

Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of ASUU Strikes on Local Business Enterprises in the University of Lagos Community

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ABSTRACT: The socioeconomic impact of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike on businesses operating in and around the University of Lagos. This study investigated the socioeconomic effects of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike on businesses operating within and around the University of Lagos. It assessed how the strike influenced the types and nature of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), revenue, job losses, and the coping strategies employed by affected businesses. A hybrid theoretical framework combining systems theory and structural functionalism was adopted, conceptualizing the university as a subsystem of a larger urban network, which emphasized its synergistic role within the community. The study employed a survey design and incorporated both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine 226 businesses. Purposive, clustering, and stratified sampling techniques were utilized. Data collected through questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings revealed that over 90% of businesses experienced staff retrenchment, with 323 jobs lost, and total revenue declining from ₦58,570,000.00 pre-strike to ₦34,440,000.00 during the strike. Most businesses relied on personal savings for funding, exposing them to financial vulnerabilities. Policy recommendations included increased government funding for education, the establishment of a mediation body to resolve disputes, and support for SMEs through financial aid and training. University authorities were advised to enhance communication, develop contingency plans, and foster partnerships with local businesses. These measures aimed to minimize disruptions during future strikes, ensuring both academic continuity and economic resilience in university communities.

KEYWORDS: Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Labour Strikes, Crisis Management, Socioeconomic Impact, Revenue and Job Losses, Structural Functionalism, System Theory in Business

JEL Classification: L26, J52, R20, J63, I22, B40, P47

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The tertiary education sector in Nigeria has been plagued by frequent industrial actions, particularly strikes by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). These strikes, often triggered by unresolved disputes over funding, salaries, and working conditions, have disrupted academic calendars and significantly impacted the socio-economic fabric of university communities. Historically in Nigeria, particularly since 1999 the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has gone on strike 18 times, totaling 83 months over the last 23 years from 1999 to 2022. Specifically, in 1999, ASUU initiated a five-month strike, followed by another three-month strike in 2001. Subsequent strikes occurred in 2002 (two weeks), 2003 (six months), 2005 (two weeks), 2006 (one week), 2007 (three months), 2008 (one week), and 2009 (four months). The disruptions continued in 2010 (five months), 2011 (two months), 2012 (five months), and 2013 (five months). Between 2017 and 2022, ASUU continued its pattern of strikes, causing further disruptions in Nigerian universities. In 2017, ASUU went on an eight-month strike, significantly affecting the academic calendar. The following year, in 2018, the union initiated another three-month strike. In 2019, ASUU went on strike once again, leading to a three-month closure of universities. The most prolonged strike in this period occurred in 2020 when ASUU embarked on a nine-month strike, primarily due to disagreements over the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPPIS) and other issues. These frequent strikes have had a cumulative impact on the academic calendar and the education system in Nigeria, causing significant disruptions for students and staff alike. It has also put business owners in difficult situations, disrupting their economic activities and forcing them to seek alternatives that may not be as productive and profitable as their main businesses.

While the academic implications of these strikes have been widely documented, their economic consequences on businesses within university environments remain underexplored. Campus-dependent small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including food vendors, transport operators, and bookshop owners, face significant revenue losses and job disruptions during prolonged closures. For instance, a report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2021 estimated that SMEs in university communities experienced a revenue decline of up to 40% during strike periods, with some businesses

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forced to shut down permanently. This economic shock not only threatens the survival of these businesses but also exacerbates unemployment and poverty in surrounding communities.

The recurrent ASUU strikes have become a pressing national issue, drawing widespread public debate due to their multifaceted impacts on Nigeria's socio-economic landscape. Beyond halting academic activities, the strikes impose severe economic challenges on campus-based SMEs, including reduced consumer demand, job layoffs, and operational constraints. Despite these significant challenges, limited scholarly attention has been paid to the survival strategies employed by these businesses during strike periods or the long-term economic implications. A review of the extant literature established that although studies have examined the issue of the ASUU strike, none have specifically investigated its implications on businesses on campus yet, university education is crucial for the development of individuals, communities, and society where the university operates. This industrial conflict has affected the university community, leading to disenchantment among campus actors, eroded student-teacher relationships, and prolonged disruption of academic activities. The lack of attention to the implications of strikes on the business and commercial communities whose livelihood depends on the students being around and on academic activities highlights a lopsidedness in empirical evidence. This serious neglect of a critical segment of our academic supporting services and the narrowness of existing studies underscores the need for a holistic analysis of the implication of strikes on the economic and social well-being of all, not just students and staff.

This study seeks to address this gap by assessing the economic impact of ASUU strikes on campus-dependent SMEs, with a focus on revenue and employment dynamics. Using the University of Lagos as a case study, the research explored the magnitude of revenue and job losses, examining the coping strategies adopted by affected businesses, and provide insights into the broader socio-economic consequences. The findings aim to contribute to academic discourse, inform policy-making, and offer practical recommendations for ensuring industrial harmony, preventing future strike and mitigating the economic challenges posed by industrial actions in the education sector.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Industrial disputes, characterized by work stoppages, strikes, and other forms of labor unrest, have far-reaching implications for small-scale businesses. These disputes disrupt economic activities, reduce productivity, and impose financial burdens on businesses that rely on consistent operations. Globally, industrial disputes have been shown to impact small businesses in similar ways. For example, a study by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2018) revealed that work stoppages due to industrial disputes result in significant revenue losses for small businesses, particularly those in labor-intensive industries. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, labor disputes in 2014 led to the loss of 788,000 working days, disrupting economic activities and reducing business profitability (Labour Dispute Annual Article, 2014).

The impact of industrial disputes extends beyond campuses, affecting the broader economy. Osunkwo and Aniagolu (2023) revealed that frequent industrial disputes in Nigeria result in substantial economic losses due to idle factors of production and reduced output. For instance, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that between 2004 and 2008, Nigeria experienced over 500 industrial disputes, leading to the loss of millions of man-days and significant declines in GDP growth. Wokoma (2023) emphasized the socio-economic consequences of industrial disputes, noting that they exacerbate unemployment, disrupt supply chains, and increase poverty levels. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which contribute significantly to Nigeria's GDP and employment, are disproportionately affected. Ogunjimi (2021) found that SMEs in sectors such as manufacturing, retail, and services face challenges such as reduced consumer demand, increased operational costs, and difficulties in accessing credit during periods of industrial unrest.

