

## ISLAMIC BANKING AND FINANCE

IJIBFR VOL 11 NO 2 (2023) P-ISSN 2576-4136 E-ISSN 2576-4144

Available online at <https://www.cribfb.com>  
 Journal homepage: <https://www.cribfb.com/journal/index.php/ijibfr>  
 Published by CRIBFB, USA

# THE IMPACTS OF BORROWERS ATTITUDE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO NON-INTEREST LOAN ON THEIR WELFARE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A CASE OF TRICYCLE RIDERS IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA



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## ARTICLE INFO

## Article History:

Received: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
 Revised: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023  
 Accepted: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
 Published: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

## Keywords:

Non-Interest Loans, Attitude, Welfare, Tricycle Riders, COVID-19 Pandemic, Kwara State, Nigeria.

## JEL Classification Codes:

L26, E32, E02

## ABSTRACT

*This study examines the impacts of borrowers' attitudes and accessibility to non-interest loans on the welfare of tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective is to gain insights into how these factors influence the well-being of tricycle riders and provide recommendations for enhancing their welfare in challenging times. The study utilizes a quantitative research approach and collects data through a field survey. The demographic data of the respondents indicate that the sample predominantly consists of male respondents and individuals following the Islamic faith. The majority of respondents have completed the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination, followed by non-formal education and NCE/HND qualifications. Most respondents are married and fall within the age group of 36-45 years. Regression analysis is employed to analyze the data. The findings reveal that both accessibility to non-interest loans and borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing significantly impact the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders. Access to non-interest loans is positively associated with welfare, while negative attitudes towards borrowing are linked to lower welfare outcomes. Recommendations include enhancing access to non-interest loans, providing financial literacy programs, addressing negative attitudes towards borrowing, strengthening social safety nets, and fostering collaborative partnerships among stakeholders. This study contributes to the understanding of the welfare dynamics of tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides valuable insights for policymakers, financial institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to develop targeted interventions that support the welfare and economic resilience of tricycle riders and similar informal sector workers.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching socio-economic implications worldwide, affecting various sectors and vulnerable populations. In Nigeria, where a significant portion of the population depends on the informal sector for livelihood, the pandemic's impact has been particularly severe. Tricycle riders, commonly known as "keke" riders, play a crucial role in providing affordable and accessible transportation services in urban and peri-urban areas (Ismail et al., 2018) of Kwara State, Nigeria. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, who faced mobility restrictions, reduced income opportunities, and limited access to financial resources. Understanding the impacts of borrowers' attitudes and accessibility to non-interest loans on their welfare during the pandemic is crucial to address their financial needs and promote their overall well-being. However, a gap in knowledge exists regarding the relationship between borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing, their accessibility to non-interest loans, and their welfare outcomes in the context of tricycle riders in Kwara State.

Previous studies have shown that borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing significantly influence their welfare outcomes (Salia, 2014). Smith et al. (2018) and Johnson and Patel (2020) found that individuals with positive attitudes towards borrowing are more likely to engage in entrepreneurial activities, enhance their income, and improve their overall

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<https://doi.org/10.46281/ijibfr.v11i2.2126>

well-being. Conversely, individuals with negative attitudes towards borrowing may exhibit reluctance to seek financial assistance, leading to limited access to credit and a higher risk of financial instability. Furthermore, the accessibility to non-interest loans has been identified as a critical determinant of welfare among marginalized communities. Non-interest loans, aligned with Islamic principles, offer favorable terms and conditions and can serve as a valuable resource for tricycle riders during economic hardships. Ali and Hassan (2019) have highlighted the positive impact of non-interest loans on the financial inclusion and economic well-being of marginalized communities.

However, the specific relationship between borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing, their accessibility to non-interest loans, and the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders during the COVID-19 pandemic remains unexplored in the context of Kwara State, Nigeria. Therefore, there is a need to fill this research gap and understand how borrowers' attitudes and access to non-interest loans interact to shape the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders in the face of the pandemic. By investigating these dynamics, policymakers, financial institutions, and other stakeholders can gain insights into the effectiveness of existing loan programs and design targeted interventions to enhance the welfare and resilience of tricycle riders. Addressing this problem will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the financial needs and challenges faced by vulnerable populations during times of crisis, ultimately promoting sustainable socio-economic development. Thus, this research endeavour is set out to answer the following research questions:

- What are the attitudes of tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, towards borrowing during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What are the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders in relation to their attitudes towards borrowing and accessibility to non-interest loans during the pandemic?
- What are the potential areas for improvement in existing loan programs and policies to enhance the welfare of tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic?

