Insecurity and its Economic Impact on Calabar Nightclubs, Nigeria

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Abstract

In rapidly urbanising areas like Calabar, Nigeria, nightclubs stood out as vital economic contributors. This study delved into the economic impact of insecurity on the nightclub industry within Calabar, Southern Cross River State. A qualitative method was employed, using purposive sampling to collect data from operators of nightclubs in the area. The results revealed fifteen active nightclubs in close proximity to significant crime hotspots. This proximity underscored potential public safety threats and the resulting economic challenges. The findings further showed a marked decline in patronage, revenue, and staffing during periods of heightened insecurity. The study concluded with recommendations for enhanced security, competent nightclub management, and strategic urban planning to ensure a safe and thriving nightlife in Calabar. These findings laid the groundwork for future research, informed policy discussions, and actions in cities facing similar challenges.

Keywords: Nightclub industry; insecurity economics; spatial analysis; economic resilience; urban insecurity impact; Calabar nightlife

Introduction

As urban centers across the globe evolve, nightclubs have risen as integral components of local economies. These venues revitalize the leisure and entertainment sectors, contributing significantly to revenue and employment. However, the allure of these establishments is often undermined by pervasive insecurities, from overt threats like physical violence to subtler yet impactful perceived risks (Eneyo et al., 2023; Sutton, 2023). Consequently, such challenges carry palpable economic ramifications, which makes potential patrons deterred by these threats might shy away, translating to a drop in sales and profits (Eneyo et al., 2022; Hervie et al., 2022; Hobbs et al., 2005). Moreover, bolstering security mechanisms can strain financial resources (Bhoola, 2022; Eneyo et al., 2021; Rather et al., 2022). Such repercussions of insecurity are felt within the workforce, potentially leading to reduced staffing while heightening the need for security personnel (Chatterton, 2010; Gumbo, 2022; Hadfield, 2009; Tlabela & Douglas, 2022). This waning patronage, underpinned by safety concerns, further weakens the sector's economic footing.

This scenario is vividly evident in Calabar, nestled in Nigeria's Southern Cross River State, known for its spirited nightlife and growing tourism. The city grapples with various security challenges, from armed conflicts and kidnappings to larger sociopolitical disturbances and religious discord (Bhoola, 2022; Chibueze, 2023; Hervie et al., 2022; Hobbs et al., 2005; Mapfumo et al., 2022; Eneyo et al., 2023; Odey, 2023). Such persistent issues cloud the appeal of Calabar's nightlife, hampering its economic momentum. While numerous studies (Chibueze, 2023; Hervie et al., 2022; Hobbs et al., 2005; Mapfumo et al., 2022; Eneyo et al., 2017; Odey, 2023) have delved into urban development and the repercussions of insecurity across various sectors, there remains a noticeable research void specific to Calabar's nightclub scene. Therefore, this study examines the economic tenacity of this subsector against the backdrop of mounting security threats. The methodological approach provides a detailed perspective by comparing phases of relative stability with those of increased insecurity. This study also seeks to discern the implications of insecurity on the economic viability of nightclubs in Calabar, Nigeria.

Literature review
Economic resilience of nightclubs in the face of security challenges
Nightclubs, while traditionally viewed from socio-cultural perspectives, have increasingly been acknowledged as pivotal players in urban economies. These venues are not merely social hubs but are now significant drivers of employment and revenue generation (Boyd, 2010; Chatterton & Hollands, 2003). Their central role in city economies is supported by numerous studies (Chatterton & Hollands, 2002; Eneyo et al., 2022; Hunter et al., 2016; Nofre et al.,

2017). Scholars such as Chatterton and Hollands (2003) and Eneyo et al. (2022) have highlighted nightclubs' transformative capabilities, from rejuvenating stagnant areas to creating job opportunities and boosting economic returns. The financial prospects, ranging from ticket sales to food and beverage services, reinforce their significant economic impact (Dumas, 2012; Egodi, 2017; Eneyo, 2018; Eneyo & Edward, 2018; Saha & Roy, 2019). Thus, amidst the vast entertainment options, nightclubs distinguish themselves by blending musical experiences, consumerism, and social interactions, marking their stamp in the nighttime economy. However, alongside their economic contributions, these venues face pressing security challenges. Thus, studies by Eneyo et al. (2021) and Wang and Yan (2020) have linked rising crime rates to reduced club attendance, suggesting that increased security threats could lead to substantial economic setbacks for the nightclub industry.

