

An assessment of economic strains of Covid-19 lockdown measures on family-owned businesses: the implications on domestic violence in Awka urban

Nwadike-Fasugba, Chinenye Martha

Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State
Email: cm.nwadike@unizik.edu.ng

&

Nwosu, Kingsley Uchenna (PhD)

Madonna University Nigeria
Email: nwosukingsley44@gmail.com

Abstract

The socio-economic implications of the Corona virus also known as Covid-19 pandemic has remained top in the recent academic researches and discourse, yet its implication on Family Owned Businesses (FOBs) in relation to domestic violence has remained relatively unexplored. The Covid-19 pandemic came with a lot of anxiety and stress on people and businesses; as such, it is expected that the level of domestic violence would rise considering the lockdown measure imposed during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, this present study assessed the implications of Covid-19 pandemic on FOBs in relation to domestic violence in Awka Urban, Anambra State, Nigeria. The study used a sample of 120 respondents selected through cluster and availability sampling techniques. Data for the study were collected through questionnaire distribution and data collected were analysed both descriptively and inferentially. Result of the study indicated that a significant proportion of the FOBs in Awka urban were economically strained due to the Covid-19 lockdown measures. FOBs dealing on essential commodities did not show statistically significant difference in economic strain compared to those dealing on non-essential commodities. The study equally found that domestic violence actually increased within the post-Covid 19 lockdown period, and the study equally found that domestic violence was higher within households whose FOBs sustained higher economic strain – implying that the economic strains caused by the Covid-19 pandemic was associated with increase in domestic violence within households that operate FOBs in Awka urban. The study recommended socio-economic support policies that could assist families to mitigate the strains sustained as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Covid-19 Lockdown, Implications, Family-Owned Business, Domestic Violence

Introduction

The Corona Virus also referred as Covid 19 pandemic is the most current issue of discourse within the international community and at every nation of the world. The outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic was officially declared on by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 11th March, 2020 (Ilesanmi, Ariyo & Afolabi, 2020). The outbreak of the virus was accompanied by massive response across the world, of which the most applied response to controlling the virus outbreak was total socio-economic lock down as well as social distancing. This response mode crippled socio-economic activities and confined people to remain indoors. Thus, families who hardly stay together were compelled to do so. In a logical analysis, one would assume that the lock down measure would help families re-unite themselves, communicate better and understand each other better. However, such assumption could be false considering the socio-economic strain inflicted upon many families by the Covid-19 lockdown measure. The lockdown period was associated with disruption of family routine, increase in spending without commensurate income and total lockdown of all socio-economic activities which sustain many families. As a current issue, several researchers have approached it with interesting topics, while some others are equally on research in order to understand the implications of the pandemic on the society. While some researchers seem to focus on the health implications of the pandemic (Roy, Singh, Mishra, Chinnadurai, Mitra & Bakshi, 2020; Schafer, Sopp, Schanz, Staginnus, Goritz & Michael, 2020; Shaukat, Ali, & Razzak, 2020; Tandon, 2020), others have focused on the global socio-economic implications of pandemic (Ajibo, 2020; Martin, Markhvida, Hallegatte & Walsh, 2020). However, less attention has been paid to its strains on FOBs and how such could be related to rise in domestic violence among families whose economy is dependent on the family businesses. This is considered a very important research area within the Covid-19 pandemic particularly due to the fact that FOBs have been recognised

as the foundation for the sustainability of many households especially in developing nations like Nigeria. According to Onuoha (2013), between 80% and 90% of world businesses are family owned and that family businesses provide about 30% of employed persons globally. This is equally consistent with Nzotta (2010) who averred that FOBs are very significant because they hold the linkage for social and economic wealth, creating communities, states, nations and maintenance of regions and completion across the globe.

As Covid 19 pandemic continues to ravage the whole world, it may not be out of place to assume that many FOBs collapsed or strained during the lockdown and post-lockdown period; and may have some implications on the rise of domestic violence within families who depend largely on the proceeds of their FOBs. This is arguable considering the view of theories like structural functionalism often like dysfunction within a social institution as a product of dysfunction in another socio-economic institution within the society (Lindsey & Beach, 2002). This implies that the peace and survival of the family may largely be dependent on how flourishing and viable the economic status of the family is. Where a family is strained economically, there may bound to be conflicts arising from stress, pressures and failure of the key actors to perform their financial obligations.

