

INSECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Insecurity has become a significant topic of discussion worldwide, with an increasing number of terror-related incidents being reported on various media platforms. Nigeria has been identified as a country plagued by terrorism, with kidnappings, banditry, protests, drug-related crimes, and social unrest affecting the country's stability. Two specific objectives guided the study, and 323 SMEs were surveyed using Cochran's formula to arrive at a representative sample. The study adopted a quantitative research design and employed Pearson's Product Moment Correlation to analyse the data obtained through the survey. The results indicated that drug or substance abuse had a significant impact on how SMEs engage their employees in Anambra State. Based on this finding, social media propaganda negatively affects SMEs' information management capabilities in the state. The study concluded that insecurity adversely affects Anambra state's business environment, thereby impacting the operations of SMEs. The study recommends that SMEs acquire business software and tools for event analysis and predicting future events.

Keywords: Insecurity, drug abuse, social media propaganda, employee engagement, information management.

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1. Introduction

Globally, it is argued that development is necessary for a country to fulfil its potential. However, even when development is attained, the pressing challenge becomes safeguarding sustained development to serve the present needs without compromising long-term needs. One fundamental problem that threatens the development of countries is insecurity. Insecurity undermines the capability of not just under-developed countries but also of developed economies of the world, as without security, social, economic, and political stability becomes unattainable (Charas, 2015). World Bank (2011) reiterates that low income, high rates of unemployment, and inequality are triggers of societal violence and insecurity. The frightening plague and scale of insecurity threaten the very fabric of Nigerian sovereignty, as no nation can attain sustainable development goals because of its far-reaching implications and direct consequences on socio-economic development and society at large. The 1999 Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution explicitly states, "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Sadly, due to this constitutional responsibility, the government has failed to provide a secure and safe environment for lives, properties, and business and economic activities. The security status quo in Nigeria has deteriorated over the years due to poor governance, corruption, political conflicts, government instability and the inability of the ruling elites to deliver the dividend of democracy to her people (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). The abysmal failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities ultimately resulted in anger, agitation and violent crimes against the Nigerian state by some individuals and groups (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Most of the communities and metropolises in Nigeria are less developed and backward because of insecurity that is currently raving the country.

Notably, this hydra-headed dimension of security challenges, which started in northeast Nigeria, has spread like wildfire to the eastern states of Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Abia, and Ebonyi. Insecurity in recent times has been a significant issue bedevilling most Nigerian communities and, without exception, in Anambra State. Anambra state, in the southeastern region of Nigeria, was arguably peaceful. However, now, it has degenerated into a hotbed of security challenges like violence targeting state security by unknown gunmen, forceful Sit-at-Home, cultism, ritual killing, rape, drug trafficking, robbery, and many more. The spate of security challenges has halted socio-economic development in the state, with a tow in Onitsha being the economic hub of Anambra State, Nigeria.

As explained by Garga (2015), the socio-political and economic landscape in Nigeria has been blighted by the endemic twin evil of crime and violence. The synergetic relationship between security and sustainable development cannot be watered down, as the implications of security challenges to sustainable development were highlighted by Pearce and Barbier (2000) when they asserted that the interplay between environment and economy remains at the heart of sustainable development. Despite the various macroeconomic policies by the Federal Government to achieve the desired reduction in unemployment and sustained economic growth,

unemployment in Nigeria has remained a negative trend that contributes mainly to the country's heightened insecurity (Abdulsalam & Abdullahi, 2014).

Alongside heightened, unemployment is an increase in the number of unemployed youths involved in the use and sale of illicit hard drugs in the country. As reported by Mohammed, Abdulwahab and Kabiru (2018), high unemployment and economic austerity have pushed many young Nigerians into drug use and abuse. Hard drugs, which are capable of altering the mental state of individuals when abused, have become the consolation of Nigerians, particularly among the employable population strata in Anambra state. SMEs in Anambra state are constantly faced with the problem of engaging employees due to the youth's increased dependence on hard drugs. The heightened insecurity in the state is the negative influence of social media propagandists. Joshua et al. (2018) warn that the online spread of political misinformation and propaganda has adverse societal consequences.

