



Biafran Agitation and Sit-At-Home Orders: Analysis of Socio-Economic Implications in Select States in Igboland

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ABSTRACT

Background: The Biafran agitation, a movement seeking the independence of the entity known as Biafra from Nigeria, has been a recurring phenomenon in the country's political landscape since the 1960s. The movement, which led to a brutal civil war between 1967 and 1970, resulted in the loss of millions of lives and widespread destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods. Although the war ended in 1970 with the defeat of the Biafran forces, the underlying grievances and tensions that fueled the uprising have persisted, with periodic outbreaks of violence and protests. In recent years, the Biafran agitation has gained renewed momentum, following the emergence of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the arrest and extra-ordinary rendition of her leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu from Kenya to Nigeria in 2021. The group since then, has issued series of Sit-At-Home orders in all parts of Igboland, and other forms protests and civil disobedience in demand for the release of her leader.

Objective: This study investigated the socio-economic implications of the IPOB sit-at-home orders in Igboland.

Method: The study adopted the cross sectional survey design, using questionnaire and in-depth interview for data collection. Generated data were analysed using Chi-square statistics and Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 28. Results were presented using simple percentages, mean and tables.

Result: Findings indicate that the sit-at-home order has impacted negatively on the social, security and economic activities of the region.

Conclusion: The study concludes that the Biafran agitation is as a result of marginalisation of the Igbos in their own country, Nigeria.

Unique contribution: The paper provides fresh insights that would guide key stakeholders and policymakers in decisions that would foster unity in diversity in Nigeria, and minimise cases of secession agitations in the country.

Key recommendation: The paper recommends that political and traditional stakeholders should come-up with committed efforts with the federal government to grant the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, Nnamdi Kanu, unconditional release and freedom. Also, the federal government should run a politics of inclusion in which Igbo people should have equal representation with other ethnic groups in Nigerian political offices to reflect a true federal character.

Key words: Biafran Agitation, Sit-At-Home Order, Socio-Economic Disorder, Marginalization, Igboland



INTRODUCTION

The agitation for Biafran independence is an age-long phenomenon, dating back to the colonial days of 1914 when different ethnic groups that hitherto were administratively independent socially, politically, economically and culturally were forcefully annexed into the southern protectorate for colonial socio-economic and political imperialistic tendencies. Many of the ethnic groups, particularly the Igbos protested the false marriage on the ground that there were no socio-cultural and political similarities that justified the unification (Nwafor, et al. 2024). Their yearning was defeated since the colonial masters argued on the stronger strength of sophisticated weapons against the local weapons used by the Igbo and other ethnic groups in Nigeria. Madiebo (1980) states that the incongruity of the two regions of North and South immediately manifested into election riots, persecution of Igbo traders in the northern Nigeria among other injustices all culminating in the Nigerian-Biafran Civil War of July 6, 1967 to 15th January, 1970 (Onwe, Nwafor, & Orji-Egwu, 2017).

Since the war ended, the wounds of the war have been consistently scratched through series of injustices and marginalisation meted against the Igbos, including, not being allowed to rule the country 55 years after the war. The formation of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in early 2010s saw the revival of the agitation for independence of Biafra. The leader of the group, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was arrested on 19th October 2015. He was later granted bailed and a few months later, managed to escape to the United Kingdom following an assassination attempt during a military exercise christened Operation python dance in his home town. On 19th October, 2021, Kanu was re-arrested in Kenya through the conspiracy of the Kenyan and Nigerian security operatives and extra-ordinarily renditioned brought back to Nigeria (Emeruwa, 2021). The Nigerian government accused and charged him of sedition, ethnic incitement and treasonable offences and remanded him at the Department of State Security (DSS) till the time of publication of this article. Nnamdi Kanu was discharged and acquitted by the Nigerian court of justice, but the Nigerian government under President Muhammadu Buhari refused to release him. His re-arrest gave rise to social upheavals which included protests, riots and civilian clashes with the security personnel in most Igbo speaking states of Imo, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi, Anambra and some other Igbo speaking parts of Delta and Rivers. The agitation for the release of Nnamdi Kanu has resulted in the death and injury of many young people (Aytogo, 2021). On July 2021, the IPOB spokesperson, Emma powerful, declared that every Monday effectively August 9th, 2021, shall be A Sit-At-Home throughout Biafra land as civil disobedience in demand for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

IPOB has also stated that the agitation for the separation of Biafra from Nigeria is occasioned by marginalization of Igbo people in politics, economy, resources sharing formula, and other unmerited policies against Igbo people. This observation is shared by Owoeye, Ezeanya and Obiegbunam (2022). They state that the purported marginalization which made manifest by Buhari's administration included political alienation, uneven distribution of resources, maiming and killing of civilians by the cohesive agents of the government, covert and overt activities of Fulani herdsmen among other similar factors.



