
**Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): The Impact on Entrepreneur's Businesses in Uyo
Metropolis**

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 is caused by a contagious newly identified virus, and can have an enormous public health impact with substantial fatal outcomes in high-risk groups and economic and societal disruption. Therefore, it is important that measures that are appropriate and proportionate to each phase of the epidemic are immediately put in place to interrupt human-to-human transmission chains, prevent further spread, reduce the intensity of the epidemic and slow down the increase in cases. Hit by the Covid-19 slump, followed by social distancing and a nationwide lockdown, businesses are experiencing major impacts no matter how established they are and are having to re-look at how they manage and operate their business including re-visitation of their business plan, to suit daily activities which are confined to online platforms. The study therefore sought to assess the impact of Covid-19 on entrepreneurs' businesses in Akwa Ibom State. The study made use of The Expost-facto survey design. The population of the study consisted of all entrepreneurs' businesses in Akwa Ibom State. 30 respondents were obtained as the sample size through a stratified systematic sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was an interview schedule titled "CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID 19) IMPACT ON ENTREPRENEUR'S BUSINESSES QUESTIONNAIRE" (CDIEBQ). Instrument reliability was tested using Cronbach reliability test at 0.86 coefficient. The data obtained was analyzed using the descriptive statistics for the research questions and simple regression for hypothesis. The result was tested for significance at 0.05 alpha level. The study concluded that the presence of covid-19 has been identified in Akwa Ibom State and there is significant influence of covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State. One of the recommendations made was that during this lockdown period, entrepreneurs must strive to move with the trend by adopting the use of online platforms such as online banking transactions, online discount to customers, online after-sales services to still render services to customers.

KEY WORDS: Covid-19, pandemic, lockdown, entrepreneur's businesses.

Introduction

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province, China. While the outbreak in China is almost over, this highly contagious disease is currently spreading across the world, with a daily increase in the number of affected countries, confirmed cases and infection-related deaths. On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Based on the high levels of global spread and the severity of COVID-19, on 11 March 2020, the Director-General of the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic Akerstrom et.al. (2005). COVID-19, from the family of Coronavirus (others include SARS, H5N1, H1N1 and MERS), is a contagious respiratory illness transmitted through the eyes, nose, and mouth, via droplets from coughs and sneezes, close contact with infected person and contaminated surfaces. It has an incubation period of approximately one to fourteen days. The symptoms include cough, fever and shortness of breath, and it is diagnosed through a laboratory test. The contagion could lead to severe respiratory problems or death, particularly among the elderly and persons with underlying chronic illnesses. Some infected persons however, are carriers for the virus with no symptoms while others may experience only a mild illness and recover easily (WHO, 2020)

According to Del Rio (2020), the crisis of COVID-19 has already transformed into business and labor market shock, impacting both small, medium and large scale businesses. All businesses, regardless of size, are facing serious challenges, especially entrepreneurs since all business men are forced to stay indoors amidst the pandemic and business firms closed down. Following travel bans, border closures and quarantine measures, many workers cannot move to their places of work or carry out their jobs, which has knock-on effects on incomes, particularly for informal and casually employed workers. Entrepreneurs are unable to carry out their daily business routines and consumers are unable or reluctant to purchase goods and services. Given the current environment of uncertainty and fear, enterprises are likely to delay investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers.

Statement of the problem

On daily basis, new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) emerge around the world. People are being affected by the rate at which the virus spreads, they are being quarantined in hospitals and aboard ships in distant ports, and the movement of labor and vital supplies has been significantly distorted. Currently, COVID-19 has been considered a pandemic as a result of its speed and scale of transmission. Disruptions to production, have now spread to supply chains across the world. All businesses, regardless of size, are facing serious challenges, especially entrepreneurs, with a real threat of significant declines in revenue, insolvencies and job losses in specific sectors. Sustaining business operations will be particularly difficult for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The study therefore sought to assess the impact of covid-19 on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of Covid-19 on entrepreneurs businesses in Akwa Ibom State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. To find out the extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State.
2. To examine the health effects of covid-19 on human beings.

3. To assess the covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

1. What is the extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What is the health effects of covid-19 on human beings?
3. What is the covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State?

Hypotheses

H₀1: There is no significant influence of covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State.

Conceptual Framework

Concept of Coronavirus

The novel Coronaviruses are not new infectious pathogens in the world. The first described coronavirus was isolated from chickens in 1937. Human coronaviruses were first identified in the mid-1960s (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>).