Social media platforms like Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook have become avenues for the dissemination of unverified information that incites violence and threatens national security. Many a time, religious extremists in Nigeria, through social media, have created discords between the Eastern and Northern parts of Nigeria, terming it religious war, which often results in carnage. Unverified information threatens the operational sustainability of SMEs in Anambra state because owners must process viral news to scrutinise which would disrupt business activities and which are threat-free. All these harm the sustainability of SMEs. To this end, the researchers aim to achieve the under-listed objectives: to ascertain the relationship between drug and substance abuse on employee engagement of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria; to examine the link between social media propaganda and information management of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. It therefore becomes pertinent to ask about the relationship between the insecurity and sustainability of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

Understanding Insecurity

Before proceeding to the meaning of insecurity, it is vital to examine what security means, as it will better equip readers to appreciate the meaning of insecurity. Omede (2012) considers security to be a dynamic situation that encompasses the capacity of a state or a nation to deter internal or external threats which are capable of disrupting rooted values and interests. Similarly, Onifade (2013) views security as the condition resulting from putting ways to protect persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions in place. Ozoigbo (2019) explains that security is a situation where people within a given space can freely move about their daily activities without threats, which can either be real or imagined falling on their lives or properties. Ewetan and Ese (2014) buttressed security to entail the absence of threats to peace, mental and physical stability, national cohesion and integration, and a nation's political and socio-economic objectives. In defining National security, Yanet and Samoje (2016) base it on protecting citizens from threats or any situation capable of causing an unwanted harmful change. Security has also been defined more broadly as "all measures designed to safeguard and protect the citizenry and the

resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrences” (King & Nweke, 2019, p5).

In defining insecurity, Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anigbuogu (2019) aver that “insecurity” has connotations, as it denotes danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety. Insecurity, comprehensively defined by Achumba (2013), means the absence of safety or presence of danger; hazard; uncertainty; want of confidence; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lacking stability; troubled; lack of protection and unsafe. From Achumba’s definition, it can be deduced that insecurity deprives an individual of the feeling of being safe where there seems to be no form of assurance and action towards preventing an unwanted event. Adebanjoko and Ugwuoke (2014) opine that insecurity is the state of being subjected to terror, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, and harassment. Even differently, Zubairu (2020) posit that insecurity is a threat to any State, which prompts governments to acquire arms to protect their territory from intended harm. Insecurity is also seen as stemming from a feeling of being unprotected from consequential harm (Ali, 2013).

The trend of Insecurity in Anambra State, Nigeria

The heightened level of insecurity in Anambra state has taken a whole new dimension in that local security operatives have become accomplices in the execution of criminal activities. The Governor of Anambra state, Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo, revealed that the fight against insecurity in the state had been hindered because many vigilante operatives had been “infiltrated” by criminals (Ugwu, 2024). The governor revealed that a major obstacle to the heightened insecurity is that some leaders of vigilante operatives reside outside the communities where they work. Nevertheless, another hindrance is that these community vigilantes are in blood agreement with these criminals just for a cut fee in any criminal activity executed. The spate of insecurity in Anambra state is multidimensional. No better parameter cleanly captures the state's mishap and uncontrollable spread of insecurity. Anambra State’s commissioner for Truth, Peace and Justice Commission, Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, reveals that land disputes, organised crime and cultism are fuelling insecurity in the state (Obianeri, 2024). Odinkalu further revealed it was wrong for insecurity in the South-East to be blamed on the Indigenous People of Biafra and herders, adding that the insecurity was triggered by land-related issues and other crimes such as bunkering, cultism and other organised criminals fighting to control the resources (Obianeri, 2024). In a report submitted to the government, the commission also revealed that killings had resulted in a structural problem of demographic sustainability because women were finding it difficult to find male partners, thus causing an imbalance in the distribution of the state’s population (Daramola, 2024). Even after several orders from the State government on Mondays’ Sit-at-Home, Anambraians are still basked in fear of terror and mayhem. The challenge preceded the current governor (Charles Soludo), as the activities of gunmen using secession as a cover started during the second term of his predecessor, Chief Willie Obiano. In 2020, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) introduced the Monday sit-at-home. This exercise was meant to be civil disobedience to protest the arrest and rendition of its leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, a separationist in Kenya, by the Federal Government of Nigeria (Chukindi, 2024). Monday Sit-at-home has weakened the economy of the

South-East, with many well-meaning people of the zone begging for an end to it. In an attempt to curb violence, Obosi, which is a town in Anambra state, was previously ravaged by cultists, drug dealers, kidnappers, and armed robbers such that business activities are at risk of attack beyond 6 pm has now rid itself of these vices (Orakpo, 2024). Through communal collaboration with people from Obosi in Nigeria and the diaspora, they were able to create a payment plan that allowed them the luxury of creating a vigilante outfit that was able to rid the town of drug dealers, kidnappers, and robbers, restoring confidence to business owners for a more sustained performance.

