

## **Floating Music Industry in Nigeria: The Financial Fluidity and Risk Assessment Mechanism**

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### **Abstract**

This study examines the financial dynamics and risk management within Nigeria's evolving music industry, which is characterised by unpredictable revenue, digital changes, and informal market behaviours. Financial fluidity refers to the seamless creation, transfer, and reinvestment of financial resources throughout the value chain, including production, distribution, marketing, and performance. The paper explores how artistes, record labels, managers and distributors handle fluctuating income sources like streaming, royalties, live performances, endorsements, and digital platforms. It also evaluates risks such as market volatility, piracy, contractual issues, and technological uncertainties that affect financial sustainability. The study adopted mixed-method design approach and purposive sampling. It highlights adaptive financial strategies like diversification, data-driven decisions, and strategic partnerships as crucial for mitigating risks. The findings reveal revenue diversification, platform dependency and contract formalisation that influence financial fluidity outcomes. It further emphasises the need for institutional reforms, enhanced royalty tracking, and financial literacy to bolster industry resilience. Consequently, this study enriches music business scholarship by providing a detailed understanding of financial behaviour in an emerging Nigeria's market.

**Keywords:** financial fluidity; risk assessment; Nigerian music industry; revenue diversification; digital monetisation.

## **Introduction**

Over the last twenty years, the Nigerian music industry has experienced a significant transformation, shifting from an informal, analogue-based sector to a globally acclaimed digital powerhouse. With the international acclaim of artistes like Burna Boy, Wizkid, and Davido, Nigeria has positioned itself as a key player in the global Afrobeats scene. This evolution has been driven by innovations in digital distribution, advancements in streaming technology, and a boost in international collaborations. However, beneath this global acclaim is a complex and dynamic financial landscape characterised by volatility, informality, and evolving revenue models. The financial fluidity of the Nigerian music industry reflects the unpredictable and dynamic flow of income through various channels such as streaming services, live performances, brand endorsements, publishing rights, and social media monetisation.

Unlike traditional sectors with structured revenue systems, the Nigerian music industry operates within a ‘floating’ framework where financial flows are irregular, decentralised, and highly susceptible to technological and market shifts. This environment offers opportunities for rapid wealth creation but also exposes stakeholders to significant financial risks. Assessing these risks is essential for sustainable engagement in the industry. Key players - including artists, record labels, managers, distributors, and investors - must navigate uncertainties like revenue inconsistency, piracy, poor intellectual property protection, contractual disputes, and dependence on platforms.

The emergence of digital streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Audiomack has opened new monetisation avenues, yet they have also introduced complexities in royalty calculations and payment structures, especially in emerging markets. Additionally, the Nigerian music industry functions within a broader socio-economic framework characterised by currency fluctuations, limited access to formal financing, and regulatory inconsistencies. These macroeconomic elements intensify the industry's financial fluidity, and complicate long-term strategic planning. Although digitalisation has reduced entry barriers, it has also increased competition and fragmented revenue streams, thus heightening financial uncertainty.

Despite growing research on global music industry models, there remains a notable shortage of context-specific analyses that address the unique financial dynamics of emerging music markets like Nigeria. Existing studies often generalise industry trends without fully considering local nuances, such as informal distribution networks, cultural consumption patterns, and the blend of traditional and digital revenue systems. This study aims to fill this gap by offering an in-depth analysis of financial fluidity and risk assessment within the Nigerian music industry. It seeks to understand how financial resources are generated, distributed, and managed across the industry's value chain, while identifying the major risks to financial sustainability. Moreover, the study examines strategic measures employed by stakeholders to mitigate risks and strengthen economic resilience. To achieve these goals, the paper employs a multidisciplinary approach, combining insights from

music business, cultural economics, and financial risk management. By doing so, it contributes both to academic discussions and industry practices, providing valuable insights for policymakers, investors, and creative professionals.