Since the introduction of the Sit-at-home every Monday in the South-East, there have been cases of loss of lives, burning of people's property, closing of schools and civil service, and a general heightened cost of living, loss of economy and other social hazards. Being disturbed by the ugly consequences of the sit-at-home in Anambra, the State Governor, Charles Soludo (2023) stressed the need for all concerned to get back to work, insisting that when our children go to school four days a week, it means a 20 per cent loss in productivity. Similarly, The Catholic Page Newspaper (2023) front page, states that the economy of the South-East region was suffering never-seen-before large scale losses totaling between ₦655 billion and ₦3.8 trillion over the 24 months. The paper further recorded a report by DevEast Foundation, an issue based policy, and business advocacy outfit, noting that some of those worst hit by the unfortunate scenario that is playing out in the region are transporters and traders/artisans. It in addition highlighted that the routine loss of working days for week; the attendant losses arising from cutbacks by business owners, response to the reduced working hours, and sundry lost opportunities have all contributed to making the south-east a massive unstable business environment. The commercial activity was completely halted, and losses suffered as a result of the sit-at-home were estimated to reach 8 billion naira at the end of the day (Nnewi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA), 2022). It is also on record that active youths who are hitherto gainfully and self-employed are struggling to make ends as the economic hardship bites harder due to the effect of the order (Anoke, Osita, Eze & Muogbo, 2021).

Uwazuruike, (2023) maintains that the yawning leadership gap that exists in the region has been exploited by criminal elements to enrich themselves. The IPOB members and Ndigbo are very bitter with Simon Ekpa who hijacked this peaceful sit-at-home order using criminal elements. Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, through Emma Powerful and Barrister Ifeanyi Ejiofor have serially criticized and condemned the sit-at-home order that took a dangerous dimension. Ezike(2023) observes that one of the reasons of sit-at-home order apart from unlawful detention of Nnamdi Kanu by the Nigerian government even after a court of competent jurisdiction had freed, discharged and acquitted him, is the continued marginalization of Ndigbo. Chekwas Okorie (2023) says states that Mondays recorded even more harrowing scenes of gruesome deaths, brutalization, and massive destruction of property. He further expresses that social, cultural and economic dislocation caused by the sit-at-home order injected serious fear in every citizen that is resident in the south east.

The gap which the study tends to close is the scanty of literature and theories that give explanations to this work. In addition, no work has featured in this topic using this geographical area of the study. Based on this observation, the study is able to provide enough literature and theory that will be directed in explaining and solving the problem of Biafran agitation and sit-at-home orders in Igboland as a whole.

Research Questions

The following research questions were found useful in this work.

- 1, To what extent did the IPOB Sit-At-Home orders disrupt social activities/engagements of residents of Igboland, Nigeria?



2. To what extent did the IPOB Sit-At-Home orders heighten insecurity in Igboland?
3. What is the impact of the IPOB Sit-At-Home orders on the economy of the Igboland?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are used.

1. There is no significant relationship between the IPOB Sit-At-Home orders and disruption of social activities/engagements of people in Igboland
2. There is no significant relationship between the IPOB Sit-At-Home orders and heightened insecurity in Igboland.
3. There is no significant relationship between the IPOB Sit-At-Home orders and loss of economic activities in Igboland.

