

Effect of Business Environment on the Activities of Cooperative Societies in Aninri Local Government Area in Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

The entirety of a business environment is very important in the life and well being of any business organization. Cooperative societies as a business organization also need to give due attention to the place that they carry out the business of their society. The factors involved in a business organization can work against the progress of any business organization if it is neglected by the organization. Business environment refers to the combination of internal and external factors that influence a company's operating situation. The business environment includes factors such as clients, and suppliers, competition and owners, improvement in technology, law and government activities, market social and economic activities. These factors are sometimes taken for granted by business organization and they go ahead to suffer the consequences.

Keywords; Business, Environment, Cooperative, Societies.

INTRODUCTION

Cooperative societies can as well suffer the same consequences too. Cooperative society in the views of [1, 2] is a form of business organizations, it is formed in a similar way like the joint stock company or other business organization, but it is a unique form of organization; it is started with the motive of organizing and rendering services to its members. It is an organization where some persons voluntarily associate together as humans on a basis of equality for the promotion of economic interest of themselves. Through cooperative society from the above deformation is not primarily stated with the interest to make a profits it is still a business organization and the factors involved in a business environment should be of serious concern for them. [3] identifies one of the examples of business environment as how well customers expectations are met by a business organization. A lot of cooperative societies have suffered because of the

above factors, in some cases, was not meeting up with the expectation of member or donor agencies. Some cooperative societies have closed up because of that. Nigerian business environment has the potential for growth and stability, filled with a lot of threats and strengths. [4] identifies the strengths and potentials in the Nigerian business environment as the telecommunication industry, which is the fastest growing telecommunication industry in the world, the oil and gas sector is also the biggest in the world, the country also have a population of almost 200 million people and the percentage of young, active and mobile population is up to 40%, this is a positive point when it comes to obtaining labour force for new and existing business in the country. There is also the issue of regulatory environment and the ability of the government to protect minority investors.

Statement of Problems

Business environment factors have a lot of effects and play a big role in the successes and longevity of business organization in any society. Most times business organization remain in the comfort of their offices and board rooms and produce a blue print of how their organization is going to be run and emphases so much on the success they

will produce, without taking time to consider a lot of variables in the business environment where they are doing their business, cooperative societies have as well been caught up in this problems, cooperative societies needs to consider factors involved in the Nigeria business environment to ensure their success. They need to

consider factors like competition in their chosen field of economic activity, their relationship with their suppliers, business laws and government activities, market trends etc, when these factors are not seriously considered the cooperative society is likely to face serious problems, cooperative societies do have their own problems too, poor funding, dishonesty among members,

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this research work will be to examine the effect of business environment factors on the activities of cooperative societies, with special reference to Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

The specific objectives will also be to:

- 1) Identify the different factors in the Nigerian business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in two selected local

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the research work.

- 1) What are the different factors in the Nigerian business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State?

Research Hypotheses

This study will be guided by the following null and alternative hypotheses

- (1) Ho: There are no different factors in the Nigerian business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area, Enugu State.

Profile of the Aninri Local Government Area

Aninri Local Government area was created on 1st October 1996, with its headquarters in the town of Ndaborh. It consists of five different towns which are, Ndeabor, Oduma, Nenwe, Mpu and Okpanku. The local government has a total land area of 36km² (140SQ mi) the records of the 2006 census by the National population commission shows that the area has a total population of 133,728 persons. Aninri Local Government Area share borders with Nkanu East Local Government Area of

interference from government and donor agencies etc. these problems needs to be addressed too, so that cooperative societies can take care of the factors in the business environment where they operate to their benefits. This research work intends to ascertain the factors in the Nigerian business environment and its impact on the activities of cooperative societies.

government in Enugu State i.e. Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area.

- 2) Investigate the efforts of cooperative societies in identifying and enjoying strategies involved in Nigerian business environment in Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government in Enugu State.

- 2) What are the efforts of cooperative societies in identifying and employing strategies to take care of factors involved in Nigerian business environment in Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State?

- (2) Ho: There are no efforts from cooperative societies to identify and employ strategies to take care of factors involved in Nigerian business that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State.

Enugu state in the North, Okigwe Local Government area of Imo State to the South, Awgu Local Government Area of Enugu State to the West and Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State to the East. The indigenes of the area are predominantly farmers, with few civil servants in the Local Government civil service and secondary schools in the area, the people are respectful, very social and accept visitors in their midst. The present deputy president of the senate of the federal republic of Nigeria,

Senator Ike Ekweremadu was the pioneer chairman of the local government area, and the present Executive chairman is Hon. Ezekiel Chukwu Enugu North Local Government Area has as its headquarters the city of Enugu, the area has a total land area of 106 km² (41 sq. MI) its postal code is 400. According to the 2006 census population it has a total population of 244, 852 persons. Enugu North Local Government Area used to be known as Enugu North during the early part of last century, but in 1956 it was elevated to a Mayoralty with Mallam Umoru Attine as the first Mayor. The instrument establishing the Enugu urban district council was revoked on 1st April 1956, then Enugu became a municipality later in 1957, this made it revert back to its urban council status. In 1979, the federal government