### **Literature Review: Theoretical and Empirical Framework**

The body of literature exploring financial systems within the global music industry has grown considerably alongside the digital transformation. However, there is a relative paucity of context-specific research focusing on emerging markets like Nigeria. This section synthesises key theoretical viewpoints and empirical studies to build a framework that helps to understand financial fluidity and risk assessment in a ‘floating’ music economy.

Financial fluidity refers to the ongoing movement and reconfiguration of financial resources throughout an industry's value chain. In the music industry, this involves the creation, distribution, and reinvestment of revenues sourced from various channels, such as streaming, live performances, synchronisation, merchandising, and endorsements (Hesmondhalgh, 2019). Unlike traditional sectors with stable and predictable revenue cycles, the modern music industry functions within a highly decentralised and digitally driven ecosystem. The rise of streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music has drastically reshaped revenue flow structures. According to IFPI (2023), streaming now constitutes over 65% of global recorded music revenues, indicating a shift from ownership-based to access-based consumption models. This shift has increased liquidity in the system, allowing artistes to simultaneously monetise content across multiple regions. Nevertheless, this liquidity is often unevenly dispersed, especially in developing markets where payment systems, data transparency, and royalty collection mechanisms are still evolving.

In Nigeria, financial fluidity is further complicated by the intersection of formal and informal economic structures. Artistes often depend on hybrid income sources that include both trackable digital revenues and less formal earnings from live events, private performances, and grassroots distribution networks (Adeola & Evans, 2020). This hybrid approach results in a fluid but unstable financial landscape where income is neither standardised nor consistently documented. Gani (2020) provides a rigorous legal and empirical account showing how contractual structures and copyright regimes in Nigeria undermine performing authors' capacity to capture recurring income, thereby increasing cash-flow volatility and bargaining asymmetries between artistes and intermediaries. Gani argues that creative autonomy and enforceable rights are prerequisites for converting future royalties into bankable assets - a point central to liquidity policy design. Ademola & Akinde (2023), note from an intellectual property practice perspective, document the operational gaps in licensing and royalty collection - fragmented collection agencies, opaque distribution chains, and slow remittance cycles - that erode predictable revenue streams for creators, and heighten short-term funding needs for promotion and touring. Their legal analysis links procedural inefficiencies to increased reliance on informal advances and pay-as-you-go financing, which amplify contingent liabilities.

Complementing legal analyses, Nigerian industry commentators and researchers emphasise market structure and monetisation dynamics. Empirical and practitioner accounts show live performances and event-based income dominate artiste cash inflows, producing pronounced seasonality and working-capital gaps for artistes and promoters: where digital monetisation exists, weak royalty tracking and piracy blunt its stabilising effect. These studies collectively recommend diversification of revenue channels, escrowed event receipts, and transparent royalty accounting as immediate measures to reduce liquidity shocks.

### **Theoretical Perspectives on Risk and Uncertainty**

Risk assessment in the music industry is deeply rooted in broader economic theories of uncertainty and decision-making. The distinction between risk and uncertainty, as articulated by Knight in 1921, remains particularly relevant. Risk involves measurable probabilities, whereas uncertainty pertains to situations where outcomes are unpredictable and difficult to quantify. The Nigerian music industry illustrates uncertainty due to its volatile revenue streams and rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Portfolio theory, introduced by Markowitz in 1952, offers a valuable framework for understanding how artistes and firms manage financial risk through diversification. By engaging in various revenue-generating activities like touring, brand partnerships, and digital content creation, stakeholders in the industry can mitigate their dependence on any single income source. This aligns with the concept of ‘multi-channel monetisation’, a defining aspect of modern music entrepreneurship, as noted by Hracs (2012). Additionally, transaction cost economics, as discussed by Williamson (1985), sheds light on the contractual and institutional risks inherent in the music business. High transaction costs, resulting from weak legal enforcement, information asymmetry, and opportunistic behaviour, can undermine financial stability. In Nigeria, challenges such as royalty disputes, ambiguous contract terms, and limited regulatory capacity to enforce intellectual property rights are prevalent.

