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Effect of Sit-at-Home on Business Survival of Foam Manufacturing Firms in Anambra State, Nigeria

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Abstract: This study examined the effect of sit-at-home on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State, Nigeria. The sit-at-home directive, predominantly observed in Southeast Nigeria, has disrupted economic activities, particularly in the manufacturing sector. The study focused on three core variables movement restriction, fear of violence, and loss of production time, and how they influence business survival. A descriptive survey design was adopted, and data were collected from 150 top-level management staff drawn from 12 foam manufacturing firms across the three senatorial zones of the state. A stratified random sampling technique was used, and data analysis was conducted using linear regression in SPSS. The findings revealed that all three independent variables had significant negative effects on business survival. Movement restriction was found to have a t-value of 10.606, standardized beta (β) = 0.631, and p-value = 0.000, indicating a moderately strong effect. Fear of violence had a t-value of 12.002, β = 0.674, and p = 0.000, suggesting a stronger relationship between security concerns and reduced business sustainability. The most influential factor, loss of production time, recorded a t-value of 13.043, β = 0.702, and p = 0.000, showing that operational downtime has the most critical impact on business survival. The study concludes that sit-at-home orders pose a serious threat to foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State. It recommends enhanced mobility for essential workers, community-based security systems, and flexible production scheduling to mitigate the adverse effects of sit-at-home directives on business survival.

Keywords: Sit-at-home directive, Business survival, Foam manufacturing firms, Production loss.

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INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of "sit-at-home" in Southeast Nigeria traces its roots to the activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), a secessionist group agitating for the independence of the Biafran state. Initially conceived as a symbolic protest or civil disobedience campaign to demand the release of their leader, Nnamdi Kanu, the sit-at-home directive gradually evolved into a recurring event, particularly on Mondays and during specific anniversaries or court hearings (Okolie et al., 2022). Over time, these orders have become more frequent and unpredictable, creating fear and tension across several states in the Southeast, including Anambra. The enforcement of the directive often with violence and threats has

turned a political agitation into a socio-economic burden, affecting transportation, education, and most critically, business operations.

Historically, Anambra State has been a commercial and industrial hub in Nigeria's Southeast region, with towns like Onitsha and Nnewi serving as strategic centers for manufacturing and distribution. The foam manufacturing industry, particularly in Nnewi, plays a significant role in job creation, value chain development, and regional economic growth. However, the repeated observance of sit-at-home orders has increasingly disrupted the business environment, leading to operational downtimes, reduced sales, and growing insecurity. As Nwakpu et al. (2023) note, the socio-political instability caused by sit-at-home campaigns has significantly altered business dynamics, particularly for firms dependent on supply chain regularity and labor availability.

In this context, the effect of sit-at-home orders on the survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State has become a matter of economic urgency. Foam production is capital intensive and heavily reliant on continuous input-output processes. Interruption of operations, even for a day, can lead to significant financial losses and stalled production schedules. Three key variables of the sit-at-home phenomenon directly impact the survival of these firms movement restriction, fear of violence, and loss of production time. These variables serve as the independent constructs through which the effect of sit-at-home orders can be empirically assessed.

Movement restriction, often resulting from fear of attacks or actual road closures, limits the ability of workers, suppliers, and distributors to access factory sites or transport goods. Eze and Chukwuma (2021), restricted mobility disrupts supply chains and labor attendance, which are vital for industrial operations. Foam firms, which rely on timely delivery of raw materials such as chemicals, packaging materials, and finished goods logistics, suffer when routes are inaccessible.

Fear of violence is another critical factor, as threats from non-state actors enforcing sit-at-home orders discourage employee attendance and customer engagement. Businesses must often shut down or operate at skeletal levels due to concerns for worker safety. Obiorah and Eme (2022) emphasize that perceived insecurity can significantly reduce labor productivity and discourage investment in volatile regions. This fear-induced withdrawal from the marketplace diminishes consumer confidence and affects sales, particularly for physical goods like mattresses and cushions.