Concept of Business Environment

The environment that any business organization operates in is very important, because it plays a big role in the success of the business organization. [5] defines business environment as the sum total of all the external and internal factors that influence a business. Business [6] states that business environment is the combination of internal and external factors that influence a company's operating system. [4] sees business environment as all the internal and external factors that affect how the company functions including employees, customers, management, supply and demand, and business regulations. In the words of [7] business environment is all of the internal and external factors that affect how the company functions, sum total of all factors, external and internal factors connected to the business firm, and that greatly influence their functioning. In the views of [8] a business organization cannot exist in a vacuum. It needs living persons, natural resources and places and things to exist, all these factors and forces are called the business environment. [9] defines business environment as a collection of all individuals, entities and other factors, which may or may not be under the control of the organization, but can affect its performance, profitability, growth and even survival. [10] postulates that business environment refers to sum total of the

introduced a unified local government system, so the former Enugu Urban was renamed Enugu Local Government council, it thus was extended to six rural communities of Amarechi, Obeagu, Ugwuaji, Akwuke, Nike and Ogui Nike, but one that is observable is that only Ogui Nike was an autonomous community in Enugu Urban owing to its location within the metropolis. In 1991, Enugu South Local Government Area was created but of the three Enugu North Local Government by the General Ibrahim Babangida regime, subsequently in 1996, the General Sani Abacha regime created Enugu East Local Government Area out of what is remaining of the local government area. The present executive chairman of the local government area is Honourable Emmanuel Onoh.

various factors available in the internal as well as external environment of the business. According to [11] the environments of business consist of all those external and internal things to which it is exposed to and by which it may be influenced directly or indirectly. It also encompasses the climate or set of conditions economic, social, political or institutional in which business operations are conducted. [12] sees business environment as all those factors that have a bearing on the business. It implies that internal and external factors have an impact on the individual organization.

Factors in Business Environment: Factors that exist in the business environment are basically of two types. According to [13] factors in a business environment are of two types, the internal factors and external factors in his words, the internal factors are within an organization and impact the approach and success of the organization, while the external factors consist of a variety of factors outside the organization doors that the organization typically don't have much control over. The internal factors include organizational direction, the role of the company leadership and the strength of the employees. The external factors include external competition, legal or ethical issues, politics, technological issues and socio-economic issues. In the views of [14] factors in a

business environment consists of external and internal factors. The external factors includes political factors e.g. law, regulations, tariffs, trade barriers, war and unrest, others are macro-economic factors, those are factors that affect the entire economy not just your business, these include interest rate, unemployment rate, currency exchange rates, consumer confidence, consumer discretion, income, consumer savings rate, recession and depression, microeconomic factors are factors that can affect just your business, these includes market size, demand, supply relationship with suppliers and your distribution chain, such as retail shops that sells your products and the number and strength of your competition [15] postulates that internal factors in a business environment have a direct impact on the industrial organization. The organization have some control over internal value system the culture and norms of the organization of an organization, others are mission and objectives internal relationship e.g., relationship between organization team and share holders, employees and board of directors. External factor have an indirect influence on the organization, these include competitors, government policies, technological issues etc. [15] identifies other external factors in business environment which include social factors-changes in fashion, consumer preference, software and animated production, the internet streaming challenging the DVD rental business. In the news of [16] internal factors in a business environment exist within the premises of the organization and directly affect the different operations carried out in a business, these includes value system, culture and norms, mission and objectives financial factors and internal relationship. External factors include all those factor which exist outside the organization and are often regarded as uncontrollable, it can further be categorized into micro environment and macro environment. Micro environment include suppliers, competitors marketing intermediaries etc, the macro environment includes economic factors, social factors, political factors and technological factors. [17] see external factors in a

business environment as those uncontrollable forces outside of the organization these includes competition, government policies, natural forces, social and cultural forces, demographic factors and technological changes. Internal factors composes of activities insides of the organization, these factors can be influenced by the organization, they include product, price, process, promotion etc, other internal factors according to [18] is organizational culture - this is the framework of values, vision, norms and customs shared by the members of an organization. [19] identifies two factors in a business environment; these are micro environment factors and macro environment. The micro environment factors include the suppliers, the resellers, the customers, the competitors and the general public, the macro environment f actors include demographic forces, economic factors, natural/physical forces technological factors, political and cultural forces. [20] states that the external factor in a business environment include competition, social beliefs and behavior, legal factors, economic factors, taxation interest rate etc, political factors technological factor and ethical factors. The internal factors includes value system, mission and objectives, organizational structure, corporate culture, quality of human resource, labour unions, physical resources and technological capabilities.

Concept of Cooperative Society: Cooperation among humans have been age long thing, cooperation with groups have existed even in informal basis long ago and have benefited humans in so many ways. [21] defines cooperative society as a voluntary organization of various individuals, who belong to economically weaker sections of the community, who join together on the basis of equality of control and equality of distribution of profits for the satisfaction of their common needs. In the views of [22] a cooperative society is an association of individuals who voluntarily pool their resources and carry on the business for their own welfare and not for a profit seeking business. [23] postulates that a cooperative society is an organization

which is service oriented rather than profit oriented; it is an association of persons who join to form an organization for mutual benefit. In other words, it is a form of organization wherein persons voluntarily associate together as humans on the basis of equality for economic interest for themselves. Macmillan Dictionary (2017) defines cooperative society as an organization that sells goods and offer services to its members who share the organization's profit. [24] see a cooperative society as an association for the primary purpose of promoting its members financial interest in that they participate in the enterprise as consumers, suppliers or workers. [25] defines a cooperative society as an enterprise or organization that is owned and managed jointly by those who use its facilities or services.

