



The awareness, access and perceptions toward Islamic finance products and promoting financial inclusion in Nigeria

Baba Kura Bashir¹, Sagir Muhammad Sulaiman^{2*}

¹ Department of Economics, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria

² IIBF, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

* Corresponding Author: Sagir Muhammad Sulaiman

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Abstract

Financial inclusion is considered a driver for inclusive economic development, through promoting investment, entrepreneurship, employment, education and healthcare. Therefore, it can reduce income inequality and poverty, and empower women in order to achieve inclusive economic development. Yet, 31%, or 1.7 billion, of the global adult population are financially excluded, six percent of which cited religious reasons for their exclusion. However, Islamic finance, which has recently gained prominent acceptance across the globe, is considered a viable method to promote financial inclusion, especially amongst developing economies, such as Nigeria. Despite this development, the impact of compliance with Islamic finance principles and the use of Islamic finance products on enhancing access to formal financial services remains unexplored in the Nigerian context. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the influence of individual perceptions on the use of Islamic finance products, and the impact of Islamic finance in enhancing financial inclusion in Nigeria. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods and used both primary and secondary data. Statistical analysis was employed using STATA. In accordance with the conceptual model of the study, the perceptions amongst adults generally indicated an influence on their use of Islamic finance products. The exception was perceived government benefits, which have a negative influence on the use of Islamic finance products, whilst the result revealed that Islamic finance products have no significant impact on financial inclusion in Nigeria.

Keywords: Awareness, Access, Perceptions, Islamic Finance Products and Financial Inclusion

Introduction

Financial inclusion is associated with various economic incentives, which improves the economic welfare of individuals in a country as it facilitates safe savings, payments, credits and remittances in an economy. Financial inclusion has been especially effective in enhancing investment and entrepreneurship, reducing poverty, improving income equality, empowering women and generating employment among low income groups in an economy (Demirgüç-Kunt et al., 2008; Ardic et al., 2011; Demirgüç-kunt et al., 2011; Bruhn and Love, 2014; Zins & Weill, 2016)^[70, 20, 76, 258]. Despite the importance of financial inclusion in the economy of a country, reports indicate that access to financial services is limited in many countries, particularly in developing nations. World Bank Group (2017) reported that 1.7 billion or 31% of the global adult population are yet to be served by formal financial services and about half of these excluded adults are situated in seven countries - Nigeria, China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mexico and Pakistan. Recent evidence also revealed that, among the group without access, Muslim adults are reported to form the majority, such as those from Sub-Saharan Africa (Demirguc-Kunt et al., 2013)^[72]. Moreover, the adult population in Nigeria seems to be the mostly financially excluded within Sub-Saharan Africa. EFINA (2018) reported that 60.4% of adults in Nigeria are not using banking services, 45.3% are not saving, 69.0% are not accessing credit, and 36.8% are totally excluded from accessing formal financial services.

Furthermore, Muslims dominated Northern region in Nigeria are recorded to represent 70% to 75% of the financially excluded adults.

However, the introduction of an Islamic financial system has been crucial in facilitating financial inclusion among economic agents, especially in Muslim countries. Recently, the Islamic financial industry has experienced a massive growth in its assets, from 150 billion to 1.8 trillion dollars; this is coupled with deep penetration into developing economies, such as Nigeria (Gelbard *et al.*, 2014; Leon and Weill, 2016) ^[104, 96]. "Islamic finance addresses the issue of financial inclusion or access to finance from two directions—one through promoting risk sharing contracts that provided a viable alternative to the conventional debt-based financing. The risk sharing instruments created window for Islamic micro financing, micro insurance and the other through specific instruments of the wealth creation among the society" (Mohieldin *et al.*, 2012, p.55) ^[184]. Considering the potency of Islamic finance in the area of financial inclusion, Demirguc-Kunt *et al.* (2013) ^[73] argued that Islamic finance remains a viable way of converting financial exclusion in an economy, especially among the less privileged segments of Muslim-dominated economies. Therefore, the introduction of Islamic finance reduces financial exclusion by accelerating savings and enhancing financial innovation (new financial products) in order to suit the demand from investors, depositors and borrowers to increase participation in formal financial systems (Gheeraert, 2014) ^[105] and to stimulate competition in the financial sector (Beck *et al.*, 2013) ^[38]. Thus, this enhances inclusive economic development (Mohieldin *et al.*, 2012; Imam and Kpodar, 2013; Ben Naceur *et al.*, 2015; Gheeraert and Weill, 2015) ^[170, 106, 129, 186].

