Corporate Social Responsibility Techniques in Wooing New Converts to The Redeemed Christian Church of God Port Harcourt

Uchenna Adiele

Faculty of Communication and Media Studies Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Port Harcourt adiele.uchenna@rsu.edu.ng

Prof. Richard Nlemanya Amadi

Department of Public Relations and Advertising Faculty of Communication and Media Studies Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Port Harcourt amadi.richard@ust.edu.ng

Christopher Justice Njoku PhD

Department of Public Relations and Advertising Faculty of Communication and Media Studies Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Port Harcourt justice.njoku@ust.edu.ng

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Abstract

The study investigated corporate social responsibility techniques employed by churches, specifically the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt, to woo members effectively. The objectives of the study were to: identify corporate social responsibility techniques employed by churches, specifically the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt, to wooing members effectively; identify the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members. The study was hinged on Stakeholders, Transformational Leadership, and Social Contract Theories. The study employed a survey research design with a total population of 3190 using Krejcie and Morgan sample size determination table to arrive 341. It employed stratified random sampling and used a questionnaire and a question guide as the instruments for data collection. It adopted the Weighted Mean Score on a 4-point Likert scale as the method of data analysis. The results of the study revealed that corporate social responsibility techniques were employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members; corporate social responsibility activities address the social needs of members to the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt. The study recommends that The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) should formally integrate corporate social responsibility into its evangelism framework, and The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) leadership should develop a formal monitoring and evaluation system to assess the relevance and effectiveness of its corporate social responsibility programmes in wooing and retaining members.

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

The survival of every business is it profit or a non-profit business, depends on the accomplishment of its objectives. There are two broad categories of business objectives: the

economic objective and the social objective. While economic objectives are the targets to be accomplished in the marketing efforts of an organisation, the social objectives are associated with the aims of an organisation towards satisfying the interests of its shareholders, employees, and the general public (Rao & Krishna, 2012). Thus, corporate social responsibility is a concept whereby organisations consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities, as well as the environment. Corporate social responsibility goes beyond statutory obligation to comply with legislation, but involves voluntarily taking further steps to improve the quality of life for employees, the local communities, and society at large (Pearce & Robinson, 2015).

Religious organisations in Nigeria, especially Pentecostal churches such as the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Winners' Chapel, and Christ Embassy, have emerged as prominent players in social service delivery. These churches operate not only as places of worship but also as socio-economic institutions that provide education, healthcare, vocational training, and welfare support to their members and host communities. Given their growing influence, there is a growing expectation for these religious organisations to adopt structured corporate social responsibility strategies that align with the developmental needs of their members (Adeboye, 2018). In particular, the management of members has become a critical focus. Many of these converts face socio-economic vulnerabilities or are in the midst of major lifestyle transformations. Addressing their holistic needs, therefore, demands more than doctrinal instruction or spiritual counselling; it necessitates a framework that integrates spiritual, emotional, social, and economic support (Asadu, 2021).

Corporate social responsibility techniques that can be adapted for new convert management include structured mentorship programmes, vocational empowerment, mental health counselling, educational sponsorships, and housing or feeding schemes for the most vulnerable. Specifically, one primary corporate social responsibility technique employed in managing members is the provision of welfare services, which addresses immediate physical needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. Many members often come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and face challenges in securing necessities. Churches that engage in corporate social responsibility through welfare initiatives offer structured assistance to ease the transition into a new spiritual and social life. Another corporate social responsibility technique involves education and skills development programmes targeted at empowering members with knowledge and employable skills. Churches increasingly recognise that spiritual transformation must be accompanied by socio-economic empowerment, particularly in regions with high unemployment and underemployment. Through adult literacy programmes, vocational training, computer literacy workshops, and entrepreneurship support schemes, churches create pathways for self-reliance and financial stability among their new members (Adeboye, 2018). These principles, when contextualised within modern corporate social responsibility discourse, provide a strong theological and moral justification for churches to implement sustainable social programmes.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Religious organisations in Nigeria, particularly Pentecostal churches, are expanding rapidly. With this growth comes the challenge of wooing members who bring diverse backgrounds, expectations, and needs. While spiritual transformation is a key focus of the church, members often require psychosocial support to fully integrate into the religious community. The city of Port Harcourt and the capital of Rivers State, known for its economic vibrancy as well as social challenges, are home to a large population of young people, migrants, and socially displaced individuals. Churches in the city, particularly the Redeemed Christian Church of God parishes, attract thousands of members annually, many of whom are drawn by the

promise of spiritual and socio-economic upliftment.

