

Sit-At-Home Order and Public Service Delivery in Enugu State (2021-2023)

ChinedumUchechukwuBonventure,
chinedumuchekwu@gmail.com¹

Bernard Olewe
bernard.olewe@esut.edu.ng²

EnehMaximusIkenna
maximus.eneh@esut.edu.ng³

Department of Public Administration, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu Nigeria^{1,2,3}

	<i>Journal of Policy and Development Studies (JPDS)</i>
<p><i>Abstract</i></p> <p><i>As a means to drive home its demand for some kinds of restructuring, the group Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) invented a sit-at-home order in the year 2021. This order directs the residents of the South-East region to stay at home on a given or set of days. These orders became frequent and intensive after the group's leader was detained by the federal government, which led to Mondays of every week permanently regarded as sit-at-home days in the region. While these sit-at-home orders were on and complied with by the people of the region, observers have noticed potential ripple effects across the social and economic lives of the people. It is on this note that this study was conducted to investigate the effect this compliance to the sit-at-home order have on public service delivery in Enugu State. It was guided by three specific objectives and three corresponding research questions and hypotheses, which sought the reasons why residents of Enugu State complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order; the extent to which their compliance affected access to education and healthcare services in the state. The study adopted descriptive survey design. A structured questionnaire designed by the researchers was used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using simple percentage rating while hypotheses were tested using Chi-square statistical tool. It was revealed that fear of violence is the major reason people comply with the sit-at-home orders. Sympathy/solidarity with IPOB is partly another reason why some people complied. It was also revealed that to a great extent, the compliance to the sit-at-home order limited access to education and healthcare services. The study recommended among other things that the federal government should continue to dialogue with the proscribed group (IPOB) on the best way to restructure Nigeria and how South East would continue to stay as part of the indivisible Nigeria.</i></p>	<p><i>Vol. 15. Issue 2 (2024)</i> <i>ISSN(p) 1597-9385</i> <i>ISSN (e) 2814-1091</i> <i>Home page</i> https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jpds</p> <p>ARTICLE INFO: Keyword: <i>Sit-at-home order, public, service delivery and IPOB</i></p> <p>Article History Received: 5th March,2024 Accepted: 17th June, 2024</p> <p>DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jpds.v15i2.17</p>

1. Introduction

Nigeria, as a sovereign nation, has grappled with separatist movements since the unsuccessful Biafra independence attempt from 1967 to 1970. Notable groups such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Boko Haram Islamic State Movement (BKISM), Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Middle Belt Front (MBF), and the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) have emerged as prominent separatist and sectarian organizations in the country (Amana & Okpoko, 2023).

Their activities have stifled economic and social activities in many regions of the country. For example, it is widely known that economic activities in both the public and private sectors come to a halt, particularly on Mondays, in the South-eastern part of Nigeria. The region is gripped by an atmosphere of uncertainty, eroding trust among neighbours. Every Monday witnesses the complete shutdown of public offices, private businesses, schools, and markets, as per the directives of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). This directive, perceived as a 'dangerous proclamation,' is severely impacting the economic landscape of the entire South-eastern region. The Indigenous People of Biafra, referred to as IPOB, initiated a sit-at-home order, which began after the arrest of their leader, MaziNnamdiKanu, in Kenya on June 29, 2021, by the Federal Government of Nigeria (Osita, Anoke&Eze, 2022).

The IPOB is an offshoot of RaphUwazuruike's Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB). The latter group had the same objective as the IPOB but was very diplomatic in approach when juxtaposed its activities with that of IPOB in recent times (Ekpo & Agorye, 2019). The sole aim of the group is to secede from Nigeria and achieve the Republic of Biafra through a peaceful process. It is worthy of note that the agitation for the achievement of the Sovereign State of Biafra started in the 1960s, following the coup d'état and civil unrest that accompanied it which led to the death of many Igbo residents in the north; and millions of people returned to the east only with their heads (Nweke, Osita & Eze, 2023). The unrest and the killing of Igbo people in the north prompted the secession of Biafra in 1967 led by EmekaOdumegwuOjukwu. The brutal civil war that ended 54 years ago claimed the lives of approximately 3 million people of Igbo descent, leaving an indelible mark on the Igbo people's minds (Achebe, 2012). The civil war was triggered by the secession of the state of Biafra from Nigeria, which was widely considered an unhappy episode best forgotten, but for the Igbo people who fought in the war and their descendants, it was nothing short of a life-defining event.

Biafra surrendered to Nigeria's brutal military force on the 15th of January 1970, and the war ended officially. The then government, led by General Yakubu Gowon came up with a policy of "no victor, no vanquished" and (3Rs) policy of Reconciliation, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation, adopted by the military government to conceal the effects of the war. This approach may have resulted in a lack of official reflection, but Nigerians of oriental descent grew up hearing war memories from their fathers and mothers (Nwaiwu, 2021). The preponderance of evidence in the literature appears to suggest that the mismanagement of General Yakubu Gowon's Reconciliation, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation (3Rs) policy, which the military government put in place to wipe out the cicatrix of the war, was the obvious and fundamental reason for the resurgence of Biafra uprisings in Nigeria's current democratic dispensation. The inability of the Nigerian government to acknowledge the marginalization of people in south-eastern Nigeria was also the catalyst for the formation of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). So, the rebirth of Biafra agitation by IPOB was