Despite this development, there is a dearth of empirical evidence on the impact of Islamic finance that considers compliance with Islamic finance principles and the use of Islamic finance products in Nigeria. Therefore, the aim of this study is to evaluate the awareness, access and perceptions toward Islamic finance products and promoting financial inclusion in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the awareness, of the adult population toward Islamic finance products in Nigeria.
2. To examine the access level of the adult population toward Islamic finance products in Nigeria.
3. To examine the perception of the adult population toward Islamic finance products in Nigeria.

Empirical Literature Review

Allen *et al.* (2016) ^[15], use data from the global index (2012) ^[71] to examine global perspectives on how demographics influence financial inclusion. The finding suggested that being richer, older, educated, employed and married significantly influenced individual's access to formal financial services and the same attributes apply to savings preferences. However, access to credit or the habit of borrowing is related to only four categories, such as, more affluent, men, who are older and married. While, studying access to financial services in China, Fungáčová and Weill (2014) ^[104] consider three parameters of financial inclusion, (formal account, formal savings and formal credit). Having access to a formal account is attributed to individual attributes such as older males, and better educated and more affluent males. This finding substantiates Demirguc-Kunt and Klapper (2013) ^[72] whose finding suggested a strong

relationship between access to a formal account and income. However, this is not the case for savings, according to their findings, income has less effect on savings and formal credit. Educational background of individuals also significantly influences holding a formal account and access to formal credit, with the two dummy variables having different effects. While, both the variables have significant influence on holding an account, the dummy variable Tertiary education is more significant and is also related to formal credit.

Demirguc-Kunt, *et al.* (2013) ^[73] used a sample of 65,000 adults from 64 economies and examined the impact of being a Muslim on holding a formal account, formal saving, formal credit, and barriers to financial inclusion. They find that Muslims resort significantly less to formal account ownership and formal saving than non-Muslims. However, Muslims would not be less likely to borrow, either formally or informally, than non-Muslims. The typical categories excluded from formal financial systems (the poor, the less educated, women and rural adults) are the same for Muslims and non-Muslims. Moreover, religion is cited as a barrier to financial inclusion by Muslims, but this result is more frequent from respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa. When investigating the barriers to financial inclusion, the findings suggested that low income is related to various reasons for not holding an account. However, other family members with accounts are mitigating individuals with low income from accessing financial services. A study by Fungáčová and Weill (2015) investigated the determinants of financial inclusion in China, taking into account the demographic profiles of adults in China. Their findings substantiate the view that improved income and educational level positively influence access to formal borrowing, and indeed men and the elderly enjoy access to bank accounts and credit in China. On the one hand, examining the factors influencing financial exclusion in South Africa Wentzel *et al.* (2016) ^[250] evaluated the nine factors that favour financial inclusion as claimed in the literature. They found that age, income, education, language and the number of dependents is determinants of financial inclusion/exclusion. However, financial exclusion is found not to be influenced by relationship status, gender and ownership of house. Remarkably, their findings indicated that financial exclusion is not driven by geographic attributes of individuals.

In their study Sundaram and Sriram, (2015) ^[232] conclude that, illiteracy and unemployment are the major factors instigating financial exclusion in rural areas of India. Hence, the government suggested an intervention to reduce illiteracy and unemployment to attain inclusive financial system among rural dwellers of India. According to Allen *et al.*, (2016) ^[15] having a formal account is associated with individual attributes, such as, income, educational background, marital status, old age and employment status. Following the recognition of the significance of financial inclusion on inclusive development, literature has documented various empirical evidence on the determinants of financial inclusion.

