

Economic Impacts of Curfew Imposition on the Nightclub Industry in Calabar Metropolis, Nigeria

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Abstract

The nightclub industry in Nigeria is a lucrative part (subset) of the larger music, drinks and entertainment industry that operates from dusk to dawn. The nightclub industry is an economy that is growing, robust and competitive in comparison to other economies. Conversely, the imposition of a dusk to dawn curfew in Calabar as a proactive strategy to curb security challenges in Calabar Metropolis affects the nightclub economy. The study investigates the economic impact of curfew imposition on the nightclub industry in Calabar. The research employed the qualitative approach and adopted a purposive sampling technique for data collection, targeting nightclub operators of Fifteen (15) nightclubs. The study revealed that the curfew imposition resulted in the decline of business patronage, job and income losses to nightclubs due to the curfew imposition amongst other contending factors. The study concludes with recommendations on ways to salvage the negative impact of curfew imposition on the industry and return nightclubs in Calabar to business growth, profitability and resurgence.

Keywords: Economic impact; Curfew imposition; Nightclub; Calabar Metropolis; Economic growth; Security challenges

Introduction

Across the globe, many nations of the world have been tackling inevitable security challenges. Some countries have adopted several strategies to fight crime within their territory (Bottom & Kostanoski, 1983; Green, 1981). These established agencies enforced several laws to control

the escalating cases of crimes and other forms of insecurity (Bell, Dean & Gottschalk, 2010; Bottom & Kostanoski, 1983; McCaney, 2010). In situations where they are constant and rising cases of security challenges, most countries often adopt the imposition of curfew as one of their strategies to reverse the trend. In Nigeria, the imposition of curfew by the government has been an alternative way to fight the rising security challenge in the country that hampers the economic activities of several hitherto vibrant sectors, specifically nightclubs. Of particular interest is the Calabar Metropolis that the state government has since October 2020 imposed an indefinite curfew to curb the several cases of crime and insecurity in the city (Vanguard, 2020). As part of the requirements of the state curfew: businesses are required to shut their doors throughout curfew hour, mass gathering prohibited, loitering, and freedom of movement banned or highly restricted except for those on essential duties or emergency cases. Undoubtedly, the imposition of a dusk to dawn curfew in Calabar now hampers the economic activities of all sectors, specific, nightclubs whose operations thrive during most of the curfew-imposed hours.

Numerous researches have focused on the issue of juvenile curfew, nightclubs, bouncers, income, flood, and violence (Adams, 2003; Akintoye, Inah, & Odunsin, 2017; Demant, 2013; Digha & Akintoye, 2017; Effiom, 2012; Eja & Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo & Edward, 2018; Marketos, 1995; Abua, Afangideh, Ochiche & Ashua, 2014). However, very few of these studies, if any, have adequately addressed the economic impact of curfew imposition on the nightclub industry. As impactful as the nightclub industry is to the economic growth of many cities globally, the extent and actual nature of these impacts has not been documented. This study, therefore, will seek to determine the economic loss(es) experienced by the nightclub industry in the Calabar metropolis, Nigeria and in the circumstances of the continuous implementation of the curfew regulation by the state government without any specific date which it will be relaxed.

The nightclub industry

In this context, the nightclub industry is a lucrative part (subset) of the music, drinks, and entertainment industry that opens for business late at night from about 8 pm to 4 am, especially during weekends. According to Berkley (1999), a nightclub is a place for socializing, recreation, and dancing. The nightclub provides facilities such as a disco, bar and other forms of entertainment. The nightclub industry sells alcoholic beverages, offer more cocktails, and have a dancing floor with a stage for DJs or live songs to their customers. Customers are allowed into the club when they pay an entry fee at the entrance (Hollands, 2002; Mintel, 2002; Purcell & Graham, 2005; Seedat, Van Niekerk, Jewkes, Suffla & Ratele, 2009).

Nightclubs run as owner-operated or managed operations (Hollands, 2002; Chatterton & Hollands, 2003; Stone, 1995). The business employs bouncers as security staff to maintain peace and order during club hours. The bouncers stop mischief-makers and other nuisance from accessing or remove them from the nightclub (Schneider & Minnaar, 2015). Furthermore, bouncers duties in nightclubs are to ensure the safety of customers, incorporate nightclub customers into the guiding rules and regulations, screen clubbers for entry and do not admit people with casual dresses or gang apparel in nightclubs (Hobbs, Hadfield, Lister & Winlow, 2002; Hobbs, Hadfield, Lister & Winlow, 2003; Schneider & Minnaar, 2015).