Domestic violence has been recognised as a global problem and a prevalence one for that matter across the globe. Although the Covid-19 lockdown was a measure to curtail the spreads of the Corona virus, its unintended negative consequences was enormous including social isolation, loneliness, inability of employers to pay their workers, job losses, increasing financial difficulties, a worsening of existing mental health conditions or the precipitation of new ones (e.g. depression and alcohol abuse), and the occurrence of violence in the home settings. Considering the temporary suspension in socio-economic activities that accompanied this pandemic, and coupled with the fact that domestic violence is bound to increase in situations of socio-economic distress (Ilesanmi, Ariyo & Afolabi, 2020), we assume that many households whose economic sustainability depends largely on FOB may have experienced heightened levels of domestic violence as a result of the economic strains caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is not quite certain how much strain that is inflicted upon FOBs particularly in Awka urban, and the implications of such strains (if there are) on rise of domestic violence within the post-Covid 19 lockdown. As much as the researchers are aware, no research has yet been conducted on this topic prior to the time of this present study. Thus, there was a gap in knowledge which this present study intends to fill. It is therefore against this backdrop that this study was positioned to assess the economic strains of Covid 19 lockdown measure on FOBs, and the implications of such strains on domestic violence in Awka urban.

Objectives of the Study

1. To determine the level of economic strain inflicted upon Family Business households in Anambra State during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. To examine the relationship between the economic strains during Covid-19 lockdown and domestic violence within selected FOBs in Anambra State.

Study Hypotheses

1. FOBs dealing on non-essential commodities would likely sustain higher economic strain as a result of Covid-19 lockdown measure than those dealing on essential commodities.
2. Domestic violence is likely to be higher in households whose FOBs experienced higher economic strain than those that experienced lower economic strains during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Literature Review

Conceptualizing Family Owned Business

The concept of family enterprise may undoubtedly differ considering the view that they depend on extraordinary socio-cultural realities of a given group of people and institutions. This justifies contrasts in Western and African-based definitions because of predominant practices of nuclear and extended family systems respectively. Consequently, literatures on family businesses or family firms vary widely with respect to definitions of what family businesses are. Despite this lack of consensus on acceptable definition of family business (Bennedsen & Kasper, 2010), some authors have provided insightful

definitions of family businesses. For instance, Dyer (2006) suggested two versions of such definitions. The first one is subjective – defining a family firm as one in which the management is controlled by the family members who are the owners of the business. In this case, strangers are not involved in the management and there is strict family ownership/management. The second definition is more objective, considering a firm to be a family business if it meets certain conditions such as the family's ownership fraction or the number of family members holding director position or occupying key management posts.

Allouche and Amann (2008), on the other hand considered a family business as that in which one or numerous families significantly influence the growth through ownership of its capital, laying emphasis on family affiliation with regard to the process of appointing company directors, whether they are family members or workers recruited externally, and expressing a wish to transmit the business to the subsequent generation with understanding the relevance of the business for the interests and goals of the family. This definition emphasises the sustainable dimensions of the business, characterised by the aspiration to transmit the patrimony it represents from one generation to another, in addition of the presence of the family.

There are actually various different scholarly conceptualisations of FOBs within the ambit of extant literature. However, while some scholars have the view that a family business is one in which its owner identifies as a family business (Okoroafo & Perry, 2010), other are of the view that a family business is one in which ownership by persons outside the family does not exceed 49% (Arregle, Naldi, Nordqvist & Hitt, 2012). These multiplicities of view in relation to the concept may lead to confusion in the proper understanding of what constitutes FOBs within the context of the present study. Consequently, a more appealing definition was articulated by Crick, Bradshaw and Chaudhry (2006), who argued that a firm is a family business if: 1) the senior executive regards their company as a family business; 2) the majority of ordinary voting shares in the firm are owned by members of the largest family group that are related by blood or marriage; 3) the management team of the firm is comprised mainly of members drawn from the single dominant family group who own the business; and 4) the firm has experienced an inter-generational ownership transition to a second or later generation of family members drawn from the single dominant family group owning the business. Within the context of this study area, FOBs may include those businesses whose offices are relatively smaller in physical appearance and whose employees are relatively smaller in number compared to larger cooperate firms, such as petty restaurant businesses, bakeries, poultry farms, pure water production companies, super markets, among others, as far as they are owned and controlled by members of a family.

