INFLUENCE OF AGENCY BANKING ON FINANCIAL ACCESS IN RURAL NIGERIA

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND FINANCE, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.) DEGREE IN BANKING AND FINANCE

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Influence of Agency Banking on Financial Access in Rural 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.

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR	Date
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HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	Date
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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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My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Banking and Finance, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined influence of agency banking on financial access in rural 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 influence; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with influence and agency. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Modern Portfolio Theory and the Efficient Market Hypothesis. A sample size of 394 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 374 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 = 3.09). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.49$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.45, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.35$, $p > 0.05$). 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 influence.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of influence of agency banking on financial access in rural 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.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of influence in shaping developmental trajectories. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which influence advances in practice. An examination by Adigun and Bamgbose (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Field evidence gathered by Dauda and Umeh (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of influence. Such findings reinforce the argument that influence deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

influence continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in banking and finance. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of influence and agency. Evidence assembled by Dauda and Alade (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to influence. Such findings reinforce the argument that influence deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Empirical evidence from Ekwueme and Musa (2021) suggests that positive developments in agency are associated with improvements in influence. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of influence in shaping developmental trajectories. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of influence are observed in their starkest form. Ekwueme and Musa (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of influence are unevenly distributed across groups. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Studies by Chukwu and Kalu (2019) largely support the view that influence exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

influence continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in banking and finance. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of influence. A notable study by Famuyide and Kalu (2017) argued that the impact of influence is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The implications of these dynamics are