[26] states that a cooperative society is an association of persons who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common end through the formation of a democratically, controlled organization, making equitable contributions to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risk and benefits of the undertaking in which members participate actively. [27] is of the view that a cooperative society is a voluntary association of persons formed for protecting and promoting the interest of its members. The organization is run on a democratic manner with service motive. According to [28] a cooperative society is a voluntary association of persons who join together with the motive of welfare of the members; members join to protect themselves from the possible exploitation by middlemen who desire to earn profit. In the opinion of [29] a cooperative society is entirely different from other forms of

business organization; it protects the interest of the weaker sections of the society. It is a voluntary association of persons joined together on the basis of equality for fulfillment of their economic and business interest. [30] defines cooperative society as an organization which has as its objectives the promotion of economic interest of its members in accordance with cooperative principles; it is a voluntary association of persons who join together, with the motive of welfare of its members. [31] postulates that a cooperative society is a business organization owned by those who use its services, and its control rest among all its members equally. The cooperative society are formed to serve low cost credit, purchase, suppliers of market products, and to provide services like insurance, irrigation, finance, electricity power etc. [32] see a cooperative society as an autonomous and voluntary association of individuals, who come together with the objective of owing common property, and promoting the economic interest of its members. In the view of [33] cooperative society is an association of persons who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common social or economic aim by forming a jointly owned and democratically controlled business organization. They operate on the principles of self help and mutual assistance. [34] states that a cooperative society is a business owned by the people who use its services, an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. It is a legal entity owned and controlled by its members.

Effects of Business Environment on the Activities of Cooperative Societies

The success or failure of any business organization including cooperative societies is primarily established by the effectiveness of its interactions with its business environment.

[35] identifies the following as the effects that business environment have on the activities of cooperative societies and other business organization.

- Low staff committee when the internal factors of business environment is not taken good

care of decreased commitment is usually observed from the staff, the lack of motivation in them leads to this. This will further lead to negative pressure groups in the cooperative society and poor relations with the management. Future compliance from the staff members is not assumed. But when the business environment has been taken care

of properly increased staff commitment can be guaranteed.

- Rise on production cost: A cooperative society can experience increase in production cost if it neglects its business environment. If the society fails to take care of factor like source of supplies, cost of production is bound to rise in seeking supplies frantically.
- Decreased total output

Less talented and unmotivated employees/members produce poor

Challenges that Cooperative Societies Encounter in Business Environment

Efforts of the cooperative societies to handle the factors in their business environment usually produce good results, but most times challenges are there to reduce their success. These challenges are numerous and needs to be identified. [36] enumerates the problems that exist in the business environment for the cooperative societies as:

- Uncertainty = uncertainty in the environment and the business world makes it impossible for the cooperative societies to take care of the factors in the businesses environment. After a careful planning uncertainty can still disrupt the good plans of the cooperative societies.
- Government policy and regulations - A changing regulatory environment is always a big issue for the cooperative societies and other business organization. The policy by the government complicates decision making for the cooperative societies.
- Technology - the pace of technological improvement is running at an exponentially increasing rate, this creates problems for the cooperative societies.
- Diversity - having people of different backgrounds in the same organization and working in the same goals can be challenging sometimes. In most cases they usually fail to agree.
- Information overload - collecting and processing for information to take care of factors of business environment is usually

results. This can come as a result of bad organization leadership style, this impacts organization culture badly,. Ineffective communication and poor value of employees has also led to decreased total output, but if these factors are properly addressed increased output will be the outcome Poor competition analysis can also lead to poor sales, not being able to compare offering and prices to those of the competitor's leads to problems for the organization.

ongoing all the time. At a certain point the information becomes a burden for the members and employees leading to overload which will present its problems in the views of [37] the challenges were

- Poor power supply - technology is a great importance in keeping pace with new trends in the market environment that cooperatives societies exist, non availability of power affects the access and use of these technologies.
- Poor Transport Network - poor transportation network affects the access of cooperative societies to their suppliers and in some cases consumers when they have to deliver the goods and services to them.
- Poor access to funds - funding is very important in taking care of a lot of factors that make up the business environment of cooperative societies. Having a viable organization with the members and staff taken good care of will definitely require funds.
- No government support - government regulations is of great importance for the cooperative societies in taking care of their business environment, when government policies and regulations are frequently changed, it affects societies negatively, sometimes the well being of the cooperatives societies are not taken into consideration when

they make decisions on these policies and regulations.

[38] states that the problems of cooperative societies in the issue of business environment are:

- Uncertainty - there are a lot of uncertainties concerning market trends and customer's trends, these sometimes pose problems for the cooperative societies.
- Monitoring performance - the non use of meaningful set of performance indicators that provide insight on how cooperative societies are doing is also another challenge.
- Regulation and compliance - as market and technologies shift so does rules and regulations. Rules and regulation falls into the path or of the government, sometimes it might not be to the favour of the cooperative societies.
- Technology - Technology changes at the speed of light, so innovation is very important. Many of the managers of the cooperative societies and even the members started work before thee technologies, adapting is an issue for them most times.
- Embracing change - knowing when to embrace change is very important, sometimes the cooperative societies might fail to understand when this change is necessary and due.

