FINANCIAL DUALISM AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION AS CORRELATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA: A CORRELATIONAL STUDY SURVEY

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Abstract
This study investigated the relationship between financial dualism, financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria. The study entails three research questions and three hypotheses. A correlational survey research design was adopted for the study. The population included adults who are economically active and have access to formal and informal financial services. The sampling technique was a multistage sampling that involved 612 respondents. Information was gathered using a structured questionnaire namely Financial Dualism, Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth Questionnaire (FDIFIEGQ). The instrument was confirmed by expert and its reliability was found through Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient and obtained 0.82 reliability coefficient. Descriptive statistics, Pearson Product Moment Correlation, simple linear regression and multiple regression analysis were used at 0.05 level of significance for data analysis. The results showed that there was a significant positive correlation between financial dualism and economic growth ($r = 0.413$, $p < 0.05$). The study also revealed that there was a significant positive relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth ($r = 0.270$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, financial dualism and financial inclusion were found to have a significant positive relationship with economic growth ($R = 0.447$, $R^2 = 0.200$ and $F = 76.092$, at $p < 0.05$). The study established that financial dualism and financial inclusion are crucial factors of the economic growth in Nigeria. It was recommended that policy makers should promote cooperation between formal and informal financial institutions by promoting financial inclusion so as to support sustainable economic growth.

Keywords: Financial Dualism; Financial Inclusion; Economic Growth; Formal Financial Institutions; Informal Financial Institutions; Nigeria.

Introduction

Economic growth is one of the key goals of all countries as it indicates the ability of an economy to produce more goods and services, enhance the standard of living, provide employment opportunities and lessen poverty. A financially efficient and inclusive system is critical to the country's sustainable economic growth (Khan et al., 2022). Dahmani and Makram (2024) and Amoah et al (2020) stated that a sound financial system helps to mobilize savings, allocate resources, provide credit and encourage investments, which all play an important role in economic growth. A central issue that has received a lot of attention from policymakers, researchers and development practitioners in developing countries like Nigeria is the ability of financial system to promote economic growth.

The Nigerian financial system is formally stated as financial dualism, which means that there are both formal and informal segments of the financial system. Financial dualism refers to the coexistence of regulated financial institutions, like commercial banks, microfinance banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions that hold licenses from the Central Bank of Nigeria with informal financial institutions such as cooperative societies, rotating saving and credit associations, thrift collectors, money-lenders and community-based savings associations. The formal financial sector is regulated by the government and monetary policies, while the informal financial sector operates without much governmental regulation (Idowu et al., 2020). These two parallel financial systems are now a major feature of Nigeria's financial system and have gained importance because the financial services of the formal system are not sufficient to cater for all the segments of the population.

Financial dualism in Nigeria is as a result of several factors such as poverty, low financial literacy, poor banking facilities in rural areas, high transaction costs, tough criteria for opening bank accounts and inadequate access to credit facilities (William & Olabiyi, 2024; Soetan et al., 2021). As a result, many people and a large number of small-scale entrepreneurs still use informal financial institutions for saving and borrowing money and for other financial-related activities. The informal financial sector is a key source of financial services to low-income and vulnerable customers, yet it generally suffers from an absence of legal protection, limited investment opportunities and small capital bases (Giraldo et al., 2024; Phil-Ugochukwu, 2024). This situation has generated many concerns about the level of financial dualism that can stimulate or inhibit economic growth in Nigeria.

The concept of financial dualism is closely linked with the notion of financial inclusion. Financial inclusion is the ability of financial products and services to be accessible, available and usable in order to satisfy the needs of individuals and businesses at affordable and convenient costs (Polishchuk & Ishchuk, 2022). Such services include savings accounts, credit facilities, insurance products, payment systems, and digital financial services. It is good that financial inclusion has become a key agenda of development around the world, as it can contribute to economic participation, decrease inequality, improve financial security and boost economic growth (Mbodj & Laye, 2025; Menyelim et al., 2021). Inclusion in the formal financial system increases the capacity to save, have access to credit for productive investment, manage financial risks, and effectively engage in economic activities.