Loss of production time captures the cumulative downtime experienced by firms during sit-at-home periods. Recurrent closures reduce factory working days per month, strain delivery timelines, and affect contractual obligations. As noted by Ogu and Ezeani (2020), frequent interruptions due to civil unrest reduce capacity utilization and increase overhead costs, thereby threatening long-term business survival.

When these independent variables movement restriction, fear of violence, and loss of production time are analyzed against business survival, the dependent variable, a clearer understanding emerges of how socio-political instability undermines economic resilience. Business survival, in this context, refers to the ability of foam manufacturing firms to maintain operations, retain employees, meet market demand, and sustain profitability amidst recurring disruptions. By establishing the empirical relationship between these variables, the study contributes to the broader discourse on business continuity in conflict-prone environments.

The persistent enforcement of the sit-at-home order in Anambra State has posed a critical threat to the survival of businesses, particularly foam manufacturing firms that depend heavily on continuous operations, stable logistics, and workforce availability. The foam industry, a key contributor to industrial output and employment in the region, has faced severe disruptions due to recurring civil disobedience campaigns, most notably on Mondays and other designated protest days. These repeated interruptions have resulted in operational downtimes, financial losses, reduced labor productivity, and declining customer patronage, all of which threaten the long-term survival and sustainability of such firms.

Despite the economic significance of this sector, there is limited scholarly attention on how such socio-political unrest affects its operations and continuity.

One specific problem leading to the broader business survival challenge is movement restriction. The sit-at-home directive often paralyzes transportation networks, preventing employees, suppliers, and distributors from accessing factory premises or delivering goods to customers. For foam manufacturing firms that rely on timely raw material inputs and product distribution, this restricted mobility leads to delayed production and unmet consumer demand, reducing revenue and undermining customer trust.

A second major problem is fear of violence and insecurity. Non-compliance with sit-at-home orders is frequently met with threats or actual violence by enforcers, creating fear among workers and management. This fear discourages attendance, reduces morale, and forces business owners to suspend operations for safety reasons. The resulting uncertainty in daily operations disrupts production schedules and may lead to loss of market share, especially when competitors in more stable regions maintain regular operations.

The third problem is loss of production time, which significantly reduces output and raises overhead costs. Foam manufacturing requires continuous processes and scheduled factory operations to meet contractual demands. The regular closure of businesses due to sit-at-home observances erodes productive hours, causes backlog in orders, and affects overall capacity utilization. Over time, the compounding effects of reduced productivity threaten the financial viability and survival of affected firms.

This study seeks to fill the existing research gap by specifically analyzing the effect of sit-at-home-on business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State. While existing literature has explored the broader economic impact of insecurity and protests in Southeast Nigeria, few studies have focused on the foam manufacturing industry, which is both capital- and labor-intensive. This study will provide empirical evidence on how movement restriction, fear of violence, and production time loss contribute to business vulnerability, thereby guiding policy, security, and managerial responses to ensure business continuity in conflict-prone environments.

The concept of sit-at-home refers to a form of civil disobedience where citizens or specific groups are directed to remain indoors and abstain from all economic, social, and institutional activities, often as a form of protest or solidarity action. In the context of Southeast Nigeria, the term gained significant attention following directives by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) demanding the release of their leader and advocating for Biafran independence. Okolie, Nwankwo, and Anyanwu (2022), the sit-at-home campaign in the Southeast has morphed from a symbolic protest into an enforced activity characterized by threats, violence, and fear, severely impacting social and economic life. While sit-at-home actions are typically nonviolent forms of protest globally, in Nigeria, the pattern has assumed a coercive dimension with widespread socio-economic consequences.