According to Northcote (2006:1), nightclubbing is the "urban rite of passage" that has become a familiar kind of relaxation activity for young people globally. Nightclubbing is unarguably a mainstream kind of relaxation for several young people and the elders within the age range of 18 to 50years (Chatterton & Hollands, 2002; Chatterton & Hollands, 2003; Goulding & Shankar, 2002; Northcote, 2006; Thornton, 1995). Lately, nightclubs attract

tourists, fun-loving youths residing in the city as well as couples, who go to the club for relaxation, drinking, eating, singing (karaoke), dancing and to have a good time after a hectic day (Malbon, 1999; Northcote, 2006; Thornton, 1995). These actions ultimately lead to an increase in the profits from sales of drinks and other nightclub activities. Interestingly, nightclub customers pay a cover charge, buy drinks in the club, and patronize other support services in the city (Eja & Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo & Edward, 2018). Nightclubs pay the DJ to play live and recorded music, spend a large sum on rents, taxes and utilities in a given location. Increasingly, nightclubs in the Calabar metropolis face competition from other hospitality ventures, such as lounges, hotels and guesthouses, who offer nightclub services to their customers and other patrons of the service (Eja & Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo, 2018). The development has led to enterprises exclusively offering nightclub services to innovate and become creative in their business approaches to ensure profitability and resurgence.

Economic impacts of tourism

Worldwide, the tourism industry has added to the monetary headway of various nations. For instance, in 2014, it contributed around 3.3% (US\$1.7 trillion) to the overall Gross Domestic Products (GDP), with its inside and out responsibility ascending to essentially 10% of the general GDP (World Tourism Organization (UNWTO, 2019). Turner (2015) affirmed that the GDP increment comes from more than one billion global vacationers worldwide and that the number has been developing by 5% yearly since 2012. Muchapondwa and Stage (2013) and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC, 2020) predicted that the tourism industry contributed about 10.3% towards the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) worldwide. By implication, this shows that the tourism industry business is a "powerhouse" that can create jobs globally. Their research further reveals the tourism industry help to draw customers and income when the tourism industry services like accommodation and entertainment, transportation, food and drinks sectors are available in a destination. The business additionally adds to the circulation of funds within the host nation. In Nigeria, the tourism industry related business has contributed enormously to the GDP and employment in the country. About 70% of jobs in Nigeria are tourism-related (Eneyo & Eja, 2018; Eneyo, 2018). In Cross River state, most residents work in different accommodation and entertainment sectors like bars, motels, inns and lots more (Eja & Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo & Edward, 2018). Tourists and customers patronize support services in the state. And their patronage of the sectors indirectly contributes to high revenue (Eneyo & Eja, 2018; Eneyo, 2018). The commitment of the tourism industry to the state's economy is enormous. These show that where the tourism industry strives, the economy of the host community will undoubtedly improve. Therefore, the tourism industry plays a vital role in the economic growth and development of many nations across the globe.

The economic impact of nightclubs and other nightlife sectors

Globally, the nightclub industry is a primary economic contributor, with a direct contribution, to the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Eja & Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo, 2018; Hollands & Chatterton, 2003). According to the United States Census Bureau's County Business Patterns (CBP, 2005), the nightclub industry is the primary sector in New York City that sustains 9,115 direct jobs in 2005 with total earnings of \$172,275,000. Furthermore, the nightclub industry is a primary economic contributor, with contributions of approximately \$22 and \$33 billion yearly to the revenue generated in the United States (Intel (2002:19). A survey carried out by ARA in New York City indicated that nightclubs generated \$1.2 billion. The study further highlighted that the income generated by the nightclub industry went for the repairs and maintenance of the sector, rent, debt service, marketing, and utilities (Audience Research and

Analysis, 2004:4). The survey revealed that nightclubs pay \$531 million to 19,400 (direct) staff (ARA, 2004:15). In addition, the research also revealed that nightclubs generated approximately \$8.5 billion additional revenue, \$2 additional earnings, while 76,000 additional jobs in New York City (ARA, 2004:15-16). In the UK, nightclubs had sales of over £2 billion in 1997, and admitted around 185 million customers (Mintel, 1998:15); employs 830,000 people as managers, DJs, bar staff, promoters, and cleaners (Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association (BLRA, 1999).

The nightclub industry is the primary sector in Nigeria that sustains several direct and indirect jobs (Eneyo & Edward 2018). By implication, where the nightclub industry thrives, the economy of the host community will undoubtedly improve. Hence, the sector assumes a significant role in the economic growth of many countries throughout the globe. Nightclubs attract customers within the catchment areas and contribute to the patronage of the business and other support services within and around the host community (Chatterton & Hollands, 2003; Edward & Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo, 2018; Northcote, 2006). The industry is a leading element in drawing conventional businesses globally. According to Berkley (1999), nightclubs usually draw the same customers back to a given country many times because they emphasise regularly improving attractions. The nightclub industry plays a catalytic role in job creation and income creation globally (Eja & Eneyo, 2018; Ekong, 2021; Itu, 2021). Given Nigeria's decreasing income derived from the oil sector and its alarming unemployment rate before the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period, and the unpopular imposition of curfew across many cities in the country, the sector contributes to the country's economy is alarming. The study directly shows the importance of the nightclub industry to Nigeria's economy.