Security concerns: Ramifications for nightclubs and beyond

Nightclubs, susceptible to both overt and nuanced security threats, grapple with multifaceted challenges that can dent their economic viability (Dumas, 2012; Wang & Yan, 2020). Research by Budd et al. (2023) and Maldonado-Guzmán (2023) highlights incidences like thefts and violent altercations, each capable of tarnishing the industry's financial landscape. Moreover, these security concerns not only deter immediate profitability but also hamper long-term investment and growth potential (Mensah & Boakye, 2023; Rwigema, 2021). The ripple effect of such security challenges isn't limited to nightclubs; it pervades related sectors, especially tourism (Eneyo et al., 2023; Igelle et al., 2023; Waitt et al., 2023). Studies indicate that escalating security concerns can dissuade potential tourists, leading to cascading financial strains across intertwined industries. Given this scenario, emerging literature (Arndt et al., 2023; Chibueze, 2023; Eneyo et al., 2023; Feltmann et al., 2023; Seo et al., 2023) underscores the critical need for enhanced security measures to anchor and nurture these business environments.

Impact of Nigeria's security landscape on its nightlife and broader economic sectors

The intricate security challenges in Nigeria pose considerable setbacks to its diverse economic realms. Armed robbery, largely stemming from socioeconomic imbalances and dire poverty, leads to stymied economic ventures, prompting establishments, including nightclubs, to curtail their operations or shift base (Ameh, 2023; Eneyo, 2023; Waitt et al., 2023; Yusuff, 2023). The nation also grapples with kidnappings, political unrest, religious conflicts, and an array of other security dilemmas, significantly hindering its vibrant nightlife scene (Faleye, 2023; Jude & Ukekwe, 2020; Salihu & Enwere, 2023). Diverse research works illustrate a range of security predicaments from theft and cyber fraud to more severe transgressions like ritual murders, each deterring potential customers and investments in Nigeria's entertainment and related sectors (Andrew-Essien, 2018; Badiora, 2017; Egodi, 2017; Eneyo et al., 2021; Idom et al., 2022; Umeakuka, 2022). Thus, this body of research accentuates the pronounced effects of security tribulations on Nigeria's nocturnal economy, highlighting the urgent need for well-devised mitigation measures.

Theoretical framework

Nightclubs have emerged as key economic drivers in rapidly evolving urban landscapes worldwide. Traditionally evaluated from a socio-cultural perspective, they have recently garnered scholarly attention for their economic contributions (Boyd, 2010; Chatterton & Hollands, 2003). These establishments do more than breathe life into the leisure and entertainment sectors; they have become indispensable for revenue generation and employment. However, the operations of these nocturnal hubs are often jeopardized by the

pervasive issue of insecurity, which includes both overt threats, such as physical violence and theft, and more nuanced perceived risks (Eneyo et al., 2023; Sutton, 2023).

This environment, fraught with insecurity, presents a myriad of economic challenges. When potential clientele becomes wary due to these security issues, the net profitability suffers (Hervie et al., 2022; Hobbs et al., 2005). Moreover, the push for enhanced security infrastructure imposes additional financial burdens. These challenges intensify in areas like Calabar, located in Nigeria's Southern Cross River State. Renowned for its effervescent nightlife, Calabar grapples with various security issues, encompassing direct threats and broader socio-political upheavals (Chibueze, 2023; Odey, 2023). In response to this complex backdrop, our research finds its foundation in two pivotal theoretical frameworks: the Routine Activity Theory and the Broken Windows Theory. The Routine Activity Theory, as postulated by Cohen and Felson in 1979, posits that crime results from the confluence of three primary factors: a motivated offender, a vulnerable target, and the absence of a capable guardian (Reynald & Elffers, 2017; Eneyo et al., 2022). Transposing this theory onto nightclubs offers deep insights into their inherent susceptibility in environments rife with security challenges.