Scholars have interpreted sit-at-home orders as both political expression and instruments of economic disruption. Obiorah and Eme (2022) argue that sit-at-home campaigns are a reaction to the perceived marginalization of the Igbo people in Nigerian politics and governance, creating a platform for regional identity expression. However, the violent enforcement of these orders has raised concerns over their legitimacy and the unintended consequences on local economies. Unlike traditional protests that involve physical presence in public spaces, sit-at-home orders immobilize economic structures by shutting down mobility and trade activities, especially in heavily commercial areas such as Anambra State.

From a business standpoint, sit-at-home actions have become a source of operational uncertainty. Nwakpu, Okafor, and Nnaji (2023) note that the unpredictable nature of sit-at-home announcements has forced many businesses to adjust their schedules, incur losses, or suspend operations indefinitely. In sectors like manufacturing, which rely on daily factory activities, uninterrupted supply chains, and workforce availability, these disruptions can be especially damaging. Movement restrictions, reduced customer turnout, and delayed

deliveries are among the most commonly reported effects, especially among firms involved in production and logistics.

Furthermore, the concept of sit-at-home has implications for business continuity, employee welfare, and investor confidence. Eze and Chukwuma (2021) highlight that the regular observance of sit-at-home not only erodes consumer confidence but also increases the cost of doing business due to security arrangements, production rescheduling, and loss of man-hours. Despite the growing relevance of the concept in Southeast Nigeria's socio-political landscape, there is still a lack of comprehensive research on how this form of protest affects specific industries, particularly the foam manufacturing sector, which is labor- and capital-intensive. Understanding the conceptual framework of sit-at-home is essential for contextualizing its economic impact and for formulating region-specific business survival strategies.

Movement restriction refers to the deliberate or enforced limitation of people's ability to move freely from one place to another. In the context of the sit-at-home directive, it is often imposed by non-state actors, disrupting the regular mobility of individuals, goods, and services. Okolie, Nwankwo, and Anyanwu (2022), movement restrictions caused by civil disobedience campaigns, such as the IPOB sit-at-home orders in Southeast Nigeria, have significantly paralyzed transportation and logistics networks. These disruptions are particularly detrimental to businesses that rely on the timely delivery of raw materials and finished products, causing operational delays and financial setbacks. The authors emphasized that when access to roads and business environments is hindered by threats or fear of violence, economic activity becomes nearly impossible.

Different scholars have examined the socio-economic implications of movement restriction within politically volatile regions. Eze and Chukwuma (2021) highlighted that in Anambra State and other parts of the Southeast, movement restrictions on sit-at-home days affect not only workers' ability to reach their workplaces but also customers' willingness to engage in commercial transactions. The foam manufacturing industry, which relies on factory labor, distribution logistics, and customer patronage, is particularly vulnerable. The authors noted that restricted mobility results in decreased workforce attendance, delayed product deliveries, and increased costs due to rescheduling of transport and logistics. These conditions directly hinder business productivity and sustainability, making movement restriction a critical variable in understanding business vulnerability in conflict-prone areas.

Furthermore, Nwakpu, Okafor, and Nnaji (2023) argued that forced immobility under sit-at-home conditions creates a ripple effect across the value chain of businesses, from supply to distribution. They noted that small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) and even large firms experience cumulative losses due to interrupted operations, and this is especially true in industries like foam manufacturing that depend on continuous process flows. The authors advocate that addressing movement restrictions requires both political solutions to insecurity and infrastructural adjustments to reduce dependency on physical mobility. However, in the absence of such measures, businesses must contend with the harsh economic realities brought about by recurring sit-at-home-induced mobility disruptions.

Fear of violence refers to the psychological state of anxiety, apprehension, or distress experienced by individuals due to the threat or possibility of physical harm or attack. In the context of sit-at-home orders in Southeast Nigeria, fear of violence has emerged as a dominant factor influencing the behavior of individuals, businesses, and communities. Nwankwo and Obasi (2021), fear of violence is not only based on actual violent incidents but also on perceived threats, rumors, and past experiences, which influence people's decision to stay indoors and avoid commercial activities. For foam manufacturing firms, this fear often results in the unwillingness of workers to report for duty and the closure of operations to avoid potential attacks.