Theoretical Framework

The study used the Aggression Exchange Theory of George Homans of 1967. The theory posits that when a person's action does not receive the reward he expects or receives punishment he does not expect, he will be angry, and he is likely to perform aggressive behaviour, and such behaviour becomes more valuable to him. Relating the theory to the study, the agitation for self-independence by the Indigenous People of Biafra which gave rise to sit-at-home-order is as a result of injustice and marginalization which Igbo people receive from the federal government. Igbo people are politically, economically, and socially marginalized contrary to the principle of federal character. Having been provoked by the actions of the government that be, the Igbo people thought it more beneficial to be on their own than continue to receive punishment from the federal government. It is the aftermath of this provocation which denied justice to the legally discharged and quitted IPOB leader that prompted sit-at-home order which is a tool to demonstrate their anger and a pressure mounted on the federal government to release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. According to Baride (2013:138),

Aggression is not just undertaken as a natural reaction or instinct, but that it is the outcome of frustration and that in a situation where the legitimate desires of an individual is denied either directly or by indirect consequence of the way the society is structured, the feeling of disappointment may lead such a person to express his anger through violence that will be directed at those he holds responsible or people who are directly or indirectly related to them.

METHOD

The study adopted cross sectional survey research design. Questionnaire and in-depth interview were used. In-depth interview was conducted on two youth leaders in the selected states. Then, the questionnaire was administered on the selected members of these communities chosen using convenient random sampling technique because the respondents possess similar characteristics of being Igbo people. The population of the study was 766 and the sample size was 262 in which Taro Yamane statistical formula. Likert measuring scale was adopted to explain the responses of the



respondents. Statistical packages for social sciences such as simple percentages, means and tables were used to analyse the research questions while Chi-square statistic was used to test the hypotheses.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Socio-demographic Information of the Respondents

Items	Frequency/Percentage
Sex:	
Male	126(48.09%)
Female	136(51.91%)
Total	262 / (100)
Age Bracket:	
15-22	21(8.02%)
25-34	69(26.34%)
35-44	76(29.00%)
45 and above	96(36.64%)
Total	262 / (100)
Academic Qualification:	
FSLC	16(6.11%)
GCE/WAEC/NECO	68(29.95%)
OND/HND	46(17.56%)
B.A/M.Sc. and its equivalence	82(31.29%)
M.A./Ph.D	50(19.08%)
Total	262/ (100)
Occupation:	
Student	65(24.81%)
Trader/Business/men/women	58(22.14%)
Transporter	18(5.73%)
Artisan	31(11.83%)
Civil Servant	44(16.79%)
	64(24.43%)
Total	314 / (100)s
State/Local Government Area:	
Abia:	
Umunneochi	35(9.54%)
Isuikwuato	34(12.98%)
Imo:	
Okigwe	55(20.99%)
Orsu	52(19.85%)
Ebonyi:	
Ivo	42(16.03%)
Ohaoara	44(16.79%)
Total	262 / (100)

From table 1 above, the male respondents were 126(48.09%) while the females were in the majority of 136(51.91%). With respect to the ages of the respondents, those of them within the age bracket of 15-24 is 21(8.02%). Then those within 25-34 is 69(26.34%), 35-44 were 76(29.00%) while 45 years and above were



96(36.64%). The implication is that those within the age bracket of 45 and above were more than others. On their academic qualifications, those who possess FSLC were 16(6.11%), GCE/WAEC/NECO were 68(25.95%), OND/HND were 46(17.56%), B.Sc/M.A were 82(31.30%) while M.Sc./Ph.D were 50(19.08%). On the occupation of the respondents, students were 65(24.81%), traders/business persons were 58(22.14%), transporters were 31(11.83%), artisans were 44(16.79%), and civil servants were 64(24.43%). As it concerns local governments, Umunneochi amounted to 35(13.36.32%), Isuikwuato, 34(12.99%), Okigwe 55(20.99%), Orsu 52(19.55%), Ivo 42(16.03%) and Ohaozara 44(16.79%).