Effect of insecurity on national development

Ozoigbo (2019) dug into the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria and its effects on the country and suggested ways out of this nightmare. The causes amongst so many include high levels of illiteracy, unemployment/joblessness, poor leadership, the porous nature of our borders, the proliferation of arms, and non-compliance with the rule of law. The effects are underdevelopment, poverty, hunger, insurgency, militancy, youth restiveness, kidnapping, armed robbery, fear, drug abuse, political thuggery, etc. As part of the way out of this, the paper suggests that 'career' (technical) education should be emphasised rather than 'degree' (non-technical) education. Similarly, *Onime (2018)* examined the effect of insecurity on Nigeria's economic growth. Using elements of descriptive quantitative analysis and data from secondary sources, the paper thematically analysed its effect on investment, a growth parameter. The analysis showed that insecurity affects economic growth by drying out investments, increasing unemployment and reducing government revenue. Also, *Ekemma and Chineme (2021)* dealt with strategies through which the government can tackle insecurity in Nigeria. A survey research design was adopted for the study. The population consists of one thousand (1000) public servants in Anambra state. The purpose of the sampling technique was to sample three hundred (300) public servants in Anambra state. The findings of the study showed that poverty, youth unemployment, injustice, weak security system, and porous borders, among others, are the key causes of insecurity in Nigeria. *Ishaya (2021)* studied national tragedy and insecurity threats in Nigeria: Implications to security woes and challenges in the 21st century. The paper was qualitatively conducted through interviews. The author warned that insecure situations have implications for the country, which have hindered development, progress, and economic growth. *Zubairu (2020)* conducted a study on the rising insecurity in Nigeria: causes and solution. The researcher opined that Nigeria is currently inflated in a security crisis, which has become an unending challenge, not only by defying security procedures but also by making scorn of the efforts of the law enforcement agents and the millions of naira annually budgeted by the government as security votes. The finding revealed that the causes of insecurity are the menace of unemployment and poverty, elite exploitation of ethnicity and religious differences, corruption, weak security apparatus, porous border, marginalisation and inequality in the country, and bad governance and poor leadership.

Drug and substance abuse

A *drug* is a substance that alters the function of living cells used in medicines for diagnosing, curing, or preventing diseases and anomalies (Siro, 2014). Unintentional abuse of drugs occurs owing to ignorance or an accident where the user immediately seeks medical intervention to reverse any intended side effect. Drug abuse is responsible for many major social problems, such as drunken driving, violence, stress, and child abuse. It is responsible for many homelessness, crime, missed work and problems of job keeping, harm, unborn babies and breaks/destroys families, leading to sexual assault and rapes (Mohammed et al., 2018). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (2018) referred to drug addiction as a continuous habit of drug search for unhealthy usage in the face of disruptive implications. Ajibade (2016) summarised the factors responsible for rising cases of drugs among youths in Nigeria to include demographic factors, socio-economic factors, and insecurity factors. Borodo (2005) observes that the consequences of drug abuse consist of an increasing number of youth becoming street lunatics, thereby increasing the governmental burden in ensuring a habitable environment. Eric, Lydia, Xiaodi and Jurgen (2000) reported that substance use and abuse by workers could harmfully affect their performance and the productivity of workplaces and invariably cut down the national output of that society.

Effect of drug and substance abuse on national development

Ijie, Babaloola and Yelwa (2020) investigated the effect of substance abuse on the actual growth rate in Nigeria between 1993 and 2017. The study found that substance abuse and rehabilitated drug individuals have a significant impact on economic performance. While substance abuse has a significant negative impact, rehabilitated, individual drug addicts have a significant positive impact. However, in the long run, there was no indication of a significant impact on the Nigerian economy. *Mohammed, Abdulwahab and Kabiru (2018)* examined the problem of drug abuse in Nigeria concerning the future socio-economic, political prosperity, and security stability of the Nigerian state. It was found that drug abuse is reducing a large number of persons to social liabilities. *Abdu-Raheem (2013)* scrutinised the influence of drug abuse on secondary school students concerning family background, family cohesion, peer group influence, and students' academic performance. The study determined that there was a significant relationship between family background, peer influence, family cohesion, and drug abuse. In the study, it was also discovered that drug abuse negatively affects students' academic performance in Ekiti and Ondo States. *Siro (2014)* sought to understand the relationship between drug abuse among the youth and political thuggery in Kano Metropolis to proffer solutions to the problem. The data indicate that the majority of the drug abusers are employed, although economic factors such as earnings maximisation encourage drug abuse habit among them.