Conceptualizing Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is one of the important concept that has been variously defined in the extant literature due to its pervasiveness in the socio-economic growth of the family viz-a-viz the entire society. According to Ekweonu (2020), domestic violence refers to all forms of violence perpetrated in the domestic sphere by one family member against another, which is perpetrated in the form of stalking, physical, sexual, and emotional violence; and child abuse which includes sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. Domestic violence may occur in all kinds of intimate relationships, including married couples, people who are dating, couples who live together, people with children in common, same-sex partners, people who were formerly in a relationship with the person abusing them, and teen dating relationships. However, one issue of prominence with domestic violence is that fact that it often occurs within the household setting. Domestic violence may occur through various forms including: 1) physical abuse – where violence may begin with less violent assaults and becomes increasingly more violent. Physical abuses resulting from domestic violence may include: pushing, slapping, kicking, punching, biting, through of objects, among others; 2) Emotional Abuse – where the parties involved uses one form of hurting words or actions to either make the other feel scared, crazy, worthless, or irresponsible. Such actions may include: ignoring the other's feelings, yelling at the other partner, blaming the victim for all problems, insulting a partner, using abusive words on a partner, criticizing a partner's competency, among others; 3) Sexual abuse – where a partner violates the sexual rights of another partner through activities involving: sexual jokes that make a partner uncomfortable, treating a partner as a sex object, criticizing a partner's sexuality, rape, using sexual jealousy as a tool of control,

among others; 4) Social abuse – where a partner uses forceful actions to isolate his or her partner from others in the community. Such actions may include: discouraging a partner from seeing friends or family members, monitoring a partner’s social media interactions, phone calls and messages, restricting access to car or car keys, among others; 5) financial abuse – where a partner attempts to establish financial control over another partner. This may occur in the forms of: controlling a partner’s access to cash, check book or credit cards, refusing to let a partner work to earn money, forcing a partner to turn over his or her income, among others. It is within the ambit of the above classifications that domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive tactics that can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and emotional abuse, perpetrated by one person against an intimate partner(s), with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control (Rakovec-Felser, 2014; United Nations, 2020).

The above definitions seem to exclude other actors often involved in domestic violence and focus more on the violence that occurs between intimate partners or specifically intimate partner violence – which is often used interchangeably with the concept of domestic violence. However, domestic violence encapsulates more than violence between intimate partners and cut across violence that can be meted against children, teenagers, parents or the elderly within the household unit. It is assumed that domestic violence is often heightened within periods of economic hardship when the parties involved in a family unit are strained in their roles, there increasing psychological stress on them, which could result in different forms of domestic violence.

Relationship Between Pandemic, Economic Strain and Domestic Violence

A Pandemic is an epidemic of an infectious disease that can spread across large regions such as across a continent, a nation or even the globe. According to Last (2001), a pandemic is an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people. During any form of pandemic, economic activities are crippled and many households are significantly affected. For instance, it was estimated that during the Covi-19 lockdown, the United States of America (USA) Gross Domestic Products (GDP) fell by 4.8% within the first quarter of the pandemic (McKibbin & Fernando, 2020); and this placed a serious implication on job losses as well as the economics of the family. According to Bick and Blandin (2020), the unemployment rate in the U.S. hit a staggering 14.7% officially in April 2020 from statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and in the six week span of March 15 to April 2020, a record of 30.2 Americans had filed for unemployment benefits (Martin et al, 2020). This is trend may equally be similar in other nations. In Nigeria, scholars like Oguntayo (2020) noted that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the earnings of Nigerians, most of whom work in the informal sector, plummeted due to the enforcement of the strict lockdown measure; and this was worsened by government’s inefficient distribution of palliatives to the worst hit masses, which contributed to the decline in the socioeconomic status of families.

Theoretical Framework

In order to properly articulate and explain the relationship between the variables introduced in this present study, the functionalist theory or structural functionalist theory is considered most relevant to drive our arguments. This theory grew out of the work of a number of Sociologists including Emile Durkheim, Herbert Spencer, Vilfredo Pareto and Talcott Parsons (Lindsey & Beach, 2002). The basic argument arising from this theory is that every institution of the society can be understood as interdependent systems in which a change in one system ultimately leads to significant changes in other parts. This assumption reflects the theory’s underlying *organic analogy* which compares socio-economic institutions of the society to the organs in the human body, with each organ carrying out a particular function necessary for the continued smooth operation of the whole system. A dysfunction on one part of the body inevitably leads to the dysfunction of the other parts.