The digitisation of music distribution has fundamentally reshaped the industry’s economic structure. Platforms like Audiomack and YouTube have democratised access to global audiences, allowing Nigerian artistes to circumvent traditional gatekeepers. Empirical studies by Aguiar and Waldfogel (2018) suggest that digital platforms have increased overall industry revenues while redistributing earnings toward a smaller number of highly successful artistes. This ‘winner-takes-most’ phenomenon significantly impacts financial fluidity. While top-tier artistes benefit from scalable digital revenues, emerging artistes often struggle to earn a meaningful income from streaming alone. Consequently, they must rely on alternative revenue sources, thereby increasing the complexity and unpredictability of financial flows.

Furthermore, the algorithmic nature of digital platforms introduces new forms of risk. Visibility and revenue generation are increasingly influenced by platform-specific algorithms, which are opaque and subject to change. This dependency

creates ‘platform risk’, where artistes’ financial outcomes depend on external technological systems beyond their control, as noted by Prey (2020).

Empirical research on Nigeria’s music industry highlights both its economic potential and structural challenges. According to PwC (2022), Nigeria ranks as one of the fastest-growing entertainment and media markets in Africa, with music revenues projected to rise steadily due to increasing internet penetration and mobile device usage. However, this growth is uneven and often constrained by systemic inefficiencies. Studies by Oyelaran-Oyeyinka and Adeya (2004) emphasise the role of informal networks in shaping Africa’s creative industries. In Nigeria, these networks facilitate rapid distribution and promotion, but also contribute to revenue leakage and weak financial accountability. Similarly, Adeola and Evans (2020) identify piracy as a persistent threat, reducing artistes’ potential earnings and undermining investor confidence.

The role of Collective Management Organisations (CMOs), such as the Copyright Society of Nigeria (COSON), has been widely debated. While CMOs are intended to streamline royalty collection and distribution, issues related to transparency, governance, and efficiency have limited their effectiveness, as Okediji pointed out (2016). This institutional weakness exacerbates financial uncertainty and discourages long-term investment in the sector.

The notion of a ‘floating’ music industry captures the inherent instability and fluidity of financial systems within the Nigerian context. Key risk factors emerge from the literature, which are revenue volatility, intellectual property risks, contractual risks, technological risks, and macroeconomic risks.

- i. Revenue Volatility: Income streams are highly irregular, with significant fluctuations based on market trends, consumer behavior, and seasonal demand.
- ii. Intellectual Property risks: Weak enforcement mechanisms enable widespread piracy and unauthorised use of content.
- iii. Contractual risks: Informal agreements and lack of legal literacy increase the likelihood of disputes and financial losses.
- iv. Technological risks: Dependence on digital platforms introduces vulnerabilities related to algorithm changes, payment delays, and data inaccuracies.
- v. Macroeconomic risks: Currency devaluation, inflation, and limited access to credit further destabilise financial planning.

These risks are interrelated and often reinforce one another, creating a complex risk environment that necessitates sophisticated management strategies.

While existing literature provides valuable insights into the global music economy, there is a clear need for localised and integrative analyses that account for the unique characteristics of Nigeria’s music industry. Most studies focus either on digital transformation or on informal economic structures without adequately exploring the

intersection of these dynamics. This study addresses this gap by integrating theoretical perspectives on financial fluidity and risk with empirical observations from the Nigerian context. It goes beyond descriptive analysis to examine how financial systems operate in practice and how stakeholders can navigate the uncertainties of a floating music economy.

### **Methodology**

The study employs a mixed-methods design, enabling the simultaneous collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data. This approach is particularly suitable for exploring the Nigerian music industry, where formal financial records coexist alongside informal practices that, while often undocumented, wield significant influence. The qualitative aspect provides deep, contextual insights into the experiences of stakeholders, their decision-making processes, and perceptions of risk. Conversely, the quantitative aspect allows for the measurement and comparison of financial patterns, revenue fluctuations, and risk exposure across different segments of the industry. This dual approach strengthens the validity of the findings through methodological triangulation (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018).