Concurrently, the Broken Windows Theory, introduced by Wilson and Kelling in 1982, underscores the cumulative effect of unchecked, minor infractions, which can potentially lead to more severe criminal behaviours (Maskaly & Boggess, 2014). Within the context of nightclubs, any visible disorder can exacerbate feelings of insecurity, potentially undermining their economic robustness. Hence, amalgamating insights from both these theories, our study aims to construct a comprehensive understanding of the economic dynamics underpinning nightclubs in Calabar, especially against mounting security concerns. In doing so, we aim to bolster the academic discourse, offering nuanced findings valuable to researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. Therefore, this study aims to delve deep into the nexus between economic resilience and security, offering insights that can pave the way for safer, more prosperous nightlife in urban centres like Calabar and beyond.

Methodology

Calabar, located in the Southern Cross River State of Nigeria at approximately Latitude 4.982° N and Longitude 8.348° E (Eneyo et al., 2022;), is renowned for its vibrant nightlife and cultural diversity. It attracts domestic and international tourists, drawn to its rich cultural heritage and lively entertainment scene. The nightclub subsector in Calabar is pivotal in shaping the city's socio-economic fabric. As vital centres for social interaction, entertainment, and leisure, these nightclubs significantly contribute to the local economy and tourism industry (Abua et al., 2023; Eneyo, 2021; Inah et al., 2022). For this research, we adopted cross-sectional and survey designs, using a mixed-methods approach that integrated quantitative and qualitative analyses. This method was chosen because of its effectiveness in examining the economic implications of insecurity within the nightclub subsector. Further, we gathered quantitative and qualitative data, ensuring an in-depth understanding of the topic. Primary data were sourced directly from field surveys utilising GPS technology within a Geographic Information System (GIS) and the Participatory Research Approach (PRA), which included focus group discussions and interviews. We obtained secondary data from textbooks, academic journals, maps, and accessible archival materials to fortify the research's validity.

The study population encompassed club managers, patrons, and staff. We employed a non-probability sampling technique, interviewing 15 club managers. Purposive sampling was applied for the managers, while stratified random sampling was employed for patrons to ensure representativeness. Additionally, we used a complementary probability sampling approach, selecting 584 club staff and 1,486 patrons, representing 10% of their respective total populations identified during our research. Data collection was concentrated in Calabar,

targeting insights relevant to the economic implications of insecurity. This dual approach involved direct field surveys employing GPS and the PRA technique. We then converted geographical coordinates for distance calculations within the GIS. We adhered to ethical considerations, protecting respondents' rights and confidentiality. The data from 2018 to 2022 were authenticated through partnerships with nightclub operators and relevant government agencies. The amassed data underwent meticulous statistical analyses using both descriptive and inferential statistics. We employed techniques such as means, mapping, simple percentages, and standard deviation, supplemented with nearest neighbour analysis and analysis of variance. SPSS and GIS software facilitated these analyses, enabling us to discern distribution patterns and notable differences in patronage, income, and staff numbers before and during heightened insecurity. Such multifaceted methods strengthened the research's validity, enriching the findings presented in the results and discussion sections. We also remained reflexive throughout, addressing potential biases and limitations to uphold the study's transparency, reliability, and validity.

Results

In light of the escalating security concerns in Calabar, Nigeria, the nightclub industry has faced significant economic setbacks. This section outlines the data relevant to our study, which delves into the economic repercussions of these security challenges on Calabar's nightlife.

Spatial distribution of nightclubs and risk destinations/crime spots

The geographical coordinates (longitude and latitude) for nightclubs and risk destinations, colloquially known as crime spots, within Calabar, Nigeria, can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Geographical coordinates of nightclubs and risk destinations in the study area

