

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGES A SLIPPERY SLOPE FOR MSMEs PERFORMANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a major role in the economic development of countries globally. However, the recent pandemic called COVID-19 has brought devastating effects on this sub-sector resulting in the collapse of many businesses and others in poor conditions in Nigeria. This has called the attention of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide stimulus packages to support the sub-sector in their quest to boost the economic development of the country. Therefore, the study aims to assess the impact of CBN stimulus packages on MSMEs for sustainable economic development in Yobe State Nigeria. Survey research was used. The population of the study was 600 beneficiaries of CBN COVID-19 stimulus packages in Yobe State from which 234 were sampled through a convenient sampling technique. Pearson correlation and multiple linear regression used in analysing the data collected. The findings of the study revealed a significant effect of stimulus packages on the all four dimensions of MSMEs' performance (profitability, stock/output level, product/service quality, and employee turnover/retention). The study recommends that proactive plans should always be put in place ahead of events like COVID-19 that will probably affect business organisations, also financial institutions such as banks should kick start such action to help sustain economic viability. Future researchers should consider investigating the effect of other government support on MSMEs during COVID-19.

Keywords: CBN, MSMEs, Sustainable Economic Development, COVID-19, Stimulus Packages.

Introduction

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has been acknowledged as a major contributor to the economic growth and development of many countries globally, through employment generation, poverty reduction, equal distribution of wealth, improving standard of living, community development and general economic sustenance of developed and developing countries including Nigeria. MSMEs are established for the purpose of income generation, creating job opportunities, and achieving sales target (CBN, 2018). In Nigeria, MSMEs account for 48% of the GDP, 96% of businesses, and 84% of jobs. Additionally, the sub-sector accounts for more than 50% of industrial jobs and nearly all of the manufacturing sector in terms of firms, with a population of about 17.4 million (PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2021; SMEDAN, 2021). These are the reasons behind government's inventions through the provisions of aid, incentives, loans, favourable tax policies that can favour and sustain MSMEs. The uniqueness of the sub-sector lies in their ability to create job

opportunities, transforming raw materials to finished goods, motivation entrepreneurial development, mobilisation of idle resources, building craftsmanship, and also route for industrial development.

The MSMEs sub-sector, however saddled with varied challenges such as financial exclusion, tools, difficulty in doing business, higher taxes and environmental challenges. Therefore, a vibrant MSMEs cannot surface or sustain if there is no constant nurturing and the needed support. The recent global pandemic referred as COVID-19 which originate from Wuhan, China in 2019 that spread all over the world. Nigeria as a nation not left out from the disruptive effects of the pandemic because of continued lock down, movement restrictions, and market closure. MSMEs in Nigeria were affected as a result of COVID-19 pandemic due lockdown of businesses, movement restrictions, and markets closure (Bularafa & Adamu, 2021). Many enterprises died suddenly, and others were left in terrible conditions, as the cost of doing business in the country fell and corporate prosperity significantly decreased. Many academics from a variety of fields, including politics, socioeconomics, medicine, and business, have taken an interest in the global pandemic due to its potential to have multiplier effects on the world's economies.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) launched post-COVID-19 stimulus packages in 2020 to revitalise qualifying businesses and set them up for long-term economic recovery. It has been established by earlier research (Manasseh et al., 2021; Obiakor, et al., 2021; Okoh, 2020; Okoh, et al., 2021) that bank lending to SMEs, private sector investment, and economic growth in Nigeria are significantly correlated. The Central Bank of Nigeria made a good gesture by instituting economic palliatives to support the rapid economic recovery and sustainability of MSMEs in Nigeria. However, it's possible that the intended beneficiaries did not receive or utilise the palliatives entirely, in part, or to achieve the desired outcomes. The majority of MSMEs lack the self-discipline and financial knowledge necessary to use loan facilities for their intended purposes. In addition to being unable to recognise important performance indicators that will improve their economic sustainability, small enterprises may make bad judgments (OECD, 2016). Therefore, it is necessary to look into whether the financial stimulus plans made available to MSMEs assisted in putting them back on a path toward a sustainable economic recovery.