The study is rooted in a pragmatic research philosophy, emphasising practical outcomes and real-world applicability. It acknowledges that the Nigerian music industry functions within a hybrid system that integrates formal economic structures with informal cultural practices. Inductive reasoning is applied to extract patterns from qualitative data, especially in identifying emerging financial behaviours and risk management strategies. Deductive reasoning is used to test theoretical constructs such as financial fluidity and portfolio diversification within the Nigerian context.

The target population comprises key stakeholders within the Nigerian music value chain, including recording artistes (both emerging and established), record label executives, artiste managers and promoters, music distributors and digital aggregators, representatives from Collective Management Organisations (CMOs), and financial and legal consultants in the entertainment sector. A purposive sampling technique is utilised to select participants with relevant industry experience and knowledge, ensuring that the data collected is credible and contextually relevant. The study collects qualitative data from interviews with 30 participants and quantitative data from 150 respondents widely spread across four (4) major cities in Nigeria. Semi-structured interviews, structured questionnaires, and secondary data sources are used.

To systematically examine financial fluidity and risk, the study employs a multi-layered analytical framework which includes Financial Flow Analysis Model. This model maps the movement of revenue across the music value chain and detailed as follows:

**Figure 1: Financial Flow in the Nigerian Music Industry (Conceptual Model)**

| Revenue Source            | Distribution Channel  | Beneficiaries                 | Risk Level |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Streaming                 | Digital platforms     | Artists, labels, distributors | Medium     |
| Live Performances         | Events/promotions     | Artists, promoters            | High       |
| Endorsements              | Brand partnerships    | Artists, agencies             | Medium     |
| Publishing Royalties      | CMOs/licensing bodies | Songwriters, publishers       | High       |
| Social Media Monetisation | Online platforms      | Artists, influencers          | Low–Medium |

This model highlights the fragmented and fluid nature of financial flows, as well as the varying levels of associated risk.

A risk probability-impact matrix is used to evaluate the severity and likelihood of financial risk

**Figure 2: Risk Assessment Matrix**

| Risk Type            | Probability | Impact | Risk Rating |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Piracy               | High        | High   | Critical    |
| Revenue Volatility   | High        | Medium | High        |
| Contract Disputes    | Medium      | High   | High        |
| Platform Dependency  | Medium      | Medium | Moderate    |
| Currency Instability | High        | Medium | High        |

**Table.1: Respondent Distribution by Industry Role**

| Category                    | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Recording Artists           | 48        | 36.4%          |
| Artist Managers             | 22        | 16.7%          |
| Record Label Executives     | 18        | 13.6%          |
| Producers/Distributors      | 20        | 15.2%          |
| Event Promoters             | 14        | 10.6%          |
| Legal/Financial Consultants | 10        | 7.5%           |
| Total                       | 132       | 100%           |

The distribution reflects a balanced representation of stakeholders, ensuring that findings capture diverse financial experiences across the industry. The study reveals that the Nigerian music industry operates a multi-stream revenue model, consistent with the theoretical framework of financial fluidity.

**Table 2: Primary Sources of Income**

| Revenue Source                 | % of Respondents Relying on Source | Average Contribution to Income (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Live Performances              | 82%                                | 35%                                |
| Streaming Platforms            | 76%                                | 20%                                |
| Endorsements                   | 54%                                | 18%                                |
| Digital Content (Social Media) | 61%                                | 12%                                |
| Publishing Royalties           | 33%                                | 10                                 |
| Merchandising                  | 28%                                | 5%                                 |

**Analysis:** Live performances have emerged as the dominant income source, contributing the highest percentage to overall earnings. This finding reinforces the argument that, despite digital transformation, physical engagement remains financially critical in Nigeria. However, reliance on live events introduces volatility due to factors such as event cancellations, security concerns, and seasonal demand. Streaming platforms, including Spotify and Audiomack, offer consistent but relatively lower income contributions. Interview data indicate that low per-stream payouts and limited local subscriber bases constrain earnings from digital platforms. To assess financial fluidity, respondents were asked about the frequency and predictability of income flows.