Taking this analogy back to our present discourse in order to understand the relationship between the implications of Covid-19 pandemic on FOBs and domestic violence, it could be understandable that violence is likely to abound in households who depend on their family businesses for sustainability, considering the fact that family business as an economic institution provides many homes with financial income, employment and ultimately sustainability of livelihoods. From the proceeds of family businesses, husbands, wives as well as parents are able to fulfil their financial obligations within their

family units as well as other financial responsibilities outside the family unit. However, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic was accompanied by stringent measures that put many FOBs in a dicey situation by shutting down their businesses, which invariably means that their sources of livelihood were shutdown. Considering that financial obligations in terms of providing food for the family, payment of utilities were not shut down without commensurate income to meet up such financial obligations within the family unit, psychological pressures, stress, depression were bound to set into the family relationships, which are all factors that could introduce domestic violence within the family unit. In this view, we hypothesis that there is a direct relationship between economic strain experienced during the Covid-19 lockdown measure and domestic violence within households that operate FOBs in Awka urban.

Methods

This study involved the descriptive quantitative survey of selected FOBs in Awka urban. Awka urban is located within Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria. It is located at the heart of Awka – the capital of city of Anambra State. It lies between latitude 6°06 and 6°15'N and longitudes 7°05'E and 7°15'E; occupying the centre at the junction of the old Enugu- Onitsha road and Amawbia–Orlu road. Awka urban is comprised of seven Igbo groups sharing common blood lineage divided into two sections. The first section is Ifite (the senior section), which comprises four groups, Ayom-na-Okpala, Nkwelle, Amachalla, and Ifite-Oka. The second section is Ezinator, which consists of three groups, Amikwo, Ezi-Oka and Agulu. Economically, the residents of Awka urban are seemingly heterogeneous in occupational formations. Being the Capital of the State, a majority of the inhabitants are civil/public servants, while significant others are engaged in various occupational roles, one of which is family business. In Awka urban, family business can be seen at different sections of the city comprising mainly restaurants, pure water manufacturing companies, mini-super markets, bakeries, poultry farms, computer business centres, among others.

A questionnaire measuring economic strain during Covid-19 pandemic and domestic violence was developed by the researchers and administered to 120 respondents within the selected FOBs, who were selected through availability sampling technique. The respondents included individuals who were either directors/owners of the businesses or a member of the business owning family. Meanwhile, data on the FOBs in Awka urban was obtained from the Cooperate Affairs Commission in Awka. Thus, only forty (40) FOBs whose registration was valid between 2015 to the period of this study were used for the study. Since the study area was divided into two sections, the cluster sampling technique was used in the selection of two areas from each of the clusters. Thus, within the first cluster (i.e. Ifite), Ifite-Awka and Nkwelle were selected; while Amikwo and Ezi-Oka were selected from the second cluster (i.e. Ezinator) using the simple balloting method. However, the availability sampling technique was used in reaching out to the respondents. The respondents were contacted through phone calls using the details found within the registry of the Cooperate Affairs Commission Awka. Some others who could not be contacted through phone calls were reached out in their business offices/shops. Participation in the study was however voluntary.

Considering the fact that data for this study were collected during the post Covid-19 pandemic, all Covid-19 protocols as recommended by the Federal Ministry of Health were complied with, including proper wearing of face mask, use of sanitizers and maintaining a relative social distancing while the researchers interacted with the respondents. The period of data collected lasted about two weeks after which the data were collated for analysis. Data collected coded into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 21, which was used to process all the needed statistical data. However, the actual data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics including frequency count and percentages. The data analysed were however presented in tables and charts.

Results

Table 1: *Summary of Descriptive Analysis on Respondents' Socio-Demographic Characteristics*

Socio-Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percent
Sex of Respondents		
Male	42	34.0
Female	78	65.0
Total	120	100.0
Age of Respondents		
25 – 34 Years	15	12.5
35 – 44 Years	27	22.5
45 – 54 Years	42	35.0
55 – 64 Years	19	15.8
65 – 74 Years	17	14.2
Total	120	100.0
Education		
None	-	-
Primary	16	13.3
Secondary	24	20.0
Tertiary (Diploma)	31	25.8
Tertiary (Undergraduate)	39	32.5
Tertiary (Post-Graduate)	10	8.3
Total	120	100.0
Type of Products/Services in FOBs		
Restaurant	18	15.0
Catering	16	13.3
Agriculture	14	11.7
Education	11	9.2
IT/Computer Services	14	11.7
Clothing	12	10.0