The university is a scholarly institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, fostering innovation, and producing highly skilled professionals across various fields. As Oleibe et al. (2016) emphasized, universities serve as hubs for the diffusion of ideas, benefiting individuals, communities, and society at large. Recognizing the pivotal role of university education in driving national development, the Nigerian government has prioritized the establishment and funding of tertiary institutions. As of 2025, Nigeria boasts 215 approved universities, comprising 49 federal, 55 state, and 111 private institutions (PM News, 2021; TETFund, 2025). Despite the proliferation of private universities, Owan, Ameh, and Ubabudu (2021) noted that federal and state universities remain the preferred choice for many students due to their affordability and superior funding and staffing capacities.

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), a legally recognized trade union, has been at the forefront of advocating for improved funding and working conditions in Nigerian universities (Chigozie, 2017). However, persistent industrial disputes between ASUU and the Federal Government have led to frequent strikes, disrupting academic activities and impacting the broader university community. Otite (2001) conceptualized conflict as a mechanism for addressing opposing interests, which, in the context of ASUU strikes, has manifested as prolonged industrial actions. These disputes have far-reaching consequences, including strained social relations, diminished student-teacher interactions, and disrupted academic calendars, leading to disillusionment and a bleak outlook for many students (Cohn et al., 2013; Murphy & Athanasou, 2019). The economic implications of ASUU strikes are equally significant. Campus-dependent businesses, such as food vendors, transport operators, and hairstylists, have reported substantial revenue losses during strike periods. For instance, Ukwu (2013) observed that food vendors, who typically thrive on the patronage of students and staff, have been forced to scale down operations or seek alternative livelihoods. Similarly, Tokula and Ejiro (2012) highlighted the challenges faced by campus transport operators, who struggle to sustain their businesses in the absence of regular passengers. Recent studies have further underscored the economic toll of these strikes, with some businesses experiencing revenue declines of up to 40% during prolonged closures (Al Jazeera, 2021).

The psychological and social effects of these disruptions cannot be overlooked. Knoke (2011) found that individuals engaged in structured activities, such as academic pursuits, tend to exhibit higher levels of psychological well-being compared to those who lack such engagement. Creed and Muller (2016) identified

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key variables, including depression, anxiety, and general mental health, as critical indicators of psychological well-being, which are often adversely affected during periods of prolonged inactivity. Despite these challenges, the Nigerian government has made efforts to address the funding crisis in tertiary education. The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) recently announced a disbursement of N700 billion to public tertiary institutions, with each university receiving N2.8 billion for infrastructure development, research, and staff training (TETFund, 2025). However, critics argue that these interventions are insufficient to address the systemic issues plaguing the sector, including inadequate infrastructure and rising student populations (BusinessDay, 20254). Small-scale businesses operating within university campuses, such as food vendors, transport operators, and hairstylists, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of industrial disputes. Ukwu (2013) highlighted that food vendors, who depend heavily on the patronage of students and staff, experience significant revenue losses during strike periods. Similarly, Tokula and Ejiro (2012) observed that campus transport operators face reduced demand, leading to operational challenges and financial instability. These disruptions force many business owners to seek alternative livelihoods, often with limited success.

Despite these challenges, small-scale businesses have adopted various strategies to mitigate the impact of industrial disputes. These include diversifying income streams, adopting flexible business models, and leveraging technology to reach customers. For instance, some campus-based businesses have turned to online platforms to maintain sales during strike periods (Ogunjimi, 2021).

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Theoretical Framework

Systems theory was adopted as the theoretical framework for the paper. Thus, the study sees university as a system of interactions or relationships between stakeholders and its environment, which includes entities that receive or use its outputs (Alter, 2018). Therefore, University as a system has participants, who utilise the space, time and environment to develop people, physical resources which include tangible and intangible infrastructure, policy, processes and procedure and utilise these resources to determine the university structure and purpose that culminates in its effective functioning. Also, the structure and purpose may determine the resource and the space, time and the environment where the University operates. Two important features of system theory that are crucial to this study are that a system is more than the sum of its parts if it expresses synergy or emergent behavior and system responses to internal and external conditions that change over time (Steven, 2018).

Given the nature of the complexity of the University setting, the system theory, was used to underpin the the complexity existing in the arrangement of interrelated elements, including individuals and their beliefs, attitudes, behaviour as they relate to a whole social aggregate of the University. As an academic institution, changes constantly and regularly occur to the whole or one part of a system which affect not only the other parts or the whole system but other peripheral system that are association with the University systems like the businesses within the campus, and the immediately communities whose livelihood and social existence depend on the University system. The growth and adaptability of the university system as an academic institution that have spillover effects on its surrounding area is dependent on its sensitivity to social, economic political and environmental vagaries (UIA, 2020). In this context we model University a subsystem and not an independent system that depends on other system and other systems depend on it, in such perspective, University system is expected to support other systems to prevent its own failure and the failure of other supporting sub-system. Therefore, there is interrelationship and interconnectivity between university system and other systems within the environment the University operates. Hence, educational sector is a subsystem of a social entity called a community.

Thus, systems theory is used to examine the university system's holistic dynamics, constraints, conditions, and principles that sustain University as a social entity (Beven, 2006). In the light of the foregoing, a University community of people is seen as a system that is affected by its component parts for effective functioning. The university is thus considered as a subsystem of a town or city where it operates. The university must therefore strive to build and sustain strong and collaborative partnerships with communities in their academic activities as a dependable partner (Zimmerman et al. 2019). To complement the social system theory, structural functionalism is also used to model the functionalities of the university in social system. Structural functionalism presupposes a "systems" view of the political world whereby the components interrelate for effective functioning of the society (Fisher, 2010). The import of this structural functionalism is that the university must build its structure in a way that align with the system in which it operates taking cognizance of other subsystem and also ensure that function as units in a system and not a super system. It must recognise that its actions and inactions affect and are affected by actions and inactions of other sub system. University functional analysis is thus premised on social patterns that interrelate to sustain integration of all subsystems and adaptation to the larger system.

This paper is anchored on a hybrid of systems theory and structural functionalism theory because the theories explain how a part of a system affects all other aspects in different forms and functions. A diseased part of a system brings discomfort to other parts of the entire system. Considering the University community as an organic whole, the dynamics of any part affects the whole community. We attempt in this paper to link the university as a social pattern to explain the social milieu during ASUU's strikes.