S/N	Nightclubs	Longitude (X)	Latitude (Y)	Risk Destinations / Crime spots	Longitude (X)	Latitude (Y)
1	Angles Bar	8.34147	4.98069	Abatu\Palace	8.317472	4.919083
2	Amber Lounge	8.34297	4.98272	Afokang\Iman	8.317889	4.932111
3	Bamboo Lounge	8.32797	4.96986	Afokang\Jebs	8.312389	4.928306
4	Bays Bar	8.32997	4.97675	Anantigha	8.302444	4.911194
5	Beverley Hills	8.33936	4.97133	Calabar South Council	8.327306	4.918889
6	Brix Lounge	8.34811	5.01333	Atekong Drive	8.333333	4.9795
7	Club Rain	8.33925	4.98958	Atekong/Marina	8.342111	4.980694
8	Jasper	8.34369	4.98722	Atimbo	8.388083	4.960944
9	Keevs Inn	8.33550	4.99631	Atu Round About	8.331611	4.951972
10	Opium Lounge	8.34267	4.98147	Big Qua/ Ediba	8.332667	4.971083
11	Samba Lounge	8.34308	4.95783	Calabar Municipality	8.340833	4.976222
12	Super Lounge	8.32419	4.96411	Edibe/Eyo Ita	8.312944	4.944222
13	Sauce Rooftop	8.33267	4.98697	Egerton/Beach	8.31175	4.953222
14	UG Wills	8.33644	4.98817	Egerton/Chamber	8.316333	4.950639
15	White House Lounge	8.34228	4.98039	Ekorinim	8.331	4.997472
16				Ekpo Abasi	8.328361	4.9315
17				Federal Housing	8.340861	5.027139
18				Hawkins	8.313278	4.951222
19				Ikot Effanga Junction	8.348861	5.033464
20				Iman Junction	8.317139	4.932667
21				Lemna Round About	8.356444	5.039167
22				Mayne Avenue/Uwanse	8.332056	4.949861
23				Mbukpa Market	8.31675	4.937944
24				MCC/Mobil	8.333167	4.987611
25				Mount Zion/Uwanse	8.3365	4.942167
26				NEPA Bus stop	8.323444	4.961667
27				New Airport	8.320389	4.92475
28				NPA	8.306444	4.990944
29				Parliamentary/Ikot Efa	8.345722	5.00325
30				Watt Market Area	8.320333	4.957639
31				Stadium/Big Qua	8.327917	4.967806
32				MCC/Technical	8.357278	5.045278
33				Tinapa Junction	8.3115	5.048833
34				Yellow Duke	8.329222	4.935861

Figure 1 visually interprets this data, depicting the spatial distribution of nightclubs and risk destinations in the area. A notable observation from the figure is the closeness of many nightclubs to recognized crime spots. The figure also provides a distribution map of nightclubs and the identified risk destinations within a 2km buffer, emphasizing the security risks

associated with all the operational nightclubs due to their proximity to high-crime areas. Consequently, the spatial analysis shows a significant clustering of nightclubs within this 2km buffer near the identified risk destinations.
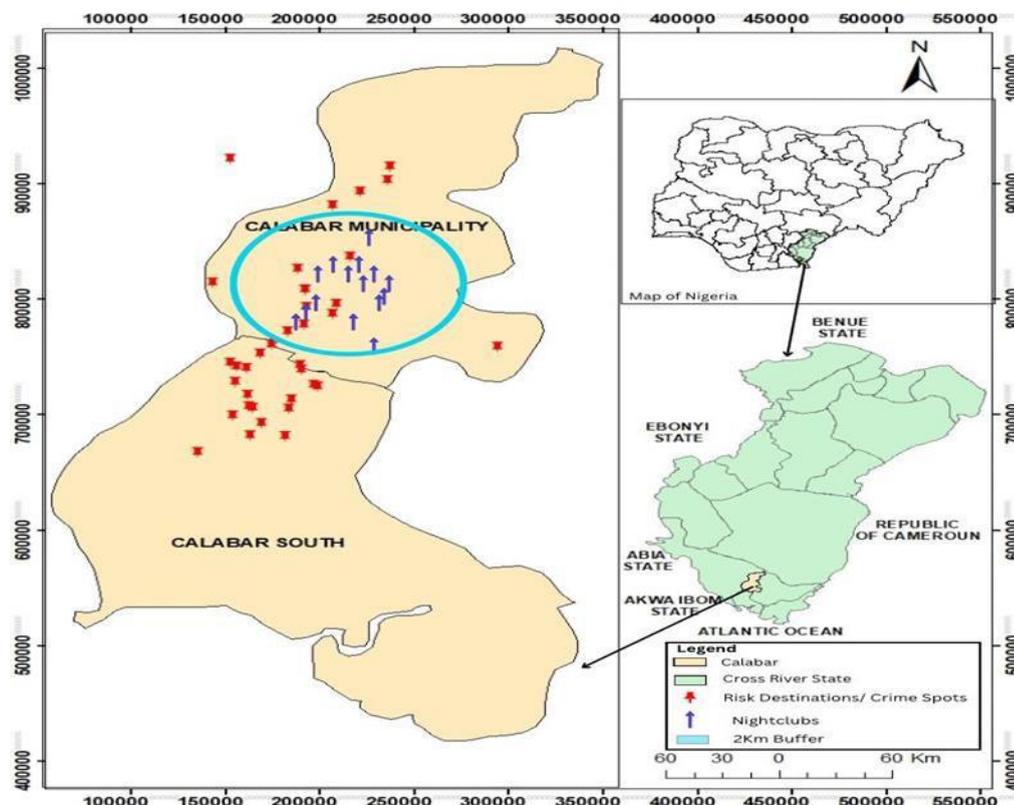