Nigeria has adopted a number of policies and programmes to increase financial inclusion over the last few years. The extension of microfinance banking and digital payment platform (Chibueze et al., 2025) are additional services and initiatives for financial education among the mobile banking services. But there remain a noteworthy portion of people in the population who are unable to avail financial services particularly in rural areas and among people with low income. Financial inclusion objectives are not completely realized as people continue to use the informal financial system. This scenario requires a knowledge of the interaction and impact of financial inclusion and financial dualism on economic growth in Nigeria.

The correlation between financial inclusion and economic growth is well explored in literature and numerous studies indicate that the better the financial inclusion, the better the economic growth. Similarly, financial dualism has been noted at many different perspectives, particularly in its effect on resource allocation, availability of financing and economic productivity. Yet, most existing research has paid little attention to the way the perceptions and experiences of individual, entrepreneurs and stakeholders who interact with the formal and informal financial systems differ. Based on this, a type of research that is correlational survey research is needed to examine the relationship between financial dualism, financial inclusion and economic growth, which is obtained from primary data obtained by questionnaires. The knowledge of such relationships is relevant as they can help understand the relationship between financial systems and financial inclusion and how these can affect economic growth. The findings can inform policy makers on exploring better financial inclusion solutions, reducing barriers to formal financial inclusion and integrating positive features in the informal financial sector into development policies. In addition, the study can help in the accumulation of knowledge on financial development and economic growth in developing economies.

In this background, this study aims to exam the relationship between financial dualism and financial inclusion with economic growth in Nigeria. The study examines these relationships and their nature and extent and also establishes empirical evidence to inform policy formulation and sustainable economic development programmes in Nigeria.

The main aim of this study was to examine financial dualism and financial inclusion as correlates of economic growth in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine the relationship between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria.
2. Examine the relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria.
3. Assess the joint relationship of financial dualism and financial inclusion with economic growth in Nigeria.

In line with the study, the following research questions guided the study:

1. What relationship exists between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria?
2. What relationship exists between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria?
3. To what extent do financial dualism and financial inclusion jointly relate to economic growth in Nigeria?

To test the null hypotheses of the study at 0.05 significant level, the following hypotheses were framed:

Ho_1: There is no significant relationship between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria.
Ho_2: There is no significant relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria.
Ho_3: Financial dualism and financial inclusion do not jointly have a significant relationship with economic growth in Nigeria.

Literature Review

In economic literature, there has been an extensive interest in the financial sector–economy growth relationship. The importance of financial systems is to mobilize savings, to direct investment towards desired activities, to ensure the efficient allocation of resources and to stimulate economic activities (Hasan, 2024). Financial dualism is the symbiotic relationship between the formal financial institutions and the informal financial institutions in developing countries like Nigeria. Financial inclusion has been an important policy agenda to enhance financial access and economic growth, and this phenomenon has been paralleled by it.

Financial dualism is a process in which there are simultaneous two types of finances in the same economy, formal and informal. The formal sector comprises of the regulated institutions such as commercial banks, microfinance banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions licensed by the central bank while cooperative societies, rotating savings and credit associations, thrift collectors and money-lenders make up the informal sector (Godwin & Simon, 2021; Sun, 2020; Guja, 2022). McKinnon (1973) and Shaw (1973) introduced a theory of financial repression which accounts for the emergence of IFIs in the presence of inefficient financial markets (Mokua, 2019). In a developing country's economy where the size and scope of the formal financial institutions are diminished, informal financial institutions are alternative institutions that serve the needs of the small-scale enterprises and the low-income households.

There have been several empirical investigations on the issue of financial development and economic growth. Acquah and Ibrahim (2020) found that the financial sector development is beneficial for economic growth, through improved saving allocation, higher investments and improved productivity. Likewise, Mbodj and Laye (2025) found that enhanced financial inclusion and financial development helps to reduce poverty and increase economic growth. They feel that greater financial services can be used to make productive investments that can contribute to economic growth.