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses belonging to the family of *Coronaviridae*, which infect both animals and humans. Human coronaviruses can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease (such as MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS–Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). According to the genome structure and phylogenetic analysis of coronaviruses, the *Coronaviridae* family can be divided into four genera: α , β , γ , and δ . The coronaviruses of the α and β genera generally infect mammals and humans, while the coronaviruses of the γ and δ genera mainly infect birds. SARS-CoV-2 (covid-19) is a novel coronavirus of the β genus; it is round or oval, with a diameter of approximately 60–140 nm and a crown-shaped appearance under an electron microscopy. (Akerstrom et al, 2006)

Besides SARS-CoV-2, six other corona- viruses can infect humans, including human coronavirus 229E (HCoV-229E), OC43 (HCoV-OC43), NL63 (HCoV-NL63), HKU1 (HCoV-HKU1), SARS-CoV, and MERS-CoV. They can be stored for several years at -80 °C and inactivated at 56 °C for 30 min (the most commonly used method to inactivate SARS-CoV-2 in the laboratory). In addition, 75% ethanol, peracetic acid, and chlorine- containing disinfectants can effectively inactivate SARS-CoV-2. (Lu et al., 2019)

Coronavirus can cause human respiratory tract infection or animal intestinal infection. The process of virus infection requires the participation of receptors on the surface of the host cell membrane. The S protein on the surface of coronavirus can recognize and bind to the receptor and then invade the host cell through clathrin-mediated endocytosis. Signs and symptoms include respiratory symptoms and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and sometimes death.

Concept of COVID-19

COVID-19, subsequently named SARS-CoV-2 is defined as illness caused by a novel coronavirus now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; formerly called 2019-nCoV), which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It was initially reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019. On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

Illness caused by SARS-CoV-2 was recently termed COVID-19 by the WHO, the new acronym derived from "coronavirus disease 2019." The name was chosen to avoid stigmatizing the virus's origins in terms of populations, geography, or animal associations. Another coronavirus, SARS-CoV-1, the cause of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003, was also closely related to other coronaviruses isolated from bats. These close genetic relations of SARS-CoV-1, SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses, suggest that they all have their ecological origin in bat populations. Many of these coronaviruses can also infect several animal species. Buonavoglia et al (2006).

Nigerian recorded its first case of COVID-19 on the 25th of February 2020 with the index case being an Italian man who works in Nigeria and flew into the commercial city of Lagos from Milan. The treatment is symptomatic, and oxygen therapy represents the major treatment intervention for patients with severe infection. Outpatients with COVID-19 should stay at home and try to separate themselves from other people in the household. They should wear a face mask when in the same room (or vehicle) as other people and when presenting to health care settings. Disinfection of frequently touched surfaces is also important. The optimal duration of home isolation is uncertain, but in consideration of incubation time around 14 days without symptoms (fever, dyspnea, others) are considered sufficient to end home isolation. According to Anand et al (2003), prevention is, so far, the best practice in order to reduce the impact of COVID-19 considering the lack of effective treatment. In order to achieve this goal, the main measures are the following:

(1) to use face masks; (2) to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues; (3) to wash hands regularly with soap or disinfection with hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol; (4) to avoid contact with infected people; (5) to maintain an appropriate distance from people; and (6) to refrain from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Prevalence of Covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State

As many states of the federation began to record cases of COVID-19, many believe it was only a matter of before it would hit Akwa Ibom State and it came to pass even though the index case and mortality rate is far below the horrible encounters experienced in other states of Nigeria and other parts of the world. As at the time this research was carried out there was a total index case of seventeen people, twelve discharge and two deaths.

According to Udonquak (2020), before the announcement by the National Centre for Disease Control that five persons had tested positive for COVID-19 in Akwa Ibom State, there had been calls for a lockdown of the state, which many thought would have presented the 'entry of the disease' to the state and this was ignored. So, it was no surprise that when NCDC announced the test results of five samples from the state confirming them to be positive for COVID-19, the health commissioner quickly issued a statement rejecting the test result.

According to the statement issued by the health commissioner, Dominic Ukpog, the state government only heard about the test results in the news, adding that all five reported cases have been contacted and they have showed no symptoms of COVID-19. “The confirmed cases who are mostly healthcare professionals are in good health and have so far presented no symptoms. However, they have been moved to the isolation centers for proper management and the process of contact tracing has begun, to identify those who they may have been exposed to. With the release of the confirmed cases in the state, it has now dawned on the people that it is no longer a time for living in denial of the virus but it is their responsibility to comply with the guidelines on how to stay safe and beat COVID-19, part of which is the stay-at-home order and the total lockdown of the state.