Many studies have been conducted on the relationship between COVID-19 pandemic and MSMEs performance in Nigeria leading to serious hardship on people. For example, (Bularafa & Adamu, 2021; Enesi & Ibrahim, 2021), conducted on the effect of coronavirus pandemic on the performance of SMEs in Nigeria and found lock down, movement restrictions, and market closure to have significant effect on the performance of SMEs. In the same vein, from the other part of the globe (Assefa, 2021; Chowdhury, et al., 2022). However, most of these studies concentrated on business performance only very few systematically traces on assessing the effect of the CBN stimulus packages

and similar support that recover businesses in Nigeria and the countries globally (Okoh, et al., 2022). Therefore, to best of the researcher's knowledge no similar study was conducted in Yobe State. Hence, to fill the existing gap in literature and to contribute to MSMEs literature. This study was conducted to examine the effect of CBN COVID-19 stimulus packages on MSMEs performance in Yobe State Nigeria. Thus, the other part of the paper is structured into six parts; Part One is the literature review, Part Two Methodology, Part Three Results/Findings, Part Four is the discussion section, Part Five consist of the conclusion, and finally Part Six is the recommendations part.

Literature Review

MSMEs in Nigeria

The meaning and nature of the concept of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) change across time, between institutions, and across nations (Tabet & Onyeukwu, 2019). A key element in defining MSMEs is their annual turnover, assets, and number of workers. MSMEs are classified as businesses with an asset base between N5 million (USD\$11,211.77), and N500 million (USD\$224,235.35, excluding land (SMEDAN, 2020). MSMEs were defined by the International Finance Corporation, as businesses with less than 300 employees and total assets under USD\$15 million (Apollos, Stephen, & Atunbi, 2018). MSMEs are companies with less than 500 employees, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). MSME, as defined by the National Council on Industry, is an enterprise with employees between 10 and 300.

The Central Bank of Nigeria's Monetary Policy Circular No. 22 of 1988 states that MSMEs in Nigeria are companies with yearly sales of no more than ₦500,000 (USD \$1,121.18). The Federal Government of Nigeria categorised small-scale firms as those with annual turnover up to ₦500,000 (USD\$1,121.18) for commercial bank loans, and up to ₦2 million (USD\$4.484.71) or ₦5 million (USD\$11,211.77) for merchant bank loans.

The National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND), according to Ekpenyong and Nyong (1992), set a ₦10 million (USD\$22,423.53) limit for small-scale companies. MSMEs are defined as having a net asset value of not more than ₦1 million (USD\$2,242.36) and total yearly sales not exceeding ₦2m (USD\$4.484.71) under Section 37b (2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990. The National Council on Industry determined in 1992 that the definitions of MSMEs in Nigeria required review every four years. These category were created at the 13th council meeting of the National Council on Industry. Therefore, based on the definition of MSMEs above, it suggest that there is no universally acceptable definition of MSME and is dynamic, in the sense that it is been defined based on country perspectives and across situations.

Table 2.1 The National Policy on MSMEs' classification, which is based on two criteria; employment and assets, excluding land and buildings

Enterprise Category	Employment	Assets (₦ million) (excluding land and buildings)	Annual Turnover (₦'million)	Loan Amount (₦'million)
Micro	Less than 10	Less than 5	≤ 20 (≤\$4,4847.07)	≤ 10 (≤ \$22423.53)
Small	10 – 49	5 to less than 50	≤ 100 (≤ 224,235.35)	>10 ≤100 (>\$22423.53 ≤ \$224,235.35)
Medium	50 – 199	50 to less than 500	≤500(≤11211 76.75)	>100≤500 (>\$224,235.35 ≤\$1,121,176.75)

Source: SMEDAN (2022).

MSMEs' Performance

Business performance is contingent to effective and efficient manager's ability in the utilisation of organisation limited resources. According to King and Zeithaml (2001) and Calantone, Cavusgil, and Zhao (2002), managers' ability to effectively design their organizations to operate within resource limits or the efficacy of corporate governance frameworks determines a firm's performance. Performance is the outcome of both group and individual work activities in an organization that are impacted by multiple factors in order to complete a shared task within a specific time frame (Tika, 2012). According to Sidharta and Lusyana (2014), MSMEs' success is influenced by both internal and external factors. Therefore, MSMEs will expand and prosper, according to Wilkinson (2002), if the environmental rules and regulations support them. According to Rokhayati (2015), growths in sales, capital, labour, profit, and market share can all be used to assess the performance of MSMEs. Other factors that can be used to gauge firm performance include the achievement of goal and objective settings, profitability and market share of business operations, stakeholder acceptability from organisational activities, and executive satisfaction with the business outcomes (Joni, Ahmed, & Hamilton, 2020; Phornlaphatrachakorn & Na-Kalasindhu, 2020).