Social media and national security

Without communication, life is meaningless. Though there are various ways to send messages through technology, social media is our study mainstay. Social media are electronic means of facilitating interaction premised on interests and characteristics (Nsude & Onwe, 2017). Ward (2014) expounds that social media is an online

platform that expedites conversation as opposed to traditional media, where contents are delivered without interaction. Elsewhere, Heathfield (2009) avers that Social media are tools and platforms that foster human interaction and are published online. The emergence of social media platforms is not without demerits, as hostile nations, criminal groups, terrorists, and individuals exploit existing communication channels to actualise national, ideological and physical attacks (Eze, 2018).

Social media platforms have negative and positive implications in developing countries like Nigeria (Ayih et al., 2020). To support this claim, Chukwuere and Onyebukwa (2018) assert that existing social media platforms enhance negative agendas that adversely impact the nation's security architecture. If unchecked, social media platforms can disrupt peaceful existence, leading to ethnic clashes. In empirical findings, *Ayih, Ngantem and Woyopwa (2020)* inquired about social media usage and its implications for national security in North Eastern Nigeria. Based on the data retrieved and the analysis made, findings reveal that the current security state in North Eastern Nigeria is abysmal. Furthermore, the study revealed that propaganda and dissemination of fake news and hate speech were the core areas in which social media platforms facilitate insecurity in North Eastern Nigeria. *Nmah (2019)* sought to examine the effects of social media on national security to provide an analytical perspective that may lead to a better understanding of the use of social media. The study established that social media platforms have far-reaching social and security implications. Some ways social media could affect a country include terrorism, criminality, communal violence, and leakage of classified documents. *Ogbette, Enwemeka, and Okoh (2019)* assessed the nexus between social media and national security in Nigeria. It was also discovered that Nigeria has poor enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and the Nigerian Communications Commission's low technological base via providing a gateway to control the information space as it obtains in China and other developed countries. *Chukwuere and Onyebukwa (2018)* evaluated the impact of Social Media on National Security: A View from Nigeria's Northern and South-Eastern regions. The study found that Nigeria's security climate is abysmal, SM is not a threat to Nigeria's national security; the participants are uncertain whether Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp have increased insecurity in the northern and south-eastern parts of Nigeria and many more. *Eze (2018)* described the relationship between social media and national security in some identified countries and Nigeria. The researcher claimed that the study critically observed that social media has long evolved beyond being a mere social platform to satisfying other needs and purposes for which anti-terrorism is paramount since it is observed by proven news stories that terrorists are also infiltrating social media and are hijacking it for nefarious activities that are averse to national security. In Kenya, *Kimutai (2014)* set out to analyse social media and national security threats in Kenya. Specific objectives were to examine the threats of social media technology to Kenya's national security, the use of social media by the military in preventing, limiting or removing threats to national security, and the current state of Kenya's national security and how social media makes it worse. The findings revealed that terrorist organisations use social media as tools for ideological radicalisation, recruitment, communication and training of its members.

Sustainability and measures of SMEs sustainability

Sachs (2010) explains that there is no development without sustainability or sustainability without development. In this study, sustainability refers to the extent to which a country's peace should be preserved to ensure business progress. The proxies for sustainability concerning SMEs in Anambra state are employee engagement and information management systems. Employees are a precious business asset and undeniably a competitive advantage source to organisations (Schwartz, 2011). *Engagement* is an organisational approach to promoting employees committed towards organisational intentions (MacLeod & Clarke, 2009). Employee engagement is exerting effort beyond the contractual agreement (Rupa, 2019). On the contrary, disengaged employees restrict themselves from achieving beyond-expected objectives (Truss et al., 2013). Disengaged employees are more likely to wreak havoc on organisational intentions and assets. This category of employees records regular on-the-job accidents, fails in quality assurance, and has a higher quitting rate than engaged employees (Rupa, 2019). Information is important to organisations because it is critical to attaining objectives. Opoku (2015) argues that investment in IT has not impacted firm performance but that information management positively influences the expected outcomes (Winkler, 2018). Information is knowledge shared in vital areas of an organisation (Adetunji et al., 2018). Winkler (2018) claims that information management is a firm's ability to capture, manage, preserve, store and deliver verified information to the right persons and groups for effective decisions. Ravi (2011) reveals that an effective information management system combines technological know-how and intellectual processes to deliver cost-effective information.