In Nigeria, Informal finance: Its drivers and contributions to farm investment among rural farmers in Northcentral Nigeria was studied by Falola et al (2022) where they discovered that cooperative society is the most used informal source of financing loans acquisition among the farmers followed by Rotational Savings and Credit Associations (RoSCAs). The informal loan was also revealed in their study to be a factor in agriculture investment in the different farming activities. Similarly, the financial sector in Nigeria is expanding but access to formal financial services is limited, with much of the population dependent on the informal financial sector in order to access finance, Nwankwo and Phil-Ugochukwu (2024) observed.

Previous studies on financial inclusion have consistently shown that it has had a positive impact on economic development. Ozili et al (2023) found that bank branch expansion, in the midst of a widening poverty gap, significantly increases economic growth in religious countries, implying that financial inclusion through bank branch expansion is effective in promoting economic growth in poor religious countries. Similarly, Khan et al (2024) conducted a research on financial inclusion as a catalyst for economic growth: Evidence from selected developing countries, which revealed that financial inclusion plays a positive role in economic growth in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan, and thus, the governments of these three countries should put in place strategies to improve financial inclusion.

Joan et al (2021) in Nigeria, looked at the impact of Financial Inclusion on Household Welfare in Nigeria and concluded that financial inclusion has a positive impact on business growth and household welfare. The research highlighted the importance of financial inclusion in respect with welfare improvement of households and the SDGs. Moreover, Zarrouk et al (2020) revealed that access to financial services enhances performance of SMEs by giving opportunities for investment and business expansion.

While there has been some work that found strong links between financial development, financial inclusion, informal finance and economic growth, most of this work was done with secondary data and macroeconomic variables such as GDP, credit availability, and performance of the banking sector. The few studies that have examined these variables at the individual level – in the context of entrepreneurs and other actors actively engaged in formal and informal finance institutions – are also very scarce. Moreover, little effort has been made to use a correlational survey design and primary data to explore financial dualism and financial inclusion as correlates of economic growth in Nigeria. This study seeks to fill this gap by exploring the relationship between financial dualism and financial inclusion and economic growth based on primary data from the respondents in Nigeria to derive evidence of the reality and experience of the respondents in financial system.

Research Methods

The type of research design used in this study was correlational survey research. The researcher decided to use the design due to the fact that the research was aimed at determining the financial dualism – financial inclusion – economic growth relationship in Nigeria. With the correlational survey design, the researcher had the chance to obtain information from the respondents and examine the relationship between variables, but not alter any of the elements. The study was conducted only in Ogun state of South-West region of Nigeria. The Ogun state was selected because of the economic activities, urban and rural population and informal and formal financial institutions. The state possesses a number of commercial banks, microfinance institutions, and cooperative societies along with other non-formal financial arrangements and hence is suitable for the study of financial dualism and financial inclusion as its correlates of economic growth.

The population of the study consisted of all the economically active adults that engage in formal and/or informal financial activities in Ogun State. These included traders, artisans, civil servants, owners of Small and Medium Scale Businesses, members of cooperative societies, customers of microfinance banks and others who were financial service users in the state. These groups were considered suitable because they have a direct impact on the financial systems that are studied. Total number of respondents for the study were 612. The sample size was considered adequate for representativeness and to enhance reliability of results. Multi Stage Sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents. Ogun State three senatorial districts were used to select the local government areas.

Then, communities were chosen from each local government area. The selected respondents in the identified communities were selected by using convenient sampling technique. The process allowed for good representation of participants from diverse socio-economic and geographical backgrounds in the study. The researchers have created the Financial Dualism, Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth Questionnaire (FDIFIEGQ) to collect data for the study. The questionnaire consisted of two parts. The former items in Section A were targeting information regarding the demographic characteristics of the respondents while the latter in Section B was targeting the financial dualism, financial inclusion and economic growth. The items were given on a 4 point Likert scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). The instrument's purpose was to gain the respondents' perception and experiences with the study variables.