triggered following the nature of Nigeria's political imbalance cum political appointments that are perceived to be disadvantageous to the Igbo people. Perceived evidence of marginalization and the activities of herdsmen in the Southeast region of Nigeria could also not be overlooked. The purported marginalization which was made manifest by Buhari's administration has been captured by scholars and the preponderance of the evidence in the literature includes political alienation, uneven resource distribution, maiming and killing of civilians by the cohesive agents of the government, covert and overt activities of Fulani herdsmen and among similar other factors (Owoeye, Ezeanya, and Obiegbunam, 2022). Allison (2017) in consonance with the above statement also avers that some nefarious activities carried out by the government of Nigeria and their cohorts resulted in the formation of the IPOB by MaziNnamdiKanu in the year 2012, with the express goal of regaining Biafra's independence.

Meanwhile, following the re-dentition of IPOB leader MaziNnamdiKanu by the Nigerian Government of Nigeria on June 29, 2021, the Monday sit-at-home order became an alternative. Since then, the sit-at-home order has been the main strategy used by IPOB and their sympathizers across South Eastern Nigeria to protest the leader's arrest, as well as to persuade the Nigerian government to unconditionally release their leader, MaziNnamdiKanu, from what they believe is illegal detention characterized by inhumane treatment and incarceration on a scale never seen before (Omole, 2021). It is also on record that active youths who are hitherto gainfully and self-employed are struggling to make ends meet as the economic hardship bites harder due to the effect of the order (Osita, Anoke, Eze&Muogbo, 2022).

Against this backdrop, this study was conducted to discover the consequences of this civil disobedience on public service delivery in the region.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Undoubtedly, Mondays are taken seriously by the business community and civil servants alike because it is the first business day of the week, it is calculated that what happens on that day would set the trend of socio-economic activities for the rest of the week. Most people in Enugu State and South East at large look forward to Mondays for doing good business. The Civil Servants, who largely pilot the affairs of public service in schools, hospitals, public finance, markets, taxes & levies, water supply, electricity and other public utilities are heavily engaged on Mondays.

When IPOB proclaimed the first Monday sit-in on August 9th, 2021, everyone was shocked. To make this announcement effective, IPOB propaganda machine threatened to violently hold everyone who ventured to leave his house responsible, and that this will be maintained until the Federal Government released NnamdiKanu unconditionally. Given the violence that occurred in the first few Mondays afterwards, people began to comply rapidly. Not even Government workers, dared to leave their houses during the sit-in, which turned the entire southeast into a ghost town. This appears to have several damaging effect on different public service delivery schools, hospitals, utilities and infrastructure maintenance all of which directly and indirectly affect the wellbeing of the people of Enugu State.

The worry of this study therefore, is to specifically ascertain the extent to which the people of Enugu State continuous compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affect their access to public services rendered by government in the area.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study was to assess the effect of sit-at-home order on public service delivery in Enugu State. The specific objectives were to:

1. Examine the possible reasons for compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order in Enugu State
2. Determine the extent to which compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affected access to education in Enugu State;
3. Ascertain the extent to which compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affected access to healthcare services in Enugu State;

1.4 Research Questions

The following questions guided this study:

1. What are the reasons residents of Enugu State complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order?
2. To what extent does compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affect access to education in Enugu State?
3. To what extent does compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affect access to healthcare services in Enugu State?

2. Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB)

The IPOB is a separatist group located in South-East Nigeria that has members all over the world where Igbo people live. This group aims to restore the defunct independence of Biafra through non-violence activities (Ekpo&Agorye, 2019). The leader of the group is Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The group is a spin-off of the Movement for the Actualization of a Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), and it shares IPOB's goals and aims. IPOB is a group that is driving the movement for Biafra (the ancient Eastern Region) to secede from Nigeria. It is a reorganization of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Biafra Zionist Movement (BZM), two weakening pro-secessionist parties with the same goal of establishing an independent state for the people of the defunct Biafra territory (Jacob, Nwobi, & Igboji, 2020).

According to the group, IPOB was created as a result of marginalization and a "political back seat" given to the South-Eastern people of Nigeria by the Nigeria ruling class. According to the group, the only remedy for the clear perceived great injustice and marginalization of the Igbo nationality by the Federal Government of Nigeria is for Biafra nation to secede from Nigeria. Furthermore, the overwhelming evidence in the literature implies that the group is advocating for a democratic and peaceful referendum to be held in Igbo lands to resolve the Biafra problem (Okafor, 2017; Nwaiwu, 2021).

However, there were pockets of violence initiated by IPOB as a 'modus operandi' for actualizing their objective of equality and secession thereby forcing the then President Muhammadu Buhari in 2017 to declare them a terrorist group, arguing that the group was no more civil in its operations. The group has however insisted that their main objective was the independence of Biafra (the old Eastern Region) through referendum and not through the barrel of a gun (Osita, Anoke&Eze, 2022).