Table 2: Responses from the Questionnaire Items

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Total
Sit-at-home Order and Social Activities:	116	119	17	10	3.30	262
	44.27	45.42	6.49	3.82		
1.Sit-at-home order is a new socio-political development in Igbo land.	126	121	9	6	3.40	262
	48.09	46.18	3.44	2.19		
2. Sit-at-home order is a strategy to release the IPOB leader from detention.	156	72	16	18	3.40	262
	59.54	27.48	6.11	6.87		
3.Sit-at-home order is related to Igbo marginalization in Nigerian polity.	113	120	19	10	3.28	262
	43.13	45.80	7.25	3.82		
4.There is 95 compliance of this order in Igbo land.	146	110	5	1	3.53	262
5.Sit-at-home order disrupts social engagements/activities.	55.73	41.98	1.91	0.38		
	150	104	3	5	3.52	262
6.The closure of schools in Igbo land impacts on poor academic standard of students.	57.25	39.69	1.15	1.91		
					3.34	262
Sit-at-home and Insecurity:	106	97	2	3		
7.People are afraid to go to their farms on days of this order.	61.07	37.02	0.76	1.15	3.62	262
	166	94	1	1		
8.People who violate this order stand the risk of losing their lives.	63.36	38.88	0.30	0.38	3.52	262
	154	102	2	4	2.90	
9.People are afraid to express their views on sit-at-home related matters.	58.78	38.93	0.76	1.53		262
	126	97	22	17	3.21	
10.Hoodlums hijacked it-at-home to terrorize people in Igbo land.	48.09	37.02	8.40	6.49		262
					3.42	
Sit-at-home and Economic Losses:	122	109	16	15		262
11.Investors in Igbo land are relocating to other states.	46.56	41.60	6.11	5.73	3.47	
12Some people living in the areas are relocating to other states for safety.	128	121	7	6		262
	48.85	46.18	2.67	2.29	3.41	
13. Sit-at-home.-order has caused economic losses on traders/artisans.	143	121	3	4		262
	51.15	46.18	1.15	1.52		
14. Sit-at-home order negatively affects workers' productivity	133	112	8	9		
	50.76	42.75	3.05	3.44		
Total	1920	1499	130	109	47.32	3668

Note: Accept mean score that is 2.25 and above as significant



The data on the Table 2 above are analyzed by collapsing the agreeing and disagreeing responses into two groups. Then, the mean value is that any response score that is between 2,5 and above is significant while below it is considered not significant. Therefore, the information on the above table as it affects whether sit-at-home order is a new socio-political development in Igbo land, 235(89.69%) agree to the statement while 27(10.31%) disagree to the statement. As observed, 247(94.28%) of the respondents agree that sit-at-home order is a strategy used to ensure the release of the leader of IPOB leader whereas 15(9.16%) do not agree. With respect to the marginalization of Igbo tribe and sit-at-home, 228(87.02%) of the respondents agree to the statement while 34(12.98%) do not agree. As to whether people comply with the directive, 233(88.93%) agree that there is 95% compliance whereas 29(11.07%) disagree. It then means that 95% of the people in Igbo land observe sit-at-home order. On whether sit-at-home order disrupts social activities/engagements, 256(97.71%) respondents agree while 6(2.29%) disagree showing that it disorganizes the activities of people in Igbo land. On the closure of schools in the south-east and poor academic standard of students, 254(96.95%) of the respondents agree whereas 8(3.05%) disagree to the statement implying that students in the area are academically backward when compared to their counterparts in other states.

As it affects sit-at-home order and heightened insecurity in Igbo land, 257(97.71%) agree that people are afraid to go their farms while 5(2.29%) disagree. Then, on the stand of those who violate the sit-at-home order, 260(99.24%) agree that those violate the order stand the risk of losing their live and property whereas 2(0.78%) fail to agree. It is observed that 261(99.62%) of the respondents agree that people are afraid to express their opinions on issues relating to sit-at-home to avoid being killed while 6(2.29%) do not agree. This simply means that people are afraid to express their views in public with respect to the activities that relate to this order.

On sit-at-home and loss of economy in Igbo land with emphasis on relocation of business investors from Igbo land, 231 (88.18%) agree and 31(11.83%) do not agree that many business investors are relocating to other states indicating that losses are recorded in people's economy. On whether people who live in Igbo land are relocating to other states for their safety, 249(95.04%) agree to the statement whereas 13(4.96%) disagree. With respect to economic losses to the traders and artisans in the southeast, 255(97.33%) agree while 7(2.67%) do not agree. on whether sit-at-home order causes loss of productivity on the government and civil servants, 245(93.51%) agree whereas 17(6.49%) do not agree.

Test of Hypotheses

In an attempt to testing the hypotheses, the chi-square statistical tool was used to carry out test of a significant relationship between the pairs of variables of interest in the study.

Hypothesis One:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between sit-at-home order and disruption of social activities/engagements in Igbo land.

Table 3.1: Observed and Expected Frequencies of Respondents on Sit-at-Home Order and



Disruption of Social Activities/Engagements in Igbo land.