3.2 Study Location

This study was carried out using University of Lagos as the case study for several reason. First, University of Lagos was established in 1962 and indeed the first university in Nigeria to be established by act of parliament. It is among the first-generation university in Nigeria and among the top three ranked universities in Nigeria. It is located in Akoka with other mini campus in Yaba and Idi araba in mainland and Surulere local government of Lagos state. Lagos State is Nigeria's economic hub, contributing over 30% to the nation's GDP. The University of Lagos, situated in the heart of this bustling metropolis, is uniquely positioned

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within a vibrant ecosystem of businesses, industries, and services. This location amplifies the economic ripple effects of ASUU strikes, as disruptions at UNILAG not only affect campus-based businesses but also have broader implications for the surrounding economy.

Secondly, UNILAG hosts a wide array of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including food vendors, transport operators, bookshops, and service providers. These businesses rely heavily on the university's population of students, staff, and visitors for their revenue. The diversity of these enterprises makes UNILAG a microcosm of the broader economic impact of industrial disputes on SMEs. With a student population exceeding 50,000, UNILAG represents one of Nigeria's largest tertiary institutions. This large population creates a significant demand for goods and services, making the university a critical economic hub. The suspension of academic activities during ASUU strikes directly affects this demand, providing a clear lens through which to study the economic consequences.

Third, UNILAG has been at the forefront of fighting for the welfare of the common masses and against any anti-poor policy. It also anchors its disputes with government on protecting the vulnerable and welfare for all so it has been at the epicenter of several ASUU strikes, making it a representative institution for studying the recurring phenomenon of industrial disputes in Nigerian universities. The university's history of productive engagement with ASUU during these strikes offers rich data for analyzing the patterns and impacts of these disruptions. Moreso, being located in Lagos, UNILAG is in close proximity to policymakers, business leaders, and media outlets. This accessibility facilitates the collection of data and engagement with stakeholders, enhancing the depth and relevance of the study. The interplay between UNILAG's campus economy and Lagos State's broader economic activities provides a unique opportunity to study the interconnectedness of industrial disputes and economic stability. The findings from UNILAG can offer insights that are applicable to other universities and regions in Nigeria.

3.3 Study survey area

The study was carried out in and around University of Lagos. Although, normally all federal Universities and some state universities observed the ASUU strikes, the metropolitan nature of University of Lagos and the high business presence and traffic of people in and out of University of Lagos for business and studies make University of Lagos a special case study of the effects of ASUU strike. More importantly the findings and outcome of the analysis from University of Lagos experience could be scaled up and use to validate the experiences of other campuses in Nigeria. The study survey area is limited to immediate proximity of University of Lagos that is within 2 kilometers radius of University of Lagos Akoka campus. Businesses that are as far as Alaba markets, Idumota, Sura, Oshodi and Bariga and Yaba are also definitely feeling the impact of the strike as many of the students do also patronize these markets while on campuses, however, such other markets are still accessible to students from homes, and also have alternative customers that patronage them unlike those within and around the university that depend mainly of students when they are on session

3.4 The Study Design

The study adopted the survey design approach to investigate the effects of the closure of the University due to ASUU Strike on the business within and around University of Lagos. Since the social and economic effects of business disruption are multi-dimensional issues, this study combines both qualitative and quantitative (mixed or pragmatic) approaches and the sequential explanatory mixed-method models to determine the extent and social and economic effects of business disruption on campus and its environs. The study collected primary data using questionnaires on 226 micro and small-scale businesses in around university of Lagos. A series of focus Group Discussions with relevant leaders of the different business groups and associations with the University and surrounding communities was also conducted across the study area to validate the responses from the questionnaires, fill some gaps in information provided and ensure internal consistency of data. The main data collected revolve around the extent of business losses, in terms of revenue, jobs and possibly social relations and overall wellbeing of the business owners as well coping strategies adopted by the business owners.

Therefore, the questionnaire was administered to the respondents who are the business owners or its representative/managers of the selected business in the University and its environment after it had been validated and pre-tested for reliability. This was achieved by subjecting the instruments to groups similar in characteristics to that of the target group. The questionnaire was administered using ODK collect software, a mobile phone-enabled open data collection kits (ODK/Kobo collect) which allow self-administration and accommodate all the critical aspects of the identified characteristics of the businesses and their owners in the university. The ODK/collect allows for real time generation of data, proper monitoring to ensure accuracy and geo-referencing of data collection. Information regarding the effects of strike on both the business and social well-being of the business owners were obtained by administering these questionnaires with both closed-ended and open-ended questions business owners.

The various socioeconomic factors affecting the business and well-being of the owners would serve as independent variables. However, not only these social and economic variables alone would affect the business and social well-being of the business owners but there might be some others intervening factors (extraneous variables) that also contribute to the business and wellbeing the business owners. These may include university wide characteristics such as business location within or off campus, and general macro-economic variables were analyzed. This study explored all these extraneous variables carefully and investigated the level of their impacts of ASUU strike on social and economic well-being of the business owners. To determine the income and job losses we compared before and during strike business and welfare status to determine the contribution the ASUU strike on the business. This comparison determined, quantify, and estimate the impact of strike on the business and well-being of business

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3.5 Study Population

The study population comprised all business owners within and around University of Lagos that have at least have been in operation for a minimum of one year and whose basic information about the businesses (name, location of ownership details, type of business and socioeconomic status) are readily accessible. This information facilitated the process of identifying and selecting the real business and collect the relevant information. Therefore, the study adopted an *ex-post facto* research design to examine what happened to business in the few months of ASUU strike. The study was carried out during 2022 ASUU strike that last 8 month from February 2022 to November 2022. This method of design is plausible for a survey-based study as it empirically examines the effect of past events or occurrences associated with variables of interest on one another.