The situation in Calabar Metropolis, Nigeria

Approximately 50% of employment in the nightclub and nightlife sub-sectors comprised part-time jobs (Ekong, 2021; Itu, 2021). The nightclub industry in the Calabar metropolis creates jobs and contributes to increased revenue to the government (Authors fieldwork 2021). The 15 nightclubs in the Calabar metropolis has created about 38,000 jobs and contributed N4.2 billion in 2015 to the state's economy (Ekong, 2021; Itu, 2021). They further stated that nightclubs in the Calabar metropolis contributed more than 3 million in payroll taxes and sales taxes to the state in 2010 and 2015. Nightclub patrons in the Calabar metropolis spent an average of N50,000.00 per night; this spending indirectly has supported about 27,000 jobs across every sector of the economy (Ekong, 2021; Itu, 2021). Nonetheless, the imposition of curfew in the city of Calabar by the Cross River State government had furthermore enabled all law enforcement agencies like the Police, Navy, and Army to arrest unauthorized people that move during curfew hours. Since the business thrives from dusk to dawn, the economic impact of the curfew imposition on the nightclubs industry needs to be understood.

The curfew imposition and lockdown regulations

Curfew imposition and lockdown regulations are the primary strategies adopted by the authority to restrict inessential movement and to curb some of the challenges globally (Business Day, 2020b; Dube, 2020b; Grass-Root reported, 2021; Lee & Chen, 2020; Vanguard, 2021; Wood, 2020). One of the hardest-hit economic sectors by the curfew imposition is the tourism and hospitality industry. The restriction on movement has significantly influenced the tourism and hospitality industry's turnover (Bartis, Hufkie & Moraladi, 2021; Baum & Hai, 2020; Congrex, 2020; Dube, Nhamo & Chikodzi, 2021; Gössling, Scott & Hall, 2020). The government action to curb the challenges has hurt the tourism activities and specifically the nightclubs operations (Dube & Chikodzi, 2020d; Dube, Nhamo. & Chikodzi, 2020b; Idowu,

2013; McCartney, 2020, He, Liu, Wang & Yu, 2020; Şenol & Zeren, 2020; Vanguard, 2020). Many sectors like the tourism and hospitality sectors have introduced some mitigation strategies and innovations (as hybrid events, virtual events, and the upskilling of staff) to continue their operators (Bartis, Hufkie & Moraladi, 2021). Notably, the emerging paradigm poses a challenge to the economic growth and development of nightclubs in Calabar. Therefore, the hypothesis stated below will statistically examine the economic impact of curfew imposition before the curfew and curfew era in the study area. The following hypotheses were formulated in the null form:

H₀: There is no significant effect of the imposition of curfew on the patronage of nightclubs in the study

H₀: There is no significant variation in the income generated by each nightclub before and during the imposition of curfew.

H₀: There is no significant difference in the number of staff employed in nightclubs before and during the curfew era in Calabar Metropolis, Nigeria.

Methodology

The study focused on examining the economic impact of curfew imposition on the nightclub industry in Calabar Metropolis, Nigeria. Astronomically, Calabar Metropolis lies between longitudes 80181 and 80241 East of the Greenwich Meridian and latitudes 40401 and 40541 North of the Equator (Figure 1). The city covers 406 square kilometres and an altitude of 15m above sea level on average (Akintoye, Inah & Odunsin, 2017). It is an inter-fluvial settlement built between two main Rivers viz; the Calabar River and the Great Qua River. The population of Calabar Metropolis stands at 191,630 (National Population Commission (NPC), 2006). Calabar is the most peaceful city in Nigeria. The city has various support services such as hotels, restaurants, communication facilities like internet services, fast food joints, beverages services, art and craft/woodworks, drinking spots, swimming pool, car hire services, laundry services, financial institutions, travel agencies, traditional markets, cultural centre, entertainment centres like nightclubs, and sporting activities.

For the study to achieve its aim, the causal research method was employed to identify the cause and effect of the curfew on the nightclub. We used indicators like patronage, income, and employment to study the economic impacts of curfew imposition in the nightclubs. The types of data used for the study include data on patronage level, income generation, and the number of staff employed by the nightclubs during the pre-curfew and curfew era: We also conducted interviews with experts who are proven human resources on the management of the nightclub industry in Calabar. We agreed that the most suitable approach to conduct the interview was to have direct contact (face-to-face interview) with the nightclub operators of each nightclub before the curfew time in Calabar. In this instance, we conducted an oral interview using the key informant interview with the operators of each nightclub. The nightclub operators were the selected representatives of the business in Calabar.

