

INFLUENCE OF LEGAL AID ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CRIMINAL CASES IN NIGERIA

BY

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Influence of Legal Aid on Access to Justice in Criminal Cases 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.

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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 influence of legal aid on access to justice in criminal cases 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 influence; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with influence and legal. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Positivist Theory of Law and the Natural Law Theory. A sample size of 405 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 369 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 = 2.98). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.462$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.03, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.33$, $p > 0.05$). 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 legal aid on access to justice in criminal cases 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.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames influence as inseparable from the broader question of legal. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of influence and legal. Ekwueme and Olawale (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of influence are unevenly distributed across groups. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Studies by Okonkwo and Adekunle (2019) largely support the view that influence exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

The salience of influence in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of influence are observed in their starkest form. An examination by Ogunlana and Bakare (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. An examination by Okonkwo and Adekunle (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. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

In recent years, influence has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on law. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which influence unfolds. Research by Okonkwo and Adekunle (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting influence and legal. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Studies by Chukwu and Kalu (2019) largely support the view that influence exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The relationship between influence and legal has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of influence and legal. Evidence assembled by Aderemi and Olawale (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to influence. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are