3.6 Sampling Procedure

The sampling technique was a combination of purposely, clustering and stratified sampling technique. The purposeful sampling technique was used to selected all the business location and clusters in around University of Lagos. The clustering was used to create clusters of identical business owners or business categories to be sampled while stratified sampling was used to divide the members of each cluster into different strata of business types by size and scale of operation. This way, all the facets of the businesses in the locations in and around campus will be accommodated. The primary data collected through this survey was complimented by the secondary data from the University authority on the number of registered businesses withing campus and also from the local government of the number of businesses that are registered with the Akoka LCDA around university of Lagos. The mixed research approach or instrumentation employed in this study allows collection of both quantitative and qualitative data

3.7 Sample size

Since the number and location of all the business location on campus are known, all those businesses operating at the time of survey on campus based on the requirement specified above will be included in the survey. The same principle was applied to SMEs in the university immediate proximity. This way we were able to capture and estimate the total revenue and jobs losses. Also, such capturing of all the business helped us build a database of business in around University of Lagos for the first time. We anticipate that about 250, but only 226 businesses eventually volunteered to participate and were enumerates and 20 Key informant interviews were conducted while 1 FGDs was organized.

3.8 Ethical considerations

The researchers sought permission from each respondent before the commencement of the research. In addition to the letter of informed consent accompanied each questionnaire, the researchers ensured that each respondent was informed about the rationale for the study. Questionnaires were administered and interviews were conducted only after study participants gave their verbal consent to taking part in the study. The data collected were treated anonymously, and with utmost confidentiality as names or any other means of identification of participants were not be solicited during the study

4.0 EMPRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1 shows the gender distribution of business owners within the University of Lagos participants in the survey. Of the 226 business owners surveyed, 101 (44.7%) were male and 125 (55.3%) were female. This may be due to the nature of businesses on campus which is more female oriented than the male. The age distribution shows that age between 20 - 40years of the respondents are 123 which accounts for (54.4%), of the total population while age group between 41-60years constitutes 94 which amounts to (41.6%), and 61+ years represent (4%) respectively. The distribution shows that half of the businesses are owned by the people between 20 and 40 years of age. Thus, the remaining half of the businesses are owned by the people within the age bracket of 41 and above. The marital status distribution shows that most owners of businesses in University of Lagos are married i.e. 165 which accounts for (73%), while (26.5%) 60 business owners were single and only 1 (0.4%) person is cohabiting.

The educational distribution of the respondents shows that most of the business owner are educated and at least 8 out of every ten business owners had a secondary education. Specifically, the distribution by education shows that (3.5%) of the business owners had no formal education, (6.6%) had primary school education, (40.3%) are secondary school holders, (47.3%) represents those who had tertiary education, (2.2%) are vocational education holders respectively. The main source of income distribution of the respondents shows that most of the business owners are getting the income through their businesses as 208 respondents which amount to (92.0%) claimed that their main source of income is through the business, while (0.4%) 1 business owner main income source is through civil service, (2.2%) 5 of the business owners are getting their income through corporate jobs, while (5.3%) 12 respondents are getting theirs from other sources.

Table 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents

| Variable | Frequency (N=226) | Percentage (%) |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Age group (mean=40.1±11.2SD) in years | | |
| 20 – 40 | 123 | 54.4 |
| 41 – 60 | 94 | 41.6 |

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| 61 and above | 9 | 4 |
|--|-----|------|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 101 | 44.7 |
| Female | 125 | 55.3 |
| Marital status | | |
| Married | 165 | 73 |
| Single | 60 | 26.5 |
| Cohabiting | 1 | 0.4 |
| Level of education | | |
| No Formal Education | 8 | 3.5 |
| Primary School Education | 15 | 6.6 |
| Secondary Education | 91 | 40.3 |
| Tertiary Education | 107 | 47.3 |
| Vocational Education | 5 | 2.2 |
| Main source of income | | |
| The business | 208 | 92.0 |
| Civil service | 1 | 0.4 |
| Corporate job | 5 | 2.2 |
| Others (online business and real estate) | 12 | 5.3 |

4.2 Profiling of University Campus Based Business

In relation to nature of the business type of SMEs on campus, (18.1%) are restaurants while (23%) are business centers, also transportation business takes (9.3%), while phones and electronic accessories shops constitutes (4.4%), laundries take (1.8%) of the business surveyed, also beauty cares shops accounts for (9.3%) of the business owners surveyed in UNILAG, while the number of shops engaging in snacks and drinks are 77 which constitutes (34.1%) respectively. These shows that snacks and drinks is the highest business ventures among the surveyed SMEs in the University of Lagos, while the least business is laundries. The duration of the business on campus structure shows that business duration of 5 years constitutes (36.7%) that is 83 out of 226 surveyed business ventures falls within that period, also between 5-10years there are 80 business ventures which constitutes (35.4%) of the population, and the least is 11years and above that we have 63 business ventures that amount to (27.9%) respectively. This shows that out of 226 businesses ventures surveyed on campus 163 i.e. (72.1%) are just started within the period of 10years, while the remaining 63 (27.9%) have been existing 11years and above.

Table 2 also shows the employment size distribution of the business indicates that number of employees **before the strike** that have no employee constituting (38.9%), also some that have between 1- 2 employee before the strike constitutes (26.6%), while between 3-4employee amount to (20.8%) and the least is 5 employees and above which constitute (13.7%). This shows that majority of the business ventures does not have employees before the strike i.e. they are running one-man businesses before the strike, also, (47.4%) of the business ventures employed between 1- 4 employees before the strike, while the remaining (13.7%) of the business ventures employed 5 and above.

The table also explain the employment distribution **during the strike** that is the number of business ventures with no employee during the strike is 149 which amounts to (65.9%), while between 1- 2 employees constituting (23.5%), also 3- 4 employees amount to (5.8%), and 5 employees and above is (4.9%). This shows that there was reduction drastically in the number of business ventures employees before the strike and during strike i.e. before the strike the total number of business ventures employees from 1- 5 and above is 138 which amounts to (61.1%) now reduced to 77 constituting (34.2%) respectively. The reason for the reduction may be due to low level of patronage by the customers during the strike.

Another segment of the table is the source of finance for the business, the distribution of finance for the business indicates that 160 business ventures constituting (70.8%) are running the business from personal savings, while 23 ventures amount to (10.2%) are on bank loan, also 13 businesses (5.8%) are sourcing funds through cooperative, 17 (7.5%) are getting funds through family and friends, 5 (2.2%) are sourcing from money lender, while those that are sourcing funds from other means (Hire purchase) constitutes (3.5%). This indicates that majority of the business owners are getting their sources of financing their business through personal savings. However, distribution of outstanding credit, 39 out of 66 business ventures constituting (59.1%) were having outstanding credit, while 27 (40.9%) did not have any outstanding credit. This shows that more than half of the business owners have outstanding credit to pay. Lastly on the table, is the distribution of the coping strategy with the payment during strike, 39 business ventures were surveyed, it is observed that founding alternative jobs by the business owners constitutes to (7.7%), personal savings/loans from family and friends constituting (10.3%), also little daily income amount to (41%), closed down completely account for (7.7%), loan from other financial institution also amount to (7.7%), reduction in payment rate (2.6%), sold credit to outsiders (2.6%), while payment still pending account for (20.5%).