Retail	17	14.2
Drugs/Pharmaceuticals	10	8.3
Food Manufacturing/Production	8	6.7
Total	120	100.0

As analysed in table 1, a majority of females participated in the study as compared to the males. This could translate to the view that FOBs in Awka are mostly occupied by females than males. The respondents ranged between the minimum ages of 25 years to a maximum of 74 years. However, the modal age group within our data is that of 45-54 years old, with a mean age of 49.1 years. This implies that a majority of our study participants must have a minimum experience of one decade in their family businesses. Data analysis equally shows that each of the respondents attended at least one form of formal education – with the highest in our sample being 32.5% of those who attended up to undergraduate level. This implies that a majority of FOBs in Awka urban are operated and controlled by educated individuals. A majority (15.0%) of the FOBs used in this present study were those dealing on restaurant services, followed by 14.2% of those dealing on retail services, while the least FOBs used in this study were only 6.7% of those dealing on food manufacturing/production services.

Economic Strains Inflicted upon FOBs during the Covid-19 Pandemic

This study was interested in describing the implications of the Covid-19 lockdown measure on FOBs in Awka urban. Consequently, the respondents were presented with a number of questionnaire items measuring economic strain during the pandemic and asked to rate on 5-point Likert-type response options ranging from the highest point ‘very true’ to the least point ‘not true at all’. Descriptive analysis of the responses provided by the respondents is presented in table 2.

Table 2: *Descriptive analysis of Respondents’ Ratings on Economic Strain as a Result of Covid-19 Lockdown*

Options	Not True at All	Not very true	Neutral	Some - what True	Very true	Total
– Unable to pay for household utilities	7 5.8%	11 9.2%	25 20.8%	43 35.8%	34 28.3%	120 100.0%
– Unable to pay employees’ Salaries	5 4.2%	11 9.2%	15 12.5%	39 32.5%	50 41.7%	120 100.0%
– Unable to sell products and services	12 10.0%	12 10.0%	15 12.5%	37 30.8%	44 36.7%	120 100.0%
	9	11	19	43	38	120

– Unable to repay loans	7.5%	9.2%	15.8%	35.8%	31.7%	100.0%
	11	16	22	35	36	120
– Unable to pay for rent	9.2%	13.3%	18.3%	29.2%	30.0%	100.0%
	8	24	25	29	34	120
– Borrowed much to restock	6.7%	20.0%	20.8%	24.2%	28.3%	100.0%
	15	21	19	30	35	120
– Loss of capital	12.5%	17.5%	15.8%	25.0%	29.2%	100.0%
	12	10	22	35	41	120
– Unable to repay loans	10.0%	8.3%	18.3%	29.2%	34.2%	100.0%

As contained in table 2, it is clear that a majority of the respondents responded affirmatively in all the items measuring economic strains on their FOBs. This implies that a majority of the sampled FOBs actually experienced economic strain within the Covid-19 pandemic. Figure 1 show the analysis conducted on the summation of all the frequency responses obtained in each of the items as contained in table 2. This was done in order to give a clearer picture of the respondents' ratings regarding economic strain within the Covid-19 pandemic.



Fig. 1: Summary of Respondents' Ratings on the Economic Strain of Covid-19 of their FOBs

As seen in figure 1, a majority (32.5%) of the respondents accepted that all the items regarding economic strain as a result of Covid-19 lockdown measure are very true. This is equally the same with another significant proportion (30.3%) of them who affirmed that the items are somewhat true as applied to Covid-19 lockdown measure and its effects on their FOBs. Meanwhile, during the Covid-19 lockdown measure, considerations were given to businesses dealing on essential commodities including food,

drug, and groceries, among others, while other businesses were mandated to shut down. This implies that some businesses may experience higher levels of strain compared to others. This assumption was subjected to statistical test by classifying the selected FOBs in this present study into two categories viz: those dealing on essential commodities and those dealing with non-essential commodities. The essence of this was to test whether the level of economic strain experienced by these two groups of businesses significantly differed.