These research questions aim to investigate the attitudes of tricycle riders towards borrowing, their access to non-interest loans, and the resulting welfare outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. By addressing these questions, the study can provide valuable insights into the relationships and dynamics between borrowers' attitudes, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes, thus informing policymakers and stakeholders about potential interventions and improvements to support tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during times of crisis.

The research objectives of this study are as follow:

- To assess the attitudes of tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, towards borrowing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To analyze the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders in relation to their attitudes towards borrowing and accessibility to non-interest loans during the pandemic.
- To propose recommendations for improving existing loan programs and policies to enhance the welfare of tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These research objectives provide a clear roadmap for the study, examining the relationships between attitudes, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes, and identifying potential areas for improvement. By accomplishing these objectives, the research aims to contribute to the existing knowledge and provide practical recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to support tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges to tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, affecting their livelihoods and overall welfare. This literature review aims to explore the existing body of knowledge on the relationship between borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing, their accessibility to non-interest loans, and their welfare outcomes during the pandemic. By examining relevant studies, we can gain insights into the factors influencing the welfare of tricycle riders and identify potential strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of the crisis.

### Attitudes towards Borrowing and Welfare Outcomes

Borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing play a crucial role in shaping their welfare outcomes. Previous research has shown that individuals with positive attitudes towards borrowing are more likely to engage in entrepreneurial activities, enhance their income, and improve their overall well-being (Smith et al., 2018; Johnson & Patel, 2020). Positive attitudes towards borrowing may indicate a willingness to seek financial assistance, leading to increased access to credit and opportunities for economic growth. Conversely, individuals with negative attitudes towards borrowing may exhibit reluctance to borrow, limiting their access to financial resources and increasing the risk of financial instability.

### Accessibility to Non-interest Loans and Welfare

Non-interest loans, also known as Islamic finance or Shariah-compliant loans, have been recognized as an important source of financial support for marginalized communities. These loans adhere to Islamic principles that prohibit the payment or acceptance of interest. Research by Nguyen and Du (2022) highlights the positive impact of non-interest loans on the financial inclusion and economic well-being of marginalized communities. Non-interest loans often offer favorable terms and conditions, making them potentially valuable resources for tricycle riders during times of economic hardship. However, the accessibility of non-interest loans to tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic remains a crucial area of investigation. Limited empirical research has been conducted specifically on the accessibility and utilization of non-interest loans by tricycle riders. Exploring the extent to which tricycle riders have been able to access non-interest loans and the implications for their welfare outcomes is essential for designing effective support mechanisms and policies.

### **Challenges and Barriers in Accessing Non-interest Loans**

While non-interest loans have the potential to alleviate the financial constraints faced by tricycle riders during the pandemic, it is important to identify the challenges and barriers they encounter in accessing these loans. Factors such as administrative procedures, lack of awareness, limited financial literacy, and discriminatory practices may hinder the effective utilization of non-interest loan programs. Understanding these barriers can help policymakers and financial institutions develop targeted interventions and improve the accessibility of non-interest loans for tricycle riders in Kwara State.

### **Non-interest Loan and Welfare**

Research by Nguyen and Du (2022) emphasizes the positive impact of non-interest loans on financial inclusion and economic well-being, particularly among marginalized communities. Non-interest loans provide an alternative financial avenue for individuals who may be hesitant to engage with conventional interest-based loans due to religious or ethical considerations. One key advantage of non-interest loans is their favorable terms and conditions. Islamic finance principles promote fairness and mutual benefit, aiming to create a just and equitable financial system. As a result, non-interest loans often feature lower interest rates, longer repayment periods, and flexible collateral requirements compared to conventional loans (Ferrari et al., 2018). These favorable conditions contribute to borrowers' welfare by reducing financial burdens and enhancing affordability.

Furthermore, non-interest loans have been associated with improved financial stability and resilience. Anifowose (2016) suggest that non-interest loans enable individuals to engage in productive economic activities, such as entrepreneurship or business expansion, thereby generating income and enhancing their overall welfare. By aligning with ethical principles and encouraging responsible financial behavior, non-interest loans promote sustainable economic development and empower individuals to break the cycle of poverty. It is important to note that the accessibility of non-interest loans to specific populations, such as tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic, requires further investigation. Factors such as awareness, availability, and eligibility criteria may influence the extent to which tricycle riders can access these loans and experience their welfare benefits.