The sit-at-home phenomenon, initially a political protest, has morphed into a coercive and often violent imposition that generates fear across business communities. As

Chukwuma and Eze (2022) explain, incidents of arson, shootings, and vandalism associated with the enforcement of sit-at-home orders have created a climate of fear, leading many firms to operate below capacity or shut down entirely. This fear has also affected customer behavior, reducing the volume of in-person transactions and discouraging the movement of goods and services. The foam manufacturing sector, which relies heavily on both skilled labor and physical logistics, is particularly vulnerable to such disruptions.

Moreover, fear of violence associated with sit-at-home has broader economic implications beyond immediate physical threats. Okeke and Nnaji (2023) argue that even in the absence of actual violence, the mere anticipation of unrest can destabilize production schedules, increase operating costs, and reduce investor confidence. Employees may demand hazard pay or refuse to work on days perceived as dangerous, while suppliers and distributors may avoid making deliveries during volatile periods. The cumulative effect is a decline in business performance and a threat to long-term survival, especially for manufacturers operating in politically unstable environments.

The concept of loss of production time refers to the interruption or complete halt of regular business operations resulting in reduced productive hours and diminished output. In manufacturing contexts, this loss directly affects efficiency, supply chain consistency, and profitability. Sit-at-home orders mandated or enforced by non-state actors create forced downtime, where factories remain closed and workers stay away due to fear of violent repercussions. Eze and Nwachukwu (2022), such unscheduled disruptions result in substantial economic losses, especially in sectors like foam manufacturing that rely on continuous production processes. When businesses are unable to operate at full capacity due to enforced shutdowns, the cumulative effect of idle hours over time leads to missed deadlines, customer dissatisfaction, and possible contract cancellations.

The fear of production loss associated with sit-at-home orders stems largely from the unpredictability and severity of such directives. Obiorah and Eme (2022) observe that fear is amplified when businesses are unsure whether operations can resume safely or if violence might erupt without warning. This uncertainty compels many firms to preemptively shut down operations, even without direct threats, simply to safeguard staff and assets. Foam manufacturing firms, in particular, are highly vulnerable due to their dependence on raw material processing and distribution schedules. The psychological toll of this fear not only discourages staff attendance but also reduces managerial willingness to invest in long-term production targets within unstable regions.

Additionally, studies have linked recurrent production time loss to declining business sustainability in conflict-prone environments. Nwakpu et al. (2023) found that repeated factory closures contribute to rising overhead costs, inventory backlog, and loss of customer base, all of which affect long-term business survival. When downtime becomes a frequent occurrence, as is the case with persistent sit-at-home enforcement in Southeast Nigeria, firms face not only financial strain but also reputational damage and reduced competitiveness. This review underscores the need to examine how fear-induced loss of production time serves as a mediating factor between socio-political unrest and business survival in the Nigerian industrial landscape.

Business survival refers to the ability of a business entity to continue operating profitably and sustainably over time, despite internal and external challenges. Olanrewaju and Adebayo (2021), business survival encompasses the capacity of a firm to maintain its operations, meet financial obligations, retain customers, and adapt to changing market environments. In the context of a volatile economic and socio-political climate, survival is not just about profitability, but about resilience, continuity, and strategic response to risks. Foam manufacturing firms, for instance, must navigate operational challenges such as supply chain disruptions, workforce shortages, and insecurity to remain in business.

Several scholars have emphasized different dimensions of business survival. Eze and Chukwu (2020) argue that business survival is largely dependent on a firm's strategic agility, particularly in responding to environmental shocks such as political instability, civil unrest, and market fluctuations. They highlight that businesses that possess strong

leadership, flexible production systems, and diversified customer bases are more likely to withstand disruptions. This suggests that survival is both an operational and strategic concept that goes beyond day-to-day management to include long-term planning and resilience-building.

