Strategic Orientation Dimensions and Customer Satisfaction: A Case of Selected Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria

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Abstract:- Strategic orientation guides firms to continuously deliver value to the customer to remain relevant in a very dynamic and competitive business environment. This study explores how strategic orientation dimensions (market. entrepreneurial. technology, and learning orientations) influence customer satisfaction as a remedy to the customer expectationexperience conundrum in the Nigerian banking sector. A multiple linear regression analysis of surveyed data from 463managers showed that strategic orientation had a significant positive effect on customer satisfaction. The findings suggest that all the dimensions of strategic orientation had a significant positive effect on customer satisfaction. It is therefore recommended that directors and managers of the selected deposit money banks focus on strategic orientation especially learning orientation as a tool to improve customer satisfaction.

Keywords:- Customer satisfaction, Entrepreneurial orientation, Learning orientation, Market orientation, Strategic orientation, Technology orientation.

I. INTRODUCTION

There is a growing need globally for banks to address the increasing pressure from customers to provide a more engaging, contextual, and frictionless experiencein line with changes in the business environment (Ernst&Young, 2020; Minh & Huu, 2016). For the customer, this is based on a desire to match personal activities with financial activities, that is combining financial wellbeing, health, and pleasure all in one bucket. Nevertheless, banks are not yet in tune with this trend, which makes attracting new customers difficult. According to PWC (2020), 35% of banks in America see attracting new customers as a challenge. In Europe and Asia, 33% and 34% of bankers find attracting new customers challenging. The number increases to 47% for emerging markets. In Nigeria, 58% of customers say poor customer service is the reason they want to switch their banks for another (Augusto & Co, 2020).

According to KPMG (2019), the customer experience of bank customers in Nigeria dropped from 2017 to 2019. The report segmented customers into three, retail, SME, and wholesale. Retail as of 2017 stood at a 69.8% satisfaction rate, it increased in 2018 to 73.9% and dropped to 72.1% in 2019. SME showed steady decline with 72.5% in 2017, 71.8% in 2018 and 70.7% in 2019. Wholesale revealed a steeper fall, with 71.5% satisfaction recorded in 2017, 71.2% in 2018, and 67.3% in 2019. The dissatisfaction crystalizes when you consider the general service quality within the sector. For instance, the report shared by the Nigerian Inter

Banking Settlement System (NIBSS) which covers the epayment platforms in Nigeria, showed a failure rate for the first week of May 2020 between 12% to 15% daily, with an average of 120,000 – 150,000 failed transactions per million. This is hardly the result of an efficient system (Olakanpo, 2020). These are not new problems, as it has been noted that in Nigeria these challenges exist in the banking sector, as banks have not lived up to the expectation of achieving optimum customer satisfaction (Aremu, Onifade, Aremu, & Mustapha2018). Literature suggests that strategic orientation dimensions have an impact on performance and see it as central to a firm's ability to compete (Egberi & Osio 2019; Johnson, Martin, & Saini, 2012; Syahdan, Djaelani, & Mahdi, 2020). For this reason, this study opined that strategic orientationas a firm resource capabilitywill influence customer satisfaction.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Strategic Orientation

According to Noble, Sinha, and Kumar (2002), strategic orientation is founded on the concept that an organization's fundamental culture-driven characteristic influences its internal processes as connected to strategic thinking and the strategies that emerge from the organization. Chepkosgei, Akuku, and Onyango (2019) suggest that strategic orientation is still a cultural trait that affectsa firm's capacity to focus on strategic direction and establish or maintain the right strategic fit for better results. In Akeke and Olayiwola (2019) it is seen as the proclivity to engage in actionsthat aid in the development of value to suit the demands of customers. In line with this thinking, a firm's strategic orientation represents a strategic direction that the organization implements in order to develop suitable behavior for continued superior success in business (Nasir, Al-Mamun, & Breen, 2017; Ndubuisi-Okolo, Anekwe, & Chukwunonso, 2020; Ogbari, Ibidunni, Ogunnaike, Olokundun, & Amaihian, 2018). According to Syahdan, Djaelani, and Mahdi (2020), strategic orientation has four dimensions, market orientation, entrepreneurial orientation, technology orientation, and learning orientation.

B. Market Orientation

Market orientation is recognized by researchers as a vital firm capability that provides a competitive advantage through the continuous collection, analysis, and responsiveness to customer and competitor information (Ojiambo, Kibera, &Iraki, 2020). In their study, Jiang, Rosati, Chai, and Feng (2020) stated that market orientation is a firm culture that most effectively and efficiently creates superior customer value through the generation, assimilation, and use of market intelligence on customer needs and preferences. A market-

oriented firm is expected to continuously understand the desires of its customers and adjustits offerings to satisfy those needs (Isaiah & Turyakira, 2019). In other words, a market-oriented organization should constantly gather data on customers, competitors, and the market; view data from a commercial perspective holistically; determine way to create superior customer values; and take action to provide customer values (Muis, 2020).