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Table 2: Profiling the type and nature of SMEs on university campus and its environs

| Variable | Frequency (N=226) | Percentage (%) |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Business type | | |
| Restaurant | 41 | 18.1 |
| Business Centre | 52 | 23.0 |
| Transporter | 21 | 9.3 |
| Phones and electronic accessories | 10 | 4.4 |
| Laundries | 4 | 1.8 |
| Beauty cares | 21 | 9.3 |
| Snacks and drinks | 77 | 34.1 |
| Duration of the business on campus | | |
| 0 – 5 years | 83 | 36.7 |
| 5 – 10 years | 80 | 35.4 |
| 11 years and above | 63 | 27.9 |
| Number of employees before the strike (mean=2.0±2.7) | | |
| No employee | 88 | 38.9 |
| 1 – 2 | 60 | 26.6 |
| 3 – 4 | 47 | 20.8 |
| 5 and above | 31 | 13.7 |
| Number of employees during the strike (mean=1.3±4.3) | | |
| No employee | 149 | 65.9 |
| 1 – 2 | 53 | 23.5 |
| 3 – 4 | 13 | 5.8 |
| 5 and above | 11 | 4.9 |
| Source of finance for the business | | |
| Personal savings | 160 | 70.8 |
| Bank loan | 23 | 10.2 |
| Cooperative | 13 | 5.8 |
| Family and friends | 17 | 7.5 |
| Money lender | 5 | 2.2 |
| Others (Hire purchase) | 8 | 3.5 |
| Any outstanding credit (n=66) | | |
| Yes | 39 | 59.1 |
| No | 27 | 40.9 |
| Coping strategies with the payment during strike (n=39) | | |
| Found alternative jobs | 3 | 7.7 |
| From personal savings/loan from family and friends | 4 | 10.3 |
| From the little daily income | 16 | 41.0 |
| Closed down completely | 3 | 7.7 |
| Loan from other financial institution | 3 | 7.7 |
| Reduction in payment rate | 1 | 2.6 |
| Sold credit to outsiders | 1 | 2.6 |
| Payment still pending | 8 | 20.5 |

4.3 : Estimate the revenue and job losses during the strike

The data on the number of employees during the strike provides insights into the workforce dynamics and adaptations made by the surveyed enterprises in response to the strike. A significant majority of the enterprises, comprising 65.93%, reported having no employees during the strike. This substantial presence of businesses with no employees during the strike suggests a trend of temporary closures, reduced operations, or adaptations such as remote work, which is not uncommon during disruptive events like strikes. For enterprises that maintained some level of staffing during the strike, the distribution

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is diverse. About 16.81% of the businesses reported having one employee, and 6.64% had two employees during the strike. This pattern indicates that, even when operational, a considerable portion of the enterprises continued with limited staffing, potentially adapting to reduced demand or challenges posed by the strike.

Beyond these ranges, there are instances of businesses with larger workforces during the strike. For example, 3.54% of enterprises reported having four employees, and 2.21% had three employees during the strike. The presence of enterprises with higher employee numbers, such as 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 24, and 25, is less common but suggests a diversity of responses among the surveyed businesses. These outliers may indicate businesses that managed to sustain or adapt their operations despite the challenges posed by the strike.

Table 4: Number of employees before and During the ASUU Strike

| Responses | Number of employees before strike | | Number of employees during strike | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Number of enterprises | Per cent of enterprises | Number of enterprises | Per cent of enterprises |
| 35 | 2 | 0.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 25 | 1 | 0.4% | 1 | 0.4% |
| 24 | 1 | 0.4% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 14 | 1 | 0.4% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 12 | 1 | 0.4% | 1 | 0.4% |
| 7 | 2 | 0.9% | 1 | 0.4% |
| 6 | 2 | 0.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 5 | 1 | 0.4% | 2 | 0.9% |
| 4 | 8 | 3.5% | 1 | 0.4% |
| 3 | 5 | 2.2% | 28 | 12.4% |
| 2 | 15 | 6.6% | 25 | 11.1% |
| 1 | 38 | 16.8% | 35 | 15.5% |
| 0 | 149 | 65.9% | 132 | 58.4% |
| Total | 226 | 100.0% | 226 | 100.0% |

The data on the number of employees during the strike sheds light on the workforce composition among the surveyed enterprises. A significant proportion, accounting for 38.94% of the enterprises, reported having zero employees before the strike. This substantial presence of businesses without any employees suggests the prevalence of self-employed or owner-operated ventures within the dataset, a characteristic often observed in small businesses or start-ups.

Among enterprises with employees, the distribution is diverse. About 15.49% of the businesses reported having one employee, while 11.06% had two employees, and 12.39% had three employees before the strike. This pattern indicates a prevalence of small to moderately sized enterprises with limited staffing prior to the strike, reflecting the scale and nature of operations for a substantial portion of the surveyed businesses.

Beyond these ranges, there are instances of businesses with larger workforces, albeit less common. For instance, only 0.44% of enterprises reported having 11, 12, 15, 18, and 30 employees before the strike. These cases represent outliers in terms of workforce size, suggesting a few businesses with more extensive staffing arrangements, potentially indicating larger-scale operations or businesses in certain sectors that require a larger workforce.

4.4 : Effects of the ASUU Strike Job losses on campus

The table provides a stark illustration of the devastating impact of the strike on employment numbers across various enterprises. A total of 291 jobs were lost during the strike, with the majority of these losses concentrated in a few enterprises. One enterprise, which had 84 employees before the strike, lost a staggering 69 jobs, while another lost 25 jobs, and yet another lost 20 jobs. The strike's effects on employment numbers were far-reaching, with some enterprises experiencing significant job losses, while others remained largely unaffected. The table shows that some enterprises had as few as 5 employees, while others had as many as 84 employees. This disparity in employee numbers highlights the varying levels of vulnerability that different enterprises faced in the wake of the strike.

