact of the ENDSARS protest on small and medium-sized firms (SME) in Lagos State. However, the precise aims are as follows:

1. To determine whether insecurity has a substantial effect on the organizational commitment of small businesses in Lagos State.
2. To ascertain whether there is a correlation between product accessibility and organizational effectiveness in the context of the EndSARS protests against small and medium-sized businesses in Lagos State.
3. To determine whether political volatility has any discernible effect on an organization's competitiveness.

Literature Review

ENDSARS Protest (Connective Actions)

Inflation, subsidy, political turmoil, and police brutality all contribute to a country's chaos. A component of society is functional if it contributes to social stability; it is dysfunctional if it undermines social stability. Certain facets of society can be functional as well as destructive. For instance, crime is dysfunctional because it is linked to physical violence, material loss, and fear. However, according to Durkheim and other functionalists, crime benefits society by increasing awareness of common moral links and social solidarity (Harlambo & Holborn, 2005; Ritzer, 2012). According to functionalists, every social reality contains a value consensus. They believe that individuals of a society agree on what is desirable, worthwhile, and worthless. Individuals agree on a society's values, customs, and beliefs. Consensus among members of a society, whether democratic or communist, bonds them together to form an integrated and cohesive unit. Additionally, functionalists believe that stability pervades society and events. The hypothesis presupposes that a certain degree of order and stability is required for the social structure to survive. Functionalists downplay social conflict between classes, believing that if social norms and ideals are upheld, the society will be conflict-free (Ritzer, 2012). Researchers in social media characterize connective action in terms of its anatomy (Bennett & Segerberg, 2012; Pond & Lewis, 2019). This is further described by Bennett and Segerberg (2012), who argue that comprehending connected action requires examining the ways in which modern technology contribute in the resolution of personal grievances in ways comparable to those saw during the Arab spring. While Pond and Lewis (2019) support this position, they argue that connective action theory promotes the logic of collective action by lowering "personal and collective" dangers associated with political acts using current means of connectedness.

Insecurity on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)

Insecurity is a risk element that business owners and managers fear and avoid by shifting their operations elsewhere. In the case of Nigeria, there is also evidence of certain businesses and manufacturing companies being forced to transfer, particularly from the North, to more tranquil sections of the country in recent times (Nwagboso, 2012). Many Igbos and Yorubas from Southern Nigeria who work in various enterprises in Northern Nigeria have been forced to return to their home states to flee the bloodshed perpetrated by the terrorist organisation Boko Haram (Suleiman, 2012). Thus, the Boko Haram insurgency, which began in Maiduguri, Borno State, in 2009, has had a negative impact on the North's economy, as major consumer items and enterprises producing these consumer goods have withdrawn from the region. Telecommunication companies, for example, have been forced to close due to repeated destruction of their telecommunication apparatuses; media houses have also been attacked, with some of their employees killed; and banks have not been spared from the destruction, with some branches being attacked and robbed. As a result, resources that could have been used to improve infrastructure are increasingly being redirected to pay the security system, putting a strain on the nation's resources (Nwagboso, 2012). Though the cost of Nigeria's endemic insecurity is impossible to quantify in monetary or real terms, commentators agree that it has cost Nigerians huge human and material resources. Human beings rely heavily on security for their survival and nutrition. Lockdowns caused by the Covid-19 outbreak affected manufacturing and supply networks, lowered demand for non-essential commodities, created security risks, and reduced revenue across all sectors of the economy. Most firms' recovery has been sluggish; for those that get their raw materials or goods from outside, the border closure policy and foreign exchange restrictions have made their recovery more difficult. The economic burden of the looting binge that rocked Nigeria in the final week of October as a result of the negative ramifications of the End Sars protest exacerbated these issues. Food prices, which were already higher than usual due to government policy, were exacerbated by the destruction of storage facilities and warehouses. Commercial properties such as bank ATMs and restaurants, in addition to these warehouses, were vandalized (Oshinnaike, 2020). As a result, the ENDSARS protest resulted in a loss in government revenue, consumer trust in financial markets, and an already deteriorating economy (Business Day, October, 22nd 2020). Overcoming poverty, battling corruption, and providing people's fundamental needs in the face of poor and inefficient infrastructure are important societal concerns that the government is determined to address. However, protests and rising dissatisfaction among individuals in various sectors have continued to have a negative impact on the nation's economy.