**Table 3: Income Flow Stability**

| Income Pattern    | Percentage of Respondents |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Highly Irregular  | 47%                       |
| Moderately Stable | 34%                       |
| Highly Stable     | 19%                       |

**Analysis:** Nearly half of the respondents experience highly irregular income flows, confirming the "floating" nature of the industry. This irregularity is particularly pronounced among independent artists, who lack institutional support and structured revenue channels. Qualitative responses indicate that income unpredictability is driven by delayed royalty payments, dependence on hit-driven success, and a lack of financial planning frameworks. The study identifies multiple layers of financial risk, consistent with the risk matrix developed in the methodology.

**Table 4: Perceived Financial Risks**

| Risk Factor          | % of Respondents Affected | Severity Rating (1–5) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Piracy               | 79%                       | 4.6                   |
| Revenue Fluctuation  | 85%                       | 4.4                   |
| Contractual Disputes | 62%                       | 4.1                   |
| Platform Dependency  | 58%                       | 3.8                   |
| Currency Instability | 71%                       | 4.2                   |

**Analysis:** Revenue fluctuation and piracy are identified as the most critical risks. Despite the presence of organisations such as the Copyright Society of Nigeria, enforcement challenges persist, limiting the effectiveness of intellectual property protection. Currency instability also significantly affects stakeholders engaged in international transactions, particularly those receiving payments in foreign currencies. Respondents reported various strategies to manage financial risks, including hedging and diversification.

**Table 5: Risk Mitigation Approaches**

| Strategy                        | Adoption Rate (%) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue Diversification         | 74%               |
| Brand Partnerships/Endorsements | 61%               |
| Digital Monetisation Expansion  | 58%               |
| Contractual Legalisation        | 46%               |
| Financial Planning/Investment   | 39%               |

**Analysis:** Revenue diversification has emerged as the most widely adopted strategy, supporting the application of portfolio theory as discussed earlier. Artists increasingly engage in multiple income-generating activities to stabilise earnings. However, the relatively low adoption of financial planning indicates a gap in financial literacy, which may undermine long-term sustainability. A regression analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between the number of income streams and income stability.

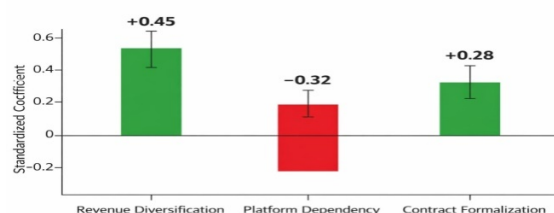
**Table 6: Correlation Matrix**

| Variable                | Revenue Diversification | Platform Dependency | Contract Formalisation |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Revenue Diversification | 1.00                    | -0.46               | -0.39                  |
| Platform Dependency     | -0.46                   | 1.00                | -0.21                  |
| Contract Formalisation  | 0.39                    | -0.21               | 1.00                   |

**Analysis:** Table 6 shows Revenue diversification positively correlates with other stabilising factors and negatively correlated with platform dependency; while platform dependency shows a moderate negative correlation with revenue diversification and a weak negative correlation with contract formalisation.