### **Attitude to Loan and Welfare**

The attitudes individuals hold towards borrowing can significantly influence their welfare outcomes. Positive attitudes towards borrowing are often associated with proactive financial behaviors, increased access to credit, and improved overall well-being. On the other hand, negative attitudes towards borrowing may lead to limited financial opportunities and potential financial instability. Research conducted by Smith et al. (2018) and Johnson and Patel (2020) supports the notion that individuals with positive attitudes towards borrowing are more likely to engage in entrepreneurial activities, enhance their income, and experience improved welfare outcomes. These individuals view borrowing as a strategic tool to invest in productive ventures and seize opportunities for economic growth.

Positive attitudes towards borrowing are often characterized by a willingness to seek financial assistance when needed. This proactive approach enables individuals to access the necessary funds to meet their financial obligations, such as starting a business or investing in education or healthcare. By leveraging borrowed funds, individuals can potentially enhance their earning potential, improve their standard of living, and achieve greater financial stability (Smith et al., 2018). Conversely, negative attitudes towards borrowing may impede individuals from seeking financial assistance, resulting in limited access to credit and potential welfare challenges. Individuals with negative attitudes may harbor concerns about debt burden, high interest rates, or the inability to repay loans, leading to aversion to borrowing and missed opportunities for financial growth and stability.

Understanding the specific attitudes towards borrowing among tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential to evaluate their welfare outcomes. Tricycle riders facing the economic impact of the pandemic may have varying attitudes towards borrowing influenced by factors such as financial literacy, cultural beliefs, and previous experiences with loans. Analyzing the relationship between attitudes towards borrowing and welfare outcomes among tricycle riders during the pandemic can provide insights into their financial well-being. This understanding can guide policymakers and stakeholders in designing targeted interventions to address any negative attitudes, promote financial literacy, and encourage borrowing practices that can positively impact the welfare of tricycle riders in Kwara State.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework for the study on "The impacts of Borrowers Attitude and Accessibility to Non-interest Loan on their Welfare during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case of Tricycle Riders in Kwara State, Nigeria" draws upon two main theoretical perspectives: the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and the Social Exchange Theory (SET). These theories provide a conceptual foundation for understanding the relationships between borrowers' attitudes, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes.

#### **Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)**

The TPB, developed by Ajzen (1991), posits that individual behaviors are influenced by three main components: attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. According to the TPB, borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing play a significant role in shaping their intentions and subsequent behaviors (Ajzen, 1991). Positive attitudes towards borrowing are likely to result in a higher intention to borrow, while negative attitudes may lead to aversion and lower borrowing intentions. In the context of the study, tricycle riders' attitudes towards borrowing are expected to influence their intentions to access non-interest loans. Positive attitudes towards borrowing, driven by perceived benefits and opportunities for

economic growth, are likely to lead to a higher intention to seek non-interest loans. Conversely, negative attitudes towards borrowing, fueled by concerns about debt burden and repayment ability, may result in a lower intention to borrow.

### **Social Exchange Theory (SET)**

The SET, developed by Homans (1958) and expanded upon by Blau (1964), highlights the role of social relationships and exchanges in influencing individual behavior and outcomes. According to the SET, individuals engage in relationships and exchanges based on a calculation of costs and rewards. The theory posits that individuals seek to maximize rewards and minimize costs in their interactions. In the context of the study, the SET can provide insights into the relationship between borrowers' accessibility to non-interest loans and their welfare outcomes. Non-interest loans can be seen as resources provided by financial institutions or other stakeholders in the social exchange. Tricycle riders who have greater accessibility to non-interest loans are likely to receive higher rewards, such as financial support, favorable loan terms, and potential business growth opportunities. These rewards, in turn, may contribute to improved welfare outcomes.

Additionally, the SET emphasizes the notion of reciprocity in social exchanges. Tricycle riders who benefit from non-interest loans are likely to reciprocate by utilizing the loans for productive purposes, generating income, and contributing to the welfare of their families and communities. This reciprocal exchange may further enhance their welfare outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. By integrating the TPB and SET, the theoretical framework provides a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between borrowers' attitudes, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes among tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the pandemic. It recognizes the influence of individual attitudes and intentions on borrowing behavior, as well as the role of social exchanges and rewards in shaping welfare outcomes.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The research methodology for the study on "The impacts of Borrowers Attitude and Accessibility to Non-interest Loan on their Welfare during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case of Tricycle Riders in Kwara State, Nigeria" involves employing a quantitative approach with Descriptive Statistics and Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analysis as the method of analysis. The Descriptive statistics is used to present the demographic characteristics of the respondents. OLS regression is a widely used statistical technique for examining relationships between variables and estimating the magnitude and significance of their effects.