Influence of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on MSMEs

The tool used to develop MSMEs has been the development of CBN. The CBN directs banks to reserve a particular minimum percentage share of credit for the most significant sectors, including that of MSMEs, at preferential interest rates in its credit guidelines or procedures. For instance, the CBN mandated that a minimum of 10% of advanced loans given to indigenous borrowers be dedicated to the MSMEs sector in 1979 or 1980. Later, the proportion increased to 16% in 1988 and to 20% in 1990. Loans and advances to the MSMEs sector increased from 1.8%, to 9.3% in 1986, 22.9% in 1990, 40% in 1992, 26.8% in 1996, 6.6% in 2001, and 8.6% in 2002, correspondingly, as a percentage of total loans. Due to the risks associated with such loans and the high operating costs, banks prefer to pay the fines for breaking the rules rather than extend credit to the MSMEs sector. The CBN ultimately decided to transfer the deficit it had taken from failing banks to Nigeria Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI) so that it might be used to support MSMEs. This has resulted in a noticeably better performance in terms of adhering to bank lending to the MSMEs sector. The CBN's

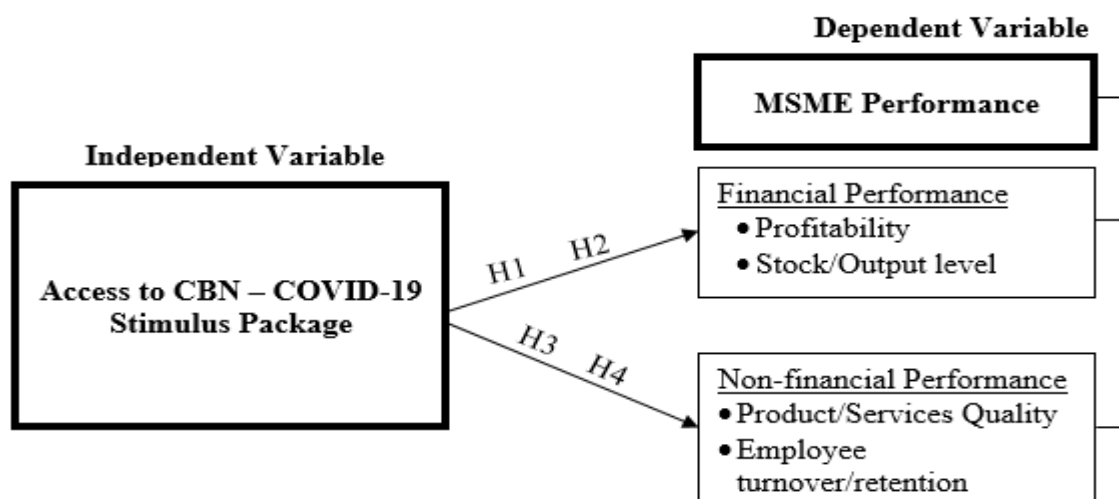
direct credit management proved ineffective, thus this practice was discontinued and replaced with the market mechanism approach, which was encouraged through moral persuasion.

Resource-Based Theory (RBT)

The researcher used two underpinning theories to support the study. These are Resource-Based Theory (RBT) and Financial Intermediary Theory. Resource-Based Theory (RBT) was initially introduced by Penrose and Penrose (2009), who suggested a model on the effective management of firms' resources, diversification strategy, and productive opportunities. The theory has proven to be one of the most popular theoretical frameworks for illustrating how businesses employ their resources to produce results. The RBT of the firm, on the other hand, explains the resource and capacity related antecedents to firm performance and views a business's resources and capabilities as a basic source of competitive advantage and improved financial performance (Barney, 1991; Teece, Pisano, & Shuen, 1997). A company's resources are its assets and capacities that it may employ to identify and respond to threats or opportunities in the market (Barney, 1991; Wade & Hulland, 2004). These resources include physical assets like a company's facility and its access to capital and raw materials, human capital assets like managers and employees' training, experience, intelligence, relationships, and insight, and organisational capital assets like a company's formal reporting structure, culture, and unofficial relationships between groups within the company and those in its environment (Barney, 1991; Barney, Wright, & Ketchen Jr, 2001). Therefore, the theory is relevant to the study, the resource in the theory is related to credit facility granted by the CBN to MSMEs when properly used will produce result.