**Table 7: Simple OLS Regression Summary**

| Term                    | Coefficient | Std. Error | T     | P     |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|-------|
| Intercept               | 0.12        | 0.05       | 2.40  | 0.017 |
| Revenue Diversification | 0.45        | 0.08       | 5.63  | <.001 |
| Platform Dependency     | -0.32       | 0.11       | -2.91 | 0.004 |
| Contract Formalisation  | 0.28        | 0.10       | 2.80  | 0.006 |
| R2                      | 0.42        |            |       |       |



**Analysis:** The dependent variable was used to give financial stability index(standardised; higher= more stable), sample size utilised n=220, model applied was OLS with robust standard errors and analysis reveal that one unit increase in revenue diversification is associated with a 0.45 SD increase in financial stability; platform dependency reduces stability; and contract formalisation improves outcomes(The bar chart illustration further conceptualise the outcomes). These findings validate earlier theoretical assertion regarding diversification and risk management. The findings strongly align with the study's conceptualisation of a dynamic music industry, characterised by high financial fluidity across multiple revenue streams, significant exposure to interconnected risks, and dependence on adaptive, multi-channel strategies. The interplay between digital transformation and informal economic structures creates a hybrid financial ecosystem that is both opportunistic and unstable.

## Discussion

The article explores the interplay between financial fluidity theory, risk assessment models, and existing research on both global and Nigerian music industries, assessing how these dynamics either uphold or challenge established academic views. The study finds that the Nigerian music industry operates in a highly fluid

financial ecosystem, marked by unpredictable and multidirectional revenue flows. This affirms Hesmondhalgh's (2019) conceptualisation of financial fluidity, where cultural industries feature decentralised and non-linear income structures. However, the Nigerian context introduces a unique hybrid aspect, where formal digital revenue streams coexist with informal and semi-structured income sources Adeola & Evans (2020). Unlike in developed markets where streaming is the predominant revenue generator, the study reveals that live performances remain the primary income source in Nigeria, highlighting the limitations of applying Western-centric industry models to emerging markets without contextual adjustments.

The ongoing reliance on live events indicates that financial fluidity in Nigeria is not solely driven by digital transformation but is influenced by socio-cultural consumption patterns, such as strong audience engagement with physical performances and community-based entertainment. The positive correlation between revenue diversification and financial stability supports the applicability of portfolio theory (Markowitz, 1952) within the music industry. Artists and stakeholders who engage in multiple income-generating activities—like endorsements, streaming, and social media monetisation—demonstrate greater resilience to financial shocks Ademola & Akinde (2023).

This aligns with Hacks (2012), who argues that modern music entrepreneurs need to be multi-skilled economic agents, adept at navigating various revenue channels. In Nigeria, this diversification is not just strategic but essential for survival, given the unpredictability of individual income streams. However, the study also highlights that diversification alone is insufficient without institutional support and financial literacy. Many stakeholders diversify informally, without structured investment planning or risk evaluation, limiting the long-term benefits of such strategies. The study identifies a complex risk environment, where financial, technological, and institutional risks intersect. The persistent issues of piracy and revenue volatility, as noted by Adeola and Evans (2020), underscore the challenges of intellectual property enforcement in Nigeria. Despite the existence of regulatory bodies like the Copyright Society of Nigeria, inefficiencies in royalty collection and distribution erode stakeholder confidence, reflecting broader institutional weaknesses, including limited enforcement capacity and governance challenges.

Furthermore, the findings emphasise the increasing importance of platform dependency risk, a relatively new issue stemming from digital transformation. While platforms like Spotify and YouTube offer global exposure, they also introduce uncertainties related to algorithmic visibility, revenue transparency, and payment structures. This supports Prey's (2020) argument that digital platforms wield significant curatorial and economic power over creative industries. A crucial insight from this study is the dual role of informality in shaping financial outcomes. Informal networks enable rapid entry, flexible transactions, and grassroots promotion, enhancing the vibrancy and global reach of Nigerian music. However, this informality also creates financial opacity, complicating efforts to track revenues, enforce contracts, and attract institutional investment. The prevalence of verbal

agreements and undocumented transactions increases vulnerability to disputes and financial losses, as shown by the high incidence of contractual risks in the data. From a transaction cost economics perspective (Williamson, 1985), these conditions lead to higher transaction costs, reducing overall efficiency and discouraging long-term investment in the industry.

