



Socio-economic correlates of more than one personal account ownership in the Kumasi Metropolis of Ghana

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Abstract

Financial inclusion is seen as one of the major tools that can be used to oust poverty. Given this, several studies have been done to find out the kind of individuals who are likely to have indicators of financial inclusion such as ownership of savings accounts among others. However, it has been observed that certain individuals tend to have multiple savings accounts in which very little is known in the literature about the features of such individuals and why. This study therefore purposively sampled 200 adult respondents in the Kumasi Metropolis of Ghana with at least one account in any formal institution, in order to investigate the determinants of more than one or multiple personal financial accounts holding. The study employed the binary logit model as the empirical estimation technique. The study therefore found that, most respondents chose enjoyment of several benefits as the most important reason they own more than one personal account. From the regression estimates, the study revealed males, those aged 31-40 years, the employed, married, respondents with junior high school (J.H.S), senior high school (S.H.S) and tertiary levels of education to be more likely to own more than one personal account. The findings therefore fill a major gap in the financial inclusion literature and hence further reinforce the essence of socio-economic factors such as gender, age, education, employment, religion and marital status in the financial inclusion drive.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion; More Than One or Multiple Accounts Ownership; Ghana.

1. Introduction

Globally there are challenges with access to comfortable accommodation, proper sanitation and hygiene, quality health care, food and clothing, which all could be attributed to the extreme poverty experienced by most people in the world especially in developing countries. Thus, poverty tends to affect total well-being of individuals which has implications on mortality rates and hence sustainable development. According to the United Nations (UN), 836 million people still wallow in extreme poverty and about 1 in every 5 people in developing countries live below \$1.25 per day, with most of these people living in sub Saharan Africa and Southern Asia (accessed from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/> on 14/07/2017). It is therefore not surprising that, eradicating poverty is the number one goal among the seventeen sustainable development goals (SGDS) to be achieved by 2030.

However, one of the major solutions offered to handle poverty is financial inclusion, thus making funds easily accessible to the less disadvantaged in society. Therefore, ownership of accounts, accesses to credit among others are all considered to be indicators of financial inclusion. This has therefore necessitated studies on financial inclusion globally.

In Ghana, the story has not been different since according to the Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 6 (GLSS6), one-fourth of Ghanaians are poor, with a tenth of the population living under extreme poverty (Ghana Statistical Service [GSS], 2014). Given the effectiveness of financial inclusion in eradicating poverty, however surprisingly, according to the World Bank as cited in (Segbefia, 2015), 70% of the Ghanaian population is considered to be unbanked. It is therefore not surprising that some studies have been done on the determinants of financial inclusion in Ghana, even though the author contends that these studies are too few given the nature of the poverty challenge in Ghana and hence necessitating more studies on the subject matter. In addition, a careful study of the literature has shown that attention has just being on the determinants of ownership of accounts with little attention paid to the determinants of more than one account ownership in Ghana. Thus, this study proposes to widen the dimensions of the financial inclusion literature and hence filling a major gap in the literature by providing a response to who among formal account owners, are the holders of multiple accounts in the Kumasi Metropolis of Ghana to be precise.

This would further provide insights to policy makers and stake holders on who should be targeted in the attempt to further reinvigorate financial inclusion in Ghana.

2. Literature review

With poverty being a global challenge, several strategies have been adopted to quell poverty and among these is financial inclusion. Financial inclusion simply has to do with attempts geared at making the vulnerable in society get access to funding which end-up bettering their shelter, accommodation, health, education, food, hygiene and sanitation and hence an improvement in their total welfare. Thus financial inclusion is seen as one of the effective tools of ensuring economic growth and development. Based on the above, several studies have been done globally on factors that influence proxies of financial institution such as ownership of accounts, access to credit e.t.c.

Form the utility maximisation theory, a person may choose to own more than one account or not depending on the expected utility. Thus if the expected utility of owning more than one account is higher than the expected utility of not owning, the person would opt to own more than one account and if otherwise, would not opt to own.

Empirically, Mutandwa and Kwiringirimana (2015), Muturi and Wairegi (2015) and Aregbeyen (2011) have investigated the factors that influence the choice of financial institution in Rwanda, Kenya and Nigeria respectively. Zins and Weill (2016) in thirty seven African countries found that being older, a man, more educated and richer, ensures financial inclusion. Efobi, Beecroft and Osabuohien (2014) in Nigeria found income level, age among others to influence the access and use of bank services. Allen, Demircuc-Kunt, Klapper and Peria (2012) studied the ownership and usage of accounts in 123 countries.

