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Akosile, T.O.I., Zain, N.R.M., Ali, E.R.A.B.E., Kassim, S.

Islamic Equity Financing as a Financial Inclusion Enabler: Nigeria in Spectrum
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IUM Institute of Islamic Banking & Finance, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Abstract

Inclusivity in access to finance is a global concern and a key enabler of the prime Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study focuses on appraising Islamic equity financing as an essential vehicle for a deepened and effective financial inclusion in Nigeria. The study relies on primary and secondary data sourced from surveys, interviews, official publications, working papers, articles, e-books, websites, and online resources in furtherance of its objectives. Through the adoption of qualitative analysis, content analysis is used to define the status of financial inclusion in Nigeria. This study finds that the value proposition of Islamic equity financing aligns with the objectives of the Nigerian authorities to engender financial inclusion and that the challenges debarring the adoption of Islamic equity financing as a financial inclusion enabler were already being mitigated. Consequently, the study recommends that Islamic Banks in Nigeria increase their product class allocations for Islamic equity financing contracts in their financial asset creation. Further, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), being the key regulator of Nigeria's financial industry, is enjoined to evolve strategies that will see to the expansion of the country's financial inclusion drive through Islamic equity financing and contracts. © 2023, The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

Author Keywords

Financial inclusion; Islamic equity financing; Sustainable development goals (SDG)

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Correspondence Address

Akosile T.O.I.; IIUM Institute of Islamic Banking & Finance, Malaysia

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