However, Fehintolu, Atuluku and Eleojo (2018). anecdotal reports and limited academic inquiry suggest that while many converts are initially enthusiastic, a significant number of experience difficulties in long-term integration due to unmet social, emotional, or material needs. In other words, despite the high rate of conversion, Redeemed Christian Church of God often faces challenges in maintaining long-term engagement with these individuals. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many converts drop out within the first year of joining due to a lack of structured follow-up, mentorship, or social support systems (Osadolor, 2020). This situation underscores the need for a systematic exploration of how corporate social responsibility techniques can be leveraged to manage, retain, and develop members in Redeemed Christian Church of God across Port Harcourt.

Existing literature on corporate social responsibility within religious contexts remains limited, particularly in Nigerian settings where churches operate in deeply communal and informal frameworks. In Port Harcourt, most corporate social responsibility studies have focused on corporate organisations such as banks, oil companies, and manufacturing firms. However, very few have examined corporate social responsibility in the context of faith-based organisations with reference to the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Consequently, churches, particularly Redeemed Christian Church of God, may lack the empirical tools and policy frameworks necessary for adopting corporate social responsibility techniques in their member management strategies. Given the above context (identified problem and gap in knowledge, this study seeks to explore the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by churches, specifically the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt, to woo members effectively.

Objectives of the Study

- i. Identify the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members.
- ii. ascertain the relevance of corporate social responsibility in wooing members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt.

Research Questions

- i. What are the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members?
- ii. How relevant are corporate social responsibility in the retention rate of membership of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt?

Scope of the Study

The scope of this study covered corporate social responsibility techniques in wooing new converts to the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The geographical scope is Port Harcourt. Contently, the study covered the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in region 5 (Chapel of Blessing Marine Base) led by Pastor Soji Oni, which includes Rivers Province 1, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15, 18, and 19. It also covered Rivers Region 33 (Kings Palace, GRA) led by Pastor David Adewuyi, which covered Rivers Province: 2, 3, 8, 11, 16, 17, 21, 23. Others include Region 55 (House of Grace), Woji led Pastor Sonny Wogu and these covered Rivers Province: 5, 7, 22, 10, 13, 20). These areas were covered to ascertain the relevance of the corporate social responsibility in the retention rate of members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt, the importance of corporate social responsibility initiatives in strengthening community—church relationships that woo members to the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt as well as the extent to which corporate social responsibility activities address the social

needs of members to the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt. Lastly, the study made use of primary data, which were sourced from the church leaders in Redeemed Christian Church of God parishes across different regions and provinces in Rivers State.

Theoretical Framework

Transformational Leadership Theory

Transformational Leadership Theory was formally developed by political sociologist James MacGregor Burns in 1978 through his seminal work Leadership and later expanded by organisational psychologist Bernard M. Bass in 1985 in Leadership and Performance Beyond Expectations. Burns initially conceptualised transformational leadership as a process where "leaders and followers raise one another to higher levels of morality and motivation," distinguishing it from transactional leadership that relies on rewards and punishments. Bass operationalized the theory, identifying four key components: idealised influence, inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation, and individualised consideration. This theory revolutionised leadership studies by shifting focus from authoritarian or bureaucratic models to visionary, relationship-driven approaches that foster organisational change. Its emergence coincided with growing disillusionment with rigid corporate structures in the late 20th century, offering a framework applicable across sectors, including religious institutions managing members (Bass, 1985; Burns, 1978). Transformational Leadership Theory explains how the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) employs Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) techniques in managing members by emphasising visionary leadership, ethical influence, and holistic empowerment, where pastors (leaders) inspire converts (followers) to transcend self-interest through idealised biblical values (idealised influence), motivational discipleship programmes (inspirational motivation), and personalised mentorship (individualised consideration) that address both spiritual and socio-economic needs, mirroring corporate social responsibility's stakeholder engagement.