C. Entrepreneurial Orientation

The field of management has shown that entrepreneurship orientation is a critical construct of strategic orientation that helps a firm succeed. Understandably so, entrepreneurship is regarded as the process of creating a brand-new value by taking financial, physical, and social risks while devoting sufficient time and energy to achieve the desired goal (Acar, Zehir, Ozgenel, & Ozsahin, 2013). In line with this thinking, entrepreneurial orientation describes an entrepreneurial approach to the styles, ways, and practices of decisionmaking (Ndubuisi-Okolo et al., 2020). It is a firm's predisposition to try and attain new markets in addition to its search for new market prospects while holding on to existing markets; with the predisposition to show marketing dynamism and its capacity to react to the changes in the market (Tutar, Nart, & Bingol, 2015). According to Al-Mamun et al. (2018), a firm can discover and make use of any possible opportunity to gain access to a new market by developing innovative methods and practices.

D. Technology Orientation

According to Tutar et al. (2015), technological orientation is the capability of abusiness to constitute a strong technological infrastructure and use it in developing new products. Ibobo and Nzewi (2020) submit that a firm's inclination to introduce or use new technologies or innovations indicates a technologically oriented firm. Similarly, Meylananda, Sarkum, and Halim (2021) posit that technological orientation is the capacity and readiness of a firm to develop a technology mindset and employ it in improving and developing products and services. Understandably, Kanno and Shibata (2019) stated that technology orientation stresses the proactive acquisition of advanced technologies for new product development. These businesses have the desire and capability to use them toadvance new technology and improve their performance. As a result, technologically oriented businesses prioritize innovation as a strategic goal, resulting in adaptability, technical skills acquisition, proactivity, and creativity in service and product development (Syahdan, Djaelani, & Mahdi, 2020).

E. Learning Orientation

Learning orientation is seen as a means for attaining continuous competitive advantage (Sawaean & Ali, 2020). In other words, learning as an orientation is defined as a firm's abilityto acquire knowledge through external linkages or networks, as well as distribute and use that knowledge for organizational change (Weerawardena, O'Cass, & Julian, 2006). Learning orientation involves the way an organization learns together with members of the organization and the entire environment (Ejdys & Gedvilaite, 2017). In practice, learning orientation requires a commitment to learning and openness to thinking (Wahyono & Hutahayan, 2021). It aids

management in questioning the validity and efficacy of current values, attitudes, and practices that are expected to assure an organization's performance. It supports an organization's learning standards and encourages people to learn new skills in order to improve organizational capabilities and achieve superior performance (Sawaean & Ali, 2020). Therefore, a learning-oriented firm can get market knowledge of threats and opportunities and position itself to outperform them (Nguli & Odunga, 2019). This is key because a firm's perception of industry structure (dynamism) has the potential to impact various organizational strategies and behaviours (Weerawardena et al., 2006).

F. Customer Satisfaction

In the corporate sector, customer happiness is regarded as a vital performance measure. It's a term commonly used in marketing literature to describe how well a company's products and services meet or exceed customer expectations. Customer satisfaction is seen as a key differentiator in a competitive marketplace where businesses compete for customers, and it has increasingly become a key element of business strategy within organizations because when a firm's customers are satisfied, it gains positive word-of-mouth marketing, which is both free and highly effective (Mekonen, Rong, & Gebrehiwot, 2019; Nwekpa, Djobissie, Chukwuma, & Ezezue, 2020).

In addition, it is the most important element in banking, because if the customer does not receive timely service and has difficulty sending or receiving payment; then they will choose to go to another bank (Bashir, Ali, Wai, Hossain, & Rahaman, 2020). As such, companies have started to focus on customer needs and produce more customized products, as every organization tries to achieve customer satisfaction to make a profit and grow (Abbasi, Umer, Sohail, Tang, Ullah, & Abbasi, 2019). So, today's marketers are more mindful of the products they offer to the market and how they interact with customers. The essence of marketing today is premised on the business philosophy that views customer satisfaction as the pathway to organizational profitability and survival because customers feel satisfied when they perceive value in return for the price paid for the purchase of an item or service rendered (Amangala & Ateke, 2018; Khokhar, Laghari, & Lakhani, 2019).