Solutions to the Challenges

Cooperatives Societies Encounter in Business Environment

Solutions to the challenges cooperative societies encounters in business environment is of paramount importance, this is in consideration of the importance of cooperative societies

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework of this research study will rest an the following on business and environment theories, these theories includes, business environment complexity theory,

Business Environment Complexity Theory

The business environment complexity theory proposed by [40] concentrates on climate change, it uses the term complexity to refer to a group of concepts derived from systems theory, including complex emergency. In addition they argues that some of the

in the development of our economy. [39] postulates that the solutions to the challenges

- The provision of a more enabling environment for business in the country by the government - enabling environment in the case of improved infrastructures will reduce the difficulties and uncertainties that goes with doing business in our environment e.g. if the power is stabilized the more, cooperative societies will have less to spend on that, and as well will be certain on how they will run their operations that is power dependent.
- Reduction of taxes - in our environment, business organization cooperative societies inclusive suffer from the issue of multiple taxation. This is a challenge that needs to be addressed, multiple taxation or over taxation reduces the input of cooperative societies.
- Elimination of bureaucratic measures that hinder business in our society - Generally government business in our society is filled with a lot bureaucratic measure that slow the rate at which business get done, obtaining permits, financial assistance and other activities are usually not easy, this issue needs to be addressed, most times it affects the efforts of the cooperative societies to export their products.

external environment theory, new environmental theory, three sigmas theory of business, resource based theory, the business model theory and impact business model.

features of the business interface with the climate system that present challenges for timely and effective government, it also investigates the differences of interviewing a complex dynamic system, including problems of collective action, unintended limitations

on effective management. The theory of emergence provides systems generate order and exhibit self organization. Life cycle analysis can help identify resources synergies among partner firm.

External Environment Theory

External environment theory by [41] proposes that business activity is constrained by (limited) by the environment in which the business operates, there are a number of important components of this environment including.

- The action of competitors
- Legal requirements e.g. what is legally expected.
- Social requirements and expectations. The sort of expectation that society has of business e.g. to operate in an ethical way.
- Economic constraints e.g. the amount of income that consumers generally have to spend.
- Technological constraints. Often what business are able to produce and sell and how they

New Environment Theory

The new environment theory by [42] proposes that concern for environment problems is fundamentally linked to how people view themselves as part of the natural environment. The first aspect of this theory is to describe the structure of people's concern for environmental problems, which results from a confirmatory factors analysis showed by a clear three factor structure. The proposer of this theory labeled the factors egoistic, altruistic and

EMPIRICAL REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Some earlier works that has some connection with the present research work were reviewed by the researcher, the reviewed empirical works are presented below.

[43] examine the challenges of Nigeria business environment, the study were conducted in the city of Ikeja, Lagos state, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised five registered medium scale companies in the area of the study. The study lasted for three months. The researcher discovered that despite the growth of the economy and the potential of greater business opportunities there were still challenges of business environment which stands

The development of modeling tools to represent the complexities of business environment interaction offers substantial potentials for further research studies.

operate is determined by the technologies available to them, the theory adds that businesses are constrained by a host of environment, for example, legal produce (e.g. health and safety and product safety laws) social constraints determine the tastes and buying patterns of consumers. Business need to be constantly constraints and how they take what is termed an anticipatory approach, i.e. to anticipate changes that are likely to take place in the future in the business environment by anticipating change business are able to adjust the way they operate to be ahead of competitors.

biospheric. The second aspect of this theory examines the effects of a perspective taking manipulations on egoistic - social - altruistic and biosphere environmental concerns, results shows that participants instructed to take the perspective of animal being, harnessed by pollution scored significantly higher in biospheric environmental concerns than participants instructed to remain objective.

as predators (constraints) to the survival of business in not only the area of under study but the entire country. The challenges discovered by the researcher that exist in Nigeria business environment includes lack of enabling environment and infrastructures, lack of basic social amenities and infrastructural facilities that aid business development and survival, business provide for themselves what the government is supposed to provide for them. Other challenges are poor power supply, poor transportation networks, the roads are dilapidated, the air transportation is too costly and the rail transportation is nonexistent.

Another challenge is poor accessibility of funds, the conventional and non conventional money borrowers charged exorbitant interest rate and other challenges are political instability and lack of adequate technology.

[44] carried out an empirical investigation of the scanning processes by organization in the city of Osaka, Japan. The researchers discovered that organizations acquire information concerning environment changes through their scanning operations. Different types of environment calls for different scanning activities. The researchers employed analysis that is based on purposive relationship between different environmental states

(dynamic and stable) and scanning behavior (surveillance and search) of the executives. The researchers also gave analytical consideration to hierarchical levels of executives (upper and lower) and to the functional specialities of the managers (marketing, technology, human resource etc). This study is unique in that it is one of the first to foams on scanning behaviors in industries in Osaka, Japan. Its value lies in lies in its concerns for a vital corporate need, the researchers suggested that organizations need to know where and how they acquire information, and know the best use to put it so, to take good care of their business environmental issues.