The questionnaire was then given to experts in Economics, Finance and Measurement and Evaluation for scrutiny to ensure the validity of the instrument. The instrument was tested by the experts, and evaluated based on the following: relevance, clarity, coverage and appropriateness of the item to the purposes of study. The questionnaire was finalised and modification were made based on their comments and suggestions. In order to ensure the instrument is reliable, a pilot test was conducted to test the instrument with 30 respondents outside the study area, but close in terms of characteristics of the respondents in Oyo State. The data collected from the pilot study were analysed using Cronbach's Alpha reliability statistical technique. The reliability coefficient of 0.82 was achieved that was high internal consistency and proved that this instrument was suitable for the study. The researchers personally gave the respondents the questionnaire. Prior to administering of the instrument, the participants were briefed about the purpose of the study. Time was allowed for the respondent to complete the questionnaire and completed copies were collected on the spot or within a mutually agreed time frame. This helped to increase the response rate and ensured that the data for the purpose of this study was pertinent.

All the data collected was coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) was used to respond to the research questions (1-3) while simple linear regression was used to test Ho1 and Ho2 and Ho3 was tested using multiple regression. The level of significance used for all hypotheses was 0.05. In the process, all the ethical aspects were taken into consideration. Respondents were informed about the data collection and the responses were voluntary. The anonymity and confidentiality of the participants was guaranteed and the information they provided was used exclusively for academic purposes. The participants were also told that they could drop out of the study at any time without any repercussions.

Results

Research Question 1: What relationship exists between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria*?*

Table 1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Relationship Exists Between Financial Dualism and Economic Growth in Nigeria

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r	R^2
Financial Dualism	3.58	0.17	612	0.413	0.171
Economic Growth	3.57	0.15			

R^2= *Coefficient of Determination*

The relationship between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria is shown in Table 1 by using Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis. There was moderate positive correlation between financial dualism and economic growth with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.413. The suggestion is that the connection between the formal and informal financial systems and economic growth are positive. The coefficient of determination (R^2 = 0.171) reveals that 17.1% of the variations in economic growth can be explained by financial dualism; and 82.9% of the remaining variations can be explained by other factors not captured in this study. The mean scores of the respondents for financial dualism and economic growth were 3.58 and 3.57 respectively which means that majority of the respondents agreed that financial dualism is affecting the economic growth of Nigeria.

Ho$_1$: There is no significant relationship between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria.

Table 2: A Simple Regression Analysis of the Relationship between Financial Dualism and Economic Growth in Nigeria

Df	Regression Coefficient	P-Value Coefficient	F-Stat	F-test (P-value)	R-Squared
600	0.413	0.000	125.662	0.000	0.171

Table 2 revealed a regression coefficient of 0.413 and a p-value of 0.000 in a regression analysis. The F-statistic value of the model was 125.662 with a significance value of 0.000 which is less than the level of significance of 0.05. The result in this case indicated that p value < 0.05 thus implying that the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria was rejected. Thus, the study found that there is significant positive correlation between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria. The value of R^2 also equals to 0.171, which indicates that economic growth variability in the sample is high and the financial dualism variable can help explain these variations.

Research Question 2: What relationship exists between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria*?*

Table 3: Pearson Moment Product Correlation Analysis of the Relationship Exists Between Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth in Nigeria

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r	**R^2**
Financial Inclusion	3.60	0.17	612	0.270	0.073
Economic Growth	3.60	0.15			

R^2= *Coefficient of Determination*

The results of this study on the Pearson Product Moment correlation analysis of the relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria is presented in table 3. The findings confirmed that economic growth is positively linked with financial inclusion with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.270 and the relationship is weak. This is because the access to financial services is associated with higher economic growth in less clear-cut fashion than is the case with "financial dualism." The coefficient of determination or R^2 value is 0.073, which means that 7.3% of the economic growth can be explained by financial inclusion, and 92.7% of the economic growth can be explained by other factors. The average ratings of 3.60 both for financial inclusion and economic growth suggest that the majority of respondents believed financial inclusion had a positive impact on economic growth.