Allen *et al.* (2016) ^[15] use data from global index (2012) ^[71] to examine global perspectives on how demographics influence financial inclusion. Their findings suggest that being richer, older, educated, employed and married significantly influenced individual's access to formal financial services. However, access to credit or the habit of borrowing is related to only four categories, such as, richer, men, older and married. Similarly, Zins and Weill (2016) ^[258] consider three parameters of financial inclusion, (formal account, formal savings and formal credit). Having access to the first indicator formal account is attributed to individual

attributes such as older men, more educated, richer. This findings supports Demirguc-Kunt and Klapper (2013) [72] whose finding suggested strong relationship between access to forma account and income. However, this is not the case for savings, according to their findings, income has less effect on savings and formal credit. Educational background of an individual also significantly influences holding of a formal account and formal credit, with the two dummy variables having different effects.

Methodology

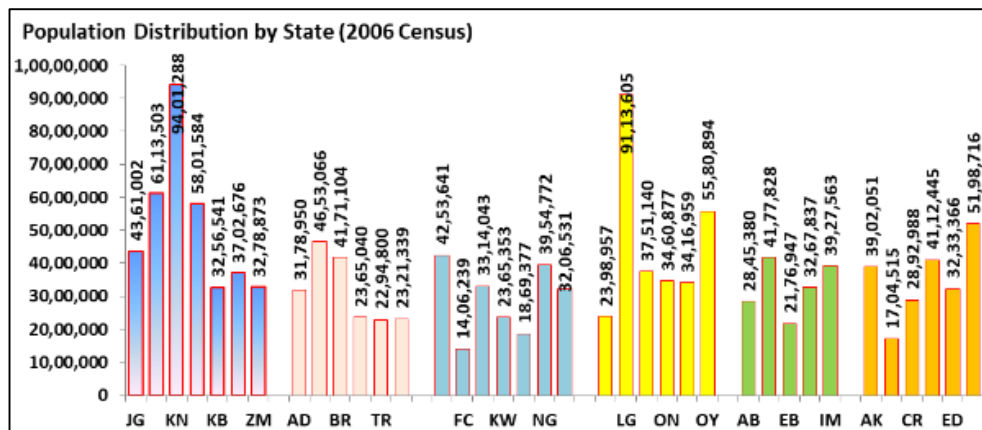
Research Design

This study is designed as an exploratory through using a sample survey in the study, This is in line with Warsame

(2009) [247] who argue that the sample survey is the most appropriate method of data collection for exploratory research. Sekaran and Bougie (2016) [223] recommend surveys as a method of data collection with regard to individual's perception, attitudes, knowledge and behaviors concerning phenomena, and facilitates the collection of quantitative and qualitative data based on the research questions.

Population of the Study

Accordingly, the target population for this study is comprised of adults in Nigeria. Below is the entire Nigerian population by states as obtained from the National Population Commission of Nigeria?



(Source: NPC, 2006)

Fig 1: Nigeria's Population

Sample size

Determining sample size is vital for this kind of study. The sample size is largely based on the level of confidence, precision and the variability in the data. This study follows Krejcie & Morgan (1970) [157] who argue that a sample size of 384 is sufficient for a population of approximately one million. Therefore, a sample of 420 adults is selected from the population of 9,401,288 million in Kano. This is the largest populated state in Nigeria.

Sampling Technique

This study uses probability-sampling technique to select the sample population. This is because collection of data involves various constraints such as, size of the population, cost and time, that can undermine the research process (Bature, 2014) [36]. However, scholars including Hair *et al.*, (2013) argue that the findings obtained from Probability sampling are considered reliable, and therefore can be generalized. Accordingly, stratified and simple random sampling has been applied to select the study sample as proposed by Kothari (2004). Stratified sampling involves the division of the sample population into various subgroups, each with similar traits to enable fair representation of all elements of the sample population (Bature, 2014) [36]. Therefore, in accordance with the sampling techniques adopted, the study population - Kano state- is divided into 'strata' and the target group is identified and randomly selected. Kano state has 44 local government areas, following the adopted sampling technique, this study chooses Kano central, which has 15 local Government areas and divided into strata, where six (6) most populated local government areas have been chosen. This is because the six selected local Government areas

constituted about half of the Kano population and are the heart of Kano state, where most commercial activities take place and various tradition, culture and ethnic groups leaves.