On Ghana Atuahene, Adarkwa, Donkor and Darko (2017) found that Christians, respondents who were 51-60 years, those with secondary, basic and tertiary levels of education, those married, the employed, and respondents with no proximity challenges to the nearest financial institution to be more likely to own accounts. Darko, Adarkwa and Donkor (2017) also have investigated the personal features of individuals and how they influence the choice of financial institution. Agyekum, Wellalage and Locke (n.d) used credit advanced to the private sector to study financial inclusion in Ghana. Boakye and Amankwah (n.d) have investigated factors that influence the demand for financial products in Ghana. Akudugu (2013) found age, wealth class, distance to financial institutions, literacy levels, among others to influence financial inclusion in Ghana. Davidson (2011), Hinson, Osarenkhoe and Okoe (2013), Abbam, Dadson and Say (2015) and Abbam, Say and Carsamer (2015) have investigated the factors that influence the choice of financial institution in Ghana.

However, with regards to the works above, precisely those on Ghana, aside the paucity of research on the determinants of financial inclusion, no study to the best of the author's knowledge has investigated the features of those who own more than one or multiple personal accounts in formal financial institutions in Ghana. Thus, no study to the best of the author's knowledge has provided a response to the question, who are the users of multiple personal accounts among account holders in Ghana? Thus this study fills a major research gap in the financial inclusion literature by drawing policy makers' attention to how the socio-economic features of individuals influence them to own more than one personal account.

3. Methods

This study was conducted in the Kumasi Metropolis of Ghana. The setting was chosen because of its heterogeneous nature and hence having a collection of the people from all the various parts of the country. Thus 200 respondents who were 18 years and above and had at least one personal account with any formal financial institution were purposively sampled in early to late June 2018, and the questionnaires of the study were administered to them. Thus, the questionnaire contained information on whether respondents had more than one personal accounts with different or the same formal financial institution or not. Thus, having more than one personal account was what the study was interested in. In addition, other socio-economic and demographic features of respondents were captured. Thus, the study used primary data in the form of questionnaires as the main source of data.

Hence the main financial inclusion proxy used by the study was either having more than one personal account or not (one formal account). Therefore, if a respondent answered yes, it was coded as 1 and if a respondent answered no, it was coded as 0. Hence given that the dependent variable of the study (ownership of more than one personal account) was binary, the study employed the binary logit model as the empirical estimation technique. It must be stated that in this study, multiple accounts ownership is used interchangeably with more than one account ownership

Further since the explanatory variables of the study i.e. gender, age, education, employment, religion and marital status were categorical; the study treated them as dummy variables. It must further be stated that all the data analyses in this study were done using stata 14.0 statistical package.

4. Results and discussion

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Multiple Accounts Ownership

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Ownership of more than One (Multiple) Financial Accounts		
No	122	61.00
Yes	78	39.00
	N=200	Total=100%
Most Important Reason for Holding Multiple Personal Financial Accounts		
For several/different needs	27	34.62
To enjoy multiple benefits	33	42.31
Fear of collapse of financial institution	12	15.38
Indecisiveness	6	7.69
	N=78	Total=100%

Source: Authors computation from Field survey, 2018.

From Table 1, it can be seen that out of the 200 respondents, 122 representing 61% did not have more than one (multiple) personal financial accounts while 78 of them representing 39% had multiple accounts. Thus majority of the respondents did not have multiple personal financial accounts. Considering the most important reason for having multiple accounts (i.e among the 78 respondents who had multiple accounts), 27 of the respondents representing 34.62% said they have multiple accounts with the purpose of assigning each account to a particular item/ item(s) they want to satisfy. Also 33 of them constituting 42.31% said they own more than one/ multiple accounts in order to reap the different benefits offered by the same or different financial institution. Further, 12 of the respondents representing 15.38% said they own multiple accounts because of the fear that some or one of the financial institutions may collapse while 6 of the respondents

said they chose to have multiple accounts with different banks/financial institutions because they were not sure (Indecisive) as to the quality and attractiveness of the services provided by the financial institutions. Thus, from this study, the quest to enjoy multiple benefits is the main reason why people choose to have more than one financial accounts.

Table 2: Bivariate Analyses of Socio-Economic Factors and Multiple Personal Financial Accounts Ownership

Variable	Ownership of Multiple Accounts		Chi Square Test
	No (%)	Yes (%)	
Gender			83.3170***
Male	25.84	74.16	
Female	89.19	10.81	
Religion			64.3598***
Christianity	30.68	69.32	
Islam	77.61	22.39	
Traditional/other/no religion	95.56	4.44	
Educational Level			133.1522***
Uneducated	96.67	3.33	
Primary	84.62	15.38	
Junior High School (JHS)	36.36	63.64	
Senior High School (SHS)	10.81	89.19	
Tertiary	4.00	96.00	
Respondent's Age			82.9147***
18-30 years	86.96	13.04	
31-40 years	18.33	81.67	
41-50 years	45.83	54.17	
51-60 years	72.41	27.59	
61years and above	95.12	4.88	
Employment Status			53.3081***
Employed	35.05	64.95	
Unemployed	85.44	14.56	
Marital Status			78.7781***
single/widowed/divorced/separated	91.92	8.08	
Married	30.69	69.31	

Source: Authors Computation from Field Survey, 2017. Notes: ***P-Value<.01, **P-Value<.05, *P-Value<.1.

