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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The growingneed to maintain a competitive edge and customer loyalty in the industrysegment predetermine the significance to maintain unique and outstanding brandof services and product that commands consumer satisfaction and loyalty. Theresearch seeks to investigate how Diamond Bank branding impacts on customers'behavior.

Diamond Bank Plc began as a privatelimited liability company in March, 21, 1991. (The Bank was incorporated inDecember 20, 1990). Ten years later in February 2001, it became a UniversalBank. In January, 2005 following a highly successful private placement shareoffer which substantially raised the banks equity base, Diamond Bank became apublic limited company. In May, 2005, the Bank was listed on the Nigerian stockexchange. Moreover, in January, 2008, Diamond Bank Global Depositary receipts(GDC) was listed on London Stock Exchange, the first bank in Africa to recordthat fact.

Today, Diamond Bank is one of the leading banks in Nigeria – respected for its excellent service delivery, driven by innovation and operating on the mostadvanced banking technology platform in the market. Diamond Bank has over theyears leverage on its underlying residence to grow its assets base and to successfully retain its key business relationship. And like a diamond, the Bank's strength make it even more valued.

In 2008, to ensure the Bank grows withthe need of the customer, the Bank streamlined its operation into threedistrict strategic business segments; retail banking, corporate banking and public sector.

Diamond Bank continues to develop and tobuild on its live competences, by continually cutting from the rough, the Bankhave improved on services and other banking facilities.

However, like cutting from the rough gemto create a diamond of the finest quality the banks continuously builds on itsbrand. Hence, the nature of this research to investigate the impact of brandingon customers' behavior with a case study of Diamond Bank plc.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Researchin consumer behavior shows that we have a consumer driven society where the ultimate motive of business products and service is to satisfy consumer expectation makes them happily and remainly all to the brand. Therefore, a perfect understanding of consumer behavior is determining.

"a. The psychology of the consumers andhow they make decisions betweendepending on their needs and

brand awareness

- b. how service or products providers make toimplement the best branding strategy for their product a service (e.g culture,family, signs, media).
- c. The various stages a consumer gives throughbefore purchasing a product or service.
- d. What factors determine consumer's loyaltyor repeat purchase of the brand" is crucial in meeting customer's satisfactionand brand loyalty. Therefore, an attempt to reach out to the consumereffectively demands a suitable banding strategy since consumer buying decisionmaking and loyalty is affected by various branding strategies. In an industrycharacterized by stuff competition an effective branding strategy issignificant not only to attract customers but to create customer loyalty to thebrand.

Therefore, this research seeks to investigate the impact of branding on case study of Diamond Bank Plc.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To determine the nature of branding andbranding strategies
- 2. To determine the nature of consumer behavior
- 3. to determine affective branding strategies that would impact on consumer behavior
- 4. To investigate the impact of branding onconsumer behavior
- 5. To investigate the impact of branding onconsumer behavior in Diamond BankPlc.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTION

- 1. What is branding?
- 2. Whatis consumer behavior?
- 3. Whatis the nature of branding strategies?
- 4. What extent does branding impacts inconsumer behavior.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- 1. To provide a detail analysis on the nature of consumer behavior
- 2. TO provide detail analysis in the nature ofbranding and branding strategy
- 3. To provide detail appraisal on the impactof branding in consumer behavior
- 4. To serve a reference point of information in branding consumers' behavior and of the various branding strategies.

1.6 STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESIS

1. H_{Ω} Branding is not given significant attention in Diamond Bank Plc.

- H₁ Branding is given significantattention in Diamond Bank Plc
- 2. H₀ The impact of branding on consumers' behaviorin Diamond Bank Plc is low
 - H₁ The impact of branding on consumers'behavior in Diamond Bank Plc is high
- 3. H_{Ω} Customers' loyalty to brand in Diamond BankPlc is low
 - H₁ Customers' loyalty to brand in Diamond BankPlc is high

1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Thestudy focuses on the impact of branding on consumers' behavior with a casestudy of Diamond Bank Plc.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

DEFINITION OFBRANDING

Brandingis a specific or unique idea, any image or any specific name of any product orservice with which the consumers can connect very easily. Branding thus, become process of using that unique idea, name to make your product distinct from others. It helps to identifyone's product or services. Thus, in the minds of consumers a brand becomes apromise that promise which will fulfill the needs of the consumers. Kotler P(1999).

DEFINITIONOF CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

Consumerbehavior is a branch of marketing which deals with the various stages aconsumer goes through before purchasing products or services. It deals with howcommercial and social information sources influence of culture, sub-cultures, social class, membership and reference groups on buying behavior. How buying decision extend beyond the individual to the family and the household, theroles of motivation, perception, learning, personality and attitudes in shaping consumer behavior and the importance of statistical factors in buying. Senguptha J. S. (2011).

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