S/N	Statement/Item Specification	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Sit-at-home Order and Social Activities:			17(11.5)	10(8.33)	262
2.	Sit-at-home order is a new socio-political development in Igbo land.	116(143.5)	119(107.67)	9(11.5)	6(8.33)	262
3.	Sit-at-home order is a strategy to release the IPOB leader from detention.	126(143.5)	121(107.67)	16(11.5)	18(8.33)	262
4.	Sit-at-home order is related to Igbo marginalization in Nigerian polity.	156(143.5)	72(107.67)	19(11.5)	10(8.33)	262
5.	There is 95 compliance of this order in Igbo land.	113(143.5)	120(107.67)	5(11.5)	1(8.33)	262
6.	Sit-at-home order disrupts social engagements/activities.	146(143.5)	110(107.67)	3(11.5)	5(8.33)	262
	The closure of schools in Igbo land impacts on poor academic standard of students.	150(143.5)	104(107.67)	69	50	1572
	Total	807	646			

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{e}$$

$$X^2_{cal} = 154.2$$

$$df = 15$$

$$\alpha = 0.05$$

$$X^2_{crit.} = 25$$

The Table 3.1 above gives a contingency table of observed and expected frequencies of responses of respondents on sit-at-home order and disruption of social activities in Igbo land. The frequencies of responses of the 262 respondents as observed are given in figures that are not bracketed. The observed frequencies of responses patterned along four-response options of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) showed that the respondents, by their numbers to the greatest extent, strongly agree to all the items of interest as shown in the table (SA = 807), while strongly disagreeing to the lowest level (SD = 50) on taking the routes of the items (statements) in destabilizing social activities in Igbo land.

The values in the cells that are in brackets give the expected frequencies or hypothetical distribution of the response of the respondents for the determination of the extent of relationship between the values and the actual distribution of the respondents. The predicted distribution from the null hypothesis and the total number of the respondents formed the basis for the calculation of the chi-square (X^2). The results of X^2 statistical analysis are shown below the table. Thus, the



calculated X^2 value of 1542, tested at 15 degree of freedom (df) and an alpha level of 0.05 produced a critical X^2 values of 25. Since the calculated value ($X^2= 154.2$) is greater than the critical value (X^2_{25}), the null hypothesis (H_0) becomes rejected and this shows that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home and disruption of social activities in Igbo land.

Hypothesis Two:

H₀: There is no significant relationship between sit-at-home order and heightened insecurity in Igbo land.

Table 3.2: Observed and Expected Frequencies of Respondents on Sit-at-Home Orders and heightened Insecurity in Igboland.

S/N	Statement/Item Specification	SA	A	D	SD	Total
	Sit-at-Home and Insecurity					
7.	People are afraid to go to their farms on days of this order.	160(151.5)	97(97.5)	2((6.75)	3(6.25)	262
8.	People who violate this order stand the risk of losing their lives.	166(151.5)	95(97.5)	1(6.75)	1(6.25)	262
9.	People are afraid to express their views on sit-at-home related matters.	154(151.5)	102(97.5)	2(6.75)	4(6.25)	262
10	Hoodlums hijacked it-at-home to terrorize people in Igbo land.	126(151.5)	97(97.5)	22(6.75)	17(6.25)	262
	Total	606	390	27	25	1048

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{e}$$

$$X^2_{cal} = 77.31$$

$$df = 9$$

$$\alpha = 0.05$$

$$X^2_{crit.} = 16.92$$

Table 3.2 above gives a contingency table comprising the observed and expected frequencies of respondents in terms of their responses to the items. The observed frequencies are given as values in the cells that are not bracketed, while the bracket values are the expected frequencies, otherwise the hypothetical distribution of the respondents based on the response pattern of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). It is observed from the table that 606 respondents strongly agree to the item statements that relate to sit-at-home order security challenges in Igbo land with 25 of them strongly disagreeing. In much the same way, a total of 390 of the respondents simply agreed while 27 also simply disagreed to sit-at-home order security challenges in Igbo land. There is thus, numerical superiority of the observed frequencies of the



respondents who agreed to those who disagreed to sit-at-home order and heightened insecurity in the area of study.

Given in the Table 3.2 also, are the expected frequencies and the sampled respondents. These values, given in parentheses are used in conjunction with the observed frequencies of the respondents to statistically determine whether or not a relationship exists between sit-at-home order and insecurity in Igbo land. The statistical analysis of the data given in the table 3.2 produced the results, which are shown immediately below the table.