Sit-at-home order

The Indigenous People of Biafra initiated the sit-at-home order as a means of persuading and financially suffocating the Nigerian government to free their leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, who

is on trial for treason and terrorism. . Residents of South-Eastern Nigeria were forced to shut down their businesses, social activities, and stay at home every Monday and on the days the leader would be going to court. According to the President, International Solidarity for Peace and Human Rights Initiative, Osmond Ugwu, who was interviewed in the Vanguard newspaper (2021 Oct. 17) says that "the desertion of the streets and markets in South-East Nigeria is a show of manifestation of honour and voluntary loyalty to the leader of IPOB; that full compliance with the order is not based on coercion, as the government and anti-IPOB elements have falsely claimed."

Compliance is an outward demonstration of people's commitment to what they believe in. It is all about what MaziNnamdiKanu stands for, which is total freedom and political liberation of his people (Owoeye, Ezeanya, Obiegbonam, 2022). As a result, people's adherence to the sit-at-home order demonstrates complete solidarity with IPOB's leader. That is why, despite the government's threats and intimidation, people continued to obey, although it had negative consequences for the region's socio-economic activity. According to a November 15, 2021 internet article by Sahara Reporters, the IPOB Monday sit-at-home tactic has resulted in economic uncertainty, security breaches, and instability in the South-East. With the cancellation of the sit-at-home order by the government, economic activities are progressively returning on Mondays in nearly all sections of the South-East Region, but most parents still want their children/wards to stay at home (Sahara Reporters, Nov. 15 2021). In the light of this statement, the IPOB's Monday sit-at-home plan has unmistakably impacted the region's economic and educational activities.

Public service delivery

Etalong&Aduma(2021) defined public service as the entire organization of employees of various ranks, talents and training who are in the services of government on regular/permanent basis who do not engage in any form of politics while in the service of government. Nwizu (2012) sees it as the collectivity of public bureaucracy set up by modern governments to administer and execute their policies and programmes. The public service of any country stands out as the major machinery of government for the formulation and implementation of public policies. It does this by translating the plans and programmes of government into concrete public goods and services for the use of the citizenry. Since public bureaucracy is primarily concerned with public administration, the management of public affairs therefore rests heavily on it. Whatever the system of government in a country, the public service is designed to be prime mover of the social and economic development of a nation (Oyedele, 2015).

Public service delivery refers to the provision of essential services by government agencies or institutions to citizens and residents of a country. These services can include healthcare, education, transportation, public safety, utilities, social welfare, and more. Effective public service delivery ensures that citizens have access to basic necessities, promotes social well-being, and contributes to economic development.

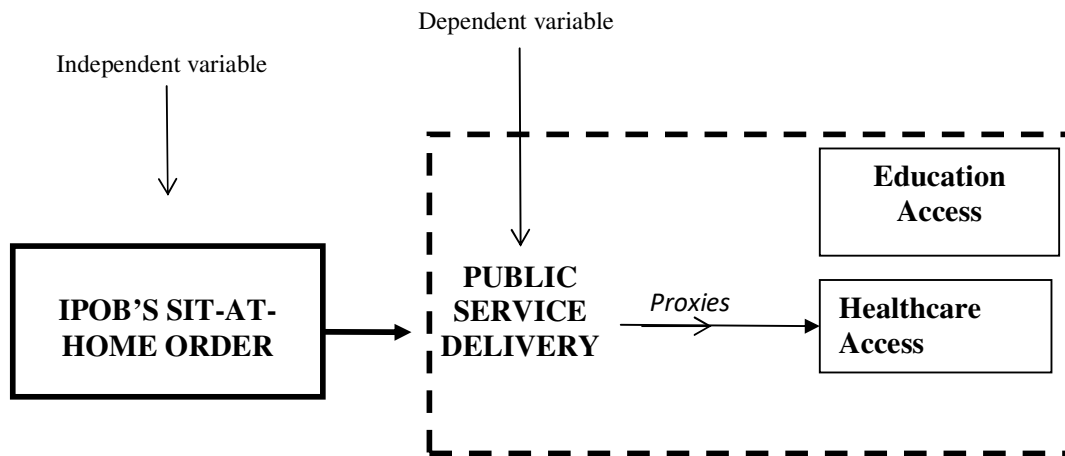
According to Ndema (2022), effective public service delivery involves several key components:

- (i) **Accessibility:** Services should be easily accessible to all members of society, regardless of geographic location, socio-economic status, or other factors.
- (ii) **Quality:** Services should meet established standards of quality, safety, and effectiveness to ensure positive outcomes for recipients.
- (iii) **Efficiency:** Resources should be managed efficiently to maximize the impact of services while minimizing waste and inefficiency.

- (iv) **Accountability:** Government agencies responsible for delivering services should be transparent and accountable to citizens and stakeholders, ensuring that resources are used responsibly and effectively.
- (v) **Equity:** Services should be delivered equitably, ensuring that vulnerable or marginalized populations receive the support they need to thrive.
- (vi) **Innovation:** Governments should continuously seek innovative approaches to improve service delivery, leveraging technology, data, and feedback from citizens to enhance effectiveness and responsiveness.

Overall, effective public service delivery is essential for promoting the well-being and prosperity of society as a whole.

