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Factors Affecting Willingness in Using Islamic Microfinance Products in Mauritania

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Abstract**Author keywords****SciVal Topics****Abstract**

This study aims to identify factors affecting willingness to use Islamic microfinance products in Mauritania. Based on the experience of the Islamic microfinance institution PROCAPEC-Nouakchott, the study tests the effect of social barriers, religiosity, and debt-phobia in affecting the respondents' usage. As well as testing the moderator effect of gender on relationships in the model. The study uses cross-sectional design data gathered through a questionnaire from a sample of 381 beneficiaries of an Islamic microfinance institution (PROCAPEC). It uses Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to determine the impact of the voluntary factors on the use of Islamic microfinance products. The study finds that social barriers have a significant effect on the use of Islamic products; however, religiosity and debt-phobia did not impact the usage of Islamic microfinance products. Gender has a moderator effect on the relationship between social barriers and usage. Nonetheless, gender does not have a moderator effect on the relationship between debt-phobia and usage and religiosity and usage. The findings are useful for the policymakers and managers of Islamic microfinance to consider the suitability strategies of awareness to patronize Islamic microfinance products voluntarily. © 2021, The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

Author keywords

Financial inclusion; Islamic microfinance; Mauritania; Structural equation modeling; Voluntary factors

[i](#)**Topic name**

Microfinance Institutions; Microcredit; Financial Inclusion

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