Figure 1: Spatial distribution of nightclubs and risk destinations/crime spots within 2km buffer

Furthermore, our analysis underscores the potential economic ramifications of these security challenges. The closeness of nightclubs to these crime hotspots might deter patronage, leading to reduced income and affecting the overall economic sustainability of these establishments. Therefore, it becomes imperative to address these security concerns, both for the safety of individuals and the economic health of the nightlife industry in Calabar.

Additionally, we applied an Average Nearest Neighbour Summary a spatial statistical analysis to the nightclub data, as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: average nearest neighbor summary

S/N	Average Nearest Neighbor Summary	
1	Observed Mean Distance:	425.6660 Meters
2	Expected Mean Distance:	792.0628 Meters
3	Nearest Neighbor Ratio:	0.537414
4	z-score:	-6.622424
5	p-value:	0.000000

The Observed Mean Distance was approximately 426 meters, notably less than the Expected Mean Distance of 792 meters (see Table 2). These results indicate a tendency for Calabar's nightclubs to cluster more than expected in a random spatial arrangement, a conclusion further reinforced by a Nearest Neighbor Ratio of 0.537414. The statistically significant z-score of -6.622424 and a p-value nearing zero validate this finding.

Impact of insecurity on nightclub patronage in Calabar

The vitality of the nightclub industry often hinges on the steady flow of customers, represented by its patronage levels. As showcased in Table 3, there is a marked difference in the patronage levels before and during periods of insecurity. The comprehensive data from various nightclubs in Calabar elucidates this trend.

Table 3: level of patronage before and during insecurity era

Months	Patronage before insecurity	Patronage before insecurity (%)	Patronage during insecurity	Patronage during insecurity (%)	Differences (Reduction of insecurity)	Differences (Reduction in Insecurity) (%)
January	13,300	4%	1,503	9%	11797	4%
February	12,000	4%	1,112	7%	108,88	4%
March	12,300	4%	1,930	12%	103,70	3%
April	28,678	9%	1,454	9%	272,24	9%
May	29,678	9%	1,119	7%	285,59	9%
June	29,765	9%	1,201	8%	284,77	9%
July	29,409	9%	1,178	7%	282,31	9%
August	28,768	9%	1,723	11%	270,45	9%
September	30,756	10%	1,234	8%	295,22	10%
October	32,045	10%	1,229	8%	308,16	10%
November	34,256	11%	1,181	7%	330,75	11%
December	42546	13%	1,109	7%	414,37	13%
Total	280,955	100%	14,864	100%	266004	100%
Mean	269,58.42		133,1.08		256,20.08	256,20.08
Std. Deviation	948,3.038		266.627		961,4.710	961,4.710

Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2023

Table 3 delineates a comparative analysis of the patronage figures across different times. Before the surge in insecurity, nightclubs experienced an average patronage of 26,958.42. In stark contrast, the numbers during heightened insecurity periods plummeted to an average of 1,331.08. This significant reduction accentuates the substantial adverse effect of insecurity on the nightclub industry. The consistency of this trend throughout the year suggests that the issue is firmly rooted in insecurity rather than any seasonal variance. Therefore, a closer look at the standard deviation reveals values of 9,483.038 (before insecurity) and 9,614.710 (during insecurity), suggesting a similarity in patronage variability within each period despite the pronounced difference in mean patronage.