Political Instability

End SARS began in 2017 when Segun Awosanya and other Twitter activists began calling for the abolition of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Amnesty International (2016) charged SARS with human rights

violations, cruelty, degrading treatment of Nigerians held in their custody, and other widespread torture. Additionally, Amnesty International (2020) recorded around 82 incidences of SARS-related violations and unlawful murders. This amount is most likely conservative. The campaign's purpose was to galvanize widespread opposition to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) established to combat armed robberies and violent crime. The campaign, which used a combination of online and offline tactics, was popularly known as #EndSARS on social media. Over 10,000 Nigerians signed a petition to the National Assembly urging the unit's disbandment, citing a variety of abuses against Nigerian youngsters. Despite efforts by the National Assembly, the National Commission on Human Rights, the Police Chief, and even the Vice President, little has changed. Additionally, the 1943 Police Act vests police personnel with considerable discretionary authority (Ujene; Orji and Obianger, 2018). On 3rd October 2020, footage of accused SARS cops shooting a young Nigerian and fleeing in his car surfaced on social media. This began a national movement that eventually became a global phenomenon. Thus, widespread protests spearheaded by young Nigerians began in numerous places on October 7, 2020. Although the protests were nonviolent, the Nigerian Police Force began firing tear gas and shot at unarmed demonstrators. As a result, some demonstrators sustained serious injuries and died in several places around the country (Oshinnaike, 2020). The protest's primary demand was the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in light of the squad's continuous extrajudicial executions and extortion, as well as the call for good and accountable administration in the country (Okon, 2020). According to the World Bank's regional and income classifications, Nigeria's economy is classified as a typical developing country in the lower-middle income category. The Nigerian economy continues to have a relatively weak, narrow, and export-oriented productive base, with primary production activities such as agriculture, mining, and quarrying (including crude oil and gas) accounting for approximately 65 percent of real gross domestic product and more than 80 percent of government revenue (World Bank, 2018). Nigeria, like any developing nation, encounters obstacles in its development path and endeavors to enhance the standard of living for its population. The main economic concerns are the necessity of fostering sustained rapid economic growth capable of meeting the needs of its huge people and the imperative of properly integrating its domestic economy into the global economy in the face of growing globalization (Ajakaiye and Adeyeye, 2019).

The Effect of ENDSARS Protest and Small and Medium Scale Businesses

SMEs are employed as instruments for addressing the country's poverty issues, strengthening the economy, and creating job opportunities. As a result, the importance of SMEs growth in Nigeria cannot be overstated. Financial System Strategy (FSS), a publication of the Central Bank of Nigeria, noted that 96 percent of Nigerian businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), compared to 53 percent in the United States and 65 percent in Europe. According to studies conducted in Nigeria, they provide approximately 10% of GDP, compared to 40% in Asian countries and 50% in the United States and Europe (Eniola 2020). The End sars protest's impact on the Nigerian economy is massive, unexpected, and thus unfathomable. Unattractiveness is one of them. It may result in rating agency downgrades, as the crisis has the ability to reverse the economic recovery's modest progress. Still, Mutiu Yekeen, the Head of Corporate Communications at Primero Transport Services (PTS) Ltd, the proprietors of BRT buses, stated that the company lost over N100 million in six days as a result of the protest, which has decimated the nation's economic capital (Abuede, 2020). Additionally, Uwaleke and Gam-Ikon, GarbaKurfi, Managing Director at APT Securities and Funds Limited, stated in a note to Business A.M. that the protest will have some economic consequences; most notably, the closure of the economic nerve center (Lagos) for over three days will be a significant loss. "Remember, Lagos controls over 50% of the Nigerian economy," he stated. This is a significant loss because it would affect all flights taking off and landing in the Lagos area, as well as other economic activity that will be delayed. This is a significant economic loss. The ramifications are numerous, as the majority of the country is in some manner connected to Lagos. Garba stated that "the market reflects economic events; nonetheless, we expect the market to move upward as a consequence of the Q3 results, which are expected to be better than Q2 as a result of the economy's opening from Covid-19." Additionally, many investors wish to remain in the capital market, as there is no better place to invest than in the capital market (Abuede, 2020). In Lagos state, the replacement cost of assets is estimated to be N1 trillion, which will undoubtedly be reflected in the GDP.