The bivariate analyses using the Pearson chi square showed that, gender, religion, education, age, employment and marital status had statistically significant relationships with ownership of multiple accounts. Further it can be seen that, among the male respondents, 74.16% had multiple personal financial accounts whiles among the females only 10.81% had. Also among the Christians, Muslims and Traditional/other/no religion believers, 69.32%, 22.39% and 4.44% had multiple personal financial accounts respectively. Concerning the education of respondents and multiple personal financial accounts ownership, it can be seen that among respondents with no education, primary education, Junior High School (JHS) level of education, Senior High School (SHS) level of education and Tertiary level of education, 3.33%, 15.38%, 63.64%, 89.19% and 96.00% had multiple personal financial accounts respectively. The result on education showed a rise in the level of education being linked with the ownership of multiple personal financial accounts.

Also 13.04%, 81.67%, 54.17%, 27.59% and 4.88% among respondents with ages 18-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years and 60 years and above had multiple personal financial accounts respectively. Thus majority of respondents who were 31-40 years and 41-50 years had multiple personal financial accounts.

In addition among the employed respondents, 64.95% had multiple personal financial accounts whiles among the unemployed, 14.56% had multiple personal financial accounts. Thus more of the employed had multiple personal financial accounts than the unemployed.

Concerning marital status, it can be seen that among those who were single/widowed/divorced/separated, only 8.08% of them had multiple personal financial accounts whiles among the married respondents, 69.31% had multiple personal financial accounts.

Given that the bivariate analyses did not control for other variables that could influence ownership of more than one or multiple accounts but dealt with only two variables, we further employed a multivariate logistic regression in order to control for other variables as shown in Table 3.0 below.

Table 3: Logit Regression Results on Determinants of Multiple Personal Financial Accounts Ownership

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	P-value
Gender			
Male	4.054075	1.466635	0.006
Female (reference group)			
Religion			
Christianity	6.531164	3.121085	0.036
Islam	2.348675	2.278502	0.303
Traditional/other/no religion (reference group)			
Educational Level			
Uneducated (reference group)			
Primary	1.786756	1.840549	0.332
Junior High School (JHS)	2.562495	1.396949	0.067
Senior High School (SHS)	4.238405	1.968453	0.031
Tertiary	7.183102	3.692622	0.052
Respondent's Age			
18-30 years	.9789091	2.174777	0.653
31-40 years	4.935513	2.950164	0.094
41-50 years	3.101003	2.399048	0.196
51-60 years	4.026521	2.580676	0.119
61years and above (reference group)			
Employment Status			
Employed	4.772868	1.823914	0.009
Unemployed (reference group)			

Marital Status			
single/widowed/divorced/separated (reference group)			
Married	4.127804	1.800148	0.022
Constant	-17.96322	6.770872	0.008

Source: Authors' Computation from Field Survey, 2018. Number of Obs =200; Prob > Chi2 = 0.0000.

From the logit results, it can be seen that male respondents were found to be more likely to own multiple (more than one) personal accounts as compared to female respondents. This is because male had a positive coefficient which was significant at 1% given that its p-value of 0.006 was below 0.01. This could be that since males are more likely to be the breadwinners of various families, they might want to have more than one personal financial accounts in order to cushion themselves in case one financial institution collapses, or to save to satisfy specific needs or better still to enjoy the benefits provided by different or the same financial institutions.

Also, since Christianity had a positive coefficient of 6.531164 that was significant at 5%, it implied that, Christians were more likely to own more than one accounts relative to Traditional/other/no religion respondents.

In addition given that respondents with JHS, SHS and Tertiary levels of education had positive coefficients of 2.562495, 4.238405 and 7.183102 that were significant at 10%, 5% and 10% respectively, the implication is that respondents with JHS, SHS and Tertiary levels of education were more likely to own more than one personal financial account relative to their uneducated counterparts. This is not startling since the educated can better comprehend the essence of having more than one financial accounts given its attendant benefits relative to the uneducated.

Further, respondents who were 31-40 years were found to be more likely to own more than one personal financial account relative to their counterparts who were 60 years and above. This is because its coefficient of 4.935513 was significant at 10%.

Moreover, respondents who were employed were found to be more likely to own multiple accounts relative to those who were unemployed. This is because of the positive coefficient of 4.772868 for employed respondent that was significant at 1%. This finding is not surprising since the employed are more likely to earn than the unemployed and hence would be more capable of owning multiple accounts relative to the unemployed.

Last but not the least, married respondents were found to be more likely to have more than one financial account relative to their single/widowed/divorced/separated counterparts. Thus it could be that since married individuals are more likely to have more needs to satisfy, they would rather be willing to have more than one financial account in order to cushion themselves in case one financial institution collapses, or to save in more than one financial institution to satisfy specific needs or better still to enjoy the benefits provided by different or same financial institution.

5. Conclusion

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that, socio-economic factors such as gender, age, education, employment, religion and marital status are relevant determinants of multiple account ownership among formal account holders and hence must be blended with the findings of other studies on financial inclusion in order to come out robust multifaceted policies geared towards enhancing financial inclusion.

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