Theoretical Framework

Two theories that capture the intent of this study are the frustration-aggression theory and the human security theory. **Frustration Aggression Theory** was developed by Dollard, Miller and Mowrer in 1939 and later strengthened and popularised by Berkowitz and Yates (1962). Berkowitz and Yates (1962) assume that aggressive behaviour always presupposes the occurrence of frustration and that antagonistic perceptions arise when a group of people are denied access to opportunities that help them satisfy their needs and fundamental needs. It also maintains that governmental failure to address the demands or complaints of specific groups within a state, whether religious, ethnic or even political, could give rise to frustration and unrest, which could, in turn, eventually lead to hostile behaviour. Finally, the aggressive actions of certain groups within a polity could be a visible expression of bottled-up long-term frustration arising due to the inability of powers that be to address identified problems or complaints of selective discrimination. **The Human security theory;** the Human Security theory emerged after a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) report in 1994, which explicitly articulated the importance of human security as a tool of policy making and implementation (Jolly & Basu, 2006). In the general assembly meeting, Mahbub Ul Haq, former Pakistan Finance Minister and consultant of UNDP, in his paper titled *New Imperatives of Human Security* published in 1994, gives a theoretical explanation of human security and paved the way for its global acceptance (Sudha, 2007). Haq identified some major threats against human security, including

drugs, disease, terrorism and poverty, and further widened the concept by adding the issues of the north-south divide, the political economy of hegemony, underdevelopment and unequal distribution of wealth as threats to human security. The concept of human security is comprehensive and goes beyond the confines of state-centered security. It focuses primarily on state actors and using security forces for territorial safety rather than individual gain (Ishaya, 2021). However, some researchers opine that human security can be broadened to accommodate other facets of an environment rather than just focusing on individuals. In this regard, Fakuda-Parr and Messineo (2012) express that Human Security is broad enough to encompass state security, individual and group security, environmental security, and physical security. Ishaya (2021) further explains the relevance of the Human Security theory to sustainable development as the researcher buttresses the fact that since insecurity is a challenge to sustainable development, a country can only address its insecurity through a good governance perspective that admits justice in the resource-rich nation as an abiding criterion. The researcher further avers that the theory of human security, which is people-centred, dynamic, comprehensive, context-specific, multi-medium prevention, and solution-oriented, will help understand the contextualisation and prevention of security issues.

Based on the review of existent theories, the researchers, therefore, develop guiding hypotheses which are stated in the null form as;

- H₀₁:** Drug abuse does not affect employee engagement in SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria.
- H₀₂:** Social media propaganda does not affect information management of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria.

3. Material and Methods

Study Design: This research utilised a quantitative approach, of which data was obtained through questionnaire administration. **Area of Study:** Anambra State comprises 21 Local Government Areas. The state's total land mass is about 4,844 km² and has a population density of about 1,141/km², making the state the second most densely populated in Nigeria after Lagos state (Dada et al., 2006). The state is bounded to the northwest by Kogi State, northeast and east by Enugu State, southeast by Abia State, south by Imo State and west by Delta State (Ayadiuno, 2021). The state has four major commercial hubs: Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, and Ekwulobia. In the last Population census, Anambra state had a population of 4,177,828 comprising 2,117,984 males and 2,059,844 females (National Population Commission, 2006).

Study Population and Sample Size

The population comprised all SMEs located in the major commercial cities of Anambra state. These commercial hubs are Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, and Ekwulobia. Since the population is infinite, the study sample size is determined using Chochran's 1977 formula at a 95% confidence level.