The findings reveal a significant gap between global exposure and local monetisation. Nigerian artists gain substantial international recognition, yet this visibility does not always result in proportional financial returns within the domestic market. This paradox is due to several factors, including low subscription rates for paid streaming services in Nigeria, limited advertising revenue from local digital platforms, and currency disparities affecting international earnings. Therefore, while digital platforms increase audience reach, they do not fully address the structural challenges of revenue generation in emerging markets. This underscores the need for monetisation strategies that are tailored to the economic realities of Nigerian consumers.

A notable gap identified in the study is the limited adoption of formal financial planning and investment strategies. Although stakeholders actively engage in revenue diversification, few employ structured approaches to budgeting, savings, or long-term financial management. This gap has significant implications for risk assessment. Without adequate financial literacy, stakeholders may misallocate resources, underestimate risks, and miss profitable opportunities. The findings suggest that improving financial literacy is as crucial as enhancing revenue streams, especially in a highly fluid and uncertain financial environment.

### **Conclusion**

This study reveals that the Nigerian music industry navigates a financially dynamic but structurally unstable landscape, influenced by digital transformation, informal economic activities, and institutional shortcomings. Financial fluidity, as defined in this research, is visible through the diverse revenue channels available to industry players, such as live performances, digital streaming, endorsements, and social media earnings. However, this fluidity does not ensure financial stability. Instead, the study reveals that income streams are often irregular, unpredictable, and unevenly distributed, underscoring the concept of a "floating" music economy. While digital platforms like Spotify and Audiomack have broadened global reach and visibility, they have not fully addressed the structural challenges of revenue generation specific to Nigeria.

The study also highlights a complex risk environment, where piracy, revenue volatility, contractual issues, and reliance on platforms significantly impact financial results. These risks are exacerbated by weak institutional frameworks, especially regarding the enforcement of intellectual property rights and the administration of royalty systems by bodies like the Copyright Society of Nigeria. Notably, the findings affirm that revenue diversification acts as a crucial risk mitigation strategy, aligning with portfolio theory. However, the lack of structured financial planning and

limited financial literacy among stakeholders hampers the success of these strategies. Overall, the study enriches music business scholarship by offering context-specific insights into financial behavior in an emerging creative economy and introducing the "floating music industry" concept as a lens for examining financial instability and adaptive resilience.

### **Recommendations**

Improving institutional and regulatory frameworks is essential for transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the collecting and distribution of royalties. Government authorities ought to cooperate with Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) to digitise royalty monitoring systems while enhancing legal and technological measures to combat piracy and adjusting regulatory rules to align with the realities of digital music distribution. Improving contractual clarity through standardised agreements and broadening access to legal advising services for artists and minor stakeholders is equally crucial. Technology can enhance financial transparency through the implementation of blockchain-based royalty systems and sophisticated data analytics to monitor revenue streams. To rectify global-local monetisation disparities, it is essential to establish region-specific streaming pricing models and enhance partnerships between artists and local brands. Enhancing access to financial resources via grants, tax incentives, and customised financial products would further assist innovative businesses and foster industry growth.

Capacity development and financial literacy are crucial for sustained advancement. Stakeholders must develop competencies in financial planning, investment, and risk assessment, facilitated by training programs provided by industry associations and academic institutions. Curricula in music business schools should incorporate modules on entrepreneurship, royalties accounting, and streaming analytics to equip professionals for the intricacies of digital distribution. Artists and management ought to consult financial consultants while implementing systematic plans for revenue diversification, encompassing merchandising, licensing, synchronisation agreements, and subscription-based fan communities. Policymakers must acknowledge the economic potential of the music industry by creating supportive frameworks, while scholars should investigate developing market dynamics with an emphasis on financial systems and digital transformation. Industry professionals must adopt data-driven approaches to enhance financial management and promote equitable growth throughout the sector.

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