We also used data from authoritative sources such as government reports, nightclub records and documented literature to investigate the economic impact of curfew imposition on nightclubs in the city of Calabar. For this significant research, non-probability sampling, especially purposive sampling was employed. The fifteen (15) nightclubs existing in the Calabar metropolis were selected purposively for the study. They were also explored to know the particular issues related to them. Purposively sampling was adopted to select the representative of each of the nightclubs based on their knowledge, experience, understanding,

participation, approachability, enthusiasm, and accessibility (Altinay, Paraskevas & Jang, 2016; Leedy & Ormrod, 2015). One representative was chosen purposively from each nightclub and in all, 15 representatives (nightclub operators) were used to collect data for the study.

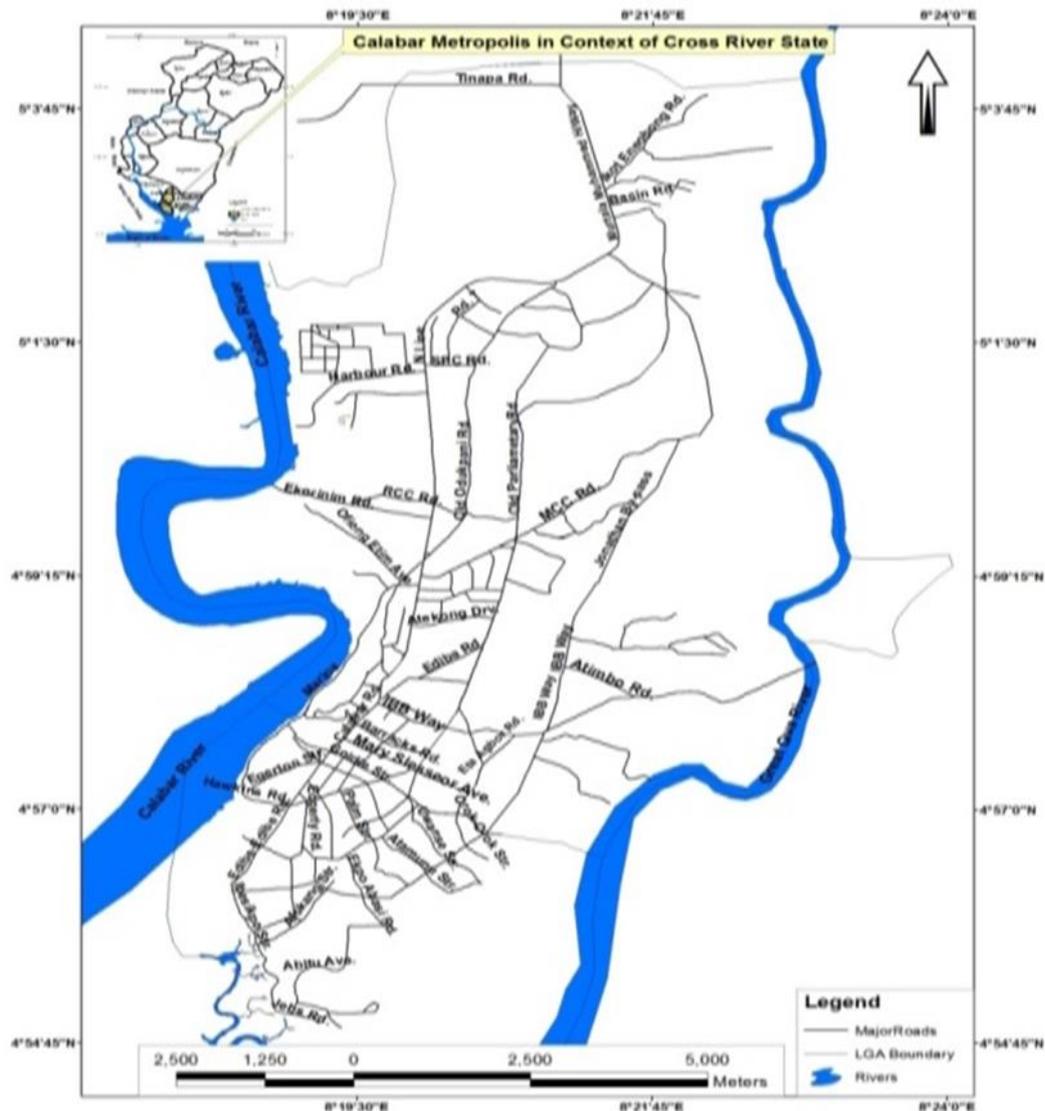


Figure 1: The study area

Source: Geographical Information Systems Unit, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Calabar, Calabar, 2021

All fifteen (15) nightclub operators were interviewed. The nightclub operators provided useful insight concerning the industry in its entirety and how the curfew imposition has affected their business. Their involvement in the research was voluntary, and no nightclub operator was forced into participating. The oral interviews were conducted face to face with the interviewees. In other words, the researchers and nightclub operators were able to meet at an agreed time. Consequently, a range of questions formulated based on the study was put across to the nightclub operators and they answered accordingly. The information received from the

interview was later transcribed. The thematic analysis method was used based on the answers derived from the interview (Fischer & Parmentier, 2010).