Conceptual Framework



Source: Author's Conceptual Framework, 2024

Theoretical Discourse

Relative Deprivation Theory

Propounded by Walter Runciman in 1966, the relative deprivation theory centres around a belief that people join social movement based on their evaluations of what they think they should have, compared with what others have. Broadly, deprivation theory believes that people who are deprived of things deemed valuable in society, money, justice, status or privilege, join social movements with the hope of redressing their grievances. That is a beginning point for looking at why people join social movements.

In one of the first formal definitions of the relative deprivation, Walter Runciman noted that there are four preconditions of relative deprivation (of object X by person A): Person A does not have X, Person A knows of other persons that have X, Person A wants to have X, and Person A believes obtaining X is realistic. He distinguished between egoistic and fraternalistic relative deprivation. The former is caused by unfavorable social position when compared to other, better off members of a specific group (of which A is the member) and the

latter, by unfavorable comparison to other, better off groups. Egoistic relative deprivation can be seen in the example of a worker who believes he should have been promoted faster and may lead that person to take actions intended to improve his position within the group; those actions are, however, unlikely to affect many people. Fraternalism can be seen in the example of racial discrimination and are much more likely to result in the creation and growth of large social movement, like the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. The sit-at-home order of IPOB can be likened to fraternalism, as the IPOB believes its fighting for the betterment of the Igbo race whowhen compared to other ethnic groups have not gotten equal representation in government nor supported with national resources in a way that matches its developmental pace. The sit-at-home order and the people's compliance to it is a true manifestation of the proposition of this theory.

Empirical Review

IPOB's sit-at-home order and possible reasons for compliance

A study was carried out by Chukwudi, Gberevbie, Abasilim, and Imhonopi (2019) on IPOB's demand for self-determination and Nigeria's response: Implications for political stability. The study investigates IPOB agitation techniques and the Nigerian government's response to IPOB agitators, as well as the implications for political stability. The study used a survey research approach, with a sample size of 385 members of the IPOB taken from a sample size determination table. One of the methods used to obtain data from the respondents was an in-depth interview. The statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data collected. The investigations revealed that the government has been using unwarranted force through its cohesive agents. It was recommended among others that government should employ the carrot approach instead of the stick approach in dealing with IPOB members.

Amana and Okpoko (2023) did a study titled "Economic Effects of IPOB Sit-At-Home Order in Southeast, Nigeria: Insights from Nigerian Newspaper Reports." Two national dailies were purposively selected; they include the Vanguard and the Guardian newspapers. Issues studied span from 1st May - 31stDec 2022. The publication of the study was 490 editions from where a sample of 98 was drawn. The researcher extracted the data from the online newspapers archives and used the data from discussion. The researcher instrument of data collection was coding sheet and also the inter coder reliability technique was used which showed an overall 85 percent agreement. The researcher's unit of analysis entails, straight news stories, feature stories and opinion columns where the content categories of the study includes, the media, the story type and the frame. The findings revealed, that the selected newspapers did not give

adequate coverage to the IPOB sit at home order in the South east Nigeria. Thus it was recommended that the newspapers should not only report on the IPOB activities but should also report deeply about the economic effects it has on the residents of the South east Nigeria.

Okoroafor, Osuji and Nwosu (2023) did a study titled “Political Sit-At-Home or Socio-Economic Sit-At-Home in Southeast, Nigeria: A Development Crisis.” It was an exploratory reconnaissance on the sit-at-home order, its related issues, experiences and inherent challenges on the people of southeast, Nigeria. Content analysis technique was used. It dwelt on the issues surrounding the political and economic effects and implications of this non-state order on the security and economy of the southeast and national development. It interrogates the divergent and critical ramifications of the sit-at-home imbroglio, its potentials as precursor of self-inflicted economic setback within the historical context of marginalization and obscurity of a people characteristic of age long industrial enterprise. Moreover, good governance sensitive to the plights and interests of the south easterners (Ndigbo), set-up of effective community based vigilante groups to counter the order, town-hall meetings for mass orientation on ills of the order were advocated as measures out of this national development crisis

Compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order and assess to education

Obona (2023) conducted a study on Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Sit at Home Order: Its Socio-Economic Implications on Ebonyi State, Nigeria. The broad objective of this paper was to examine the socio-economic implications of this sit at home order on the poor citizens of South East States of Nigeria with focus on Ebonyi State; a state rated as the poorest among the five states of the South East. Data collected were analyzed using percentages. The three formulated hypotheses were tested using Chi-Square. The findings show that the sit at home order has made the people of South East States especially Ebonyi State poorer with its chain effect on school drop-out, joblessness and increased insecurity. The paper recommends among other things that Governors of the five South East States should discuss with all the different groups and factions of IPOB to understand the implications of their order on the people they meant to protect and call off the order, while the governors should as well dialogue with the federal government for the release of NnamdiKanu

Owoeye, Ezeanya, and Obiegbunam (2022) examined the impact of IPOB's Monday sit-at-home order on Nigeria's political economy (socio-political and economic activity). The paper is a qualitative descriptive survey. The data was analyzed thematically with logical reasoning, with Tacoltt Parsons and David Easton's systems theory analysis serving as a theoretical guide. The study's findings revealed that IPOB's Monday sit-at-home has hurt South-eastern Nigeria's economic operations. In light of the foregoing, the study recommended, among other things, that the issue of MaziNnamdiKanu, the leader of IPOB, be resolved as soon as possible, since the Monday sit-at-home order was a strategy to persuade the Federal Government to release IPOB's leader from detention.