The Health Effect of Covid-19 on Human Beings

WHO and public health authorities around the world are acting to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. However, this virus is generating health issues throughout the population, both physically and psychologically. Antonio (2005):

Physically, COVID-19 main symptoms include Fever, Cough, Dyspnea, Headache, Sore throat, Sputum production, Hemoptysis, Diarrhea, Lymphopenia and even death. The possibility of COVID-19 should be considered primarily in patients with new onset fever and/or respiratory tract symptoms (e.g., cough, dyspnea). The period from the onset of COVID-19 symptoms to death ranges from 6 to 41 days with a median of 14 days. This period is dependent on the age of the patient and status of the patient’s immune system, the likelihood of COVID-19 is increased if the patient: (1) resides in or has travelled within the prior 14 days to a location where there is community transmission of SARS-CoV-2; (2) has had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the prior 14 days, including through work in health care settings. Close contact includes being within approximately six feet (about two meters) of a patient for a prolonged period of time while not wearing personal protective equipment or having direct contact with infectious secretions while not wearing personal protective equipment. COVID-19 affects people psychologically by changing their perception and believe, causing anxiety and fear about the virus. (Wu et al, 2020)

Covid-19 and Lockdown in Akwa Ibom State

According to the Premium Time, April 29 2020, following the rapid spread of the virus in social gatherings, Akwa Ibom State is currently in a lockdown to help curtail the spread of the virus. Governor Udom Emmanuel had in a broadcast on April 2 announced an initial 14 days lockdown of Akwa Ibom state and later extended it by seven days on April 16. The governor has directed that the taskforce for containment of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Akwa Ibom State be trained and equipped to undertake its critical task, as the state commences a week long lockdown. On the lock down, the state chief executive stated that it will not affect foodstuff markets, explaining that shutting down the market in a state where a good number of citizens live on subsistent farming and petty trading, will bring untold hardship on the people. The Secretary to the State Government, Emmanuel Ekuwem, who is also the Chairman, Covid-19 Management Committee, said the decision to extend the lockdown was painful but very necessary to curtail the spread of the pandemic. He urged residents to continue to observe all personal hygiene

guidelines earlier issued by the state government and experts as well adhere to the social distancing. He reminded residents that the lockdown order and other measures already announced to contain coronavirus were still in force, urging residents to cooperate with security agencies.

Medical Personnel's Effort in Combating Covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State

Health workers are at the front line of any outbreak response and as such are exposed to hazards that put them at risk of infection with an outbreak pathogen (in this case COVID-19). Hazards include pathogen exposure, long working hours, psychological distress, fatigue, occupational burnout, stigma, and physical and psychological violence. Avendano (2003).

On this note, according to the Premium Time, April 29 2020, Governor Udom Emmanuel gave the directive when he met with executives of the Conglomeration of Health Workers against COVID-19 at Government House, Uyo. The Conglomeration of Health Workers against COVID-19 is an amalgamation of the four 4 major health care associations in Akwa Ibom state, including the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) and the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AMLSN). In his remarks, Governor Emmanuel commended health workers' unions for their show of patriotism, solidarity and commitment toward forestalling incidence and spread of the global pandemic in Akwa Ibom state. Speaking on behalf of the Conglomeration of Health Workers against COVID-19, Akwa Ibom State Chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Dr. Nsikak Nyoyoko, lauded the visionary leadership of Governor Udom Emmanuel which, he said, was evident in the massive upgrade of medical facilities in the state. This, he added, has earned the Governor the prestigious national recognition of Healthcare Ambassador. He therefore assured the Governor of the readiness of the army of health workers to the war against COVID-19. The Secretary to the State Government, Emmanuel Ekuwem, who is also the Chairman, Covid-19 Management Committee, announced this during a press conference in Uyo, the state capital. "Within a short period of time, the state government has a fully kitted Emergency Operation Centre, which comprises Call Centre, Situation Room and Isolation Centre at the Ibom Specialist Hospital," he added.

Covid-19 Lockdown Effects on Entrepreneurs Businesses in Akwa Ibom State

Due to the slowdown in the national economy and lockdown in some states such as Lagos, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and more, as a result, Covid-19 has taken its toll on business firms causing disruptions in production. All businesses, regardless of size, are facing serious challenges, especially business entrepreneurs, with a real threat of significant declines in revenue, insolvencies and job losses in the work sector. Sustaining business operations will be particularly difficult for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) (Priya 2020).