G. Strategic Orientation and Customer Satisfaction

To understand the customer perspective, Kabuoh, Morufu, Erigbe, and Magaji (2020) analyzed the effect of strategic orientation dimensions and customer satisfaction. The results reveal that strategic orientation dimensions have a significant positive effect on customer satisfaction. Likewise, Mahmoud, Hinson, and Duut (2019) examined the relationship between market orientation and customer satisfaction and the interaction effects of service quality and innovation on this relationship. The findings show that market orientation and its components have a significant and positive relationship with customer satisfaction. In addition, it found that service quality and innovation have interaction effects on market orientation and customer satisfaction, where the two variables strengthen the relationship between market orientation and customer satisfaction. More so, Novixoxo, Pomegbe, and Dogbe (2018) assessed the effect of market orientation, service quality, and customer satisfaction

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in public utility companies. The result indicates that there is a statistically significant and positive relationship between market orientation and customer satisfaction.

However, Lotfabadi (2018), examined entrepreneurial orientation and customer satisfaction in institutes of higher education. The findings show that innovation, proactiveness, and organizational factors, as entrepreneurial orientation factors had a positive effect on perceived value while risk-taking had a negative effect on perceived value, and perceived value leads to customer satisfaction. Likewise, Shamsudin, Ishak, Ahmad, and Hassan (2020), investigated the relationship between market orientation and customer engagement towards customer satisfaction in the banking sector. The findings indicated that market orientation did not significantly relate to customer satisfaction. Customer engagement, however, is positively related to customer satisfaction.

H. Dynamic Capability

Dynamic capability theory emerged in 1994 by David Teece, Gary Pisano, and Amy Shuen as an approach that identified essential competencies to create dynamic competitive advantages and suggested a new mindset and reactions to a changing environment (Nguyen, 2018). The concept of dynamic capability focuses on investigating how to build a competitive advantage in an extremely competitive environment. It aligns with the need for firms to be agile in adapting to changes in the market (Egberi & Osio, 2019; Mihardjo & Rukmana, 2019).

The philosophy of dynamic capability is based on three distinct dimensions (sensing capability, seizing capability, and reconfiguration capability) which facilitate the type of innovation that improves firm performance (Zhou, Zhou, Feng, & Jiangs, 2019). The dimensions are concerned with

sensing capability: in order to find opportunities, businesses must constantly scan their surroundings and look for new opportunities both inside and outside their walls. When possibilities are identified, they must be taken advantage of and their value and potential must be recognized. Selecting the correct technology or recognizing the target clients are both examples of seizing capability. Reconfiguring capability: once opportunities have been identified and taken advantage of, they must be reconfigured. The ability to recombine and reconfigure the resource base to accommodate changes and opportunities in the firm's environment is known as reconfiguring capability (Breznik & Lahovnik, 2016). The development of dynamic capability, therefore, can be strengthened when management capability aligns with strategic capability (Mihardjo, Sasmoko, Alamsyah, & Elidjen, 2019). So, for a firm to exploit available opportunities in alignment with the strategic direction it needs to be equipped with dynamic capabilities which can lead to competitive advantage (Fainshmidt, Wenger, Pezeshkan, & Mallon, 2019; Zhou et al., 2019).

III. METHODOLOGY

The survey research design was used in this study. The study included 2,413 managers from selected deposit money banks as participants. The samplesize was calculated using the Krejcie and Morgan formula, and respondents were chosen using a stratified random sampling technique. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire. Construct validity was conducted using Average variance extracted and the Heterotrait-Monotrait technique. The constructs' Cronbach's alpha reliability values ranged from 0.807 to 0.905. Both descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used to analyze the study's data.

• Result
Summary table of multiple linear regression analysis for the effect of Strategic Orientation on Customer Satisfaction.

Model	В	Sig.	T	ANOVA(Sig.)	R	Adjusted R ²	F (4,335)
(Constant)	1.226	0.000	6.656				
МО	0.193	0.000	4.418	0.000 ^b	0.674ª	0.449	85.123
EO	0.208	0.000	4.819	0.000	0.074	0.449	63.123
ТО	0.116	0.002	3.118				
LO	0.217	0.000	4.827				

Predictors: (Constant), Market Orientation, Entrepreneurial Orientation, Technological Orientation, Learning Orientation

Dependent Variable: Customer Satisfaction

Table 1

The table above shows the multiple linear regression analysis outcomes for the components of strategic orientation on customer satisfaction using the selected deposit money banks in Lagos State, Nigeria. The outcome showed that Market Orientation, Entrepreneurial Orientation, Technological Orientation, and Learning Orientation all have

a positive and significant effect on customer satisfaction of selected deposit money banks in Lagos State. The R-value of 0.674 supports this result which indicates that the strategic orientation component has a significant and positive effecton customer satisfaction. The coefficient of multiple determination Adj. $R^2 = 0.449$ indicates that about 44.9%

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variation that occurs in customer satisfaction of selected deposit money banks in Lagos State, Nigeria can be accounted for by the components of strategic orientation while the remaining 55.1% changes that occurare accounted for by other variables not captured in the model. The multiple regression models are thus expressed:

 $CS = 1.226+0.193MO+0.208EO+0.116TO+0.217LO+U_{i}---$ Eqn i

Where:

CS = Customer Satisfaction, MO = Market Orientation, EO = Entrepreneurial Orientation, TO = Technological Orientation, LO = Learning Orientation.