The second underpinning theory in this study is Financial Intermediation Theory which was propounded by Benston (1976) and modified by Fama (1980). The process by which financial institutions receive deposits and disburse loans to encourage investment in the economy is known as financial intermediation (Gorton & Winton, 2003). In order to cover financing deficits in other economic units, it can also refer to the process of obtaining excess finances from individuals, governmental organisations, and the corporate sector (Mathews K. & Thompson J., 2008; Rivai, 2007). Gurley and Shaw (1960) and Diamond and Dybvig (1983), assert that intermediaries such as banks can reduce household liquidity problems, minimize unsatisfactory information issues in financial markets, and facilitate transactional and portfolio creation to increase economic efficiency. This theory is particularly pertinent to the study since it describes financial intermediaries as CBNs that gather money from the public and private sectors in order to supply it to economically deficient entities like MSMEs.

Conceptual framework



Conceptual framework of the Study

Capital Accessibility and Performance of MSMEs

There is a Capital is one of the essential components for conducting business. Sufficient capital will increase MSMEs' output and growth, enabling them to expand their operations and foster the creation of jobs (Sohilauw, 2018; Yudaruddin, 2020). Xuan (2020), asserts that investment capital is necessary for a company to expand and make investments in order to boost its efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness. Access to funding is determined to be the most important factor determining the growth and survival of MSMEs (IFC, 2020; OECD, 2006). In order to sustain their competitiveness and promote macroeconomic resilience, innovation, and GDP growth, MSMEs can profitably invest in expanding their businesses and obtaining state-of-the-art technology when they have access to finance (Beck & Demircuc-Kunt, 2006). In order to pursue growth potential for the performance of MSMEs, access to capital and finance is essential (Ahmad & Arif, 2015). According to Fahmy (2016), financial inclusion can help with financial problem-solving. The MSME sector's ability to obtain credit is positively and significantly impacted by banking accessibility. More credit will be absorb in this industry as there are more bank office networks. Based on the prior literature, the following hypotheses were formulated:

- i. There is a significant relationship between CBN stimulus packages and profitability performance of MSMEs in Yobe State Nigeria.
- ii. There is a significant relationship between CBN stimulus packages and MSMEs stock/output performance of MSMEs in Yobe State Nigeria.
- iii. There is a significant relationship between CBN stimulus packages and MSMEs products/services quality performance of MSMEs in Yobe State Nigeria.

- iv. There is a significant relationship between CBN stimulus packages and employee turnover/retention performance of MSMEs in Yobe State Nigeria.

Methodology

The research was carried out in Nigeria's Yobe State. A questionnaire was employed as the instrument to gather respondents' opinions in a survey research design.

There are 600 MSMEs that benefited across the state and which serves as the population for the study.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

A sample of 234 MSMEs loan beneficiaries was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for determining sample size. Thus:

$$n = \frac{X^2 NP (1 - P) \dots\dots\dots (\text{Equation 1})}{d^2 (N - 1) + X^2 P (1 - P) \dots\dots\dots (\text{Equation 2})}$$

Where $X^2 = 3.841$; $P = .50$;
 $d = .05$; $N = 600$ (population).

$$n = \frac{3.841 \times 150}{1.4975 + 0.96025} = \frac{576.15}{2.45775} = 234.42 \text{ Therefore, } n \approx 234$$

While, for sampling the researcher used convenient sampling technique to select the subject for the study.

Data Collection Procedure

The duration for study was from August 2022 to November 2022. With the aid of four research assistants, the instrument was distributed to the respondents using the 'drop and pick' method, which entails leaving the questionnaire for them to complete and returning later to pick it up. The responders will have enough time and convenience thanks to this process to present their opinions in an unbiased manner. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for the study. It was divided into two parts. Part 1 on the respondent's profile. Part 2 was divided into two sections A and B. Section A, on the independent variables and section B, on the dependent variable. The dependent variable MSMEs' performance has four dimensions (profitability, stock/output level, product/service quality, and employee turnover/retention); Profitability was measured with five items example 'there is increase in profit of my business after collected the loan facility' this was adapted from Okoh et al. (2022), MSMEs' Stock/Output variable measured with five items example 'the output of the business has risen after collected the credit facility' this was adapted from Okoh et al. (2022), MSMEs' Product/service quality variable measured with five items example 'there is innovation in the system of production due to the loan collected' this was adapted from (Khadafi et al., 2021; Mendoza, 2015). MSMEs' employee turnover/retention variable was measured with five items example 'there is increase in the number of employees in our company after the loan' this was adapted from Khadafi et

al. (2021 and Mendoza (2015). Finally, the independent variable COVID-19 stimulus package was measured with five items example ‘there is constant supply of raw material and now production is non-stop due the loan collected’ this was adapted from Bularafa and Adamu (2021). The questionnaire was designed on five point Likert Scale from 1- Strongly Disagreed to 5-Strongly Agreed.