### **Study Design**

The study adopts a cross-sectional design, collecting data from tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cross-sectional data provide a snapshot of the respondents' attitudes, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes at a specific point in time.

### **Sampling**

A representative sample of tricycle riders in Kwara State were selected using non-probability sampling techniques of convenience sampling was employed (Emerson, 2015). The sample size was determined based on considerations of statistical power and representativeness to ensure the generalizability of the findings to the population of tricycle riders in the state. In all, 508 respondents were sampled from the estimated population of 2750 tricycle riders in Kwara (Kwara state Ministry of Works and Transport, 2021).

### **Survey Instrument and Data Collection**

Cross sectional data was collected through structured questionnaires administered to tricycle riders. The questionnaire includes items related to borrowers' demographic characteristics, attitudes towards borrowing, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure clarity and validity of the measures. The study adopted the use of 4-point Likert scale (Joshi, et al., 2015) for the items that measure Attitude, Access and Welfare. The points are ranked from 1-4 (1 - strongly agree, 2 - agree, 3 -strongly disagree and 4 – disagree). Two enumerators were engaged in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires and had personal interviews with the Tricycle riders on a one on one basis. Those that are literate filled the forms by themselves while those that are not literate enough, were spoken to either in their local language using the questionnaire and help them record their responses accordingly. Other information includes demographic (Gender, Religion, Educational Qualification, Marital Status, Respondent Age and Number of children/dependent) and the impact of Assessment and Non-interest loan on the welfare of tricycle riders.

### **Variables**

The independent variables in the analysis include borrowers' attitudes towards borrowing and loan accessibility, while the dependent variable is welfare outcomes. Other relevant demographic and socio-economic variables, such as age, gender, income, and education, were included as control variables to account for potential confounding factors.

### **Analysis**

The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and OLS regression analysis. OLS regression allows for estimating the relationships between the independent variables (attitudes towards borrowing and loan accessibility) and the dependent variable (welfare outcomes) while controlling for potential confounders. The analysis assesses the significance and direction of the relationships, providing insights into the extent to which borrowers' attitudes and loan accessibility influence their welfare outcomes, using SPSS statistical software. OLS regression model was estimated, and the statistical

significances of the coefficients were assessed using appropriate tests, such as t-tests and p-values. By employing OLS regression analysis, the study provides empirical evidence on the relationships between borrowers' attitudes, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes among tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Conceptual Model**

The conceptual model for this study is presented in figure 1.

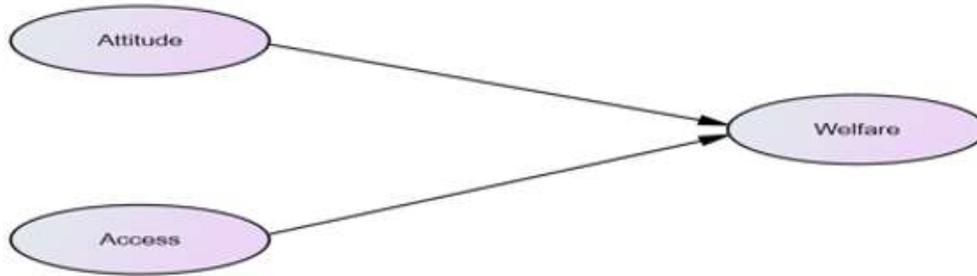


Figure 1. Model of Impact of Attitude and access to Non-Interest loan on welfare

Both attitude and access to non-interest loan are hypothesised to have positive impacts on the welfare of tricycle riders. The two hypotheses tested in this study are thus stated as follow:

*H<sub>1</sub>: There is significant relationship between Access to Non-Interest Loan and the Welfare of Tricycle Riders during COVID-19 pandemic.*

*H<sub>2</sub>: There is significant relationship between Attitude to Non-Interest Loan and the Welfare of Tricycle Riders during COVID-19 pandemic.*

