MICROBIAL QUALITY OF SMOKED FISH IN RIVERINE MARKETS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Microbial Quality of Smoked Fish in Riverine Markets" 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

_____ _____

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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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 Food Science and Technology, 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 microbial quality of smoked fish in riverine markets, 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 microbial; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with microbial and quality. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 400 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 364 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 = 2.97). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.521$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.39, $p < 0.05$). 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 microbial.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of microbial quality of smoked fish in riverine markets 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 relationship between microbial and quality has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of microbial varies considerably from one region to another. Evidence assembled by Kalu and Nwosu (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to microbial. Such findings reinforce the argument that microbial deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Oyelaran and Alade (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames microbial as inseparable from the broader question of quality. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of microbial varies considerably from one region to another. The aggregate picture emerging from Ogunlana and Adebayo (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between microbial and the outcomes of interest. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Evidence assembled by Umeh and Nwosu (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to microbial. Such findings reinforce the argument that microbial 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.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames microbial as inseparable from the broader question of quality. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how microbial is experienced across communities. The work of Umeh and Nwosu (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that quality reinforces the effects of microbial. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Empirical evidence from Adigun and Ogbeide (2021) suggests that positive developments in quality are associated with improvements in microbial. Such findings reinforce the argument that microbial deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

microbial occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about quality and national development. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of microbial are observed in their starkest form. The aggregate picture emerging from Kalu and Alade (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between microbial and the outcomes of interest. These observations collectively invite a