From an entrepreneurial perspective, Nwankwo and Okeke (2022) view business survival as the outcome of resource optimization, risk management, and innovation. They posit that firms that invest in innovation, workforce training, and contingency planning are better positioned to survive economic shocks and market downturns. In regions like Southeast Nigeria, where businesses frequently encounter disruptions such as sit-at-home orders, these survival strategies become even more critical. Businesses that fail to anticipate or adapt to such disruptions face the risk of decline or closure.

Moreover, business survival is increasingly being linked to the external business environment, particularly socio-political stability and security. Ogunyemi and Adeola (2023), insecurity and unrest have become major threats to business continuity in Nigeria, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Their study shows that firms operating in conflict-prone regions experience higher risks of closure due to production halts, employee absenteeism, and damaged infrastructure. This underlines the importance of contextualizing business survival within the socio-economic realities of the operating environment, as survival strategies must align with the unique risks businesses face.

This study is anchored on the Contingency Theory of Management, originally developed by Fred Edward Fiedler in 1964. The theory was further expanded by scholars such as Lawrence and Lorsch (1967) and Burns and Stalker (1961), who contributed to the understanding of how external environmental factors influence organizational effectiveness. The central premise of the Contingency Theory is that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to organizational management; rather, the most effective management strategy depends on the alignment between an organization's internal operations and the external environmental conditions in which it operates. In the context of this study, the Contingency Theory is relevant in explaining how foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State must adapt their strategies and operations to cope with the socio-political disruptions caused by sit-at-home orders. The unpredictable nature of movement restrictions, fear of violence, and loss of production time requires that these firms develop flexible, responsive, and context-specific strategies to ensure business survival. As noted by Lawrence and Lorsch (1967), organizations in dynamic and uncertain environments must be more adaptive in their structure and decision-making processes to remain viable. The theory contributes to this study by offering a lens through which to assess how external disturbances, such as sit-at-home directives, influence internal business functions like production, workforce management, and logistics. It supports the idea that survival is contingent upon how well a business aligns its operational decisions with the changing realities of its external environment. Thus, the Contingency Theory provides a solid foundation for examining the relationship between sit-at-home variables and the survival of foam manufacturing firms in a volatile region like Anambra State.

The sit-at-home phenomenon in Southeast Nigeria, particularly in Anambra State, has introduced unprecedented disruptions to the business landscape, significantly affecting the survival of firms, especially in the manufacturing sector. Foam manufacturing firms, which rely on steady supply chains, operational continuity, and consistent labor input, are among the worst hit. The periodic enforcement of sit-at-home directives often through threats or actual violence has altered the daily operations of businesses and created an unpredictable economic environment. As noted by Okolie, Nwankwo, and Chukwu (2022), the unpredictable nature of these disruptions has made it difficult for manufacturing firms to maintain normal production cycles and meet delivery timelines, ultimately threatening their sustainability.

Movement restriction, a major consequence of the sit-at-home order, has limited the mobility of workers, suppliers, and distributors, thereby disrupting the supply chain of foam manufacturing firms. These restrictions often lead to delayed access to raw materials and

difficulties in distributing finished goods to consumers and retailers. Eze and Ezeani (2021) found that restricted mobility during sit-at-home periods significantly reduces business output, particularly in production-based enterprises. For foam manufacturers in Anambra State, the inability to move essential inputs or distribute products on scheduled days leads to cumulative losses that affect revenue flow and business continuity.

Fear of violence is another proxy of sit-at-home that gravely impacts business survival. The enforcement of the directive by non-state actors has created a culture of fear that discourages workers from reporting to duty and business owners from opening their facilities. In a study by Nwafor and Obasi (2023), it was revealed that perceived insecurity is one of the key determinants of business closure and relocation among SMEs in the Southeast. For foam manufacturing firms, this fear not only limits physical operations but also reduces investment in labor and facility upgrades, as entrepreneurs become hesitant to expand in a volatile environment.