Following the lockdown in Akwa Ibom State, particularly in Uyo as the main town, business entrepreneurs are finding it challenging to carry on their daily business operations. Following travel bans, border closures and quarantine measures, many workers cannot move to their places of work or carry out their jobs, which has knock-on effects on incomes, particularly for informal and casually employed workers. Consumers are unable or reluctant to purchase goods and services. Given the current environment of uncertainty and fear, entrepreneurs are likely to delay

investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers. A pause in entrepreneurs business in Akwa Ibom State has subsequently affect the states' work sector in the following ways:

(a) The quantity of jobs (both unemployment and underemployment); the shock to labor demand is likely to translate into significant downward adjustments to wages and working hours, following the mass withdrawal of individuals into their homes. Since the only business firms instructed by the government to operate are the supermarkets and pharmaceutical shops, informal employment tends to increase. However, the current limitations on the movement of people and goods may restrict this type of coping mechanism.

(b) The quality of work (e.g. wages and access to social protection); workers remuneration will subsequently reduce in the operating businesses due to lack of customers to patronize them.

(c) Effects on specific groups who are more vulnerable to adverse labor market outcomes. Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the lockdown, which will constrain both their ability to access their places of work in destination countries and return to their families.

Survival Strategies for Businesses during covid-19 Lockdown

The rapid spread of the virus has encouraged social distancing which led to the shutdown of financial markets, corporate offices, businesses and events. Though the world is under lockdown, internet connectivity is strong and its accompanying systems are as effective as ever before. Daily activities are confined to online platforms. Online banking transactions, Online Discount to Customers, online after-sales services, online service delivery, online educational platforms and such related platforms have made sure that the world continues to perform their daily activities without face-to-face interactions. It has become challenging for most businesses to keep their financial wheels turning during the lockdown period due to less revenue churn and the general uncertainty in the global, financial & environment. Unfortunately, the impact on startups or small businesses can be way more brutal as they have scarcer cash reserves and a smaller margin for managing sudden slumps. According to Priya (2020), here are a few tips to stay connected and afloat during the shutdown:

Communicate transparently with your customers: We are all in this together, so the ideal way is to stay transparent with your consumers about what your business is going through. Customers can empathize with companies facing a crisis, as long as the communication is transparent. Communicate with customers to understand their perception of the product/solution you offered.

Maintaining healthy relationship with contracted parties: It is understandable that it might be difficult to pay out vendors/suppliers during the lockdown. However, it would be helpful to give your vendors, suppliers, landlords' etc. sufficient notice in case there is going to be any delay in payments so that they can also be prepared and there is no bitterness in this already difficult time.

Keep Your Team Engaged: Your team relies on you so keep them updated about every development. As a promoter, it is your responsibility to keep your team members engaged and stay connected with them through video conferencing tools like Zoom and Google Hangouts. It is very important to maintain high spirits during this lockdown. In these difficult times it is

important to stand united and help one another in whatever way we can. Stay safe and stay healthy. Please remember that some of the best initiatives are built in trying times. Like all difficult situations, this too shall pass!

Research Methodology

The survey design used for this study was an Expost-facto. The population of the study consisted of all entrepreneurs' businesses (such as business centers, beauty salons, fashion designers, fast food, drinking parlors, and barbing salons) in Akwa Ibom State. In order to select sample, 30 respondents were obtained from the 6 categories through a stratified systematic sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was an interview schedule titled "CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID 19) IMPACT ON ENTREPRENEUR'S BUSINESSES QUESTIONNAIRE" (CDIEBQ). The reason for using the interview schedule was because of restricted movement in the state and the respondents were called and interviewed over the phone. The contacts of the respondents were made available by friends contacted on phone as some of them had contacts of the aforementioned small scale and medium scales entrepreneurs. The instrument so developed was made to pass through face and content validation by experts in test and measurement/evaluation. Instrument reliability was tested using Cronbach reliability test at 0.86 coefficient. The data obtained was analyzed using the descriptive statistics for the research questions and simple regression for hypothesis. The result tested for significance at 0.05 alpha level.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Research Questions 1

The research question sought to find out the extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

Table 1: Percentage analysis of the extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State.