Source and Method of Data Collection

This study uses primary data in which questionnaires was used to collect data from the adult population in Nigeria, in particular Islamic financial services providers, regulatory authorities and experts, to provide germane answers to the research questions. Gray (2004) [67] posits that when gathering information about organizations and individual's activities, perceptions or beliefs.

Technique for Data Analysis

This study used descriptive statistical analysis to analyze primary data. The descriptive statistical techniques used tables, frequencies, and percentages as well as mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the both the variable of the study and demographical variable of the respondents

Data Presentation and Analysis

Introduction

This chapter presents the preliminary analysis and findings of the questionnaire distributed in Nigeria. The response rate, reliability test and descriptive analysis of the respondents are presented in this chapter. The findings of the perception of the adult group regarding factors that influence using Islamic finance (IFPs) is presented. The study will present the further analysis on determinants of financial inclusion, adult perceptions to the use of Islamic finance products (IFPs) and the impact of Islamic finance products (IFPs) on financial inclusion in Nigeria in the next chapter of this study.

Response Rate of the Questionnaire

As presented in Table 1 a total of 420 questionnaires were administered to the sampled respondents drawn through stratified and simple random sampling. Out of the 420 questionnaires distributed, 400 questionnaires were successfully retrieved leaving (20) as unreturned, indicating a 95% response rate. This can be considered as acceptable for further analysis and discussion as suggested by Sekaran (2003), who claims that 30% response rate is acceptable. However, this response rate is within the expected range, as similar studies achieved similar response rates.

Table 1: Response rate of the Respondents

Questionnaires sent out	Questionnaires returned	Questionnaires used for analysis	Response rate
420	400	400	95%

Source: (Fieldwork 2018).

Reliability Measurement

Table 2 presented the internal consistency of the items measured through Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient. The coefficient is the most widely used reliability measure to assess the consistency of a scale as indicated by Adeola-Omole (2013). The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient value for the scale was found to be 0.95 as shown in Table 6.2 which is above the recommended value of 0.7. This indicates a high level of internal consistency in the items as suggested by Pikkarainen *et al.* (2004). Therefore, the value is acceptable, confirming that the scales are reliable enough to be used for further analysis.

Table 2: Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient for the Variables

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
0.952	57

Source: (Fieldwork 2018).

Demographics of Respondent (Adult Population)

After the survey, descriptive statistics were employed to explore the demographics of the participants. As shown in Table 6.3, the gender distribution shows that the majority of the respondents 73.5% ($n=294$) are male and only 26.5% ($n=106$) are female. The response rate of the female has significantly increased compared to study conducted by Zauro, (2017) on examining the attitude of the adult group in accepting Islamic finance products (IFPs) in the area, whose finding suggested only (11%) of the respondents are female while the male constituted the remaining (89%). The large disparity between the number of male and female respondents can be attributed to the notions and traditions of the Hausa society where the questionnaires was administered and supported Al-Amin (2018) who assert that women in Northern Nigeria are primarily responsible for the home and the family affairs.

An analysis of the demographic characteristics shows that the respondents fell into multiple age ranges. The age distribution reveals that about 79.5% ($n = 318$) of the respondents were between the ages of 20 to 45 years. About 15.8% ($n=63$) were between 46 to 60 years and 4.8% ($n=19$) were above the age of 60. This suggests that, the bulk of the respondents were within the active and productive age bracket.