SUMMARY OF THE REVIEWED RELATED LITERATURE

Table1: Literature on effects of business environment and business organizations

Author(s)	Year	Topics	Location	High Points of findings
Abdulfatai	2017	Challenges in Nigeria business environment	Logos, Nigeria	The challenges are poor power supply, poor road networks, poor access to funds, political instability and inadequate technology.
Wantao	2014	Effects of business environment on the operations strategy of Chinese forms	Shanghi, China	Changes in retails technology and innovation have the strongest influence on the operations strategy of firms.
Nishi and Schoderbek	2017	Environmental scanning process by organizations	Osaka, Japan	Organizations acquire information through the scanning process they carry out
Shultze and Trommer	2015	Measurement of environment in qualitative empirical research	New Delhi, India	Measures such as inputs, outputs, construct validity and strategic EP should be environment indicators
Kevin and Kenneth	2014	Development of a research model for assessing the value of e-business at operation levels of organizations	Capetown, south Africa	Factors that can add value creation in e-business are technology, readiness, firms size, competition and regulatory environment
Durray and Keong	2015	Operations strategy and business environment of organizations	Singapore, Singapore	There is a strong link between factors such as labour availability, competition and market dynamism and operations strategy choices

Source: Researchers Presentation from Empirical Literature

GAP IN LITERATURE

The empirically reviewed literature were carried out in the cities of Lagos, Shangai, Osaka, New Delhi, Capatown and Singapore, but the present work were carried out Aninri Local

Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area, all in the state of Enugu. So the work did well to fill the gap of conducting a work similar to those carried out in Lagos, Nigeria and

other foreign cities in our local environment. Another gap the present filled is that studying the effect of business environment factors on the activities of cooperatives societies while

the earlier work studied its effects on business organizations in general. So this work sought to present recommendations that will suit cooperatives societies so well.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The researcher will employ the survey

research design method in this study.

Sources of Data

The researcher used primary and

secondary data in this work.

Area of Study

An area of study refers to a political or geographical area that is under investigation, in the process data is gathered in various aspects of the area including its history, geography, language, its inhabitants, and

institutions, economic and cultural characteristics. In this research work, the researcher chooses Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area both Enugu state of Nigeria.

Population of the Study

The population of the study will comprise of a randomly selected cooperative societies in the two local government areas under study. in Aninri Local Government Area the population of the study is two hundred

and six (206) members (respondents) of the selected cooperative societies, while the population of the study in Enugu North is three hundred and twenty four (324) members (respondents).

Table 1: Below is a presentation of the selected cooperative societies and its membership strength in Aninri Local Government Area.

S/N	Name of society	Membership strength
1	Chiemic Christian Farmers Cooperative Society MPU, Aninri	24
2	Ifunanya Obeagu Oduma Women Farmer Multipurpose Cooperative Society	16
3	Nochele Ndeaboh Women Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ndeaboh, Aninri	30
4	Obinwanne Famers Association Ltd, Ndeaboh, Aninri	22
5	Oduma Youth Farmers Cooperative Society Aninri	116
6	Green (Emudo) Rice Plantation Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Aninri	24
7	Eziokwu bu Ndu Okpanku Women Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Aninri	20
8	Okpome Nnewe Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Aninri	18
9	Chibuzo Nenwe Rice Fadama Users Cooperative Society Ltd. Nenwe, Aninri	12
10	Ugwuokpa, Nenwe Youth Rice Production Cooperative Society Ltd. Aninri	22
	Total	206

Source: Divisional Cooperative Council, Aninri, Local Government Area, Enugu State.

Table 2; Enugu North Local Government Area

S/N	Name of society	Membership strength
1	Akachukwu Multipurpose Cooperative Society New Layout Enugu	18
2	Patdembus Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Enugu	36
3	Unec Enugu Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Enugu	54
4	Obed Camp Palm kennel Production Cooperative Society Ltd. Coal Camp Enugu	12
5	Bright Star (Enugu North) Mirco Finance Cooperative Society Ltd. Enugu	10
6	Disabled Enugu Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Enugu	22
7	Head of Civil Service Staff (Enugu) Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd. Enugu.	45
8	National Museum (Enugu) Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd. Enugu	65
9	Enugu State Ministry of Commerce and Industry Staff Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd. Enugu	38
10	Enugu State Civil Service Commissions Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd. Enugu	24
	Total	324

Source: Divisional Cooperative Council, Enugu North Local Government Area, Enugu State.

Sample Size Determination

The researcher choose to draw a square for the study from the total population, the researcher employed the famous Taro Yamane formula to obtain the sample size. The formulae is given thus;

$$n = \frac{N}{1N + (e)^2}$$

thus

n = Sample size to be determined

N = Total population

I = Constant

e = Tolerable error = 5% - 0.05%

For Aninri Local Government Area the sample size determination is obtained thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1N + (e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{206}{1 + 206(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{206}{1 + 206(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{206}{1 + 515}$$

$$n = 135.973597$$

The sample size is 136

For Enugu North Local Government Area the sample is obtained thus;

$$n = \frac{N}{1N + (e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{324}{1 + 324(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{324}{1 + 324(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{324}{1 + 0.81}$$

$$n = \frac{324}{1 + 81}$$

$$n = 179.005525$$

The sample size is 179

Instrument for Data Collection

The researcher will make use of a questionnaire to collect data from the respondent which is the primary data. A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents, it offers the

respondents the choice of answers and is devised for the purpose of a survey or statistical study. The questionnaire for this study have questionnaire meant to elicit information on the personal data of the respondents, and then question on the subject matter under study.

Validity of the Instrument

The instrument will be subjected to face and content validity. Validity refers to the degree to which an instrument accurately measures what is intends to measure. In this case content validity will be done, where the questions were considered as items, and how they will help/address the research questions and hypotheses formulated for the study

were considered. This valuation will be carried out by the supervisor of the research study, who is an expert in the field of cooperatives, and in the Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Enugu State, Nigeria.

Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability of the instrument refers to the degree to which an instrument yields consistent results. The reliability measurement that will be employed by the researcher is the test retest reliability. In this measurement the researcher will obtain instructions from the supervisor to administer the

instrument to a few members of the cooperative society within the school, and the instrument will also re administered to respondents after two weeks to measure its reliability. After the test retest the instrument will be confirmed reliable.

Method of Data Analysis

The researcher will present the obtained data in the simplest form for easy understanding. The researcher is going

to use table's frequencies and percentages, employing chi-square (χ^2) to test the hypothesis too.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The survey exercise for this research work took the researcher to the two local government areas, chosen as the case study form this study. the researcher distributed a total of one hundred and thirty six (136) copies of questionnaire to respondents in Aninri, that is the respondents for the study in the area, then a total of one hundred

and seventy nine (179) copies of questionnaire were distributed the respondents in Enugu North Local Government Area, which is sampled size for the study in the area. From the copies of questionnaire distributed and returned the researcher more make the following presentation and analysis.

RETURN RATE OF QUESTIONNAIRE BY RESPONDENTS

Table1 During the survey exercise not all the respondents returned the copies of questionnaire distributed to them, some others were not too careful in

filling the questionnaire while answering the questions. The researcher presents the details of the return rate in the table below:

Table 3: Return rate in Aninri Local Government Area is presented in the table below.

S/N	Options	Frequency	Percentage
1	No of copies returned	138	94.12
2	No of copies not returned	15	2.94
3	No of copies badly mutilated	15	2.94
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3: above one hundred and twenty eight (138) copies of the questionnaire that represents 94.12% were correctly fitted and returned by the respondents, (15) copies were not returned, that

represents 2.94%, while 15 copies of the questionnaire that represent 2.94% were returned but badly mutilated by the respondents.

Table 4: The gender of the respondents in Enugu North Local Government Area is presented in the table below

S/N	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	97	57.74
2	Female	71	42.26
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In table 4 above ninety seven (97) respondents that represents 57.74% in Enugu North Local Government Area are

males, while seventy one (71) respondents that represents 42.26% are females.

DATA ANALYSIS

Research Question No 1: What are the different factors in the Nigerian business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Enugu North Local Government Area? Table 5: The researcher presents the opinions of the respondents on the factors of Nigerian business environment that has a greater effect on

Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State?

the activities of their cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government in Enugu North Local Government Area.

S/N	Response variables	Frequency	Percent
1	Organizational direction	24	14.29
2	Organizational leadership	48	28.57
3	Value system	8	4.76
4	Mission and objectives	16	9.52
5	Relation among members	32	19.05
6	Financial factors	24	14.29
7	Quality of human resources	8	4.76
8	Promotional activities	8	4.76
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field survey, 2021

In table 1 above twenty four respondent in Enugu North Local Government Area that represent 14.29% indicates organizational direction, forty eight respondents that represent 28.57% indicates organizational leadership, eight respondents that represent 4.76% indicates value system, sixteen respondents that represent 9.52% indicates mission and objectives, thirty two respondents that represents 19.05% indicates relation among members, twenty four respondents that represents

14.29% indicates financial factors, eight respondents that represent 4.76% indicates quality human resources while eight respondents that represent 4.76% indicates promotional activities

Research Question No 2: What are the different factors in the Nigerian business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area and Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State?

Table 5: The researcher presents the opinions of the respondents on the Nigerian business environment activities that effects cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State

Table 5

S/N	Response variables	Frequency	Percent
1	Ethnical or legal issues	3	2.34
2	Government political factors	19	14.84
3	Technical issue	13	10.16
4	Trade barriers	5	3.91
5	Relationship with suppliers	15	11.72
6	Distribution chain	19	7.03
7	Competition	17	13.28
8	Relationship with consumers	7	5.47
9	Socio-economic issues	7	5.47
10	Recession and depression	33	25.78
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field survey, 2021

In table 5 above three respondents in Aninri Local Government Area that represents 2.34% indicates ethnical or legal issues, nineteen respondents that represent 14.84% indicates government political factors, thirteen respondents that represents 10/16% indicates technical factors, five respondents that represent 3.91% indicates trade barriers, fifteen respondents that represents 11/72% indicates relationship with suppliers, nine respondents that

represents 7.03% indicate distribution chain, seventeen respondents that represents 13.28% indicates competition, seven respondents that represents 5.47% indicates relationship with consumers, seven respondents that represents 5.47% indicates Relationship with consumers, seven respondents that represent 5.47 indicates socio economic issues while thirty three respondents that represents 25.78% indicate recession and depression.

Test of Hypotheses

The researcher tested the research hypotheses formulated for the study using chi-square (χ^2)

Hypotheses one

H^0 There are no different factors in Nigeria business environment

that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria

Test Statistics

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{O^1 - O^e}{O^e}$$

Where O^1 = observed frequency

O^e = Expected frequency

The level of significance = 5% = 0.05%

Decision

Since the calculated value of X^2 60 is greater than critical value 7.81 we reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternative hypotheses and conclude that there are different factors in Nigeria business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Aninri Local Government Area.