**RESULTS**

**Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The results of the demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in table 1. It provides information about the gender distribution, religion, educational qualifications, marital status, age groups, and the number of children or dependents. The table shows that the majority of the respondents was male, accounting for 99.6% of the total sample, only a small percentage, 0.4%, were female. This is in line with the general notion that transport business is men business. In terms of religion, the data indicates that 91.5% of the respondents identified as Muslims, while 8.5% identified as Christians. The respondents' educational qualifications are also presented in the table. The largest proportion of respondents had completed the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE), accounting for 43.7% of the sample. Non-formal education was reported by 23.2% of the respondents, while NCE/HND (National Certificate in Education/Higher National Diploma) was reported by 16.3%. A smaller percentage, 12.8%, had a Bachelor's or Master's degree, and 3.9% had completed a Master's degree.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>99.6</b>
	Female	0.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Religion</b>	Islam	91.5
	Christian	8.5
	Others	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>	Non-Formal Education	23.2
	SSCE	43.7
	NCE/ HND	16.3
	B.Sc/M.Sc	12.8
	Masters	3.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	Single	22.4
	Married	71.7
	Divorced	5.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age</b>	18-25	8.1
	26-35	24.6
	36-45	56.5
	46 Above	10.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number of Children/ Dependents</b>	0 -2	49.8
	3-5	24.6

6-8	20.9
Above 8	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Authors' computation, 2023

Table 1 also provides information on the marital status of the respondents. The majority, 71.7%, reported being married, while 22.4% were single, and 5.9% were divorced. On age, the largest age group was 36-45 years, accounting for 56.5% of the respondents. The second-largest group was 26-35 years, representing 24.6% of the sample. The age groups of 18-25 years and 46 years and above accounted for 8.1% and 10.8% of the respondents, respectively. Finally, Table 1 also provides information on the number of children or dependents reported by the respondents. The majority, 49.8%, reported having 0-2 children or dependents. Approximately a quarter of the respondents (24.6%) had 3-5 children or dependents, while 20.9% had 6-8 children or dependents. A small percentage, 4.7%, reported having more than 8 children or dependents.

**The Impacts of Attitude and Access to Non-Interest Loan of Welfare**

The two hypotheses formulated for this study were tested using regression analysis. The results of the analysis are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Results of the Regression Analysis

Hypotheses (F=12.781; p= .000) (Adj. R <sup>2</sup> .044)	B Value	Std. Error	t-value	P Value	Decision
Access to Non-Interest Loan -> Tricycle Rider Welfare (H <sub>1</sub> )	0.089	.037	2.388	0.017***	Accepted
Attitude to Non-Interest Loan -> Tricycle Rider Welfare (H <sub>2</sub> )	0.220	.051	4.315	0.0001***	Accepted
<b>Constant</b>	6.144	.655	9.381	0.527	

Source: Authors' computation, 2023

The ANOVA table provides information about the overall fit of the regression model and the significance of the model's explanatory power. The regression model in Table 2 has an F-statistic of 12.781, with associated p-value of 0.000, indicating that the overall regression model is statistically significant. The adjusted R<sup>2</sup> for the regression (4.46) represents the variation in the dependent variable (Welfare) explained by the independent variables (Attitude to Loan and Non-Interest Loan).

The coefficient (B value) in the table provides information about the estimated coefficients for the independent variables in the regression model. For the dependent variable (Welfare), the constant term (Const) has an estimated coefficient of 6.144, with a standard error of 0.655. This means that when all independent variables are zero, the expected value of the dependent variable (Welfare) is 6.144. The coefficient for the independent variable Access to Non-Interest Loan is 0.089, with a standard error of 0.037. This indicates that, holding all other variables constant, a one-unit increase in Access to Non-Interest Loan is associated with a 0.089 increase in the dependent variable (Welfare). The standardized coefficient (Beta) of 0.010 suggests that Access to Non-Interest Loan has a moderate positive impact on Welfare. The coefficient for the independent variable Attitude to Non-Interest Loan is 0.220, with a standard error of 0.051. This indicates that, holding all other variables constant, a one-unit increase in Attitude to Non-Interest Loan is associated with a 0.220 increase in the dependent variable (Welfare). The standardized coefficient (Beta) of 0.188 suggests that Attitude to Non-Interest Loan has a moderate positive impact on Welfare.

Both independent variables (Access and Attitude to Non-Interest Loan) have statistically significant coefficients as indicated by their respective t-statistics and p-values. Overall, the regression analysis suggests that both Access and Attitude to Non-Interest Loan have significant effects on the welfare (Welfare) of the tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**DISCUSSIONS**

From the results presented in the regression Table 2, both the Access and Attitude to Non-Interest Loan variables have significant effects on the welfare of tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic. The positive coefficient and its statistical significance for the Access to Non-Interest Loan suggest that access to non-interest loans positively influences the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders. This finding aligns with the existing literature, which emphasizes the importance of access to credit in improving the economic well-being of individuals and communities (Amendola et al., 2016; Manrique & Ojah, 2004). Access to Non-interest loans, which are free from interest charges, may provide tricycle riders with the necessary financial resources to sustain their livelihoods, invest in their businesses, and cope with the economic challenges posed by the pandemic.