From the calculation, the chi-square (X^2) calculated value is 77.31. A statistical test of significance done at 9 degree of freedom and 0.05 alpha level produced chi-square (X^2) critical value of 16.92. By this result, the X^2 calculated is greater than the X^2 critical value and for which reason, the null hypothesis becomes rejected. This leads to the conclusion that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home order and insecurity in Igbo land.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant relationship between Sit-at-home and Economic Losses in Igbo Land

Table 3.3: Observed and Expected Frequencies of Respondents on Sit-at-home and Economic Losses in Igbo Land.

S/N	Statement/Item Specification	SA	A	D	SD	Total
11	Sit-at-home and Economic Losses:	122(129.25)	109(115.75)	16(8.5)	15(8.5)	262
12	.Investors in Igbo land are relocating to other states.	128(129.25)	121(115.75)	7(8.5)	6(8.5)	262
13	Some people living in the areas are relocating to other states for safety.	143(129.25)	121(115.75)	3(8.5)	4(8.5)	262
14	Sit-at-home.-order has caused economic losses on traders/artisans.	133(129.25)	121(115.75)	8(8.5)	9(8.5)	262
	Sit-at-home order negatively affects workers productivity	517	463	34	34	1048
	Total					

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

e

$$X^2_{cal} = 20.27$$

$$df = 9$$

$$\alpha = 0.05$$

$$X^2_{crit.} = 16.92$$



Table 3.3, given above gives a contingency table of observed and expected frequencies of the respondents in view of their responses to the items. The observed frequencies of the 262 respondents that fall into the option response patterns of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD), are given as values that are not bracketed in the cells of the table. A look at this will reveal that an appreciable portion of the respondents agreed that a relationship exists between sit-at-home and economic losses, compared to the proportion who disagreed. In particular, a total of 517 respondents strongly agree, while 34 strongly disagree that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home and economic losses in Igbo land.

In this Table, 3.3 also are the expected frequencies of these respondents, whose values according to their patterns of responses are placed in parentheses. The hypothetical distribution of the respondents is used together with the observed frequencies to statistically test the null hypothesis and the subsequent computations based on the two groups of values (observed and expected frequencies) produced the results that are given immediately below the table.

Thus, the calculated chi-square (X^2) value on the 262 respondents is given as 20.27. This was subjected to a test of significance at 9 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance and the resulting chi-square critical value is 16.92. Based on the resulting values in which the chi-square calculated value ($X^2 = 20.27$) is greater than the critical value, ($X^2 = 16.92$), the null hypothesis becomes rejected meaning that the conclusion is that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home and economic losses in Igbo land.

DISCUSSION

The discussion of this study is based on the findings of the three specific variables and their associated other item specifications. On how sit-at-home had disrupted social activities, the paper discovered that the sit-at-home order was a new social political development in Igbo land. It further revealed that the order was linked to the continued detention of the IPOB leader and marginalization of Igbo people in Nigerian polity. This supports Ezike (2023) who observes that one of the reasons of sit-at-home order apart from unlawful detention of Nnamdi Kanu by the Nigerian government even after a court of competent jurisdiction had freed, discharged and acquitted him, is the continued marginalization of Ndigbo. In addition, the sit-at-home order had led to disruption of social activities like shutting of schools in the south east in which students were academically backward when compared with their counterparts in other states of the nation. This observation is in line with Soludo (2023) who recounted how children going to school four days in a week in the eastern states amounted to 20 per cent loss in productivity in academic activities. In addition, people who had other social engagements such market days to attend, going to hospitals for treatment, birthday parties among others, could not make them for fear of being killed by unknown people. These assertions were authenticated by the responses of the respondents and the mean values which were shown on table 2 in which the accepted mean value of 2.5 had all the above that acceptable level of significance. Also, the chi-square X^2 statistical test showed that the calculated X^2 154.2 was greater than the critical value 25, which was derived from the degree of freedom 15 showing that the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home order and disruption of social activities and engagements in Igbo land.