Methods of Data Analysis

The method of analysis adopted to analyse the data collected were descriptive analysis, Pearson correlation, and multiple linear regression using statistical package for social science to test the hypotheses formulated in the study.

Analysis and Findings

In this section of the study, the researcher presents the result obtained from the analysis. In the form of descriptive and inferential analyses.

Result

Respondent's Profile

The characteristics of the respondents, including their sex, age, marital status, educational background, type of business, number of employees, and anticipated yearly income, are displayed in Table 4.1, which provides users with information about the findings. Table 4.1 showed the demographic profile of the respondents for the study. The data was analysed with 234 respondents. The analysis indicates out of the 234 respondents about 194 were male and 40 female who filled the questionnaires. The analysis further showed majority of the respondents were between the ages of 25 to 30 years with about 48.9%. On their marital status, the analysis showed that 123 (52.8%) were married which constitute the majority. In addition, 53.6% of the respondents are operating sole proprietorship indicating the majority. Concerning their business experience 86 (36.9%) of them were in business between 3 to 5 years. In terms of employees, the analysis indicates that majority of respondents about 47.2% are having 1 to 5 number of employees. Finally on the estimated yearly income, 36.9% constitute the majority with an estimated annual income of ₦100,000 (\$200) to ₦149,000 (\$298).

Table 4.1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Variable	Freq(n = 234)	%	Mean	Std. Devia- tion
Gender:				
Male	194	82.8	1.17	.378
Female	40	17.2		
Age (in years):				
Below 25 years	50	21.5	2.08	.712
Between 25 – 30 years	114	48.9		
Above 30 years	70	29.6		
Marital status:				
Single	90	38.2	1.71	.623
Married	123	52.8		
Other	21	9.0		
Business Type:				
Sole Proprietorship	126	53.6	1.61	.781
Partnership	85	26.5		
Limited liability company	13	5.6		
Cooperative	10	4.3		
Years in Business:				
0 – 2	60	25.8	2.26	1.002
3 – 5	86	36.9		
6 – 10	53	22.7		
11 above	35	14.6		
Number of Employees:				
1 – 5	110	47.2	1.87	1.019
6 – 10	68	29.2		
11 – 15	35	15.0		
16 – 20	16	6.9		
21 above	05	1.7		
Estimated Yearly Income:				
₦50,000(\$100) – ₦99,000(\$180)	82	35.2	2.04	.993
₦100,000(\$200)– ₦149,000(\$298)	86	36.9		
₦150,000(\$300) – ₦200,000(\$400)	41	17.6		
₦200,000 (\$400) above	25	10.3		

Analysis of the Correlation

The correlation between the predictor and the dependent variable is displayed in Table 4.2. The variable on display is the performance of MSME's (Profitability, Stock/Output Level, Product/Service Quality and Employee Turnover/Retention) as the (DV) while the predictor variable was CBN-COVID19 Stimulus packages as the (IV).

Table 4.2 Pearson Correlation between Variable CBN- COVID19 Stimulus Package and MSME Performance (Profitability, Stock/Output level, Product/service quality, and Employee Turnover/Retention)

	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	X
Profitability (Y1)	1	.870**	.862**	.922**	.883**
Stock/Output Level (Y2)		1	.775**	.816**	.799**
Product/Service Quality (Y3)			1	.815**	.767**
Employee Turnover/Retention (Y4)				1	.853**
CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package (X)					1

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

Source: Authors Field Survey via SPSS

Profitability is the MSME performance factor with the strongest correlation (0.883) seen in Table 4.2 above, indicating that it benefits the most from the CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package. The CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package also revealed positive correlation values of 0.853 and 0.799 for MSME dimensions such as Employee Turnover/Retention and Stock/Output Level, respectively. Lastly, Product/Service Quality recorded a low positive correlation value of 0.767 from CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package. This means that CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package has seriously impacted on the performance of MSMEs activities in Yobe State Nigeria. This has revealed the current condition of MSMEs in Yobe State after receiving the CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package. It also shows how CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package boosted the profitability, stock/output level, product/service quality and employee turnover/retention which could lead to the improvement on MSMEs performance.