On the other hand, the positive coefficient and its statistical significance for the Attitude to Loan variable indicate that a positive attitude towards borrowing is associated with an increase in welfare outcomes. This finding is consistent with studies that highlight the significance of individuals' attitudes towards borrowing in shaping their financial behavior and outcomes (Ajzen, 1991). A negative attitude towards loans may deter tricycle riders from accessing credit opportunities, limiting their ability to invest, expand their businesses, and improve their overall welfare.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study explored the impacts of borrowers' attitude and accessibility to non-interest loans on the welfare of tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research employed a quantitative approach and utilized Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analysis as the method of analysis. The regression analysis revealed significant findings regarding the relationship between the variables. The results indicated that both the accessibility to non-interest loans and borrowers' attitudes towards loans have a significant impact on the welfare outcomes of tricycle riders. Both Access and Attitude to non-interest loans were found to positively influence welfare.

These findings are consistent with existing literature that emphasizes the importance of credit access and individuals' attitudes towards borrowing in shaping their financial well-being. Access to non-interest loans provides tricycle riders with essential financial resources during the pandemic, enabling them to invest in their businesses and cope with economic challenges. Conversely, negative attitudes towards borrowing may limit access to credit opportunities, hindering business expansion and overall welfare. It is important to note that these findings are specific to the context of tricycle riders in Kwara State during the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution. The study's limitations include the cross-sectional design and the potential presence of other unmeasured variables that could influence welfare outcomes.

Overall, this research contributes to the understanding of the relationship between borrowers' attitude, loan accessibility, and welfare outcomes in the specific context of tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria. The findings underscore the importance of policy interventions that promote non-interest loan accessibility and address negative attitudes towards borrowing, thereby supporting the welfare and economic resilience of tricycle riders and similar informal sector workers during challenging times. Further research is warranted to delve deeper into the underlying mechanisms and explore potential mediating factors that drive these relationships.

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, several recommendations are made to support tricycle riders in Kwara State, Nigeria, and enhance their welfare during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Enhance Access to Non-Interest Loans:** Government agencies, financial institutions, and microfinance organizations should collaborate to provide increased access to non-interest loans for tricycle riders. This can be achieved by developing targeted loan programs with favorable terms and simplified application processes. Special attention should be given to ensuring the availability of these loans during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Financial Literacy and Education:** Implement financial literacy programs that specifically address the needs and circumstances of tricycle riders. These programs can focus on enhancing their understanding of financial management, budgeting, and responsible borrowing. By improving financial literacy, tricycle riders can make informed decisions about borrowing and effectively utilize loan funds to improve their businesses and welfare.
- **Psychological Support and Attitude Shift:** Offer psychological support and training programs to address the negative attitudes towards borrowing among tricycle riders. These programs can provide insights into the benefits of responsible borrowing, entrepreneurship, and the potential for business growth. Promoting a positive mindset towards loans and entrepreneurship can empower tricycle riders to seek credit opportunities that can contribute to their long-term welfare.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of tricycle riders. This includes tracking loan accessibility, utilization, and the overall welfare outcomes of tricycle riders. Such evaluations can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of interventions and inform future policy decisions.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Foster collaboration among relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, financial institutions, microfinance organizations, and community-based associations. Such partnerships can help leverage resources, expertise, and networks to design and implement comprehensive programs that address the specific needs of tricycle riders and promote their welfare.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, M.B.O.Y. and T.O.B.; Methodology, T.O.B.; Software, T.O.B.; Validation, M.B.O.Y.; Formal Analysis, T.O.B.; Investigation, T.O.B.; Resources, T.O.B.; Data Curation, T.O.B.; Writing – Original Draft Preparation, T.O.B.; Writing – Review & Editing, M.B.O.Y.; Visualization, M.B.O.Y.; Supervision, M.B.O.Y.; Project Administration, T.O.B.; Funding Acquisition, M.B.O.Y. and T.O.B. Authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Institutional Review Board Statement:** Ethical review and approval were waived for this study, due to that the research does not deal with vulnerable groups or sensitive issues.

**Funding:** The authors received no direct funding for this research.

**Acknowledgments:** The authors wish to acknowledge the anonymous reviewers.

**Informed Consent Statement:** Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

**Data Availability Statement:** The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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