Additionally, the descriptive statistical analysis (Mann, 2006) and the tabular methods such as frequencies, percentages and mean values were used to describe the economic impact of curfew on the nightclub industry during the pre-curfew era (January 2020 to September 2020) and curfew era (October 2020 to June 2021). In addition, the economic impact analysis of the Curfew imposition in the study area on the nightclub industry employed a secondary database sourced from the existing records of the fifteen (15) functional nightclubs in the study area. This database is the most objective, authentic, and current at this time. The data gathered were analyzed using suitable techniques and presented in tables using simple percentage. More so, the inferential statistics (paired sample t-test) was employed to investigate the differences in the level of patronage, income and employment during the pre-curfew era and curfew era.

Results

In recent times, the imposition of indefinite dusk to dawn curfew in Calabar Metropolis by the state government has caused the nightclub industry to experience abrupt and unprecedented damage to the nightclub's economy. This section presents the data for the study.

Impact on the level of patronage

Patronage signifies the volume of customers received in each nightclub every 24 hours. The data obtained in Table 1, shows a clear variation in the patronage generated by each nightclub before the curfew era (January 2020 to September 2020) and during the curfew era (October 2020 to June 2021). Across the different nightclubs in the study area, between 10,021 and 58,400 customers patronized the business translating to 77.2% to 97.4% patronage before the curfew era. However, during the curfew era, patronage reduced drastically between 1,109 and 15,930, which are between 2.6% and 22.8%. In summary, an average of 26,140, customers patronized the nightclubs per month, but the number was reduced to 3,395, during the curfew era. Thus, patronage was reduced by 272,943, customers which translate to an 80.1% reduction during the curfew era.

Table 1: level of patronage during pre-curfew era and curfew era

S/ N	Nightclubs	Patronage during pre-curfew era	Percentage (%) of patronage during pre-curfew era	Patronage during Curfew era	Percentage (%) of patronage during curfew era	Differences (Reduction in patronage)	% Difference (Reduction in patronage)
1	Angle's Bar	12,300	89.1	1,503	10.9	10,797	78.2
2	Opium Lounge	10,000	90.0	1,112	10.0	8,888	80.0
3	Amber Lounge	58,400	78.6	15,930	21.4	42,470	57.1
4	Jasper	28,702	77.2	8,454	22.8	20,248	54.5
5	Brix Lounge	14,700	92.9	1,119	7.1	13,581	85.9
6	Keeves Inn	10,578	89.8	1,201	10.2	9,377	79.6
7	UG Wills	11,405	90.6	1,178	9.4	10,227	81.3
8	Club Rain	28,964	94.4	1,723	5.6	27,241	88.8
9	The Sauce Rooftop	10,076	89.1	1,234	10.9	8,842	78.2
10	Bay's Bar Club	10,021	89.1	1,229	10.9	8,792	78.2
11	Bamboo Lounge Club	14,200	92.3	1,181	7.7	13,019	84.6
12	Super Lounge	42,102	97.4	1,109	2.6	40,993	94.9
13	Samba Lounge	19,603	93.9	1,283	6.1	18,320	87.7
14	Bervely hills	12,220	90.4	1,295	9.6	10,925	80.8

15	White House Lounge	30,409	96.2	1,186	3.8	29,223	92.5
	Average	20,912	90.1	2,716	9.9	18,196	80.1
	Average/month	26140		3395		22745	
	Total	313,680		40,737		272,943	

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2021

Test of hypothesis one

A null hypothesis was used to ascertain the impact of the indefinite imposition of curfew on the patronage of the nightclubs in the city of Calabar. The hypothesis (H_0) states that there is no significant effect of the imposition of curfew on the patronage of nightclubs in the study area. The paired-samples t-test was used to test for significant variation in the data on patronage (number of customers) obtained before and during the curfew era. The results of the analysis are on Tables 2a, 2b, and 2c. From Table 2a, the mean value of patronage for the pre-curfew era (January 2020 to September 2020) is 20912.00, while the mean value of patronage for the curfew era (October 2020 to June 2021) is 2715.80. Based on the mean, the results showed that patronage before-curfew era is higher than what was obtained during the curfew era. The result of the paired samples t-test in table 2c shows a t-value of 6.09. This t-value is significant at < 0.05 (2tailed). Hence, the null hypothesis was not supported. The result therefore gives credence to the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant effect of the imposition of curfew on the patronage of nightclubs in the study area.