Ezewudo, Ukwuoma&Uroko (2022) did a study titled “beyond religion and ethnicity: Sit-At-Home and Freedom Agitations among the Igbo in South-Eastern Nigeria.” The methodology used in the study was a qualitative phenomenological method. The study examines the challenges and implications of the concept for the socio-economic, socio-political, socio-cultural, and socio-religious lives of the people of south-eastern Nigeria. The paper observes that this face-off could be resolved if the needs of the Igbo were critically examined and attained. The paper calls on the government to organise a dialogue and a referendum in order to end the menace in the South-Eastern region.

Mark, Obi, and Oham (2022) investigated the effects of the IPOB sit-at-home order on the economy of Nigeria's

Compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order and access to healthcare services

Osita, Anoke&Eze (2022) conducted a study on Mandatory Sit-at-home Order by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Economic Activities in South East, Nigeria. A survey research design was adopted for the study, with a population of 250 which doubled as a sample size due to the limited number. Questionnaire was the only instrument of data collection used. Collected data were analyzed with the regression technique at a 5% level of significance. The study uncovered that the sit-at-home order has a huge hostile effect on the economic activities in the southeast, Nigeria. The study recommended that the regional government (South-eastern), religious bodies, traditional rulers, and other key stakeholders, should diplomatically and politically engage the central government of Nigeria for the release of the IPOB leader; the Federal government should adopt all-inclusive governance as this will return full economic activities to the zone.

Mark, Obi and Oham (2022) in their work on “The ills of IPOB sit at home and it’s Implication on the Economy of the South-East Geo-Political zone of Nigeria,” used secondary sources of data which comprises of internet materials, magazines, newspaper publications, and journal articles. While relying on content analysis and the Relative deprivation theory as its framework of analysis, the paper identified that IPOB as a group is currently shooting the south-east zone and other areas within its loyalty on the leg, which may sooner or later crumble the economy of these areas. The paper recommends among others that dialogue is a tangible tool that will go a long way in melting the heart and mind of the presidency, which will yield a fruitful result than the sit-at home confrontation.

Okorie and Okorie (2022) conducted a study titled “Sit-At-Home Order and Economic Growth of South-eastern Nigeria.”This study with a sample of 1000 respondents in a survey research design, adopted descriptive and Chi-Square techniques to examine the effects of Sit-at-Home on economic growth of South-eastern Nigeria. The results which were supported by both descriptive statistics outcome and test of hypothesis revealed that economic growth is negatively affected by the IPOB sit-at-home order. By implication, any order restricting people going about their daily businesses is inimical to economic health of such region. This study recommends that government should come to terms of agreement with the IPOB hierarchy to restore sound business environment for expected level of investment inflow in the Southeast region.

In another study, Nweke, Ositaand Eze (2023) investigated the impact of sit at home on the economy of South-East Nigeria: empirical evidence from small and medium enterprises. Three research questions and two hypotheses were raised for the study. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Multi-stage sampling was used to select 384 SMEs. Data were collected using questionnaire and analysed using descriptive statistics,

regression analysis and t-test. The study revealed a significant and positive relationship between economic development and small and medium enterprises output. Result from the study shows that SMEs output was negatively affected by the Monday sit-at-home order. The study shows that majority of the business operators want an end to the sit-at-home order. The study recommends that government should come to terms of agreement with the IPOB hierarchy to restore sound business environment for expected level of growth of SMEs in the Southeast region

3. Methodology

Research Design

This study adopted survey design. Nworgu (2015) opines that survey design is one in which a group of people or items are selected to form a sample considered to be representative of the entire group. It sourced its data from both primary and secondary sources. The population of the study is 1500 covering three Local Government Areas in Enugu State, Enugu North, Nsukka, and Awgu LGA's which at the same time represents the three senatorial zones of the State. Meanwhile the sample size is 361 using Taro Yamani statistical formular. The Sampling technique adopted for the selection of respondents was the random sample method because each of the elements has an equal chance of being selected.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

Data Presentation

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaire according to respondents

Respondents	Copies of Questionnaire distributed	Copies of Questionnaire Returned	Copies of Questionnaire not Returned	Copies of valid Questionnaire	% of Valid Questionnaire
Respondents	316	303	13	300	94.93
Total	316	303	13	300	94.93

Source: Field Survey, 2024

From the above table, 316 copies of questionnaire were distributed, out of which 303 copies were returned. Of the returned copies, 300 were valid, which represents 94.93% validity rate.

Data Analysis

Research Question One:

What are the reasons residents of Enugu State complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order?