Table 3: Summary of Mean and Standard Deviation for Levene's t-test Statistic on Type of FOBs

Classification of FOBs	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Essential Commodities	51	3.6299	.44227	.06193
Non-Essential Commodities	69	3.6957	.46548	.05604

Table 4: Summary of Levene's t-test for Variance in Type of FOB and Economic Strain during Covid-19 Lockdown Measure

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	.140	.709	-.781	118	.436	-.0657	.0841	-.23242	.10092
Equal variances not assumed			-.781	110.786	.436	-.0657	.08352	-.23125	.09975

Considering the evidence within the test statistics, we can certainly reject our hypothesis which assumed that FOBs dealing on non-essential commodities would sustain higher economic strain as a result of Covid-19 lockdown measure than those dealing on essential commodities. This was however found to be untrue of the present study, as both FOBs dealing on essential commodities did not differ statistically significantly in economic strain (3.63 ± 0.44) from those dealing on non-essential commodities (3.70 ± 0.47), $t(118) = -.781, p = .436$. This implies that the level of economic strain sustained during the Covid-19 lockdown cut across all type of FOBs in Awka urban and not necessarily on whether they deal on essential commodities or non-essential commodities.

Economic Strains during Covid-19 Pandemic and Domestic Violence within FOBs Households

Another objective in this study was to determine the relationship between economic strains incurred during the Covid-19 pandemic and domestic violence within the households who depend largely on their FOBs in Awka urban. In order to examine this, the respondents were presented with a set of Likert-type items measuring domestic violence within the post-Covid 19 lockdown measure. The items obliged the respondent to indicate the best option that described the occurrence or non-occurrence of various forms of domestic violence as contained in the scale. Occurrence of domestic violence was measured using response options in each item including: Quite often, occasionally, rarely and never. In order to determine if economic strain sustained by FOBs was associated with domestic violence within the respondents' households, the summed data on domestic violence was used in cross tabulation within the data economic strain. To test this relationship, we assumed that domestic violence would likely be higher among the households whose FOBs sustained higher levels of economic strain than those who sustained lower economic strain. This assumption was further subjected to statistical test using the t-test statistics as presented in table 5 and 6.

Table 5: Summary of Mean and Standard Deviation for Levene's t-test Statistic on Economic Scale

Mean Scores for economic strain	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Low Economic Strain	10	2.2143	.53558	.16937
Higher Economic Strain	110	3.1364	.50550	.04820

Table 6: Summary of Levene's t-test for Variance in Economic Strain as a Result of Covid-19 Lockdown Measure

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	.060	.807	-5.497	118	.000	-.92208	.16774	-1.25425	-.58991
Equal variances not assumed			-5.236	1036	.000	-.92208	.17609	-1.31186	-.53229

Our hypothesis assumed that domestic violence would be higher in households whose FOBs experienced higher economic strains compared to those that experienced lower economic strain during Covid-19 pandemic. The Levene's t-test was run to test this assumption by cross tabulating the mean scores obtained on respondents' experience of economic strain within their FOBs with the summed data regarding the occurrence of domestic violence with the respondents' households. Consequently, result of the statistical test actually supports our hypothesis by showing that the households whose FOBs experienced higher economic strain had statistically higher frequencies of domestic violence (3.14 ± 0.51) compared to those experienced lower economic strain in their FOBs (2.21 ± 0.54), $t(118) = -5.497$, $p = .000$.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The aim of this study was to assess the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on FOBs, and how such implications are related to domestic violence within the household of individuals who operate FOBs in Awka urban. Based on the analysis conducted, it can be concluded that quite a significant proportion of FOBs within the present study area were economically strained as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown measures which shut down socio-economic activities across the globe. This in no doubt is expected considering the fact that government policies to buffer the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria seemed inadequate and some such intervention policies were not even targeted at small businesses. As such, it is not surprising to find that domestic violence was prevalent within the household whose sustainability is dependent on the incomes generated from family businesses. This is in view of the fact that the economic strains caused by Covid-19 pandemic was accompanied with a lot of anxieties, stress and pressures that result to depression; which are indicators of domestic violence. Considering the fact that a significant relationship was found between economic strain caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and domestic violence within the households that operate FOBs, its implications on the socio-economic growth of the society could be overwhelming at the long-run if not properly managed at the moment. In order to cushion the effects of the ravaging pandemic in various households, the following are suggested for social adjustment.

1. Government social welfare agencies should endeavour to identify most affected FOBs with the view to supporting them in order to revitalize their strained family businesses. Such could help to ease the economic pressures sustained in their businesses during the Covid-19 lockdown measure and equally assist them to revitalize their businesses.
2. There is equally the need for government agencies to create opportunities for FOBs to organise themselves into Cooperative unions with the view grant them access to small loans with lower or no interest rates (if possible) or grants that could enable them bounce back to their businesses.
3. There is equally need for the government to reduce or remove every form of taxes and levies usually imposed on FOBs within for the meantime until businesses revitalise.

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