Regression Analysis

The regression analysis of the study was conducted that determined the most impacted of the dimensions of MSME performance (profitability, stock/output level, product/service quality, and employee turnover/retention) which influence by CBN-COVID19 Stimulus Package, goodness of fit was tested to determine the fitness of the data using ANOVA, also coefficient of determination was to test the predictive relevance of the exogenous variables on the endogenous variable. The analysis were presented in Table 4.3

Table 4.3 Correlation Coefficient

		Unstandardised coefficient		Standardised coefficient	
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t
1	(Constant)	.060	.069		.882
	Profitability	.196	.033	.214	5.953
	Stock/Output Level	.186	.030	.213	6.155
	Product/Service Quality	.333	.037	.386	9.030
	Employee Turnover/Retention	.210	.037	.220	5.687
	ANOVA	215.065	4	53.766	651.207

R = .959^a R² = .920 Adj.R² = .918 Std. Error of the Estimate = .28734

a. Independent Variable: CBN-COVID-19 Stimulus Packages on MSMEs

Source: Researcher Field Survey

Table 4.3 showed the stated hypotheses that were tested based on the objectives of the study. The findings showed that there is significant effect of CBN stimulus packages on all the four dimensions (profitability, stock/output, product/service quality and employee turnover/retention). In addition, the findings showed that the product/service quality had the highest beta value of 0.386, followed by employee turnover/retention beta value 0.220, then profitability beta value 0.214. These higher values showed that there is significant effect of stimulus packages on MSMEs performance. The micro, small and medium enterprises are prosperous due to CBN COVID-19 stimulus packages.

Furthermore, Table 4.3 shows the 91.8% variable score Adj. R^2 . The 91.8% Adj. R^2 suggests that there may be other unexplained variables (i.e., 8.2%), but these are not taken into account in this study. Goodness of fit was determine for the model by means of ANOVA and the F-value of the exogenous variable was observed and found to be 651.207 and this shows that it was significant at p-value .000 indicating the model is fit.

Discussion

The results showed that the CBN-COVID-19 Stimulus Packages had a significant influence on the performance of MSMEs in Yobe State Nigeria. This was measured by taking into account performance dimensions such as profitability, stock/output level, product/service quality, and employee turnover/retention. This particular variable was chosen to illustrate the extent to which MSMEs in Yobe State, Nigeria, have improved. The findings showed there is significant link between the stimulus package and profitability of MSME. This significant and positive relationship may result from MSME efficient utilization of the stimulus package. This finding is consistent with the finding of Okoh et al. (2022). The findings also indicate a significant relationship between stimulus package and stock/output level of MSME. This significant and positive link may result from the fact that MSME used the stimulus package to acquire more stocks resulting to higher output level. This findings is similar with the findings of Vu, et al., (2021). Prior study conducted by Burdekin & Weidenmier, (2015) found contrary.

The findings of the study revealed significant relationship between the stimulus package and product/service quality of MSMEs. These findings may as a result of stimulus package that benefited MSMEs were able to use the package to provide quality products and services. This findings is in line with the findings of Okoh et al. (2022). Lastly, findings of the study also revealed a significant relationship stimulus package and employee turnover and retention. This relationship may be due to the MSMEs ability to pay employees because of the assistance received. This findings confirmed the findings of Okoh et al. (2022).

Conclusion

Conclusively, the results of the study showed that the CBN-COVID-19 Stimulus Package has an impact on the performance of MSMEs in Yobe State, Nigeria. This could eventually result in the growth and promotion of enterprises because of supply and demand, increased revenue, and employee retention. Consumers are now patronising their products, ease of doing business with higher returns. The CBN stimulus package help MSMEs remain efficient and survive amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

Although the Federal Government of Nigeria is offering stimulus packages known as COVID-19 relief packages to give support to MSMEs, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing more harm than good to businesses, individuals, and governments. Because of this, decisive measures should be put in place to keep and maintain businesses. Therefore, the following suggestions were proffered:

- i. Ahead of events such as COVID-19, which are likely to affect business organisations, proactive planning must to be in place.
- ii. To support MSMEs in hard times like the COVID-19 pandemic, stringent macroeconomic monetary and fiscal policies should be developed.
- iii. To hasten the recovery of MSMEs and the economy as a whole, the government and businesses in all sectors should work together and support one another.
- iv. The CBN should maintain and expand the post-COVID-19 stimulus programmes targeted at MSMEs.
- v. The existing interest rate and the moratorium on CBN assistance should be maintained by the policymakers in light of the sizeable amount of profitability demonstrated by the chosen MSMEs.
- vi. To support MSMEs in maintaining their economic sustainability, deposit money banks and other financial institutions ought to take comparable steps.

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