The ANOVA analysis in Table 4 offers vital insights to bolster these observations. From the analysis, the F-value of 87.569 and a p-value below 0.005 make it unequivocal: there is a statistically significant difference in nightclub patronage between secure and insecure periods. The elevated F-value underscores that this discrepancy in patronage is not merely coincidental; it is intrinsically tied to the prevalent insecurity affecting the public's inclination to frequent nightclubs in Calabar. In synthesising the data from Tables 3 and 4, it is evident that insecurity poses a formidable challenge to Calabar's nightclub industry. The result is corroborated by earlier observations pointing to a concentration of nightclubs in high-risk zones, reiterating the intrinsic relationship between locale, security, and patronage.

Table 4: Sampled Statistics (ANOVA analysis of patronage before insecurity and patronage during insecurity)

			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	(Combined)		3940561282.667	1	3940561282.667	87.569	.000
	Linear Term	Contrast	3940561282.667	1	3940561282.667	87.569	.000
Within Groups			989990149.833	22	44999552.265		
Total			4930551432.500	23			

Source: Authors' analysis, 2023

Financial implications of insecurity on nightclubs in Calabar

As significant contributors to urban economies, nightclubs rely heavily on steady revenue streams. Table 5 elucidates this financial narrative, comparing the income levels of nightclubs in Calabar before and during periods characterised by heightened insecurity. A scrutiny of Table 5 reveals a pronounced decline in revenues during insecure times. Nightclubs enjoyed an average income of 27,592,500.00 prior to the surge in insecurity. This number contracted dramatically to a mean of 4,179,925.00 during insecure periods. This sharp contraction in revenue underscores the profound fiscal ramifications of insecurity on the nightclub scene. What is particularly alarming is the aggregate income: the period of insecurity saw revenues totalling 50,159,100, dwarfed by the pre-insecurity figure of 331,110,000. The consistency of this downward trajectory across the year accentuates that insecurity is the predominant factor, not any cyclical financial downturn.

Table 5: Nightclub income before and during periods of insecurity

Month	Income before insecurity	Income before insecurity (%)	Income during insecurity	Income during insecurity (%)	Differences in (Reduction of Income)	Differences (Reduction of Income) (%)
January	194,100.00	6%	34,700.00	7%	159,400.00	5%
February	220,000.00	7%	20,800.00	4%	199,200.00	7%
March	249,000.00	8%	22,000.00	4%	227,000.00	7%
April	263,000.00	8%	13,090.00	3%	249,910.00	8%
May	271,000.00	8%	21,000.00	4%	250,000.00	8%
June	276,000.00	8%	26,000.00	5%	250,000.00	8%
July	280,000.00	8%	20,001.00	4%	259,999.00	9%
August	281,000.00	8%	31,000.00	6%	250,000.00	8%
September	306,000.00	9%	256,000.00	51%	280,400.00	9%
October	314,000.00	9%	20,000.00	4%	294,000.00	10%
November	328,000.00	10%	18,000.00	4%	310,000.00	10%
December	329,000.00	10%	19,000.00	4%	310,000.00	10%
		100%		100%		100%
Total	331,110,000.00		501,591,00		303,990,900.00	
Mean	275,925,000.00		417,992,5.00		253,325,750.00	
Std. Deviation	411,919,481.30		677,059,0.849		440,510,2.490	

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2023

The analysis of standard deviation provides another dimension to this narrative. The period marked by insecurity saw a standard deviation of 6,770,590.849, which is markedly higher than the 4,119,194.813 observed before the onset of insecurity. The result suggests a higher unpredictability in monthly incomes during insecurity, possibly influenced by fluctuating security conditions or ad-hoc protective measures yielding intermittent income surges. Table 6 ANOVA analysis lends further statistical weight to these observations. An F-value of 104.727, paired with a p-value under 0.005, makes it unambiguous: the drop in nightclub revenues is significantly tied to prevailing insecurity. The pronounced F-value underscores that this is not a statistical anomaly but a tangible outcome of heightened insecurity. Therefore, collating the data from Tables 5 and 6, it is clear that insecurity inflicts significant financial wounds on Calabar's nightclub industry. This complements the previously discussed patronage trends and geographical concentration of clubs, layering the narrative of insecurity's multifaceted repercussions on the nightlife sector. From this result, there is a need to address these security challenges while ensuring the financial resilience and continuity of the nightlife sector.