Table 2a: Samples statistics

Pair		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
1	Patronage before curfew era	20912.0000	180	14286.42703	3688.73960
	Patronage during curfew era	2715.8000	180	4101.70303	1059.05517

Table 2b: Paired samples correlations

Pair		N	Correlation	Sig.
1	Patronage curfew era & Patronage during curfew era	180	0.742	0.002

Table 2c: Paired samples test

		Paired Differences								
Pair		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Error	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Lower	Upper	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
1	Patronage before curfew & patronage during curfew	18196.20	11576.23	2988.97		11785.50	24606.90	6.09	179	0.000

Impact on annual income generated

The income measures the productivity of the nightclubs. Data in Table 3 indicate variations in the income of the nightclubs before curfew era and during curfew era. Before the pre curfew era, nightclubs such as Amber Lounge generated up to ₦20.9 million (83.9%) annually, however, during the curfew era, the income generated from the same nightclub reduced to ₦4.0 million (16.1%) annually. The income reduced by 80.9%. The same condition applies to other nightclubs with the depreciation between 61.0% and 81.0%. In summary, the data indicates

that a total of ₦160,050,000.00 (78.9%) was generated by all the nightclubs understudy before curfew era, which translates to ₦10,670,000.00 annual average income generated by each nightclub and ₦13,337,500.00 generated per month. This amount depreciated drastically during curfew era where a total of ₦42,800,000 (21.2%), was generated with the depreciation of ₦117,250,000.00 (73.0%). This data shows that all the nightclubs in Calabar metropolis faced the challenge of depreciation in their income by 73.0% (Table 3).

Table 3: Impact on annual income generated by nightclubs

S/N	Nightclubs	Annual Revenue (Income) before pre curfew era (In N)	%	Annual Revenue (Income) during curfew era (In N)	%	Difference	% Difference
1	Angle's Bar	8,450,000.00	80.9	2,000,000.00	19.1	6,450,000.00	76.3
2	Opium Lounge	13,000,000.00	82.3	2,800,000.00	17.7	10,200,000.00	78.5
3	Amber Lounge	20,900,000.00	83.9	4,000,000.00	16.1	16,900,000.00	80.9
4.	Jasper	11,600,000.00	72.0	4,500,000.00	28.0	7,100,000.00	61.2
5.	Brix Lounge	12,000,000.00	77.4	3,500,000.00	22.6	8,500,000.00	70.8
6.	Keys Inn	9,600,000.00	79.3	2,500,000.00	20.7	7,100,000.00	74.0
7.	UG Wills	9,000,000.00	75.0	3,000,000.00	25.0	6,000,000.00	66.7
8.	Club Rain	10,000,000.00	76.9	3,000,000.00	23.1	7,000,000.00	70.0
9.	The Sauce Rooftop Club	7,500,000.00	83.3	1,500,000.00	16.7	6,000,000.00	80.0
10	Bay's Bar Club	5,000,000.00	83.3	1,000,000.00	16.7	4,000,000.00	80.0
11	Bamboo Lounge Club	11,000,000.00	78.6	3,000,000.00	21.4	8,000,000.00	72.7
12	Super Lounge	10,000,000.00	80.0	2,500,000.00	20.0	7,500,000.00	75.0
13	Samba Lounge	9,000,000.00	75.0	3,000,000.00	25.0	6,000,000.00	66.7
14	Beverly Hills	8,000,000.00	76.2	2,500,000.00	23.8	5,500,000.00	68.8
15	White House Lounge	15,000,000.00	78.9	4,000,000.00	21.1	11,000,000.00	73.3
	Average	10,670,000.00		2,853,333.33			73.0

Test of hypothesis two

A null hypothesis was formulated to ascertain the revenue generated by each nightclub in the study area. The hypothesis (H_0) states there is no significant variation in the income generated by each nightclub before and during the imposition of curfew. The paired-samples T-test was used to test for the significant variation in the data on income generated by each nightclub before curfew era and curfew era. The results of the analysis are presented in Tables 4a, 4b, and 4c. The data obtained in Table 4a indicates that the mean value of income before the curfew period is 10670000.0, while the mean value during curfew era is 2853333.3. Based on the mean, the results show that income before curfew era is higher than what was obtained during the curfew era. The result of the paired samples t-test in Table 4c reveals a T-value of 9.847. This T-value is significant at < 0.05 (2tailed). The null hypothesis is not supported. The result therefore gives credence to the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant effect of the imposition of curfew on income generated by each nightclub in the study area.

Table 4a: Paired samples statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before curfew	10670000.0000	15	3717228.23005	959784.20194
	Curfew era	2853333.3333	15	934166.29497	241200.70020

Table 4b: Paired samples correlations

	N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before curfew & curfew era	.754	.001

Table 4c: Paired samples test

				Paired Differences					
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% confidence interval of the difference lower	Upper	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	Before curfew & curfew era	7816666.66	3074298.21	793780.38	6114177.06	9519156.27	9.84	14	.000

Impact on employment

The study also examined the impact of the curfew on the level of employment. The data in Table 5 indicates that 263 staff were employed in the 15 nightclubs existing in the study area with an average of 18 employees during the curfew era. This translates to 74.3% of the staff. Conversely, during curfew era, the number reduced significantly to 93 staff with an average of 6 staff which translates to 25.7%. It can be deduced that 170 employees were laid off (an average of 11 per nightclub) translating to 48.6% retrenchment (Table 5).