Theoretical Review

The theory's fundamental principles have been meticulously applied to the analysis of the EndSars protest's effect on the Nigerian economy. Structural functional theory was established in the twentieth century by Talcott Parsons (1979), an American sociologist. This theory is pertinent to the study because it demonstrates the theory's link to the study by demonstrating how the theory affects Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME). By emphasizing how each component influences and is influenced by other components, the functionalist perspective stresses society's interconnection. The phrases functional and dysfunctional are used by functionalists to characterize the influence of social components on society. The theory is predicated on the premise that no component can be comprehended in isolation until it is viewed or described in relation to the other components. Thus, the essence of each part, such as the liver, cannot be fully appreciated unless its relationship with the heart and brain is examined in order to maintain the body's unity. Additionally, the idea is predicated on the premise that each civilization has unique demands in that a variety of activities must be carried out in order for social life to continue and thrive. Individuals carry out each of these duties in a variety of institutions and roles congruent with the society's structures and norms under the structural functional model. According to this hypothesis, the Endsars protest impacted not just the Police's SARs unit, but also the entire Police, Nigerians, and the economy. Although the police are meant to work for the greater good of the public, their inability to ensure protection for everybody sparked the protest. Thus, the theory explains the role of the EndSars protest in forcing police reforms necessary for a more robust security architecture and economic development in Nigeria. Thus, from a functionalist perspective, the EndSars protest, which is an agitation about the police's function as an agency, can be compared to a structure that contributes to the smooth operation of the Nigerian economy by ensuring better police relations with government agencies, ministries, and departments. As with the essential parts of the body, each of which serves a distinct role inside the body, and as with other institutions of the family, economy, politics, education, and religion, the police as an organization in society also serves a specific function. Its operation will contribute to the smooth operation of other institutions in society, most notably the economy.

Empirical Review

Previous research on the constructs was evaluated to determine their relevance to this study. Babbuli and Bello (2018) conducted a study on the impact of the EndSARS protest on Lagos State's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The purpose of this study was to determine whether the EndSARS protest had a detrimental effect on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Lagos State. The study used a descriptive survey research design. The survey validated a total of 230 responses. The comments gathered and analyzed found that extortion, abuse of suspects' human rights, extrajudicial executions, and poor government were among the causes of the EndSARS protest in Lagos state. Additionally, the findings indicated that protestors were killed by security personnel and the military, protestors destroyed private and public property, disrupted transportation, and shops were looted and vandalized during the EndSARS rally in Lagos state. Additionally, the data indicated that the EndSARS protest has a detrimental effect on SMEs in Lagos state. The research proposes that the Nigerian government recognize that SMEs are the lifeblood of any economy and should do everything possible to defend their interests. Additionally, the Nigerian government should investigate those whose businesses have been robbed or vandalized and put in place support measures to restore them to full functioning. Brigid and Chininso's (2021) study examined the effect of the ENDSARS protest on the Nigerian economy, with the specific set objectives of determining the causes of the EndSars protest in Nigeria; determining the effect of the EndSars protest in Nigeria; and proposing possible solutions to the causes of the EndSars protest in Nigeria. Given the scope of the endeavor, the study used structural-functional theory and a survey research approach. As a result, the study employed a qualitative approach. Secondary sources included journal articles, newspaper articles, and other web sources. However, an examination of the literature reveals that SARS is infamous for its violence, human rights violations, and lack of accountability for its acts, while the Nigerian economy sustained massive losses in the billions of naira as a result of the protest. The Police Act, enacted in 1943, vests police officers with considerable discretionary powers, allowing for power abuse. The analysis concluded that the EndSars protest left an indelible mark on not just the Nigerian people and economy, but also on the worldwide community regarding police violence in Nigeria. The study therefore recommends that state governments, in collaboration with security agencies and other stakeholders (Civil Society Organizations and traditional/religious institutions), establish avenues for interaction with the general populace and listen to the