Table 6: ANOVA analysis of nightclub income variations between secure and insecure periods

		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	(Combined)	3288892008783750.000	1	3288892008783750.000	104.727	.000
	Linear Term Contrast	3288892008783750.000	1	3288892008783750.000	104.727	.000
Within Groups		690895329942500.000	22	31404333179204.547		
Total		3979787338726250.000	23			

Source: Authors' Analysis, 2023

Extensive consultations with some managers and staff of nightclubs in Calabar, paints a worrying picture of the state of nightlife amidst growing insecurity. It was revealed that nightclubs reported an average monthly staff count of 1,219.92 before the onset of heightened insecurity. However, during periods of insecurity, this number plummeted to an average of 486.58. Majority of the managers with their staff further attests to this stark reality: a collective staff count of 14,639 before the security crises contrasted with a mere 5,839 during such times. The pattern is not an erratic fluctuation but a consistent decline across months, directly attributable to the encroaching wave of insecurity.

Staff numbers in nightclubs before and during insecurity era

Additionally, staff narratives show a shift from 847.84 (before insecurity) to 193.67 (during insecurity). One can infer from this study a possible stabilisation at lower staffing levels, hinting at major layoffs during unstable times. The respondents conclusively underscore the detrimental impacts of insecurity on nightclub staffing. This is not a fleeting anomaly but a clear indication of how insecurity decimates the workforce in Calabar's nightlife sector. The staff narrated the domino effect of insecurity. Crimes such as armed robbery, kidnappings, theft, and others, especially concentrated around prime nightlife zones like Murtala Mohammed Highway, MCC, Efio ette, Jebs Streets, Marian, and Watt market, directly dissuade potential patrons. Many interviewees recalled incidents where they, or someone they know, were directly affected by such activities, making them reconsider their nightlife choices. The dwindling staff numbers further signify the economic distress experienced by the nightlife industry due to insecurity. This decrease might result from employees' apprehension regarding personal safety or a manifestation of cost-cutting measures due to decreased patronage and income. Moreover, the constant threat of crime and insecurity deters potential patrons and employees, causing a ripple effect destabilising the nightclub industry's economic health. This threat disproportionately affects nightclubs, tourists, and residents in the region, amplifying the effects of insecurity. Hence, the data gathered from interviews firmly establish that insecurity, primarily through various forms of crime, severely undermines Calabar's nightlife industry. Changes in patronage, income, and staff numbers substantiate this assertion, underscoring the urgency to address these security issues for the industry's economic resilience and the broader socioeconomic stability of the region.

Discussion

The in-depth spatial exploration of nightclubs relative to high-risk areas in Calabar, Nigeria, has revealed insights crucial to understanding urban crime patterns associated with nightlife. The data shows an evident correlation between the geographical clustering of nightclubs, their closeness to high-risk zones, and the ramifications for public safety and economic health. These observations were grounded in the principles of the Routine Activity Theory and the Broken Windows Theory. However, Table 1: Geographical Coordinates of Nightclubs and Risk Destinations shows significant clustering of nightclubs within Calabar. This is further visualised in Figure 1. Table 2 supports this, presenting an Observed Mean Distance of roughly 426 metres, substantially shorter than the Expected Mean Distance of 792 metres. The finding in Table 2 reveals that nightclubs in Calabar are more clustered than one would expect from a random spatial distribution.