Ho$_2$: There is no significant relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria.

Table 4: A Regression Analysis of the Relationship between Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth in Nigeria

Df	Regression Coefficient	P-Value Coefficient	F-Stat	F-test (P-value)	R-Squared
600	0.270	0.000	47.865	0.000	0.073

The regression analysis of the relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth is shown in table 4. The result of the regression coefficient was: $\alpha = 0.270$, p value = 0.000. The F-statistic was also significant at p = 0.000 which is less than 0.05 significance level. Thus, the null hypothesis (Ho) which assumes no significant relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria was rejected. The study therefore, concluded that there is a strong positive correlation between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria. The impact is significant but the R^2 value is 0.073, suggesting that only a limited amount of economic growth is due to financial inclusion.

Research Question 3: To what extent do financial dualism and financial inclusion jointly relate to economic growth in Nigeria?

Table 5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Relationship that Exists Between Financial Dualism, Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth in Nigeria

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r	**R^2**
Financial Dualism	3.58	0.17	612	0.413	0.171
Financial Inclusion	3.60	0.15	612	0.270	0.073
Economic Growth	3.60	0.15			

R^2= *Coefficient of Determination*

The findings show positive correlation of financial dualism, financial inclusion and economic growth. Similarly, the mean scores of financial dualism (3.58), financial inclusion (3.60) and economic growth (3.60) indicate that financial dualism and financial inclusion are associated with economic growth in Nigeria and respondents agreed with this. The correlation values also show that financial dualism (r = 0.413) has a higher correlation with the economic growth than financial inclusion (r = 0.270).

Ho_3: Financial dualism and financial inclusion do not jointly have a significant relationship with economic growth in Nigeria.

Table 6: Multiple Regression Analysis of Financial Dualism and Financial Inclusion on Economic Growth in Nigeria

Predictor	**B**	**SE B**	**β**	**t**	**P**
Constant	17.249	1.603	—	10.759	0.000
Financial Dualism	0.329	0.033	0.369	9.839	0.000
Financial Inclusion	0.184	0.039	0.176	4.708	0.000

Model fit: R = 0.4470, R^2 = 0.200, Adjusted R^2 = 0.197, F (2, 611) = 76.092, p = 0.000

Table 6 shows the multiple regression analysis of the simultaneous effect of financial dualism and financial inclusion on economic growth in Nigeria. The value of multiple correlation coefficient (R) obtained from the model was 0.447 indicating moderate positive relationship between the predictor variables and the economic growth. The degree of determination (R^2 = 0.200) shows that financial dualism and financial inclusion explained 20.0% of the variation in economic growth, while the variables outside the model explained 80.0% of the variation in economic growth. The overall regression model was found to be statistically significant, F(2, 611) = 76.092, p = 0.000. From the result, the P value is less than 0.05, which means that the null hypothesis is rejected, thus there is a significant relationship between financial dualism and financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria. Thus, the financial dualism and financial inclusion had positive significant relationship with economic growth in Nigeria based on the study findings. The financial dualism had a greater effect on economic growth than the financial inclusion (standardized beta coefficient: 0.369 and 0.176, respectively; t = 9.839 and 4.708, respectively; p = 0.000 both times). This study reveals that both the financial variables are significant but the financial dualism has a relatively higher influence on economic growth in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding in the study was that there was a significant positive relationship between financial dualism and economic growth in Nigeria. The result revealed correlation coefficient of 0.413 and the regression coefficient was found to be significant at 0.05 level of significance which suggests that financial dualism has positive role in economic growth. This result indicates that the presence of the formal and informal financial institutions can offer financial opportunity to the individual and business that have a minimal possibility to access financial service in the formal financial system. The outcome suggests that both sectors have complementary functions in the mobilization of savings, access to credit and the facilitation of productive economic activities which contribute to economic growth.