The data also underscores the importance of support and recovery measures to mitigate the impact of such events on employment and businesses. The sheer scale of job losses suggests that the strike had a profound impact on the livelihoods of many individuals and families, and that urgent action is needed to support those affected and help businesses recover. Furthermore, the table suggests that the strike's impact on employment numbers was not limited to a specific sector or industry but rather was felt across a range of enterprises. This highlights the need for a comprehensive and coordinated response to

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support affected businesses and individuals, and to help mitigate the impact of future disruptions. Overall, the table provides a sobering reminder of the human cost of the strike and underscores the need for urgent action to support those affected and help businesses recover.

Businesses that have more than 35 workers were mostly affected as they had to close down during the strike. The same applies to businesses with employees numbering 24, 14, and 6. Those businesses that were run by owners also closed down completely as many of the owners could not afford the running costs without earning any income. The strike had a more devastating effect on businesses on campus than those outside the campus. Businesses with 1 to 5 employees were less impacted by the strike. They were even able to employ more during the strike. This arose due to the closure of other businesses, and many of the customers of those shops that closed moved to the smaller businesses that were operating. Many of these smaller shops often live in the shops, and hence they had no other place to go, hence their opening during the strike. There is a possibility that they were not making any profits but just opening for subsistence and survival, as they had no other places to go during the strike. Overall, among the 226 businesses surveyed, the net job losses were 24, though some businesses gained new jobs. Bring this analysis to a more specific case. The study also considered the small enterprise that have between 1 to 5 workers and in which there are one to two owners.

Table 5A: Jobs Losses by Business During ASUU Strike

| Number of employees before strike | | | Number of employees during strike | | Employees Difference between before and during strike |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| No. of employees | No of enterprises | Total no. of employees | No of enterprises | Total no. of employees | Loss of jobs during strike |
| 35 | 2 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 70 |
| 25 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 30 | -5 |
| 24 | 1 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| 14 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 12 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 18 | -6 |
| 7 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 15 | -1 |
| 6 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 24 | -19 |
| 4 | 8 | 32 | 1 | 11 | 21 |
| 3 | 5 | 15 | 28 | 84 | -69 |
| 2 | 15 | 30 | 25 | 50 | -20 |
| 1 | 38 | 38 | 35 | 35 | 3 |
| 0 | 149 | 0 | 88 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 291 | | 267 | 24 |

Table 5B: Jobs Losses by Business During ASUU Strike

| Number of employees before the strike (mean=2.0±2.7) | | | Number of employees during the strike (mean=1.3±4.3) | | Employees Difference between before and during strike |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Responses | No of Enterprises | Total No of employees and employers | No of Enterprises | Total No of employees and employers | |
| 1 | 88 | 88 | 149 | 149 | -61 |
| 3 | 60 | 180 | 53 | 106 | 74 |
| 5 | 47 | 235 | 13 | 65 | 170 |
| 7 | 31 | 217 | 11 | 77 | 140 |
| Total | 226 | 720 | 226 | 397 | 323 |

4.5.2: Effects of ASUU Strike on Income and Revenue of business on campus

The presented data offers insights into the monthly turnover of enterprises in the fashion industry, both before and during the ASUU strike. The information is

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organized into specific turnover ranges, allowing for a clear understanding of the financial impact experienced by these businesses.

Before the strike, 100 enterprises, which account for 44% of the total, reported a monthly turnover in the range of 20,000 to 50,000. This indicates that a substantial portion of the businesses had modest earnings. Additionally, 63 enterprises, making up 28%, indicated a monthly turnover between 60,000 and 100,000, suggesting a moderate level of income for a considerable number of enterprises. Furthermore, 38 enterprises, representing 17% of the total, reported monthly turnovers in the range of 150,000 to 250,000. This reflects higher income levels for these businesses. Meanwhile, 25 enterprises, or 11%, reported a monthly turnover of 300,000, indicating that a smaller yet notable group of businesses were achieving significant financial performance before the strike.

The onset of the ASUU strike brought about significant changes in the financial landscape of the fashion industry. During the strike, 22 enterprises, or 10%, reported a monthly turnover of less than 10,000, indicating a drastic reduction in income for these businesses. On the other hand, 97 enterprises, accounting for 43%, reported turnovers in the range of 60,000 to 100,000. Despite the strike, this category continued to represent a substantial portion of the enterprises, highlighting some degree of resilience among these businesses. Interestingly, 22 enterprises, making up 10%, reported turnovers in the range of 10,000 to 500,000, reflecting varied financial performance during the strike. Moreover, 86 enterprises, constituting 38% of the total, reported a monthly turnover above 500,000, indicating that a significant number of businesses were able to achieve higher turnovers despite the challenging circumstances.

The diverse turnover values observed during the ASUU strike suggest a varied financial landscape within the fashion industry during this period. While some businesses experienced substantial financial hardships, others managed to maintain or even increase their earnings. However, the high proportion of missing values in the data emphasizes the importance of obtaining more complete information to gain nuanced insights into the financial impacts of the ASUU strike on fashion enterprises. Overall, the data underscores the significant financial challenges faced by businesses during the ASUU strike and highlights the resilience and adaptability of some enterprises in navigating these difficulties.

Table 13: Income Losses by Businesses During ASUU strike in University of Lagos

| Responses | Before Strike | | After Strike | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | Number of enterprises | Percent of enterprises | Number of enterprises | Percent of enterprises |
| 20,000-50,000 | 22 | 9.5% | 100 | 44.4% |
| 60,000 – 100,000 | 97 | 42.9% | 63 | 27.8% |
| 100,000 -500,000 | 22 | 9.5% | 38 | 16.7% |
| Above 500,000 | 86 | 38.1% | 25 | 11.1% |
| Total | 226 | 100.0% | 226 | 100.0% |

The data presented in the table sheds light on the significant impact of the ASUU strike on various enterprises both before and during the strike period. The statistics highlight changes in the number of enterprises, total income, and income lost due to the strike.

Before the onset of the ASUU strike, there were four distinct categories of enterprises, each characterized by the number of enterprises, their total income, and the average income per enterprise. The first category comprised 22 enterprises with a total income of 1,210,000.00, resulting in an average income of 55,000.00 per enterprise. In the second category, 97 enterprises collectively earned a total income of 7,760,000.00, leading to an average income of 80,000.00 per enterprise. The third category included 22 enterprises with a total income of 6,600,000.00, which translates to an average income of 300,000.00 per enterprise. The fourth and largest category consisted of 86 enterprises that generated a total income of 43,000,000.00, resulting in an average income of 500,000.00 per enterprise. Overall, the total income across all enterprises before the strike amounted to 58,570,000.00. These figures illustrate the financial stability and robustness of the enterprises during normal operating conditions.