The formula for determining sample size from an infinite population is given as follows;

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot p \cdot q}{e^2}$$

Where:

n = sample size

Z = Confidence interval

p = the numerical probability of success

q = the numerical probability of failure

e = Maximum estimation error accepted

At 95% confidence interval, we have; n = 323 SMEs

Questionnaire distribution was purposefully executed based on the prescribed information in Table 1. After the questionnaire was retrieved, participants whose businesses are micro-enterprises were not analysed; hence, they were termed invalid.

Table 1: SMEs Selection Criteria

S/N	Category	Employment	Questionnaire status
1	Micro Enterprise	Less than 10	Invalid
2	Small Enterprise	10 – 49	Valid
3	Medium Enterprise	50 - 199	Valid

Source: SMEDAN & NBS, 2013

The sample was intuitively distributed according to population size and density to ensure sample representation and without bias. As such, the distribution was as follows: Onitsha (120 SMEs), Nnewi (82 SMEs), Awka (68 SMEs), and Ekwulobia (53 SMEs).

Reliability of Test Instrument

Twenty-five copies of the questionnaire were administered twice to SME owners in Oko, Anambra state, which is outside the proposed study zones. Below is the table showing the figures and reliability figures;

Table 2: Reliability Table

Options	Distributed questionnaire	Pre-test	Re-test	Differences	d ²
strongly agree	25	22	20	2	4
Agree	25	24	22	2	4
Undecided	25	21	12	-9	81
Disagree	25	14	12	2	4
strongly disagreed	25	6	7	-1	1
					ΣD ² =94

Field survey, 2023

Formula: $\frac{1 - 6 \sum D_i^2}{N(N^2 - 1)}$

r = $\frac{1 - 6 \times 94}{25(25^2 - 1)}$
 r = 0.85

4. Data Analysis Technique

Retrieved data from the study participants were inferentially analysed. Relationship testing was done inferentially using the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. Specifically, developed hypotheses were tested quantitatively.

The quantitative model for this study is presented thus:

$$SMSES = f(DSA, SMP) \dots\dots\dots 1.1$$

Where:

SMSES = Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Sustainability

DSA = Drug and Substance Abuse

SMP = Social Media Propaganda

Breaking down SMSES (SMEs Sustainability), Employee Engagement (EEG), and Information Management (IMT) served as the dependent variable's sub-variables.

5. Results and Findings Discussion

Three hundred and twenty-three (323) duplicates of the questionnaire were distributed. Two hundred and eighty-three (283) copies, representing 88 per cent of the total copies, were completed and returned, while forty (40) copies, representing 12 per cent, were not completed.

Table 3: Demographic Information of Respondents

Items	No of Responses	Percentage (%)
Gender of Respondents:		
Male	187	66.1
Female	96	33.9
Wish not to disclose	NIL	NIL
Educational History:		
Primary	75	26.5
Secondary	68	24.0
Tertiary	140	49.5
Location of Business:		
Onitsha	105	37.2
Awka	56	19.8
Nnewi	73	25.7
Ekwulobia	49	17.3
Age Range of Respondents:		
18 – 29yrs	55	19.4
30 – 40yrs	82	29.0
41 – 50yrs	108	38.2
51yrs and above	38	13.4
Total	283	100

Source: Field Analysis, 2023

Table 3 shows the demographic information of sampled respondents of studied SMEs operating in Anambra state. The gender distribution section shows that 187, or 66.1 percent, were male respondents, while 96, or 33.1 percent, were female respondents.

Based on this, it can be deduced that SMEs Operating in Anambra State have more male Owners/Managers than females.

Under the educational history of the respondents, owners/managers with just primary school certificates are 75 or 26.5 per cent, Secondary is 68 or 24.0 per cent, while others with tertiary are 140 or 49.5 per cent. Statistically, this connotes more owners/managers of SMEs with tertiary educational qualifications in Anambra state. The analysis showed that 105 of the respondents' businesses were located in Onitsha or 37.2 per cent; those in Awka were 56, or 19.8 per cent; Nnewi was 73, or 25.7 per cent; and Ekwulobia was 49, or 17.3 per cent. This implies that most SMEs operating in Anambra State are located in Onitsha.

The analysis shows that respondents within the age bracket of 18 – 29 were 55 or 19.4 percent, those within 30 – 40 were 82 or 29.0 percent, 41 – 50 were 108 or 38.2 percent, and those 51 years and above were 38 or 13.4 percent. This led to the assertion that 38.2 percent of the owners/managers of SMEs are within the age range of 41 to 50.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics on Drug or Substance Abuse and Employee Engagement in SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria.