Qualitatively, one of the interviewees has this to say: “I have an appointment with my Doctor this Monday, but I could not go and patent medicine stores are closed for me to go and buy drugs as a coping strategy but could not which had my health deteriorated”. Another person said thus: “The only solution to end sit-at-home is immediate release of Nnamdi Kanu. As far as he is still in detention there continues to be problem of sit-at-home in Igbo land”.

On heightened insecurity resulting from sit-at-home order, the paper found that the order really increased security challenges in Igbo land. These were shown on table 2 which contained the responses of the respondents. In the first place, all the mean values were above 2.5 showing that sit-at-home order increased insecurity in Igbo land. In addition, people were afraid to go their farms for fear of being killed by a group of criminals who hijacked the order to terrorize the innocent citizens. Also, people could no longer speak in public on issues relating to sit-at-home for fear of being killed. Furthermore, those who violated the order stood the risk of losing their lives and property which was evidenced in Igbo land today as there are cases of gruesome killing and destruction of property. This observation supports Uwazurike (2023), Omu-Ngebo, et al. (2024) and Nwafor, et al. (2024) who are unanimous that the yawning leadership gap that exists in the region has been exploited by criminal elements to enrich themselves. The finding also supports Oti (2023) whose government discovered 20 human bodies without their heads, over 50 decomposed human bodies and unaccountable number of human skeletons in the Lokpanta cattle market in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State.

From the calculation of chi-square X^2 value, 77.31 on Table 3.2, a statistical test of significance done at 9 degree of freedom and 0.05 alpha level produced chi-square X^2 critical value 16.92. Since the chi-square calculated is greater than the X^2 critical value for which reason, the null hypothesis is rejected showing that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home and heightened security challenges in Igbo land.

With respect to loss of economy in Igbo land, it was found out that sit-at-home order negatively impacted on economic generation of people in the area. This was demonstrated judging from the responses of the respondents. In all the item specifications, the respondents’ mean values were above 2.5 which established a significance of sit-at-home order and lose in the economy of the people in Igbo land. The relocation of business investments to other states with relative peace is a minus on economic boost of the people. In addition, individuals themselves especially civil servants relocated to other areas to avoid being harmed. By implication, their exit negatively affects business patronage in the area. One of the interviewees said: we record economic setback, we longer attend our daily markets especially on Mondays, and the situation increased hardship among the residents especially in Okigwe”.

Judging from the result of the test of hypothesis as shown on table 3.3, the chi-square x^2 calculated value, 20.22 and the critical value of 16.92 statistically tested at 9 degree of freedom and 0.05 alpha level produced chi-square X^2 critical value 16.92. Since the chi-square calculated is greater than the X^2 critical value, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected showing that a significant relationship exists between sit-at-home and heightened security challenges in Igbo land.

CONCLUSION



The study concludes that the Biafran agitation for self-independent state was rooted on Igbo marginalization from other ethnic groups in Nigeria. This is because the continued detention of the IPOB leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, even when the apex court discharged and acquitted him is still a clear demonstration of injustice, hatred against Igbo ethnic nationality, and by extension, a violation of fundamental human right as provided by the 1999 Nigerian Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Sit-at-home orders were then used means to pressurize the Nigerian government to release him as ordered by Emma Powerful and other Nigerian stakeholders. Therefore, the sit-at-home orders registered ugly consequences in Igbo land such as disorganization of social activities, increasing security challenges and loss in economic generation of the people in Igbo land. The following recommendations are made: The federal government should as a matter of urgency, grant Mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditional release for peace to reign in Igbo land through the efforts of Igbo political office holders. The federal government which is dominated by other ethnic groups in Nigeria especially Hausa/Fulani and Yoruba should see Igbo ethnic group as an integral part of Nigeria. There should be politics of inclusion where more Igbo sons and daughters are appointed into the nation's political positions in Nigeria. Igbo people themselves should embrace the culture of brotherhood and never a sell out to their brothers on selfish reasons.

Ethical Clearance

Ethical consent was sought and obtained from the participants used in this study. They were made to understand that the exercise was purely for academic purposes, and their participation was voluntary.

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Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest during the course of this study.

Authors' Contributions

Dr Fidelia Amara Duru and Dr Mary Chinturu Adindu conceived the study including the design. However, Dr. Concleth Madukauba Duru helped in the data analysis and their interpretations. Then, the authors read and approved the final manuscript for publication in its current form.

Availability of Data and Materials:

The datasets on which conclusions were made for the study are available on reasonable request.

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