Table 3: Demographic Information of the Participants

SN	Demographic Profile	Level	Frequency	%
1	Gender	Male	294	73.5
		Female	106	26.5
2	Age	20-45	318	79.5
		46-60	63	15.8
		Above 60	19	4.8
3	Ethnicity	Igbo	8	2.0
		Yoruba	22	5.5
		Hausa	354	88.5
		Others	15	3.8
4	Marital Status	Single	233	58.3
		Married	153	38.3
		Widowed	7	1.8
		Divorced	7	1.8
5	Employment status	Employed	177	44.3
		Self Employed	155	38.8
		Unemployed	68	17.0
6	Education	Tertiary Education	285	71.3
		Secondary	84	21.0
		Primary	7	1.8
		None	24	6.0
7	Monthly Income	Below N48,000	247	61.8
		N48,000 - N96,000	73	19.2
		Above N96,000	61	16.0

Source: (Fieldwork 2018)

The respondents were also diverse based on ethnicity and marital status. The findings indicate that 354 respondents representing 88.5% were Hausa Fulani; 22 representing 5.5% were Yoruba; 8 representing 2% were Igbo, while others accounted for 15 representing 3.8%. However, one respondent chose not to answer this question. The Hausa

domination of the sample can be explained by the location where the survey was carried out. Furthermore, contents of table 6.8 also show the distribution of respondents according to marital status. The findings reveal that the majority of the respondents, 233, were single, representing 58.3%; 153 representing 38.3% were married; Widowed accounted for 7

representing 1.8% while divorced accounted for 1.8%. However, the distribution of the respondents according to their employment status reveals that the majority of the respondents 177 representing 44.3% were employed; 155 representing 38.8% were self-employed while 68 respondents, representing 17% were unemployed. This finding supports the result obtained by Zauro, (2017) and Efina (2017) in the study area, which indicated that most of the respondents are male and at the productive age between 15 to 45 years old.

On the level of education of the respondents, the findings show that the majority of the respondents, 285, had been at tertiary institutions representing 71.3%; 84 representing 21%, were secondary school leavers; 7 representing 1.8% possess Primary leaving certificate, while 24 representing 6% had no conventional education. The results demonstrate that the bulk of the respondents were educated and are adequately knowledgeable in order to provide data on financial inclusion as related by EFInA (2017).

Finally, the Monthly Income distribution of the respondents reveals that they fell into multiple income groups. Their income ranged from under N48, 000 to over N96, 000. The majority of the respondents 247 representing 61.8% had income levels of less than N48, 000; 73 respondents representing 19.2% had income levels between N48, 000 to N96,000; 61 representing 15.3% had income levels above N96,000 while 19 respondents representing 4.8% chose not to answer this question.

Use of Islamic Finance in Nigeria

This study adopted six indicators of financial inclusion (currently using Islamic finance products, business financing, sukuk, mortgage, insurance and mobile banking) in the Islamic finance perspective to investigate the use of Islamic finance products (IFPs) by adults in Nigeria. The adoption of these variables as indicators is informed by the proposition from the literature that access to savings, credit facilities,

bank accounts, credit/debit cards and insurance services are considered as indicators of financial inclusion (see, for instance Zins % Weil, 2016) ^[258].

As presented in Table 4, out of the four hundred respondents that completed the questionnaire, only 175 representing 43.8% (more than one third) are currently using Islamic finance products. This implies that the use of Islamic finance products (IFPs) in Nigeria is far greater than the UK which is only 26.6% of adult Muslim population as reported by Warsame (2009) ^[248] and 32% in Sub Saharan Africa as reported by Demirguc-Kunt et al., (2013) ^[173]. This could be attributed to the large population of Muslims in Nigeria. A look at Table 4 reveals that only 173 survey respondents, representing 40.8%, were financing their business through Islamic financial products. In addition, only a little over one fourth (30%) have employed Islamic financial products for their mortgages. Respondents that have invested in *Sukuk* and use *Takaful* as their insurance accounted for 30% and 30.8% of the survey respondents respectively. Furthermore about 31% of the survey respondents employ only Islamic finance mobile banking. Therefore, the core principle of *maqasid* shariah that aims to attain inclusive socio-economic development and thus, financial inclusion is attainable.