millions of voices calling for police reform; significant changes should occur in police-community relationships; and the Federal and State governments should invest in youth employment.

Additionally, Ogunlade, Oseni, and Tihamiyu (2021) presented a survey on the Effects of the EndSARS Protest on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) In Oyo State, Nigeria, the ENDSARS protest, which aimed to abolish police brutality, had ramifications throughout all spheres of society, including the country's small and medium-sized enterprises sector. The study examines the impact of the ENDSARS protest on small and medium-sized firms in Oyo state, Nigeria. A descriptive design was adopted, and a convenient sample technique was used to pick one hundred and eighty-nine (189) SMEs. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The survey discovered that the ENDSARS protest had a significant impact on small and medium-sized businesses. Additionally, the study discovered that grants and credit facilities are the most critical tool for enhancing Small and Medium-Scale Enterprise (SMEs) growth in the post-ENDSARS age. Following that, it was advised that the government, in collaboration with policymakers, provide unconditional grant and loan facilities to SMEs in Nigeria.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study in which a structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from the target respondent who are business owners (Entrepreneurs) in Lagos State. Primary data was collected and processed in the study. The survey research design adopted becomes imperative because of the population characteristic and a representative nature of the sample of the population for the study. The study covers the business owners (Entrepreneurs) in Lagos State, particularly in Ikeja Local Government Council located at Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Lagos, Isheri Olowora, Magodo and Agbara, Lagos- Badagary Express Way Lagos State which is estimated as 11,493 according to the 2010 Survey report on SMEs in Nigeria conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with SMEDAN (2019). The sampling technique used is the simple random sampling. The respondents were randomly selected to be given equal chance of being selected. The respondents cut across different departments of the organization. It also cuts across all the levels of organization hierarchy. The selection among the categories of business owners was done randomly. All these people were included in order to have a representation of all shades of opinions. However due to the cumbersome amount of business owners in the area. To get sample size from the community population (Taro Yamane, 1973) formula was taken into consideration. Confidence level of 95% and 5% sampling error was considered; this formula was used to get the sample from respondents for the interview.

$$\text{Formula} = n = N / (1 + Ne^2)$$

Where:

n = Sample size or respondents for this research

N = Population size

E = The level of precision (A 95% confidence level or 5 precision level, was assumed)

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{11,493}{1 + 11,493 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{11,493}{1 + 11,493 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{11,493}{28.732}$$

$$n = 386.58$$

Therefore, the sample size was 387 business owners. The questionnaire method was mainly used to generate and collected data for this research work. The questionnaire was divided into two sections (A and B). The section A consists of questions regarding the respondent's personal data while the section B contains questions in line with the topic understudy. These questionnaires were administered to 387 business owners in Ikeja LGA of Lagos State. The data will be presented in tables in rows and columns to ensure a better understanding of the data. Data analysis procedures were done through bivariate correlation procedures using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Data analyses were executed at 95% confidence level. The statistic, measurement scale, data analysis and reliability and validity test in the research followed the research suggestion of Osuagwu, (2002).

Test of Hypothesis

The hypotheses raised in the study are tested in this section.

Hypothesis I

Ho: There is no significant relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Nigerian youths in Lagos state.

