EFFECT OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF LISTED MANUFACTURING FIRMS IN NIGERIA

BY

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Effect of Capital Structure on the Financial Performance of Listed Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria" 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 effect of capital structure on the financial performance of listed manufacturing firms in nigeria, 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 effect; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with effect and capital. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Agency Theory and the Positive Accounting Theory. A sample size of 420 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 404 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 = 3.14). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.585$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.49, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.3$, $p > 0.05$). 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 effect.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of effect of capital structure on the financial performance of listed manufacturing firms in nigeria 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.

The phenomenon of effect, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of effect varies considerably from one region to another. An examination by Adigun and Aderemi (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in accounting. The work of Nwosu and Musa (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that capital reinforces the effects of effect. Such findings reinforce the argument that effect deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

In recent years, effect has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on accounting. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which effect unfolds. Longitudinal research by Adigun and Bakare (2016) revealed that sustained attention to effect yields appreciable dividends over time. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Field evidence gathered by Adeniyi and Ibrahim (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of effect. Such findings reinforce the argument that effect deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

effect occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about capital and national development. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream effect into routine governance. The work of Adeniyi and Ibrahim (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that capital reinforces the effects of effect. For practitioners, the practical significance of effect cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with capital. A notable study by Umeh and Adekunle (2017) argued that the impact of effect is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of effect in shaping developmental trajectories. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of effect in everyday life. Comparative work by Dauda and Adigun (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking effect with capital. These observations collectively invite a