As indicated in table 4, many individuals in the study area often used Islamic financing instruments to finance their businesses. This supported Mohieldin et al. (2012) ^[170] who assert that Islamic finance is a viable source of inclusive financial systems. Another important instrument is the *Sukuk* which attracted 132 respondents representing 33%. The high participation in *Sukuk* investment can be associated with recent government efforts to enhance awareness of the significance of *Sukuk* investment in promoting infrastructural development that led to oversubscription of the maiden *Sukuk* issued by the Federal Government of Nigeria. However, the result suggested that Islamic finance tends to resolve the widely discussed mortgage financing challenge in Nigeria.

Table 4: Level of use of Islamic Finance

Categories		Frequency	Percent
I am currently using IFPs	No	225	56.2
	Yes	175	43.8
I used IFPS for financing my business	No	237	59.3
	Yes	163	40.8
I used IFPS for my mortgage	No	280	70.0
	Yes	120	30.0
I Invested in Sukuk	No	268	67.0
	Yes	132	33.0
I used Takaful as my insurance services	No	277	69.2
	Yes	123	30.8
I used only Islamic finance mobile banking	No	268	67.0
	Yes	132	33.0

Source: (Fieldwork 2018)

In summary, the results on the table 4 above show that more than half (56.2%) of the respondents are currently not using Islamic Financial products. A further 59.3% have not used it for financing their business. More than two third of the respondents, (about 70%) have not employed Islamic financing products for their mortgage. Furthermore, about 67% of the sampled population have not invested in *Sukuk*. In addition, 69.3% do not use *Takaful* as their insurance service. Also, about 67% have never used Islamic finance mobile banking. Therefore, the results obtained by this study

suggest that the nascent Islamic finance industry in Nigeria is slowly gaining acceptance and important to the Nigerian financial inclusion strait.

Given the considerable use, the nascent Islamic financial products as revealed by this study, it can be argued that Islamic finance in future could promote financial inclusion in Nigeria by introducing new products and services to the financial sector, bridging the gap created by voluntary exclusion based on religious reasons. This finding supports Mohieldin (2012) ^[170] who asserts that Islamic finance is a

viable way of promoting financial inclusion.

Analysis of Respondents' Perceptions Relating to Islamic Finance Products

This section used the responses obtained from the questionnaires retrieved from the 400 respondents as stated at the beginning. The section investigates the respondent's perceptions concerning the use of Islamic finance products, their level of awareness, accessibility, their attitudes and preferences toward the use of these products in Nigeria. Respondents were asked to "agree" or "disagree" with the perceived benefits and perceived government support. A rating scale format is then used, with five options per item ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree".

Access to Islamic Finance Products by the Adults

As presented in Table 5 the analysis of respondents' perception of the accessibility of Islamic finance products (IFPs) shows that about 46% of the respondents, with a mean

of 3.2 (SD =1.29) agree that they have access to Islamic Financial Products. While the analysis further revealed that the majority (54.8%) of respondents with a mean of 3.43 (SD = 1.22) were of the view that Islamic finance product (IFPs) branches are close to commercial places and residences, which provides accessibility. Another 62.85% with a mean of 3.77 (SD = 1.10) agreed that Islamic banks have good ATM networks. Furthermore, 52.8% with mean of 3.46 (SD = 1.17) agree that Islamic finance products (IFPs) have a low rate of return and other charges. While almost half of respondents (44.8%) with a mean of 3.3 (SD =1.23) agree that Islamic finance products (IFPs) have uncomplicated documentation requirements. Taking into consideration the findings of Sarma (2012) and Zulkhibri (2016) who assert that major factors influencing financial exclusion are the lack of nearby branches and ATM networks and a lack of documentation, a feature mostly cited by Muslim adults are being overcome by Islamic finance in the study area and thus, promote financial inclusion.