Table 5: Impact on employment

S/N	Nightclubs	No. of Staff during pre-curfew era	%	No of Staff during Curfew era	%	No Retrenched	%
1	Angle's Bar	18	69.2	8	30.8	10	38.5
2	Opium Lounge	18	81.8	4	18.2	14	63.6
3	Amber Lounge	33	75.0	11	25.0	22	50.0
4	Jasper	24	72.7	9	27.3	15	45.5
5	Brix Lounge	21	72.4	8	27.6	13	44.8
6	Keeves Inn	16	80.0	4	20.0	12	60.0
7	UG Wills	12	66.7	6	33.3	6	33.3
8	Club Rain	15	68.2	7	31.8	8	36.4
9	The Sauce Rooftop Club	18	75.0	6	25.0	12	50.0
10	Bay's Bar Club	16	80.0	4	20.0	12	60.0
11	Bamboo Lounge Club	14	77.8	4	22.2	10	55.6
12	Super Lounge	12	63.2	7	36.8	5	26.3
13	Samba Lounge	18	66.7	9	33.3	9	33.3
14	Beverly Hills	12	85.7	2	14.3	10	71.4
15	White House Lounge	16	80.0	4	20.0	12	60.0
	Average	18	74.3	6	25.7	11	48.6
	Total	263		93		170	

Test of hypothesis three

A null hypothesis was formulated to ascertain the employment rate during pre-curfew era and curfew era. The hypothesis (H_0) states there is no significant difference in the number of staff employed in nightclubs before and during the curfew era in Calabar Metropolis, Nigeria.

The paired-samples t-test was used to test for significant variation in the number of staff employed by each nightclub before curfew (January 2020 to September 2020) and during the curfew (October 2020 to June 2021). The results of the analysis are presented in Tables 6a, 6b, and 6c. The data obtained in Table 6a indicates that the mean value of employment before curfew era ($x = 17.5 \approx 18$) is greater than that during the curfew era ($x = 6.2 \approx 6$). Based on this mean, the results show that the number of staff before the curfew era is higher than what was obtained during the curfew era. The result of the paired samples t-test in Table 6c reveals that



a T-value of 10.85 obtained. This t-value is significant at < 0.05 (2tailed). Hence, the null hypothesis was not supported. The result therefore gives credence to the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant effect of the imposition of curfew on employment rate by each nightclub in the study area.

Table 6a: Paired samples statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	No. of staff before curfew era	17.5	15	5.42305	1.40023
	No. of staff during curfew era	6.2	15	2.51282	.64881

Table 6b: Paired samples correlations

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	No. of staff before curfew & No. of staff during curfew	15	.710	.003

Table 6c: Paired samples test

		Mean	Std. Deviation	Paired Differences Std. Mean	95% confidence interval of the difference lower	Upper	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	No. of staff before curfew & No. of staff during curfew era	11.33	4.04	1.04	9.09	13.57	10.84	14	.000

Discussion

The imposition of curfew in Calabar Metropolis continues to have a significant adverse impact on the business survival and growth of nightclubs directly and the economy of the metropolis indirectly. This impact is felt in different ways by the nightclubs leading to a sharp decline in the economic activities of the industry such as patronage decline, revenue and job losses. The result in Table 1 indicates that the number of customers declined sharply during the curfew era which by implication has adversely affected the turnover (income and profit maximization) of the nightclubs (Table 3) thereby threatening their ability to survive as a business and to perform their legal and social responsibility as the case may be. This result buttresses Harvey (2000) assertion that the nightlife sector depends on profit generated from the patronage of nightlife activities. Similarly, the result showed that income before the curfew era was 78.9% and declined to 21.1% during the curfew era. The hypothesis supports this analysis that income received before the curfew was significantly more than the one during the curfew era. The study affirmed that nightclubs have been subjected to legal regulations by the government and indirectly the regulations affect their outputs (income) and productivities (Dorn, 1983; Hollands, 2002),

Furthermore, during the curfew era nightclubs had lost up to 272,943 customers for the past nine (9) months and approximately N11million in revenue. The severity of the impact continues to be witnessed even as 170 residents out of the 263 employed during the pre-curfew era become jobless. The result further illustrates that the regulations on restriction of non-essential movement during the night hours which are essential in curtailing insecurity has continued to acutely impede the nightclub industry and other entertainment sub-sector enterprises growth and profitability with a significant proportion of the metropolis' population already affected by the policy for example operators of mainly night based Small and Medium

Scale Enterprises (SMEs). It has also hampered or restricted many residents and visitors to the metropolis from going to nightclubs and patronizing the products and services of the industry. The halt or near halt in economic activities due to the curfew also affects the expected income of the nightclubs resulting in uncertainty and re-adjustment on the part of the operators. In the light of the above observation, we could state that the growth and profitability of the industry in the metropolis diminished rapidly as regular customers of the nightclubs find it difficult to assess nightclub locations after 10 p.m. due to movement restrictions occasioned by the curfew.