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
LOW EXTENT	6	20*
VERY LOW EXTENT	24	80**
TOTAL	30	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above table 1 presents the percentage analysis of extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (80%) of the respondents affirmed that the extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State is very low extent. While the least percentage (20%) of the respondents stated that the extent of the prevalence of covid-19 in Akwa Ibom State is low extent.

Research Questions 2

The research question sought to find out the health effects of covid-19 on human beings in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 2).

Table 2: Percentage analysis of the extent of the health effects of covid-19 on human beings.

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
VERY HIGH EXTENT	3	10*
HIGH EXTENT	5	16.67
LOW EXTENT	9	30
VERY LOW EXTENT	13	43.33**
TOTAL	30	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above table 2 presents the percentage analysis of health effects of covid-19 on human beings in Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (43.33%) of the respondents affirmed that the health effects of covid-19 on human beings is very low extent. This was seconded by those who affirmed that the extent is low extent (30%). The third group of the respondents (16.67%) affirmed that the extent is high extent while the least percentage (10%) of the respondents stated that the health effects of covid-19 on human beings is very high extent in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions 3

The research question sought to find out Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 3).

Table 3: Percentage analysis of the Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State.

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
VERY HIGH EXTENT	23	76.67**
HIGH EXTENT	7	23.33*
TOTAL	30	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above table 3 presents the percentage analysis of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (76.67%) of the respondents affirmed that the extent of the Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State is very high extent,

while the least percentage (23.33%) of the respondents stated that the extent of the Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur’s businesses in Akwa Ibom State is high extent.

Hypotheses

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant influence of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur’s businesses in Akwa Ibom State. In order to test the hypothesis regression analysis was performed on the data, (see table 4).

TABLE 4: Simple Regression Analysis of the influence of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur’s businesses in Akwa Ibom State

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change
1	0.91a	0.82	0.82	0.98	0.82

***Significant at 0.05 level; df= 28; N= 30; critical R-value = 0.374**

The table shows that the calculated R-value 0.91 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.374 at 0.5 alpha level with 28 degree of freedom. The R-Square value of 0.82 predicts 82% of the influence of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur’s businesses in Akwa Ibom State. This rate of percentage was highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur’s businesses in Akwa Ibom State.

It was also deemed necessary to find out the extent of the variance of each class of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 5).

TABLE 5: Analysis of variance of the influence of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur’s businesses in Akwa Ibom State

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	122.74	1	122.74	128.56*	.000b
Residual	26.73	28	0.96		
Total	149.47	29			

a. Dependent Variable: Entrepreneur’s Businesses

b. Predictors: (Constant), Covid-19 Lockdown Effects

The above table presents the calculated F-value as (128.56) and the P-value as (000). Being that the P-value (000) is below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is significant influence exerted by the independent variables (Covid-19 lockdown effects) on the dependent variable which is entrepreneur’s businesses.

Discussion of the Findings

The results of the data analyses in tables 4 and 5 were significant due to the fact that the calculated R-value 0.91 and F-128.56 were greater than the critical R-value of 0.374 at 0.05 level with 28, 1 & 28 degrees of freedom. The result implies that there is significant influence of Covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State. The result therefore is in agreement with the research findings of Priya (2020), who asserted that all businesses, regardless of size, are facing serious challenges, especially business entrepreneurs, with a real threat of significant declines in revenue, insolvencies and job losses in the work sector. Sustaining business operations will be particularly difficult for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

Conclusion

The Coronavirus disease has become a severe pandemic and poses many serious challenges at national, regional and global levels. The consequences, even if they are difficult to calculate, are expected to be enormous in view of the rapid spread of the Covid-19 and the drastic measures taken by the state include a total lockdown. Following travel bans, border closures and quarantine measures, many workers cannot move to their places of work or carry out their jobs, business entrepreneurs are unable to carry out their daily business routines and consumers are unable or reluctant to purchase goods and services. Given the current environment of uncertainty and fear, enterprises are likely to delay investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers. In conclusion, the presence of covid-19 has been identified in Akwa Ibom state and there is significant influence of covid-19 lockdown effects on entrepreneur's businesses in Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendations

1. The government should ensure that aid and health care workers have access to all populations in need, including rural dwellers, to accommodate surges in health personnel and allow the transport of humanitarian and medical commodities as needed for preparedness and response activities.
2. The government should ensure that any movement restrictions relating to COVID-19 account for the needs of different vulnerable groups, including business entrepreneurs.
3. Business entrepreneurs must strive to move with the trend by adopting the use of online platforms such as online banking transactions, online discount to customers, online after-sales services to still render services to customers.

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