Table 2: Responses on the reasons residents of Enugu State complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order

Option	SA		A		UD		D		SD		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%

Fear of violent attacks that often lead to death and loss of properties	105	35.0	109	36.4	15	5.1	31	10.2	24	8.1	300	100
Sympathy and solidarity with the ideology of IPOB	108	35.9	108	35.9	23	7.6	26	8.6	14	7.1	300	100
Government failure to provide adequate security	69	34.8	72	36.4	12	6.1	19	9.6	16	8.1	300	100
Desire of workers to take sit-at-home days off work	72	36.4	71	35.9	11	5.6	17	8.6	17	8.6	300	100
Social unrests such as high youth unemployment resulting from corrupt/inefficient government practices fuel compliance	68	34.3	68	34.3	16	8.1	18	9.1	18	9.1	300	100

Source Research Data, 2024

Table 2 shows that out of 300 respondents, 35% strongly agree that Fear of violent attacks that often lead to death and loss of properties; 36.4% agree to this notion. On the other hand, 10.2% disagree and 8.1% strongly disagree. Meanwhile, 5.1% were undecided. This implies that majority of the respondents agreed to this item. Similarly, majority of the respondents also agreed that sympathy and solidarity with the ideology of IPOB as evident by 35.9% strongly agreeing and another 35.9% agreeing. On whether government failure to provide adequate security was the reason, majority also agreed with 34.8% indicating strongly agree and 36.4% indicating agree. On whether Desire of workers to take sit-at-home days off work, 36.4% strongly agreed and 35.9% agreed, indicating that majority agreed with this item. Judging from the majority, it could be concluded that all the items were the reasons residents of Enugu State complied with IPOB's sit-at-home order.

Research Question Two

To what extent does compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affected access to education in Enugu State?

Table 3: Responses on the extent to which compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order affected access to education in Enugu State

Options	VGE		GE		UD		LE		VLE		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
The regular Mondays sit-at-home reduced available time to complete school terminal calendar	70	35.0	72	36.4	10	5.1	20	10.2	16	8.1	300	100
Impromptu sit-at-homes abruptly truncate academic activities in schools	71	35.9	71	35.9	15	7.6	17	8.6	14	7.1	300	100
Students in Enugu State sometimes missed external examinations taken nationwide	69	34.8	72	36.4	12	6.1	19	9.6	16	8.1	300	100

because of sit-at-home orders													
National/regional quiz, sporting and extracurricular events sometimes eluded students and teachers	72	36.4	71	35.9	11	5.6	17	8.6	17	8.6	300	100	
All of the above	68	34.3	68	34.3	16	8.1	18	9.1	18	9.1	300	100	

Source: Research Data, 2024.

From Table 3, it is seen that 35% of the respondents asserted that to a very great extent, the regular Mondays sit-at-home reduced available time to complete school terminal calendar; 36.4% agreed. This means that majority agree with this item. Similarly, 35.9% of the respondents asserted that it is to great extent impromptu sit-at-homes abruptly truncate academic activities in schools, and another 35.9% indicated great extent.

On whether students in Enugu State sometimes missed external examinations taken nationwide because of sit-at-home orders, 69 respondents representing 34.8% indicated a very great extent. 72 respondents representing 36.4% indicated that it is to a great extent. On the extent national/regional quiz, sporting and extracurricular events sometimes eluded student and teachers, 36.4% indicated very great extent, 35.9% indicated great extent. The broad implication of this is that all the above listed items are the ways through which compliance to sit-at-home order affects access to education in Enugu State.

Research Question Three

To what extent does compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order affected access to healthcare services in Enugu State?

Table 4: Responses on the extent to which compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order affected access to healthcare services in Enugu State

Options	VGE		GE		UD		LE		VLE		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
The sit-at-home order limited emergency healthcare such as ambulance services	70	35.0	72	36.4	10	5.1	20	10.2	16	8.1	300	100
Movement from rural to urban centre for healthcare services were hampered due to sit-at-home orders	71	35.9	71	35.9	15	7.6	17	8.6	14	7.1	300	100
Compliance to sit-at-home orders limited access to vital facilities or expert personnel required for sensitive medical procedures/operations	69	34.8	72	36.4	12	6.1	19	9.6	16	8.1	300	100
Compliance to sit-at-home caused medically preventable deaths	72	36.4	71	35.9	11	5.6	17	8.6	17	8.6	300	100

Source: Research Data, 2024

Table 4 shows that 35.0% declared that to a very great extent, the sit-at-home order limited emergency healthcare such as ambulance services. On this issue, 72 respondents representing 36.4% indicated that it is to a great extent. Only 10.2% indicated little extent and 8.1% indicated that it is to a very little extent while 5.1% were undecided. This implies that majority agree to this item.

In the same token, majority indicated that to great extent, movement from rural to urban centre for healthcare services were hampered due to sit-at-home orders; compliance to sit-at-home orders limited access to vital facilities or expert personnel required for sensitive medical procedures/operations; and compliance to sit-at-home caused medically preventable deaths.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis I

Fear of violent attack is not a significant reason people complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order in Enugu State

Chi-Square Table

O	E	(o - e)	(o - e) ²	$\frac{(o - e)^2}{e}$
29	26.18	2.82	7.9524	2.5008
59	59.05	-0.05	0.0025	0.05
31	27.45	3.55	12.6025	2.6916
24	22.7	1.3	1.69	0.074
13	11.6	1.4	1.96	1.169
42	40.17	1.03	1.0609	0.0264
				6.6692

Table value = 5.991

Calculated value = 6.6692

Decision: The calculated value is greater than the table value, hypothesis 1 is rejected. This implies fear of violent attack is a significant reason people complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order in Enugu State

Hypothesis II

Compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order did not significantly affect access to education in Enugu State

Chi-Square Table

O	E	(o - e)	(o - e) ²	$\frac{(o - e)^2}{e}$
32	23.64	5.36	28.7296	1.215
45	22.09	-1.09	1.1881	1.0063
22	10.45	0.55	0.3025	1.0289
29	9.18	-3.18	10.1124	1.6854
70	6.36	2.64	6.031	1.9482
				6.8838

Table value = 5.991
 Calculated value = 6.8838

Decision: The calculated value is greater than the table value, hypothesis II is rejected. This implies that compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order significantly affected access to education in Enugu State

Hypothesis III

Compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order did not significantly affect access to healthcare services in Enugu State.