The onset of the ASUU strike brought about substantial changes in the business landscape, impacting the number of enterprises, their total income, and the income lost due to the disruptions. In the first category, the number of enterprises increased significantly to 100. Despite this increase, the total income for this category was 5,500,000.00, representing an income loss of 4,290,000.00. The second category saw a decrease in the number of enterprises to 63, with a total income of 5,040,000.00. This category experienced an income loss of 2,720,000.00. The third category observed an increase in the number of enterprises to 38, with a total income of 11,400,000.00. However, this category faced an income loss of 4,800,000.00. The fourth category experienced a significant reduction in the number of enterprises to 25, with a total income of 12,500,000.00. This category saw the highest income loss of 30,500,000.00. The total income across all enterprises during the strike amounted to 34,440,000.00, reflecting the dramatic decline in earnings due to the strike.

The overall income lost during this period was 24,130,000.00, highlighting the substantial financial challenges faced by businesses. The data indicates that the ASUU strike had a profound negative impact on the enterprises, with considerable income losses across all categories. While some enterprises saw an increase in their numbers, likely due to new businesses attempting to fill the gap left by those that closed, the overall financial health of the enterprises deteriorated significantly. The strike resulted in a substantial reduction in total income, underscoring the financial hardships faced by businesses during this period. The varying

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levels of income loss and changes in the number of enterprises across different categories also highlight the disparities in how enterprises were affected by the strike. This underscores the need for targeted support and recovery measures to help businesses mitigate the impact of such disruptions and ensure their survival in the face of future challenges.

Table 6: Overall Income Losses of Business during Strike in UNILAG

| Before the strike | | | During the Strike | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Average income | No of enterprise | Total income | Average income | No of enterprise | Total income | Income lost |
| 55,000.00 | 22 | 1,210,000.00 | 55,000.00 | 100 | 5,500,000.00 | 4,290,000.00 |
| 80,000.00 | 97 | 7,760,000.00 | 80,000.00 | 63 | 5,040,000.00 | 2,720,000.00 |
| 300,000.00 | 22 | 6,600,000.00 | 300,000.00 | 38 | 11,400,000.00 | 4,800,000.00 |
| 500,000.00 | 86 | 43,000,000.00 | 500,000.00 | 25 | 12,500,000.00 | 30,500,000.00 |
| | 226 | 58,570,000.00 | Total | 226 | 34,440,000.00 | 24,130,000.00 |

5.0: CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATION

This study assessed the extent to which ASUU strikes affected businesses, specifically profiling the types and nature of SMEs on university campuses and their environs. It specifically estimated the revenue and job losses during the strike to determine the impact on business survival and assessed the coping strategies of SMEs during the strike. The study adopted a hybrid of systems theory and structural functionalities theory to understand the complex dynamics of interrelated elements within a social aggregate. Hybrid theoretical framework was considered to model the University as a system whose impact as a unit is greater than the sum of its parts if it expressed synergy or emergent behavior and responded to internal and external conditions that changed over time.

The study considered the university as a subsystem of a town or city, which strove to build and sustain strong and collaborative partnerships with communities in their academic programs as a dependable partner. The study population included business owners within and around the University of Lagos who had been in operation for at least one year and had readily accessible information about their businesses. The sampling procedure combined purposive, clustering, and stratified sampling techniques. The sample size was approximately 226 businesses.

The study was conducted in and around the University of Lagos, which was a special case study due to its metropolitan nature and high business presence. Comparing business and welfare status before and during the strike was used to determine, quantify, and estimate the impact of the strike on the business and well-being of business owners. Data were analyzed using descriptive inferential statistical techniques. Ethical considerations included seeking permission from each respondent, providing informed consent, and treating collected data anonymously and with utmost confidentiality.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The analysis reveals several critical insights into the business environment on the University of Lagos campus. Regarding demographics of business owners, it was found that the average age of most business owners is 40 years, with a majority being married. More than half of the managers possess no more than a secondary education. Additionally, nine out of every ten business managers and owners rely exclusively on the income generated from their businesses, underscoring their dependence on these enterprises for livelihood. In terms of the types of businesses, the analysis shows that food, snacks, and drinks account for over one-third of the businesses, while laundries represent the least common enterprise. A majority of the businesses, three out of every five, have been in operation for more than five years, while three out of ten have existed for over eleven years, indicating a relatively stable business presence on campus.

Regarding ownership and management, more than half of the businesses are operated solely by their owners without any supporting staff. Among the remaining businesses, four out of every ten employ one or two workers, while only one in five businesses employed more than five workers prior to the strike. However, the impact of the ASUU strike was profound, with more than nine out of ten businesses retrenching their staff and reverting to single-person operations. This drastic reduction highlights the significant employment challenges faced during the strike. Financing patterns reveal that over 70% of the businesses rely on personal savings for funding, with three out of five enterprises currently carrying outstanding credit obligations. This reliance on personal funds and credit underscores their financial vulnerability.

The findings indicated that the ASUU strike led to the loss of 323 jobs across the surveyed businesses, with job losses concentrated disproportionately among certain enterprises. While some businesses experienced substantial layoffs, others were less affected, demonstrating the uneven impact of the strike on

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employment.

The financial impact of the strike was equally significant. Prior to the strike, the total income generated by the 226 surveyed enterprises amounted to ₦58,570,000.00, reflecting stable financial conditions under normal circumstances. However, the onset of the strike caused a sharp decline in income, with total revenue dropping to ₦34,440,000.00. This represents an overall income loss of ₦24,130,000.00, illustrating the considerable financial strain experienced by businesses during the strike.

The study established that the ASUU strike had profound negative consequences on the financial health of businesses. While some enterprises saw an increase in numbers, likely driven by new entrants seeking to fill gaps left by closures, the overall economic landscape deteriorated. The widespread loss of income during the strike highlights the financial hardships endured by enterprises, with disparities across various business categories further emphasizing the uneven effects of the disruption.

Policy Implications for the Government and University Authorities

The findings of this study offer critical policy implications for both the government and university authorities.

