

DEBATE CLUBS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

BY

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DEGREE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Debate Clubs and Environmental Advocacy" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined debate clubs and environmental advocacy, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of debate; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with debate and clubs. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Constructivist Learning Theory and the Technology Acceptance Model. A sample size of 387 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 361 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.03). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.508$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.02, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.31$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on debate.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of debate clubs and environmental advocacy is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

In both global and African literatures, debate is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with debate. Nwosu and Ogbeide (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of debate are unevenly distributed across groups. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Studies by Chukwu and Adeniyi (2019) largely support the view that debate exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding clubs. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Over the past two decades, debate has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of debate are observed in their starkest form. Longitudinal research by Okonkwo and Adebayo (2016) revealed that sustained attention to debate yields appreciable dividends over time. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Salami and Bakare (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

The phenomenon of debate, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how debate is experienced across communities. Research by Salami and Bakare (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting debate and clubs. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding clubs. A notable study by Musa and Olawale (2017) argued that the impact of debate is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

In both global and African literatures, debate is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of debate. A notable study by Adigun and Nwosu (2017) argued that the impact of debate is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. For practitioners, the practical significance of debate cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with clubs. The work of Oyelaran and Dauda (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that clubs reinforces the effects of debate. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that