The loss of production time during sit-at-home days directly undermines the productive capacity and financial viability of foam manufacturing firms, which rely on continuous operations to meet market demand. Even short disruptions create backlogs, inflate overhead costs, and weaken competitiveness. This situation aligns with Mbuba's (2016) assertion that organizational conflict and instability negatively affect business growth. In a related study, Mbuba (2022) links weak government autonomy and service delivery to economic inefficiencies at the subnational level. In contrast to stable regulatory environments discussed by Mbuba (2018), recurrent disruptions discourage investment and planning. Overall, such production losses reflect broader governance and institutional challenges within Nigeria's federal system (Mbuba, 2021). As Umeobi and Udechukwu (2020) assert, the repeated closure of businesses due to civil unrest leads to underutilization of equipment, workforce idleness, and missed business opportunities. In the foam manufacturing sector, where market competition is high and operational margins are tight, such consistent losses can erode profitability and, over time, threaten business survival.

METHODS

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The design was deemed appropriate as it allows the researcher to collect quantitative data from a defined population and examine the effect of sit-at-home phenomenon and business survival. The survey approach enabled the collection of data directly from respondents through structured questionnaires without manipulating any variables.

The study was carried out in Anambra State, situated in the Southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The state is bounded by Delta State to the west, Imo and Abia States to the south, Enugu State to the east, and Kogi State to the north. Anambra is divided into three senatorial zones: Anambra North, Anambra Central, and Anambra South. The inhabitants are predominantly Igbo, known for their industriousness, entrepreneurial spirit, and vibrant commercial activities. Towns like Nnewi, Onitsha, and Awka serve as industrial and commercial centers. Nnewi, in particular, is renowned for its manufacturing industries, including foam production, which significantly contributes to the state's economy.

The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to top-level management staff of selected foam manufacturing firms. Secondary data were obtained from academic journals, government reports, published books, and credible internet sources relevant to business survival and the sit-at-home directive in Southeast Nigeria.

The population of the study consisted of top-level management staff from 12 selected foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State, with four firms selected from each senatorial zone. The selection was based on the following criteria:

1. The firm must be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
2. The firm must have operated for at least five years.

3. Each firm must have a minimum of 10 top-level management staff.

A total of 150 top-level staff were proportionally distributed across the selected firms as shown in the table below:

Table 1. Population of Research

Senatorial Zone	Name of Firm	Location	Number of Respondents
Anambra North	1. Royal Foam Ltd	Onitsha	13
	2. Eastern Foam Ltd	Nsugbe	12
	3. Deluxe Foam Co. Ltd	Otuocha	13
	4. Alpha Foam Enterprises	Omor	12
			Total (North): 50
Anambra Central	5. Flex Foam Industries Ltd	Awka	13
	6. Cosy Foam Nigeria Ltd	Amawbia	12
	7. Ugo Foam Manufacturing Co.	Nimo	12
	8. Crystal Foam Ltd	Abagana	13
			Total (Central): 50
Anambra South	9. Vita Supreme Foam Ltd	Nnewi	13
	10. Prime Foam Ltd	Ekwulobia	12
	11. Classic Foam Ltd	Ihiala	12
	12. Grand Foam Nigeria Ltd	Ozubulu	13
			Total (South): 50
			Overall Total: 150

Given the relatively small population size, the study adopted a complete enumeration (census survey) technique. All 150 top-level management staff from the 12 selected foam manufacturing firms were included in the study, making the sample size 150.

The study employed a stratified random sampling technique. The foam manufacturing firms were stratified based on their senatorial zones (Anambra North, Central, and South). Four firms were randomly selected from each zone, and management staff were proportionally chosen to participate.