(i) From the government's perspective,

- prioritizing increased funding for the education sector is paramount. Adequate resources for infrastructure, research, and staff remuneration are essential to addressing the root causes of ASUU strikes. Additionally, establishing a permanent mediating body would facilitate dialogue and negotiations between ASUU and the government, enabling prompt resolution of disputes and preventing prolonged strikes. Reforming the university financing system also emerges as an essential measure, with the government encouraged to explore alternative funding sources, such as public-private partnerships and endowments, to ensure sustainable financial support for universities.
- Moreover, it is imperative for the government to honor and fully implement agreements reached with ASUU in a timely manner. This approach would not only build trust but also reduce the likelihood of future industrial actions. Furthermore, targeted support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating on university campuses is crucial. Financial aid, training programs, and tax incentives can help these businesses navigate the economic challenges posed by strikes.

(ii) For university authorities:

- enhancing communication channels with staff and students is vital to foster transparency and nurture a sense of community. Regular updates on institutional plans and negotiations can alleviate uncertainty and anxiety. Universities should also develop comprehensive contingency plans to ensure academic continuity during strikes. This may involve adopting online learning platforms, alternative teaching methods, and flexible academic calendars.
- Furthermore, the enhancement of student support services is essential to address the emotional and psychological toll of strikes on students. Counseling services, peer support programs, and stress management workshops should be readily accessible. Strengthening partnerships with local businesses can bolster the economic ecosystem around campuses, with collaborative projects, internships, and business development programs serving as potential strategies. Regular engagement with all stakeholders, including ASUU, students, business owners, and community leaders, is also pivotal to creating a harmonious campus environment and minimizing the frequency of strikes.

5.3 Policy Recommendations Based on Policy Implications

- (i) Building on the policy implications, several recommendations are proposed. The government should allocate a fixed and substantial percentage of the national budget to the education sector annually, directing funds toward improving infrastructure, research facilities, and staff remuneration. Establishing a dedicated **National Mediation and Arbitration Council for Educational Institutions** is also recommended to facilitate dialogue and resolve conflicts between ASUU and the government, thereby preventing prolonged strikes.
- (ii) In addition, diversifying university funding sources through mechanisms such as public-private partnerships (PPPs), endowments, and alumni contributions is critical for reducing dependency on government funding and enhancing financial stability. Implementing and closely monitoring compliance with agreements reached with ASUU would build trust and reduce the likelihood of recurring strikes. Moreover, providing financial aid, low-interest loans, and training programs to SMEs operating on university campuses, as well as offering tax incentives, would support their resilience during strikes.
- (iii) University authorities are encouraged to implement effective communication strategies, using digital platforms and town hall meetings to keep stakeholders informed about negotiations and institutional plans. Comprehensive contingency plans, including investment in online learning platforms and flexible academic calendars, should be developed to ensure continuity during strikes.
- (iv) Enhancing student support services to address emotional and psychological impacts, fostering partnerships with local businesses to support the campus economy, and engaging regularly with stakeholders to promote collaboration and harmony are also vital measures.

Limitations of the Study

This study has certain limitations that should be acknowledged. Firstly, it focused solely on the University of Lagos, which limits the generalizability of the

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findings to other universities in Nigeria or those in different geographical or socio-economic contexts. Secondly, the study examined the impact of only one ASUU strike, which may not fully capture the cumulative and long-term effects of multiple strikes on businesses and social relations.

Additionally, the sample size of 226 businesses, while informative, may not adequately represent the diversity of businesses operating on university campuses across Nigeria. The metropolitan nature of the University of Lagos also presents a geographical limitation, as findings might differ significantly in rural or less economically vibrant areas. Lastly, the reliance on self-reported data from business owners introduces potential biases or inaccuracies, as respondents may have overreported or underreported certain aspects of their experiences.

Suggestions for Further Research

To address these limitations, future research should expand its scope to include multiple universities across various regions of Nigeria. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of ASUU strikes and identify regional variations. Investigating the cumulative and long-term effects of multiple strikes over an extended period would also offer deeper insights into the challenges and coping mechanisms of affected businesses and stakeholders.

Increasing the sample size and diversity of businesses included in studies would improve representativeness and allow for a more robust analysis. Additionally, comparative research between metropolitan and rural university settings would provide insights into how geographical and economic contexts influence the impact of ASUU strikes. Employing mixed-methods approaches, such as combining quantitative data with in-depth interviews, focus groups, and case studies, would offer richer and more nuanced perspectives.

Finally, future studies should explore additional factors influencing the impact of ASUU strikes, including government policies, university management practices, and the role of student unions. This would support the development of more targeted and effective policy interventions.

5.4 Concluding Remarks

The findings of this study have highlighted the profound impact of ASUU strikes on businesses within and around the University of Lagos. It is evident that these strikes have caused significant disruptions in academic activities, social relations, and the economic well-being of business owners. The negative consequences of these strikes underscore the urgent need for effective policy interventions to mitigate their impact and ensure the stability and growth of the higher education sector in Nigeria.

Based on the study's findings, several policy recommendations have been proposed for the government and university authorities. These include increased funding for education, the establishment of a mediating body to facilitate dialogue and resolve disputes, reforming the university financing system, supporting SMEs on campus, and enhancing communication channels and student support services. Additionally, the development of contingency plans and regular stakeholder engagement are crucial to fostering a harmonious campus environment and reducing the frequency of strikes.

Despite its contributions, this study has several limitations, including its focus on only one university, the examination of a single ASUU strike, and a limited sample size. These limitations suggest the need for further research to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of ASUU strikes on businesses and social relations.

Future research should expand the scope to include multiple universities across different regions of Nigeria, examine the cumulative effects of multiple strikes, and increase the sample size and diversity of businesses. Additionally, comparative studies in both metropolitan and rural university settings, the use of mixed methods approaches, and the exploration of additional factors influencing the impact of strikes will provide richer insights and more robust policy recommendations.

In conclusion, addressing the challenges posed by ASUU strikes requires a collaborative effort between the government, university authorities, and other stakeholders. By implementing the proposed policy recommendations and conducting further research, Nigeria can build a more resilient and effective higher education system that supports the academic, social, and economic well-being of all stakeholders.

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The perspectives presented are solely based on empirical analysis and may differ from the official views of the University of Lagos, as well as those of the organizations, units, and institutions that the authors have led or were leading at the time the research was conducted.

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