In this regard, one notable challenge of nightclubs in the study area is that the drastic decrease in the economic status and viability of the industry in an environment already impacted by economic misfortune caused the global pandemic of COVID-19; thereby contradicting the concept of “urban playscapes” which shows activities of the young people in nightclubs, bars, and music spots within the nightlife entertainment economy is achievable (Caldwell, 2005; Chatterton & Hollands, 2002). The theory also contradicts the assumption that the three interrelated factors of the “Urban playscapes” such as production, regulation and consumption cannot combine to form a dominant mode of mainstream urban life since the business and its customers are under threat by the government regulatory policy. The theory of “Urban playscapes” by implication illustrated that the government has not played a catalytic role in the development of the night-time economy especially by seeking to strike a balance between a curfew time and of the activities of nightlife businesses. An example of this is the imposition of a dusk to dawn curfew by the government which hinders many nightclubbers from patronising nightclubs in the Metropolis to unwind and recuperate from work and societal stresses. It further argues the opinion of scholars in a related field that the youths play a peculiar function in the consumption sphere (Dalyop, 2019; Miles, 2000) and nightlife culture in particular (Gershuny & Fisher, 2000; Malbon, 1999; Mintel, 2000, 1998). The observation in the study did not corroborate with the view of Hennessy (2009) that Leisure Time, Community Attributes, closeness to recreation areas, security and social settings is one of the factors affecting involvement in nightclubs.

The threat to the industry emanated from the severity of restriction of movement at night that directly or indirectly affected business activities at nighttime, including the freedom to the club, have fun, among other factors, after a hectic day. Nightclubs in Calabar Metropolis like those in other major cities of the world already have to battle with the impact of the adverse consequences of the global pandemic that resulted in curfew imposition. We opined that the curfew regulation has had dramatic impacts on the economy in Cross River State, Nigeria and that of the City of Calabar with some of the outfits considering closure or relocation thereby further reducing the revenue available to the government of the state. The retrenched workforce and the reduction in income have created a society with social inequality and a deficit in nightclub growth and development, a situation that could lead to further social unrest if not curtailed immediately.

Conclusion

This paper gives a background of the economic impacts of Curfew Imposition on the nightclub industry in Calabar metropolis, Nigeria. It showed that the business of nightclub in Calabar metropolis from January 2020 to September 2020 has received high patronage from customers, generated income, and created employment opportunities for the teeming population. On the contrary, the industry has experienced a sharp decline in patronage and revenue (about an N11million) from October 2020 to June 2021, as it is strongly affected by curfew imposition regulations. Again, the decline in revenue has led to job losses in the industry and a reduction in the salary of staff, as the business can no longer pay them. Undoubtedly, the decline in

patronage, income and job losses in the nightclub industry will contribute to an increase in poverty levels, crime rate and criminality, and a decline in the economy's GDP.

Having reflected on the past 18 months of pre curfew era and curfew era and taking into account the challenges experienced by the nightclub industry we wish to state that the industry is expected to experience a decrease in the number of nightclubs in Calabar due to the reduction in patronage and income of the industry arising from the imposition of an indefinite curfew in the city. Again, due to the curfew imposition regulations, customers will likely prefer to drink alcoholic beverages at home rather than at the club level. Therefore, the following recommendations ought to be considered with the indefinite curfew still enforced by the Cross River State government.

Firstly, given the importance of nightclubs to the state's economy, we think it is very important that the relevant agencies within the state and government find ways to review the long imposed curfew with a new time frame from 12midnight to 5 am so that they can achieve their economic growth. Secondly, they should also consider a periodic review of the curfew regulation on the metropolis to prevent the dearth or relocation of nightclubs from the state capital, which will invariably lead to a poor image of the city. Thirdly, the government, financial institutions and organizations should provide interventions, bailout funds such as grants and a low-interest loan to distressed nightclubs to revamp their businesses. These could include tax waivers or rebates to nightclubs for a determined period as well as to other nighttime sectors, to boost their income. Fourthly, stakeholders should urgently establish a roadmap for training and capacity building for the different categories of personnel of nightclubs to equip them with innovative and creative skills for running a viable business of that nature during curfew regulation and public health crises to ensure the business remains economically viable and relevant to the economic development of the metropolis and Cross River State in general.

The study concludes with more limitations than the other studies because of the paucity of literatures and data on curfew imposition in Calabar Metropolis. Besides, the city is still experiencing an indefinite imposition of dusk to dawn curfew, which is creating severe economic challenges across the state and the country at large. This study is to be continued in the future with the availability of statistical data to the researcher. Again, more targeted research ought to be conducted in the nightclub industry to determine the mitigations strategies and innovation measures adopted by the nightclub industry to survive during the curfew era. The present study concludes with the currently available data as it faces difficulty in gathering adequate data for the analysis.

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