The regression model shows that by holding strategic orientation dimensions to a constant zero, customer satisfaction would be 1.226 which is positive. This implies that the selected deposit money banks should pay close attention to all the dimensions of strategic orientation. The results of the multiple linear regression analysis as seen in the model indicate that when all the variables of strategic orientation (market orientation, entrepreneurial orientation, technological orientation, and learning orientation) are improved by one unit, customer satisfaction would also increase by 0.193, 0.208, 0.116 and 0.217 respectively. This implies that an increase in market orientation, entrepreneurial orientation. technological and learning orientation. orientation would lead to an increase in the level of customer satisfaction of selected deposit money banks in Lagos State, Nigeria. Also, the F-statistics (df = 4, 409)= 85.123 at p =0.000 (p<0.05) indicates that the overall model is significant in predicting the effect of strategic orientation dimensions on customer satisfaction which implies that strategic orientation dimensions are important determinants of customer satisfaction.

IV. DISCUSSION

One of the foundational premises of the dynamic capability theory is the identification of essential competencies to create a competitive advantage, by suggesting a new mindset and reaction to a changing environment (Nguyen, 2018). Customers are increasingly demanding complex and integrated solutions rather than conventional products and services given in uniform volumes, which is especially true in the banking sector (Mu et al. 2017). Since customer satisfaction has become essential for the survival of any firm, the constant evaluation of satisfaction level becomes obvious because the value of a resource to a firm is seen in terms of its potential to yield competitive differentiation and deliver value to customers (Mekonen et al., 2019; Seggie & Griffith, 2008).

In other words, the strategic alignment of a firm should be customer-driven. Empirically, this is seen in the study of Kabuoh, Morufu, Erigbe, and Magaji (2020) as the results reveal that strategic orientation dimensions have a positive significant effect on customer satisfaction. In Isaiah and Turyakira (2019), the findings revealed a substantial effect of market orientation on customer satisfaction. Likewise, the findings of Mahmoud, Hinson, and Duut (2019) indicated that market orientation and its components have a positive and significant relationship with customer satisfaction. In

addition, it found that service quality and innovation have interaction effects on market orientation and customer satisfaction, where the two variables strengthen the relationship between market orientation and customer satisfaction. More so, Novixoxo, Pomegbe, and Dogbe (2018) found that there is a positive and statistically significant relationship between market orientation and customer satisfaction.

However, this is in contrast to the findings of Shamsudin, Ishak, Ahmad, and Hassan (2020), who found that market orientation did not significantly relate to customer satisfaction. The work of Lotfabadi (2018) shows that innovation, proactiveness, and organizational factors, as entrepreneurial orientation factors had a positive effect on perceived value while risk-taking had a negative effect on perceived value, and perceived value leads to customer satisfaction. These findings do not support the result of this study for some reasons; Lotfabadi (2018) examined entrepreneurial orientation and customer satisfaction with perceived value as a mediator. This means that perceived value influenced the interaction of entrepreneurial orientation and customer satisfaction and this manifested in the outcome. Similarly, the work of Shamsudin et al. (2020) showed a disconnect between market orientation and customer satisfaction for the reason that the banks (in the study) tried to serve the customers acrossthe board the same way (using one size fit all approach). This approach does not align with the fundamental premises of the dynamic capability theory that; focuses on investigating how to build competitive advantage by sensing, seizing, and reconfiguring in an extremely competitive environment which aligns with the need for firms to be agile in adapting to changes in the market (Egberi & Osio, 2019; Mihardjo & Rukmana, 2019). In other words, when management capability aligns with strategic capability, businesses can sense, seize and reconfigure firm capabilities to meet customer demands. So, for a firm to exploit available opportunities in alignment with the strategic direction, it needs to be equipped with dynamic capabilities which can lead to competitive advantage (Fainshmidt et al., 2019; Mihardjo et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2019).

V. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that strategic orientation dimensions influence customer satisfaction and that these firm dynamic capabilities are important for the long-term performance of banks. The findings underpin the theoretical considerations that dynamic capabilities can lead to competitive advantage. Therefore, banks should focus on refining dynamic capabilities as a way to increase competitive advantage and improve customer satisfaction. We recommend that directors and managers of the selected deposit money banks focus on strategic orientation especially learning orientation as a tool to improve customer satisfaction.

- Suggestions for Further Studies
 - Similar studies can be carried out in other sectors of the economy like manufacturing, telecommunication, or even the educational sector.

➤ This study used survey research design. Future research may consider using longitudinal study, to understand the influence of strategic orientation on customer satisfaction over some time.

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