Table 1: Presents the perception of respondents on accessibility of Islamic financial products

Categories	Mean	S.D	1	2	3	4	5
I have access to IFPs	3.20	1.29	50 (12.5%)	72 (18%)	85 (21.3%)	116 (29%)	68 (17%)
IFPs branches are closest to commercial places and residences	3.43	1.22	33 (8.3%)	63 (15.8%)	70 (17.5%)	142 (35.5%)	77 (19.3%)
Islamic banks have good ATMs network	3.77	1.108	21 (5.3%)	26 (6.5%)	88 (22%)	138 (34.5%)	113 (28.3%)
IFPs has low rate of return and other charges	3.46	1.17	37 (9.3%)	33 (8.3%)	101 (25.3%)	141 (35.3%)	70 (17.5%)
IFPs has less documentation requirement	3.30	1.23	41 (10.3%)	55 (13.8%)	109 (27.3%)	107 (26.8%)	72 (18.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Notes: SD- Standard deviation

(1- Strongly disagree; 2- Disagree; 3- No effect; 4- Agree; 5- Strongly agree)

Intention to use Islamic Financial products

As presented in table 6 analysis of the perception of respondents shows that more than two thirds of the sample population (71.8%), with a mean of 3.86 (SD = 1.12), agree that they are planning to use Islamic finance products (IFPs) soon. Furthermore, the analysis of the perception of the respondents reveals that the majority (at 71.8.8%), with a mean of 3.9 (SD = 1.01), agree that they may use Islamic finance products (IFPs) for business in the coming years. About 57.8% of the sampled population with mean of 3.6 (SD =1.15) show intention to transfer all their financial transaction to Islamic finance products (IFPs). A majority of 73.8 with mean of 3.91 (SD = 1.07) were equally intending to use Islamic banking as their banking services. The result

indicates that the respondent's intention to use Islamic finance is significantly positive. This can be related to the respondent's attitude and preferences toward the Islamic financial products and the results supported Demircug-Kunt et al. (2013) ^[72] who assert significant preference to use Islamic finance products among Muslim adults (IFPs). However, the result reflects a significant positive attitude among respondents as indicated in table 7. Therefore, this finding supports Amin et al. (2014) and Johan et al. (2017) who assert that the intention to use Islamic finance products (IFPs) is significantly related to attitudes toward IFPs and attitude is considered to have positive relationship with the intention to use Islamic finance products.

Table 6: Presents the perception of respondents on the intention to use Islamic financial products

Categories	Mean	S.D	1	2	3	4	5
I am planning to use IFP's soon	3.86	1.127	24 (6.0%)	28 (7.0%)	49 (12.3%)	165 (41.3%)	122 (30.5%)
I may use IFP's for business in the coming years	3.9	1.018	12 (3.0%)	30 (7.5%)	61 (15.3%)	169 (42.3%)	118 (29.5%)
I am Intending to transfer all my financial transactions to IFPS	3.6	1.157	24 (6.0%)	46 (11.5%)	83 (20.8%)	139 (34.8%)	92 (23.0%)
Intending to use Islamic banking as my banking services	3.91	1.072	21 (5.3%)	21 (5.3%)	54 (13.5%)	171 (42.8%)	124 (31.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Notes: SD- Standard deviation

(1- Strongly disagree; 2- Disagree; 3- No effect; 4- Agree; 5- Strongly agree)

Nigerians Attitudes toward Islamic Finance Products

The analysis of the perception of the respondents with regard to their attitude toward Islamic finance products as presented in Table 7 reveals that the majority (at 65.8%), with a mean of 3.7 (SD =1.22), agree that the Islamic finance products are the best financial service. About 67.5% with mean of 3.78 (SD = 1.06) agree that using Islamic finance products attracts various benefits. Another 67.5% with mean of 3.8 (SD =

1.01) of the sampled respondents also agree that Islamic banks provide the best financial service for their business. Majority (71.8%) with mean of 3.88 (SD =1.00) equally agree that Islamic finance products enhance entrepreneurship. A significant amount, about 66.8% with a mean of 3.8 (SD = 1.12) equally share the view that Islamic finance products enhance access to finance. This finding supports Zauro (2017) who revealed that the majority of

Nigerians have a positive attitude toward their use. Therefore, under consideration.
positive attitude is often related with a high use of a product

Table 7: Presents the attitude of respondents towards the use of Islamic financial products