Chi-Square Table

O	E	(o - e)	(o - e) ²	$\frac{(o - e)^2}{e}$
48	26.84	-0.84	0.706	0.026
28	7.45	2.55	6.503	0.573
42	6.71	-1.71	2.924	2.294
30	9.16	0.94	0.884	4.361
50	2.55	-2.55	6.503	2.550
				11.381

Table value = 5.991
 Calculated value = 11.381

Decision: The calculated value is greater than the table value, hence hypothesis III is rejected. This implies that compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order significantly affected access to healthcare services in Enugu State.

Discussion of Findings

Reasons for compliance to sit-at-home order in Enugu State

Finding from hypothesis I revealed that fear of violence is a significant reason for residents’ compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order in Enugu State [*cal-value of 6.6692 > 5.991 table value*]. This is evident as analysis of responses to research question 1 showed that fear of violent attacks, sympathy and solidarity with the ideology of IPOB, government failure to provide adequate security, desire of workers to take sit-at-home days off work and social unrests such as high youth unemployment resulting from corrupt/inefficient government practices are the reasons people comply with these sit-at-home orders. Similarly, Nweke, Igweike and Eze (2023) and Amana and Okpoko (2023) had findings that corroborated this finding.

Compliance to sit-at-home order and access to education

Test of hypothesis II revealed that compliance to IPOB’s sit-at-home order significantly affected access to education in Enugu State [*cal-value of 6.8838 > 5.991 table value*]. It was further revealed that the regular Monday’s sit-at-home reduced available time to complete school terminal calendar; impromptu sit-at-homes abruptly truncate academic activities in schools; students in Enugu State sometimes missed external examinations taken nationwide because of sit-at-home orders; and national/regional quiz, sporting and extracurricular events sometimes eluded students and teachers. This is in line with the studies of Ezewudo, Ukwuoma&Uroko (2022).

Compliance to sit-at-home order and healthcare services

Finding of hypothesis III revealed that compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order significantly affected access to healthcare services in Enugu State [*cal-value of 11.381 > 5.991 table value*]. It was specifically revealed that: the sit-at-home order limited emergency healthcare such as ambulance services; movement from rural to urban centre for healthcare services were hampered due to sit-at-home orders; compliance to sit-at-home orders limited access to vital facilities or expert personnel required for sensitive medical procedures/operations; compliance to sit-at-home caused medically preventable deaths. The findings from the works of Amana & Okpoko(2023) and Okechukwu, Nebo and Eze (2016) corroborated these findings.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Summary of Findings

From this research, the following findings were made:

1. Fear of violent attack is a significant reason people complied to IPOB's sit-at-home order in Enugu State. Other reasons are: sympathy/solidarity with IPOB's agitation, and government failure to provide adequate security.
2. Compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order significantly affected access to education in Enugu State to a great extent. It was further revealed that the regular Mondays and impromptu sit-at-home orders disrupted schools calendar, truncated academic activities and even caused students to miss external examinations, sporting and other competitive academic events.
3. Compliance to IPOB's sit-at-home order significantly affected access to healthcare services in Enugu State to a great extent. This is so because the sit-at-home order limited emergency healthcare services; restricted rural-urban movement for healthcare services and reduced access to vital facilities or expert personnel required for sensitive medical procedures/operations as well as caused medically preventable deaths.

5.1 Conclusion

The study concluded that the IPOB's sit-at-home order had a damaging effect on government service delivery in Enugu State and the South East at large. It can be surmised that the state and the zone became poorer with the limited public service delivery at the heat of sit-at-home era. The Monday sit-at-home order issued by IPOB was a major risk to social and economic activities in Enugu State. The social lives of the residents of Enugu State and the Southeast region in general appear to be improved with the gradual termination of the sit-at-home exercises.

5.2 Recommendations

Owing to the above submissions, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should come to terms of agreement with the IPOB hierarchy to restore sound business environment for expected level of growth in the business sector of the South East region
2. Saturdays should be officially recognized as working days to compensate to some extent for the productive hours lost on Mondays.
3. The current effort of the Enugu State government that compels its own workers to go to work on Mondays, if sustained, will eliminate the work-apathy already created among workers by the sit-at-home orders.