Social Contract Theory

Social Contract Theory, one of the most influential frameworks in political philosophy, was systematically articulated by three seminal thinkers: Thomas Hobbes in Leviathan (1651), John Locke in Two Treatises of Government (1689), and Jean-Jacques Rousseau in The Social Contract (1762). Hobbes, writing in the aftermath of the English Civil War, presented the theory as a solution to the chaos of the "state of nature," arguing that individuals surrender certain freedoms to a sovereign authority in exchange for security and social order. Locke, influenced by the Glorious Revolution, expanded this idea by emphasising natural rights life, liberty, and property and the government's role in protecting them. Rousseau, critiquing the inequalities of his time, reimagined the social contract as a collective agreement that reflects the "general will" of the people, ensuring freedom and equality. At its core, Social Contract Theory explores the moral and political obligations between individuals and governing institutions, positing that societal structures emerge from implicit or explicit agreements to secure mutual benefits, such as security, justice, and cooperation. These foundational works laid the groundwork for modern democratic governance, human rights discourse, and even corporate ethics, demonstrating the theory's enduring relevance in shaping how societies organize and legitimise authority (Hobbes, 1651; Locke, 1689; Rousseau, 1762). Social Contract Theory explains the Redeemed Christian Church of God's (RCCG) corporate social responsibility techniques in managing members through the lens of mutual obligations and collective welfare, where the church (as a governing body) and converts (as consenting members) enter an implicit social contract: the church provides spiritual guidance, socio-economic support (e.g., vocational training, healthcare), and communal belonging, while converts adhere to doctrinal principles and contribute to the church's mission.

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey research. A descriptive survey research design typically involves collecting data through various methods, such as surveys, interviews, or existing records. The population of the study is 3190, this consist of church leaders of Redeemed Christian Church of God parishes across different regions in Rivers State. This information was obtained from official records of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Regional Headquarters in Port Harcourt. Region 5 has a total of 1008; Region 33 has 1240 while Region 55 has 942. Therefore, the population of the study is 3190. The study adopted Krejcie and Morgan sample size determination table to arrive at 341. Given that the population is 3190, the corresponding value on the table is 341. Therefore, the sample of the study is 341. The Krejcie and Morgan sample size table found in appendix ii.

The study adopted stratified random sampling technique. Some intact identified groups with similar characteristics within Redeemed Christian Church of God within Rivers State were randomly selected. The researcher identified Pastors and members and administered 341 copies of the questionnaire to them. The selection was also based on the proportion of the regions and Parishes. For the purpose of analysing the research data for this study, the method of data analysis technique utilised for the demographic data of the respondents was descriptive statistics. These included tables, frequencies, charts and simple percentages. Secondly, univariate analysis was carried out on all the questionnaire items utilising frequencies, simple percentages and weighted means. The weighted mean was calculated by assigning a nominal value to the response categories. The mean was calculated by assigning a nominal value to the response categories: strongly agree (SA) 4, agree (A) 3, disagree (D) 2 and strongly disagree (SD) 1. From the foregoing, therefore, the Criterion Weighted Mean Score (CWMS) established 2.5. That is, $(4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 10) \div 4 = 2.5$. Decision rule for the research questions was based on a criterion mean of 2.50. Any mean response of 2.50 and above was accepted while mean response rating less than 2.50 was regarded rejected.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings Presentation of Data

Table 1: Response Rate of Questionnaire Administered

Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
Number Administered	341	100.0
Number Returned	338	99.0
Number Not Returned	1	0.2
Number of Invalid	2	0.8
Total copies	341	100

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2025.

Table.1 shows the summary of the questionnaire administration. As revealed by the table, a total number of three hundred and forty-one (341) copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents while three hundred and thirty-eight (338) copies of the questionnaire representing 99% were retrieved and considered valid for analysis in the study.

Question One: What are the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members?

Table 2: The Corporate Social Responsibility Techniques Employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in Wooing Members