Hi: There is a significant relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Nigerian youths in Lagos state

Level of Significance = 0.05

| Correlations | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | ENDSAR's | NIG_YTH |
| ENDSAR's | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .947** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 387 | 387 |
| NIG_YTH | Pearson Correlation | .947** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 387 | 387 |

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

The result shows that $r = 0.947$ (95) it shows that there is a strong positive relationship between EndSars protest and Nigerian youths in Lagos state. Since the p value $0.00 < 0.001$, it shows that the result is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Hypothesis II

Ho: There is no significant relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos state

Hi: There is a significant relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos state

| Correlations | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | ENDS_PRO | SME |
| ENDS_PRO | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .934** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 387 | 387 |
| SME | Pearson Correlation | .934** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | 5 | 3.27 |
| | N | 387 | 387 |

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

The result shows that $r = 0.934$ (93).It shows that there is a strong positive relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos state. Since the p value $0.00 < 0.001$, it shows that the result is statistically significant at 0.05 (5) level of significance.

Hypothesis III

Ho: There is no significant relationship between political instability and organisational competitiveness

Hi: There is a significant relationship between political instability and organisational competitiveness

| Correlations | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| | | POL_INST | ORG_COMP |
| POL_INST | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .912** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 387 | 387 |
| ORG_COMP | Pearson Correlation | .912** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | 5 | 3.27 |
| | N | 387 | 387 |

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

The result shows that $r = 0.912$ (91). It shows that there is a strong positive relationship between political instability and organisational competitiveness in Lagos state. Since the p value $0.00 < 0.001$, it shows that the result is statistically significant at 0.05 (5) level of significance.

Findings

The first hypothesis found that there is a significant positive relationship between EndSars protest and Nigerian youths in Lagos state. The result shows that $r = 0.947$ (95) at 0.05 level of significance. This corresponds with the findings of Nwagboso, (2020), who found that Insecurity is a risk element that business owners and managers fear and want to avoid by shifting their operations. In the case of Nigeria, there is also evidence that some businesses and manufacturing firms have been forced to transfer, particularly from the north, to more calm sections of the country in recent years.

Hypothesis two shows that there is a significant positive relationship between causes of EndSars protest and Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos state with the result as that $r = 0.934$ (93) at 0.05 level of significance. This corresponds with the findings of Abuede, (2020) who stated that the effect of the EndSars protest on the Nigerian economy, is enormous, one least expected, thus unimaginable. One of it is unattractiveness. It may attract downgrades by rating agencies, as the crisis has potential to roll back gradual progress being made in economic recovery.

Hypothesis three shows that there is a significant positive relationship between political instability and organisational competitiveness in Lagos state with the result as that $r = 0.912$ (91) at 0.05 level of significance. This corresponds with the findings of Nwagboso (2012) who found that 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.

Conclusion And Recommendation

In this study, our focus was to carry out acritical analysis on the effect of EndSARS protest on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Lagos State. The study specifically was aimed at ascertaining if the EndSARS protest has any negative effect on Small and Medium Enterprises in Lagos State. The study adopted the survey research design and randomly enrolled participants in the study. A total of 350 responses were validated from the enrolled participants where all respondent are owners of SMEs and residents of Lagos State. The findings revealed that extortion, abuse and human rights of suspects and extrajudicial killings as well as bad government were among the causes of EndSARS protest in Lagos state. The findings also revealed that killing of protesters by security operatives and military, destruction of private and public properties by protesters, disruption of movement and looting and vandalization of shops were among the negative effects of the EndSARS protest in Lagos state. The findings further revealed that the EndSARS protest has negative effects on SMEs in Lagos state.

Recommendation

Based on the responses obtained, the study proffers the following recommendations:

1. The federal government of Nigeria should look into the reasons behind the protest that caused chaos and uproar in all the 36 states in Nigeria and enact laws and structures that bring to an end the brutality of SARS in Nigeria.
2. The government of Nigeria should endeavor to orientate the SWAT properly so that they will not be like pouring new wine in an old wine skin. That is the SWAT being another version of SARS.
3. The federal of Nigeria should carry out a thorough check on all members of the SWAT force and their academic qualifications to ascertain their eligibility for the work.
4. Government of Nigeria should come to the realization that SMEs are the life wire that drives any economy and should do their best to make sure that their interests are protected.

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