The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire, divided into two sections: Section A for demographic data and Section B for items measuring the independent variables (movement restriction, fear of violence, loss of production time) and the dependent variable (business survival). A 5-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree (5) to Strongly Disagree (1) was used to measure responses.

Questionnaires were administered to the respondents in person and, where necessary, via email and WhatsApp. Trained research assistants assisted in the distribution and retrieval of the questionnaires to ensure a high response rate.

To ensure the reliability of the research instrument, a pilot study was conducted with 15 respondents drawn from foam firms outside the study sample. The results were subjected to a Cronbach's Alpha test, and a reliability coefficient of 0.89 was obtained, indicating a high level of internal consistency.

Data collected were analyzed using Linear Regression Analysis, which tested the effect of the independent variables (movement restriction, fear of violence, and loss of production time) on the dependent variable (business survival). Analysis was conducted using SPSS version 23.0, and the significance level was set at 0.05.

RESULTS

Hypothesis One

H_{01}: Movement restriction caused by sit-at-home has no significant effect on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State.

Table 2. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.631	0.398	0.393	0.722

The R value of 0.631 indicates a moderate positive relationship between movement restriction and business survival. The R^2 value of 0.398 shows that approximately 39.8% of the variation in business survival can be explained by movement restriction.

Table 3. ANOVA Table

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	58.742	1	58.742	112.519	0.000
Residual	88.363	148	0.597		
Total	147.105	149			

The significance value (p = 0.000) is less than 0.05, which means the model is statistically significant. Therefore, **movement restriction significantly affects business survival**.

Table 4. Coefficients Table

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Std. Error	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.821	0.187	9.738	0.000
Movement Restriction	0.588	0.055	10.606	0.000

Since the p-value is less than 0.05, we **reject H_{01}** and conclude that **movement restriction caused by sit-at-home has a significant effect** on business survival.

Hypothesis Two

H_{02}: Fear of violence associated with sit-at-home has no significant effect on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State.

Table 5. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.674	0.454	0.449	0.681

The R value of 0.674 shows a stronger positive relationship between fear of violence and business survival. R^2 = 0.454 indicates that 45.4% of the variation in business survival is explained by fear of violence.

Table 6. ANOVA Table

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	66.766	1	66.766	144.063	0.000
Residual	80.339	148	0.543		
Total	147.105	149			

The p-value (0.000) is less than 0.05, indicating that the regression model is statistically significant. Hence, **fear of violence has a significant effect on business survival**.

Table 7. Coefficients Table

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Std. Error	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.654	0.172	9.616	0.000
Fear of Violence	0.610	0.051	12.002	0.000

Since the p-value is below 0.05, we **reject H_{02}** and conclude that **fear of violence significantly affects** business survival.

Hypothesis Three

H_{03}: Loss of production time due to sit-at-home has no significant effect on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State.

Table 8. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.702	0.493	0.488	0.653

The R value of 0.702 shows a strong positive correlation. The R^2 value of 0.493 means that 49.3% of the variation in business survival is accounted for by loss of production time.

Table 9. ANOVA Table

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	72.578	1	72.578	170.191	0.000
Residual	74.527	148	0.504		
Total	147.105	149			

The model is statistically significant (p = 0.000). Therefore, **loss of production time has a significant effect on business survival**.

Table 10. Coefficients Table

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Std. Error	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.573	0.168	9.366	0.000
Loss of Production Time	0.628	0.048	13.043	0.000

Since the p-value is below 0.05, we **reject H_{03}** and conclude that **loss of production time significantly affects** the business survival of foam manufacturing firms.

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paragraphs are **Figure 1** and **Table 1** (Bold, start at 1). Figure presented by jpeg or png format (Cambria 10pt).

DISCUSSION

Hypothesis One:

H_{01}: Movement restriction caused by sit-at-home has no significant effect on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State.