H_0 : There are no different factors in the Nigeria business environment that affect the activities of cooperatives societies in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

Using responses from table 6

S/N	Response variables	Frequency	Percent
1	Strongly Agree	91	57.17
2	Agree	41	24/40
3	Disagree	22	13.10
4	Strongly Disagree	14	8.33
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field survey, 2021

Using $X^2 = \sum \frac{O^1 - O^e}{O^e}$

Expected frequency = $\frac{168}{4} = 42$

$$X^2 = \left(\frac{91-42}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{41-42}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{22-42}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{14-42}{42}\right)^2$$

$$X^2 = \left(\frac{49}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-1}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-20}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-28}{42}\right)^2$$

$$X^2 = \frac{2401}{42} - \frac{1}{42} - \frac{400}{42} - \frac{784}{42}$$

$$X^2 = 51.17 - 0.02 - 9.52 - 18.67$$

$$X^2 = 22.96 > 7.81$$

Decision

Since the calculated value of X^2 22.96s greater than critical value 7.81 we reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternative hypotheses and therefore conclude that there are different factors in Nigeria business environment that affect the activities of cooperative societies in Enugu North Local

Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

Ho: There are no efforts from cooperative societies to identify and employ strategies to take care of factor in Nigeria business environment in Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

Using response from table 7

S/N	Response variables	Frequency	Percent
1	Strongly Agree	82	56.25
2	Agree	50	31.25
3	Disagree	18	6.25
4	Strongly Disagree	18	6.25
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field survey, 2021

Expected frequency = $\frac{168}{4} = 42$

Using $X^2 = \sum \frac{O^1 - O^e}{O^e}$

$$X_2 = \left(\frac{72-42}{32}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{40-42}{32}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{8-42}{32}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{8-42}{32}\right)^2$$

$$X_2 = \left(\frac{40}{32}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{8}{32}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-24}{32}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-24}{32}\right)^2$$

$$X^2 = \frac{1600}{32} - \frac{64}{32} - \frac{576}{32} - \frac{578}{32}$$

$$X^2 = 50 - 2 = n18 - 18$$

$$X^2 = 16 > 7.81$$

Decision

Since the calculated value of X^2 16 is greater than critical value 7.81 we reject the null hypotheses and therefore conclude that there are efforts from cooperative societies to identify and employ strategies to take care of factors in Nigerian business environment in Aninri Local Government Area.

Ho: There are no efforts from cooperative societies to identify and employ strategies to take care of factor in Nigeria business environment in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

Using responses from table 8

S/N	Response variables	Frequency	Percent
1	Strongly Agree	87	51.79
2	Agree	45	26.79
3	Disagree	18	10.71
4	Strongly Disagree	18	10.71
	Total	168	100%

Source: Field survey, 2018

Using $X^2 = \sum \frac{O^1 - O^e}{O^e}$

$$X^2 = \left(\frac{87-42}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{45-42}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{18-42}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{18-42}{42}\right)^2$$

$$X^2 = \left(\frac{45}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-24}{42}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-24}{42}\right)^2$$

$$X^2 \frac{2025}{42} - \frac{9}{42} - \frac{576}{42} - \frac{576}{42}$$

$$X^2 = 48.21 - 0.21 - 13.71 - 13.71$$

$$X^2 = 21. > 7.81$$

Decision

Since the calculated value of X^2 21 is greater than critical value 7.81 we reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternative hypotheses and conclude that there are efforts from cooperative

societies to identify and employ strategies to take care of factors in Nigeria environment in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The researcher in the course of this study made the following findings.

- The return rate of questionnaires were very high, 94.12% copies were returned in Aninri Local Government Area, while 93.85% of the copies were returned in Enugu North Local Government Area. The number of respondents were higher in Enugu North compared to Aninri so people join cooperative societies move in Enugu North Local Government Area.
- The cooperatives societies have more males as members than

members who are females, in Aninri Local Government Area the percentage of members who are males is 56.25% while the percentages of females is 43.75% in Enugu North Local Government Area the percentage of males is 57.74% while the percentage of members who are females are 42.226%, this shows that men are more disposed top becoming members of cooperative societies than women in the area under study.

- The cooperative societies under study have majority number of its members having OND/NCE as

academic qualification, this were the case in both local government areas under study holders of WAEC/WASC/NECO and HND/BSC has the next major numbers of holders.

- The member of the cooperative societies are of some business environment factors that affect the activities of their societies. In Aninri Local Government area 68.75% are fully aware, while in Enugu North local government area 76.19% are fully aware of the factors.
- A major number of the respondents are of the opinion that external environment factors have a greater effect on then activities of their society than internal environment factors. In Aninri Local Government Area 56.25 percent are of the opinion that it is external factors, while 31.25% choose internal factors, in Enugu North Local Government Area 59.52% of the respondents and of the opinion that it is external factors, while 26.199% thinks it is internal factors.
- The surveyed opinions of the respondents shows that internal factors that affect their activities of their society the most in Aninri Local Government area is financial factors, the next factor is organizational direction, and relation among members, this shows that they do not have adequate access to finding, and their share capital is as well small, In Enugu North Local Government Area the internal factor that affect the activities of the society is organizational leadership, they next factor is relation among members, than organization direction and financial factors, the societies in Enugu North has access to finance, some of them are populated by civil servants, and share capital are deducted from source, so their issues is on how organized their leadership and relations among the members.
- The external factor that affect the activities of the societies greater in Aninri Local Government Area

is the most is recession and depression, this affect reduces the value of their investments, as well as the value of their financial resources, the their financial resources, the next factor is government and political factors, societies in the area enjoy a lot of sponsorship from government, this usually leads to interference from government also some of the societies were formed for political reasons, that is why a lot reduced activities once the political reason it was formed is done with the next factor is competition from other businesses than relationship with supplies and technology issues, members are most rural dwellers, so handling advanced technology is an issue, like placing order online. In Enugu North Local Government Area the external factor that affect the activities of the societies is recession and depression, same with the societies in Aninri local government area, the next factor is government and political factors then competition with other business organizations and relationship with consumers.