Items	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
Drug or Substance Abuse				
The number of youths using hard drugs in my environment is alarming.	283	3.0	1.5010	Agree
The increased use of (MKPURU MMIRI) is rendering employable youths unfit in Anambra state	283	3.2	1.5855	Agree
Drug-related crime rates have increased in this city.	283	3.1	1.0096	Agree
The heavy presence of NDLEA personnel is a result of the illegal use Drug/substances.	283	3.0	1.5010	Agree
Meting out heavy punishment for the illegal use of drugs/substances prevents recurrent usage.	283	3.2	1.5855	Agree
Employee Engagement				
Without a committed workforce, no business will survive the current economic hardship.	283	3.5	1.4686	Agree
My employees exceed daily, weekly, and monthly set targets.	283	3.0	1.0633	Agree
The rate of absenteeism has increased over the past few months.	283	3.5	1.4828	Agree
The mental health of employees is critical for business growth.	283	3.4	1.1632	Agree
The rate of on-the-job accidents has increased in my business.	283	3.2	1.0299	Agree
Grand Mean		3.2		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 shows the descriptive statistics of substance abuse and employee engagement in SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. The table revealed the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 (\bar{X} = 3.0, SD = 1.5010), Item 2 (\bar{X} = 3.2, SD = 1.5855), item 3 (\bar{X} = 3.1, SD = 1.0096), item 4 (\bar{X} = 3.0, SD = 1.5010), item 5 (\bar{X} = 3.2, SD = 1.5855) item 6 (\bar{X} = 3.5, SD = 1.4686), item 7 (\bar{X} = 3.0, SD = 1.0633), item 8 (\bar{X} = 3.4, SD = 1.163), item 9 (\bar{X} = 3.2, SD = 1.0299), and item 10 (\bar{X} = 3.5, SD = 1.4828). All items under this section were accepted because they had mean scores above the

average benchmark 2.50. The grand mean showed a value of 3.2, which means that substance abuse has a direct effect on employee engagement.

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics on Social Media Propaganda and Information Management of SMEs in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Items	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
Social Media Propaganda				
Without electronic communication, it would not be easy to live in Nigeria.	283	3.2	1.5855	Agree
Social Media platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are my sources of information.	283	2.8	1.8644	Agree
Disturbing pictures or videos on social media platforms sometimes lead to the display of violent behaviours in this city.	283	3.1	1.1730	Agree
Often, trending news on social media platforms turns out to be false information, hence misleading.	283	3.7	1.5640	Agree
Unverified news on social media platforms has been a significant problem in conducting business activities in Anambra state.	283	3.0	1.1449	Agree
Information Management				
The absence of information flow in Anambra state makes business activities difficult.	283	3.2	1.0299	Agree
Our strategic business decisions are based on verified and unverified sources of information.	283	3.4	1.7668	Agree
We rely on security operatives for information on business operational security in Anambra state.	283	3.1	1.2343	Agree
We Keep our stakeholders informed regarding business activities in Anambra state.	283	3.2	1.2353	Agree
Having stored information concerning what is happening in Anambra state, we can comfortably predict the trend of future activities.	283	3.0	1.4433	Agree
Grand Mean		3.2		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 reveals the descriptive statistics of social media propaganda and information management in SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. The table revealed the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 ($\bar{X} = 3.2$, $SD = 1.5855$), Item 2 ($\bar{X} = 2.8$, $SD = 1.8644$), item 3 ($\bar{X} = 3.1$, $SD = 1.1730$), item 4 ($\bar{X} = 3.7$, $SD = 1.5640$), item 5 ($\bar{X} = 3.0$, $SD = 1.1449$), item 6 ($\bar{X} = 3.2$, $SD = 1.0299$), item 7 ($\bar{X} = 3.4$, $SD = 1.7668$), item 8 ($\bar{X} = 3.1$, $SD = 1.2343$), item 9 ($\bar{X} = 3.2$, $SD = 1.2353$) and item 10 ($\bar{X} = 3.0$, $SD = 1.4433$). All items under this section were accepted because they had mean scores above the average benchmark 2.50. The grand mean is 3.2, which statistically implies that social media propaganda hurts information management in SMEs.

Re-Statement and Test of Hypotheses

The correlation establishes the degree of relationship between two variables.