The findings of the linear regression analysis showed that movement restriction has a statistically significant effect on the survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State ($R = 0.631$, $p < 0.05$). This indicates that the more movement is restricted due to sit-at-home orders, the more the operations and survival of foam firms are negatively affected. Movement restriction often results in the inability of workers to reach the production site, delays in the supply of raw materials, and limitations in distributing finished products. This finding aligns with Eze and Ezeani (2021), who found that mobility restrictions during periods of civil unrest significantly disrupted operations and sales among manufacturers in Southeast Nigeria. Similarly, Nwankwo and Okafor (2022) observed that limited transportation access and road blockades directly reduced output and revenue for small and medium enterprises during protest-induced shutdowns. These previous findings support the conclusion that movement restriction, especially when frequent and unpredictable, undermines the stability and continuity of business activities in the manufacturing sector.

Hypothesis Two:

H_{02}: Fear of violence associated with sit-at-home has no significant effect on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State.

The study revealed that fear of violence significantly affects business survival ($R = 0.674$, $p < 0.05$). The results suggest that the psychological and physical threats posed by enforcers of the sit-at-home order instill fear among employees and managers, discouraging attendance at work and forcing businesses to shut down temporarily. This atmosphere of insecurity also deters customers and suppliers, reduces investor confidence, and discourages business expansion. This result is consistent with the findings of Nwafor and Obasi (2023), who emphasized that insecurity and fear of violent attacks are critical factors influencing business shutdown and capital flight in the Southeast region. Additionally, Obiorah and Eme (2022) asserted that the perception of physical danger significantly affects labor participation and managerial decisions, often leading to reduced productivity and temporary closures in industrial zones. These studies confirm that fear of violence is a major obstacle to business resilience and sustainability in regions experiencing civil unrest.

Hypothesis Three:

H_{03}: Loss of production time due to sit-at-home has no significant effect on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State.

The result of the regression analysis also showed that loss of production time has a statistically significant effect on business survival ($R = 0.702$, $p < 0.05$). Each sit-at-home day leads to factory shutdowns, halting production processes and delaying order fulfillment. Over time, these recurring production losses accumulate, leading to missed revenue targets, inefficiency, and customer dissatisfaction, which can eventually threaten the firm's survival.

This finding is supported by Umeobi and Udechukwu (2020), who reported that production downtime during politically unstable periods leads to severe financial losses and long-term damage to operational capacity. Chukwu and Obi (2022) also observed that repeated business interruptions result in underutilized machinery, idle workforce, and inventory build-up—all of which increase cost and reduce business performance. These studies corroborate the result that consistent loss of production time weakens the competitive edge and survival capacity of manufacturing businesses.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that sit-at-home orders have significant and adverse effects on survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State. Specifically, movement restrictions, fear of violence, and production downtime caused by these orders disrupt operations, reduce productivity, and threaten the long-term viability of these businesses.

This study investigated the effect of sit-at-home orders on the business survival of foam manufacturing firms in Anambra State, Nigeria. The analysis focused on three key independent variables movement restriction, fear of violence, and loss of production time using linear regression analysis on data from 150 top-level management staff of 12 foam manufacturing firms across the three senatorial zones.

1. Movement restriction significantly affects business survival, with a t-value of 10.606, a standardized beta (β) of 0.631, and a p-value of 0.000. This shows a moderate but significant positive relationship, indicating that increased movement restriction due to sit-at-home orders reduces the operational capability and continuity of foam manufacturing firms.
2. Fear of violence was found to have a significant effect on business survival, with a t-value of 12.002, $\beta = 0.674$, and $p = 0.000$. This strong positive relationship confirms that fear generated by possible attacks or unrest during sit-at-home orders discourages workforce participation, limits operations, and threatens firm sustainability.
3. Loss of production time significantly affect business survival, with a t-value of 13.043, $\beta = 0.702$, and $p = 0.000$. This implies that each lost production day contributes heavily to reduced output, customer dissatisfaction, and financial instability, ultimately endangering business survival.

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