Categories	Mean	S.D	1	2	3	4	5
IFP's are best financial service	3.7	1.222	38 (9.5%)	24 (6.0%)	70 (17.5%)	148 (37.0%)	115 (28.8%)
Using IFP's attracts various benefits	3.78	1.063	18 (4.5%)	31 (7.8%)	73 (18.3%)	168 (42.0%)	102 (25.5%)
Islamic bank provides important financial services for my business	3.8	1.014	16 (4.0%)	24 (6.0%)	79 (19.8%)	174 (43.5%)	96 (24.0%)
IFP's is good in enhancing entrepreneurship	3.88	1.002	16 (4.0%)	20 (5.0%)	63 (15.8%)	182 (45.5%)	105 (26.3%)
IFP's enhances access to finance	3.8	1.127	24 (6.0%)	26 (6.5%)	68 (17.0%)	152 (38.0%)	115 (28.8%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Notes: SD- Standard deviation

Strongly disagree; 2- Disagree; 3- No effect; 4- Agree; 5- Strongly agree).

Nigerian adult's awareness toward Islamic finance products

Table 8 presents the perception of the sampled respondents on their awareness of prevailing Islamic finance products. A majority of 61.3% with a mean of 3.59 (SD =1.22) are aware of the existence of Islamic finance products. More than half, about 56% with a mean of 3.53 (SD =1.14) are aware of Islamic finance products such as *Mudaraba*, *Musharaka* and *Murabaha*. This is also consistent with the perception of the Islamic finance scholars as generated through the interviews. Considering OECD/INFE (2013) that opined that financial product awareness is the first step toward access to financial services, and a possible step towards breaking financial

exclusion dilemma. This finding has important implications for financial inclusion in Nigeria. This result is an indication that Nigeria is at the badge of curbing voluntary financial exclusion. Consistent with this view also, Demircug-Kunt and Klapper (2013) ^[73] observed that a lack of financial awareness is significantly influencing voluntary exclusion among individuals. Table 8 also presents that more than two thirds (about 68% with a mean of 3.84 (SD = 0.99) understand the importance of Islamic finance products in financing SMEs. Furthermore, about 61.8% agree that Islamic finance products have diverse windows for financing lower income class.

Table 8: Presents the perception of respondents on their awareness about prevailing Islamic financial products

Categories	Mean	S.D	1	2	3	4	5
I am Aware of the existence of the IFP's	3.59	1.229	35 (8.8%)	43 (10.8%)	72 (18.0%)	143 (35.8%)	102 (25.5%)
I Know IFPS such as Mudarabah, Musharaka and Murabaha	3.53	1.146	23 (5.8%)	54 (13.5%)	89 (22.3%)	140 (35.0%)	84 (21.0%)
I understand IFP's are important for financing (smes)	3.84	0.997	15 (3.8%)	19 (4.8%)	82 (20.5%)	170 (42.5%)	102 (25.5%)
IFPS has diverse windows for financing for lower income class	3.67	1.081	21 (5.3%)	32 (8.0%)	91 (22.8%)	157 (39.3%)	90 (22.5%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Notes: SD- Standard deviation

(1- Strongly disagree; 2- Disagree; 3- No effect; 4- Agree; 5- Strongly agree)

Conclusion

Using data generated from the questionnaire, response rate, respondent demographics, reliability measurement of the data have been presented. The findings reveal high response rates, with the majority of males at productive age. The perceptions of the adult in Nigeria regarding Islamic finance products and their usage level have been investigated. This has been achieved by exploring their attitudes, awareness, and intentions to use Islamic finance products. Even though Islamic finance is new in Nigeria, the results suggest appreciable use of Islamic finance products with much awareness and good attitude and a preference toward Islamic finance products. Most of the respondents have the intention to use Islamic finance products.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, it is highly recommended that the operators should develop more financial products that support the business environment and other economic activities at the disposal of less privileged individuals. especially, in the Northern part of the country. However, there is need for more sensitive government effort and the Islamic finance operators, especially among the non-Muslims, to disregard misconceptions on Islamic finance

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