- The sampled opinions of the respondents agrees with the fact that the factors shave really affected the activities to their society. In Aninri local government area 68.75% of the respondents choose strongly agree, while 18.75% choose agree. In Enugu North Local Government Area 57.17% choose strongly agrees, while 24.40% choose agree.
- The cooperative societies in the two local government areas do put up some efforts to lower the effect of business environment factor on their activities the researcher of the information from the opinion of the respondents on both areas of study.
- The opinion of the respondents shows that the biggest effect that the factors of business environment have in the

activities of their society in Aninri Local Government Area I decreased total output, this happens when the funds at their disposal lowers value, or when do not complete well in the market, the next effect is poor sales and lower revenue, the societies also suffer from instability, and rise in the cost of production. In Enugu North Local the societies suffer greatly from decreased total output, followed by lowered revenue in stability and lowered members/staff commitment.

- The opinions of the respondents shows that in Aninri Local Government area the challenge that the societies encounter that is greater in their efforts to lower the effort of factors of business environment is poor access to funds, then poor performance monitor, uncertainties in the business environment, then poor performance monitor, poor access to funds, over loading of information and lack of cooperation among management and members.
- In Aninri Local Government area the opinions of the respondents shows that the major solution to the challenges their societies encounter is improved access to fund for the societies the next solution that will address the

challenges is planning ahead and assessing the plans after some time, then followed by improved infrastructural facilities, developing better marketing orientation and developing if a better company's culture within the societies. In Enugu North Local Government area the respondents are of the opinion that the major solution to the challenges is planning ahead and assessing the plans after some time, the next major solution is proper and scientific management practices then a more enabling environment, another is developing of a company's culture and improved access to funds.

- In Aninri Local Government area the solution to their challenges lies in access to more funds for them while in Enugu North Local Government Area it is planning ahead and assessing the plans after some time, this is because most of societies in Enugu have their share capital deducted at source, so raising funds is not really the issue for them, but proper management over long periods while in Aninri its is mostly cooperative societies still looking for and depending on findings from government and donor agencies.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings of this study revealed that factors in business environment do have effect on the activities of cooperative societies in the two local government areas under study, the findings of business affect their activities the more than internal factors, this is because they have little control on the external factors. The findings of the study shows also that the factor of business environment decreases the total output and the value of their funds, this is the biggest effect it has on their activities, it also breeds instability and poor sales of the products of the societies. The societies in Aninri and Enugu North

Local Government Area do put up effort to deal with factors in business environment, but their biggest challenge in Aninri Local Government Area is poor access to funds, while in Enugu North Local Government area it is uncertainties in the business environment, then poor performance monitor= of their activities. So in Aninri Local Government area their challenge is more funds, but in Enugu North Local Government Area it is management. In Aninri Local Government area it is planning ahead and assessing the plan after some time, as well as proper management practices.

CONCLUSION

Cooperative societies remains a veritable tool for empowering the local populace and the disadvantage in our

society so it is business organization that needs to be taken serious considering what happens to it. The

members are usually the local populace who have come together to take advantage of the opportunities that the society will provide to help themselves economically, so unlike other business organizations they do not employ professionals to take care of their affairs, but attention needs to be given to the effect that factors in business environment has on their activities this research study has done so well in revealing the factors in business environment, which affect cooperative organizations, efforts is needed on the part of management committee and members of the cooperative societies to consider the two types of factors in

business environment their effects on the activities of the societies, which the study revealed, the challenges they encounter and what they need to do to tackle the challenges, the cooperative societies under study in this research work have a lot of university graduates, who can easily comprehend this issues and help other less educated members to understand the need to study and tackled the factor in the business environment they carry out their activities, when this is adequately done the cooperative societies will be better off, this re arch study, has done so much revealing a lot to the benefits of the cooperative societies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research finding the researcher hereby put forward the following recommendations.

- 1) Cooperative societies need to have plans on ground to counter the negative affects of factors in business environment these plans can be assessed and measured with the initial expectation to know the progress recorded, these societies have a lot of educated members who can easily comprehend the issues and carry other along.
- 2) Improved finding of the cooperative there are a lot of sources for cooperative societies to seek improved finding, both internally and externally, improved finding will help to cushion the effect of recession and depression, where the value of money goes down, lowering the extent it can go to solve the problems it is intended to.
- 3) Improved management of the cooperative societies is very important, the management or the managers need to consider

the factors in business environment and its effects on their activities. Part of the major activities of the management should be activities intended to address the issues of factors of business environment.

- 4) Government can do more to cushion the effect of business environment factors on cooperative societies, improved infrastructures a more stable financial system will help them deal with negative effects of inflation or depression, and the extra cost that comes with doing business in an environment with poor infrastructures.
- 5) Understanding and appreciating the variables involved in business environment is not too easy for the illiterate ones, so educated members of the cooperative societies needs to help the uneducated ones and vary them along, for them to understand and appreciate the variables involved.

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