This is in line with Falola et al (2020) which findings revealed that Informal loans contributed to agricultural investment through the various operational activities involved in production. The finding also corroborates Nwankwo and Phil-Ugochukwu (2024) who reported that though the financial sector in Nigeria is expanding, there is still a large percentage of the population that access formal financial services is limited, which makes them resort to informal financial institutions.

The second finding showed that there is a significant positive correlation between financial inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria. The value of the correlation coefficient is 0.270, which is considered as low value and the regression value is significant, so that the increase in access to financial services has a positive impact on economic growth. The fact that this finding was drawn suggests that the availability of financial instruments to individuals and businesses such as savings accounts, credit facilities, payments systems, insurance products and the like, helps to increase their ability to invest, to increase the volume of economic activity and to increase their productivity, thus contributing to national economic development.

The result is consistent with the results obtained by Van et al (2021), who were able to establish a positive relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth. Also, a stronger relationship is found for countries with low income and a lower degree of financial inclusion. The finding is also congruent with Ajide (2020) who noted that financial inclusion financial inclusion has a significant and positive effect on entrepreneurship in Africa. Likewise, Joan et al (2022) established that financial inclusion has a positive impact on business growth and household welfare in Nigeria. The results of these studies are consistent with the current research and further support the thesis that financial inclusion plays a significant role in the process of economic development.

The third finding confirmed that financial dualism and financial inclusion have a significant positive relationship with economic growth in Nigeria. The results of multiple regression analysis revealed that the two factors together accounted for 20.0 percent of the economic growth and had significant predictive power for economic growth at $p<0.05$. The finding also showed that financial dualism had a more significant role in economic growth than financial inclusion, but both of the above variables predict economic growth statistically.

The result confirms the views of Bernard-Azolibe (2022) that cointegration test confirmed the existence of a long-run relationship between banking sector development indicators and economic growth in Nigeria. The finding is also consistent with the results of Mbodj and Laye (2025) who found that both financial inclusion and financial development play a significant role in reducing poverty by expanding access to financial resources and improving economic participation. As financial systems advance, they facilitate greater utilization of banking services, credit availability, and investment opportunities among low-income populations, ultimately strengthening financial security in developing regions. The takeaway from the present finding is that, apart from expanding financial inclusion, efforts should also be put in place to improve the linkages between formal and informal financial systems, to support economic growth. Combined efforts of both sectors can help enhance access to finance, increase economic participation and foster sustainable growth.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are given on the basis of the study's results:

1. Policies should be enacted by government and financial regulatory authorities that allows for the cooperation of formal and informal financial institutions, thereby improving the accessibility of finance and bolstering economy growth.
2. Financial institutions need to increase their reach to rural and underserved communities through agency banking, mobile banking and digital financial platforms to enhance financial inclusion.
3. Central Bank of Nigeria and other stakeholders should increase financial education initiatives to inform citizens of the advantages of using formal financial services and promote the use of formal financial services.
4. Financial institutions should make processes of opening accounts meaningful, user-friendly, and free from unnecessary costs, ensuring low-income individuals have access to formal financial services.
5. Government should enact enabling policies that give due recognition and integration to legitimate informal financial institutions in the overall financial system and have proper supervision and accountability.
6. Policymakers should continue to invest in financial technology infrastructure that supports, digital financial inclusion and expand access to financial services across Nigeria.

Conclusion

Financial dualism and financial inclusion were studied as correlate of economic growth in Nigeria. The results confirmed that there was a significant positive relationship between financial dualism and economic growth, meaning that the presence of formal and informal financial systems makes a contribution to economic activities. The study also revealed that financial inclusion has a significant impact on economic growth, as it improves access to financial services and promotes economic activity among people and businesses. Moreover, it was found that financial dualism and financial inclusion had a relatively strong positive correlation with economic growth and the two variables had significant positive correlation with economic growth. The study, therefore, recommends that the financial inclusion programs and strengthening of both the formal and informal financial sector can play significant roles supporting sustainable economic growth in Nigeria. Thus, policies which enhance access to finance, financial literacy and the incorporation of positive elements of informal finance into formal finance are vital to long-term economic development.

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