Therefore, drawing from the Routine Activity Theory's foundations, as postulated by Cohen and Felson (2010) and Luo et al. (2020), the geographical concentration of nightclubs creates environments ripe for criminal activity. However, this finding contrasts with studies like that of Conrow et al. (2015), who argued that a dense concentration of nightlife venues does not inherently lead to a surge in crime. As depicted in Figure 1, many nightclubs'

proximity to crime-prone areas accentuates these establishments' security challenges. The Broken Windows Theory (referenced by Chappell et al., 2011; Harcourt & Ludwig, 2006; Baloyi et al., 2023) suggests that this can lead to a cyclical pattern of increasing crime and disorder. Beyond security implications, this proximity to high-risk zones potentially dissuades potential customers, leading to potential economic losses for the nightclubs. Thus, security interventions become essential to preserve public safety and Calabar's nightlife's economic sustainability.

Our holistic analysis, spanning Tables 3 to 6, offers a detailed exploration of the economic repercussions of insecurity within Calabar's nightlife sector. Notably, there are marked patronage, income, and staffing shifts during insecure periods. Personal testimonials from nightclub managers and patrons, gathered through PRA interviews, further emphasise the detrimental impact of insecurity on the industry. Table 3 data illustrates a marked decline in nightclub patronage during times of insecurity, resonating with the tenets of the Routine Activity Theory. Table 4 ANOVA analysis solidifies this observation, confirming a discernible difference in patronage across secure and insecure periods. This significant F-value underscores that this decline in patronage is not incidental but a direct result of rising insecurity. Regarding revenue, Tables 5 and 6 show a pronounced dip in nightclub income during heightened insecurity phases, hinting at broader economic implications. With the nightlife sector's revenue diminishing, their potential contributions to the local economy through taxation and employment are jeopardised. Studies suggest that such visible social disorder signs can trigger a cascading decline in an area's socio-economic health. Similarly, employment within the nightlife sector has been affected, as indicated by declining staff numbers during insecure periods. This impacts individual livelihoods and could compound the insecurity situation, as those left jobless might turn to criminal activities. Tables 3 to 6 collectively paint a compelling picture of the multi-faceted repercussions of insecurity on Calabar's nightclub industry. Our findings align with numerous studies (Ajake et al., 2022; Effiom, 2012; Eneyo et al., 2021; Iwara et al., 2023; Kesa & Melani, 2015; McKay & Subramoney, 2017; Onyenweaku et al., 2022; Ukam et al., 2020) advocating security-centric interventions as catalysts for economic growth, underscoring a pivotal area for policy development and future research. This study highlights the pressing need to address insecurity to preserve and enhance the economic contributions of Calabar's nightlife sector.

Conclusion

This study delves into the profound ripple effects of insecurity on Calabar's vibrant nightlife industry. It sheds light on the crucial socioeconomic contributions of this sector to the urban landscape, highlighting the extensive repercussions of unchecked insecurity. The Routine Activity Theory and the Broken Windows Theory are central to this detailed analysis. These theoretical frameworks elucidate the dynamics of crime in areas densely populated with nightclubs, unveiling a complex relationship between nightclub concentration, proximity to high-risk areas, and the ensuing implications for public safety and economic viability. To further understand the human aspect of this prevailing insecurity, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) interviews were conducted. These poignant narratives capture the direct experiences of nightclub patrons and employees adversely affected by these criminal activities. These effects are manifested in patronage, income, and staff numbers. Insights drawn from this investigation lead to recommendations advocating a holistic, multi-faceted approach to address these security challenges effectively. Among the proposed solutions are enhancing security measures in nightlife areas, championing robust safety and security management within nightclubs, and transforming high-risk zones to interrupt the cycle of crime.

For these initiatives to take root, ongoing stakeholder engagement and the introduction of pertinent policy and regulatory measures are essential. Moreover, the study emphasizes the imperative for continued research into the intricate relationship between nightclub density and crime prevalence. Such inquiry is pivotal in crafting evidence-based strategies to curb insecurity and mitigate its associated socioeconomic fallout. In conclusion, this study spotlights the far-reaching implications of insecurity on Calabar's nightlife sector and, by extension, the city's economic health. The advanced recommendations stress the immediacy required to confront these challenges head-on, ultimately preserving the economic vitality of the nightlife industry in Calabar. By addressing these issues, the study envisions a heightened quality of life for residents and visitors, contributing immensely to the city's overall socioeconomic stability. This research sets a strong precedent for subsequent studies, policy dialogues, and interventions, paving the way for a secure and economically vibrant nightlife industry in Calabar and comparable urban locales.

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