Decision: Accept the Alternate hypothesis if the P-value is less than 0.05 (P-value < 0.05); otherwise, accept the Null hypothesis.

Test of Hypothesis One

H₀₁: Drug and substance abuse does not affect employee engagement in SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria.

Table 6: Observed data between drug or substance abuse and employee engagement

		Correlations	
		Drug or Substance Abuse	Employee Engagement
Drug or Substance Abuse	Pearson Correlation	1	.858**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	283	283
Employee Engagement	Pearson Correlation	.858**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	283	283

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

Source: SPSS ver. 23 Outputs

Result Summary

Table 6 reveals the type of relationship that exists between drug and substance abuse and employee engagement of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. The above analysis revealed that $r = 0.8^{**}$, $\text{calP-value} = .000$ and $N = 283$. Since the calP-value , which is $.000$, is less than 0.05 , the researcher rejects the null hypothesis and concludes that drug and substance abuse affects employee engagement of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. Statistically, this implies that the increased use and abuse of drugs or substances in Anambra state is capable of affecting the ability of SME owners to meaningfully engage their workforce towards achieving the desired outcome. Also,

Test of Hypothesis Two

H₀₂: Social media propaganda does not affect information management of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria.

Table 7: Observed Data between Social Media Propaganda and Information Management

		Correlations	
		Social Media Propaganda	Information Management
Social Media Propaganda	Pearson Correlation	1	.568**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	283	283
Information Management	Pearson Correlation	.568**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	283	283

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

Source: SPSS ver. 23 Outputs

Result Summary

Table 7 reveals the relationship between social media propaganda and information management of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. The above analysis revealed that $r = 0.5^{**}$, $\text{calP-value} = .000$ and $N = 283$. Since the calP-value , which is $.000$, is less than 0.05 , the researcher rejects the null hypothesis and concludes that social media propaganda affects the information management of SMEs in Anambra state. Based on this finding, social media propaganda impacts the information management ability of SMEs in a way that threatens business performance and sustainability intention.

Discussion

Statistically, hypothesis one revealed that drug and substance abuse immensely influence employee engagement in SMEs in Anambra state. This means that as the abuse of drugs and substances increases, the willingness to engage employees actively becomes difficult. This finding disagrees with the work of Ijje, Babaloola and Yelwa (2020), who revealed that drug abuse does impact negatively on the Nigerian economy. However, they conclude that actively engaging employees brings about improved performance. In a similar study, Juevesa and Castino (2020) and Rupa (2019) agreed that employee engagement positively correlates with organisational performance. This finding equally agrees with Kabiru (2018), who revealed that drug abuse is reducing a large number of persons to social liabilities. Secondly, hypothesis two disclosed that Social media propaganda impacts the information management ability of SMEs in Anambra state, Nigeria. In other words, as social media propaganda increases, SMEs devise means to predict the trend of events in Anambra state. This finding agreed with the studies of Ayih, Ngantem and Woyopwa (2020), Chukwuere and Onyebukwa (2018), and Eze (2018), who revealed that the dissemination of unverified information on social media platforms has a far-reaching impact on national security. As such, social media propaganda undermines the ability of SMEs to sustain business activities in Anambra state. The ability of SMEs to manage acquired information will greatly assist organisations in charting their course in Anambra state. Previous studies revealed that for an organisation to remain financially viable, it must prioritise investments tailored towards information management (Akanbi & Adetunji, 2019).

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

In summary, Nigeria's heightened insecurity mainly affects business sustainability in Anambra state. The sustainability of businesses in the state is affected by occurrences such as drug and substance abuse and social media propaganda, among various others. Given the heightened insecurity, the sustainability of SMEs in Anambra state depends on their ability to engage employees and adequate management of information strategically. Regardless of business size and location, organisational success depends on organisational health and employee mental health. Organisations should prioritise employees' mental health because an organisation's proper functioning depends on it. Mental health relates to individuals' cognitive, behavioural, and emotional well-being. To ensure that employees do not resort to drugs as a way out of depression, organisations must make an effort to understand how their employees think and act. SMEs need to invest in business software that stores and

processes information. Although it may be difficult for SMEs to choose the right vendor to provide the required features, consulting information management software engineers for professional advice, purchase, installation, and maintenance is essential. These software and tools offer database management and data analytical services.

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