References

- Achebe, C. (2012). *There was a country: A personal history of Biafra*. USA: Penguin press.
- Adenekan, S. (2021). "Igbo leaders meet Buhari, want NnamdiKanu released." Premium Times 19 November 2021.
- Amana, D. E., & Okpoko, C. C. (2023). Economic effects of IPOB sit-at-home order in Southeast, Nigeria: Insights from Nigerian Newspaper Reports. *IMSU Journal of Communication Studies*, 7(1), 282-293.
- Chukwudi, C.E, Gberevbie, D.E, Abasilim, U.D & Imhonopi, D. (2019). IPOB agitations for self- determination and the responses of the federal government of Nigeria: Implications for the political stability. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. 8(3), 179-194
- Chukwugekwu, E. V., & Shola, A. T. (2021). A Kingdom divided unto itself: Understanding the implications of the IPOB's Sit-at-home order for the Biafran project. *African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research*, 2(3), 51.
- Douwes, R; Stuttaford, M; & London, L. (2018). Social solidarity, human rights, and collective action: conclusion in the implementation of the national health insurance in South Africa. *Health and Human Rights Journal*. Retrieved from: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0>
- Ekpo, C. & Agorye (2019). The indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) and the setting of the "Jubril Al-Sudani" agenda: A qualitative review of a failed securitization move. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333488424> on September 19, 2023.
- Emeruwa, C. (2021). Sit-at-home order: Total compliance in NnamdiKanu's home state, Abia. <https://dailypost.ng/2021/08/09/sitat-home-order-total-compliance-innamdikanus-home-state>
- Etalong, T.A. & Aduma A. T. (2021). Application of e-Governance in service delivery: Enugu State Ministry of Lands and Urban Development in View. *Journal of Research in Business and Management*. 9(11), 11-16
- Ezewudo U.O., Ukwuoma I.I. & Uroko F.C. (2022). Beyond religion and ethnicity: sit-at-home and freedom agitations among the Igbo in South-Eastern Nigeria. *Journal of Religion and Education*. 3(2), 165-185
- Jacob, U.H, Nwobi, I.O & Igboji, C.D. (2020). The Biafran state and the rise of IPOB: A crack on Nigeria's national integration. *Social Science Journal*, 9(1), 40-44.
- Mark K.C., Obi C. B. and Oham C.P. (2022). The ills of IPOB sit at home and its implication on the Economy of the South-East Geo-Political zone of Nigeria. *IEEE-SEM*, 1(4), 11-18
- Nwaiwu, C. (2021, October 17). NNAMDI KANU: IPOB says no sit-at-home Monday, Tuesday. *Vanguard Newspaper*.
- Nweke C.C., Osita J. I. and Eze K. K. (2023). Impact of sit at home on the economy Of Southeast Nigeria: An empirical evidence from small and medium enterprise. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research*. 9(7), 114-121
- Nwizu, G. (2012). *Studies in modern public administration*. Enugu: NGIB Publishers Ltd
- Nworgu, B. (2015). *Educational research: Basic issues and methodology*. Nsukka: University Trust Publishers
- Obona E.E. (2023). Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) and sit at home order: Its socio-economic implications on Ebonyi State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies*. 16(2), 231-252
- Okafor, D.U. (2017). *History of Nigeria's disunity and development challenges*. Enugu: Evergreen Publishers Ltd.

- Okechukwu, G. P., Nebo, I.O. &Eze, R. A. (2016).The melting point between SERVICOM and service failure: A labyrinth for efficient service delivery in Nigeria. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 21(5), 01-10.
- Okoroafor E.C., Osuji A.O. and Nwosu K.U. (2023). Political sit-at-home or socio-economic sit-at-home In Southeast, Nigeria: A development Crisis. *Journal of Advance Research in Social Science & Humanities*. 9(6), 19-26
- Omole, I. (2021). Self-determination and the IPOB sit-at-home tactic.*The Cable*. Retrieved from <https://www.thecable.ng/self-determination-and-the-ipob-sit-automatic/amp>
- Osita, F. C., Anoke A. F. &Eze, S. U. (2022).Mandatory sit-at-home order by the Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) and economic activities in South East, Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Management Research*. 6(7)
- Owoeye, D.I; Ezeanya, V. E &Obiegbunam, N. G (2022). Separatists' strategy: appraising the effects of IPOB Monday sit-at-home order on political economy (socio-political and economic activities) of the south-east region of Nigeria. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research*, 8(1), 93-108.
- Oyedele H. (2015). The Evils of Marginalization in the Nigerian Federation.*The Leader Newspaper*, Sunday June 26, 2015.
- Ozibo, B.D. &Okorie, G.C. (2022).Sit-at-home order and economic growth of South Eastern Nigeria.*Journal of Faculty of Management and Social Sciences*, 10(1), 189-201
- Runciman, W. G. (1966). *Relative Deprivation and Social Justice: A Study of attitudes to social inequality in Twentieth-century England*. Reports of the Institute of Community Studies. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 0710039239.
- Ugwu, C. (2022). *Special report: How IPOB's sit-at-home order is destroying businesses in Nigeria's Southeast*. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-east/530317-special-reporthow-ipobs-sit-at-home-order-isdestroying-businesses-in-nigeriassoutheast.html>
- Zhou, W., Wang, A., Xia, F., Xiao, Y. & Tang, S. (2020) Effect of media reporting on mitigating spread of covid-19 in the early phase of the outbreak. *Mathematical biosciences and engineering*, 17(3), 2693- 2707.