	Christian Church of God in 1 oft Harcourt in Wooling Weinbers								
S/N	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Total		DECISION	
		(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)		WMS		
Q1.	Redeemed Christian Church of God	91	131	71	45	338	2.8	Agreed	
	provides social welfare programmes (e.g.,	364	393	142	45	944			
	food, clothing, accommodation) to support								
	the integration of members.								
Q2.	Redeemed Christian Church of God	111	217	83	22	338	3.8	Agreed	
~2 .	organises skill acquisition or vocational		651	166	27	1288	5. 0	1181000	
	training programmes to empower members	777	031	100	21	1200			
	economically.								
	economicany.								
Ω^2	Redeemed Christian Church of God	78	1.42	06	21	338	2.8	A ama a d	
Q3.		, 0	143	96	21		2.8	Agreed	
	engages in community outreach and	312	429	192	21	954			
	medical missions as part of its efforts to								
0.4	support members.	0.5	120		20	220	2.0		
Q4.	Counselling and mentorship services are	85	139	77	39	338	2.8	Agreed	
	available to help members adjust to their	340	417	154	39	950			
	new faith and lifestyle.								
~ -						•••	• 0		
Q5.	Redeemed Christian Church of God uses	87	137	88	26	338	2.8	Agreed	
	educational support (e.g., scholarships, free	348	411	176	26	961			
	tutorials) as a corporate social								
	responsibility strategy to retain and assist								
	members.								

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2025.

The data in Table 4.2 shows that corporate social responsibility techniques such as welfare programmes (e.g., food, clothing, accommodation), organisation of skill acquisition or vocational training programmes, engagement in community outreach and medical missions, provision of counselling and mentorship services as well as provision of educational support (e.g., scholarships, free tutorials) were employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members to church.

Question Two: How relevant are corporate social responsibility in the retention rate of members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt?

Table 3: Relevance of the Corporate Social Responsibility in the Retention Rate of Members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt

S/N	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	\overline{X}	σ	DECISION
		(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	11		
Q6.	The corporate social	81	157	71	29	338	2.9	Agreed
	responsibility programmes of	324	471	142	29	966		
	Redeemed Christian Church of							
	God have influenced the							
	decision of members to remain							
	committed to the church.							

Q7.	Members are more likely to continue their spiritual journey with the Redeemed Christian Church of God because of the support they receive through its corporate social responsibility initiatives.	78 312	133 399	101 202	26 26	338 939	3.8	Agreed
Q8.	The corporate social responsibility efforts, such as welfare support and empowerment programmes, encourage members to participate actively in church activities.	57 228	178 534	84 168	19 19	338 949	2.8	Agreed
Q9.	The church's corporate social responsibility programmes have made members feel valued, which motivates them to stay in the Redeemed Christian Church of God.	87 348	147 441	92 184	12 12	338 985	2.9	Agreed
Q1 0.	The corporate social responsibility activities of the Redeemed Christian Church of God have helped to build the trust of members in the church's leadership and mission.	75 300	129 387	114 228	20 20	388 935	2.8	Agreed

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2025.

The data in Table 4.3 shows that corporate social responsibility helps in the retention rate of members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt as shown in the total number and percentages of the respondents who strongly agreed and agreed. This indicates that corporate social responsibility is very relevant in the retention rate of members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt.

Discussion of Findings

Corporate Social Responsibility Techniques Employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in Wooing Members

The result of the answers to the first research question in this study showed that the corporate social responsibility techniques employed by Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt in wooing members includes: Provision of social welfare programmes (e.g., food, clothing, accommodation), organisation of skill acquisition or vocational training programs, engagement in community outreach and medical missions, provision of counseling and mentorship services as well as provision of educational support (e.g., scholarships, free tutorials). This finding is supported by the finding of Asadu (2021) who stated that churches made provision of educational support (e.g., scholarships, free tutorials) as well as made provision for social welfare programmes (e.g., food, clothing, accommodation) as social responsibility techniques employed to attract new members.

The Relevance of the Corporate Social Responsibility in the Retention Rate of Members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt

The result of the answers to the second research question in this study showed that corporate social responsibility is very relevant in the retention rate of members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt. This finding is supported by the finding of Edafetano and Jonathan (2021) who stated that corporate social responsibility is very crucial in attracting new customers and in the retention rate of new customers of quoted companies in Nigeria. Also, Emmanuel and Priscilla (2022) found that corporate social responsibility has a positive relationship with customer satisfaction and customer retention.

Conclusion

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) techniques in wooing members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Port Harcourt involve the church's deliberate social and community-oriented initiatives designed to meet societal needs while promoting its spiritual mission. These techniques include community development projects, educational support programmes, health outreaches, skill acquisition initiatives, poverty alleviation schemes, and environmental sanitation drives. Through such interventions, the church not only addresses pressing social challenges but also builds trust, fosters goodwill, and strengthens its relationship with the host communities, creating an environment that attracts and retains members. Conducting a study on this topic became important because it provides empirical insight into how faith-based organisations like Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) integrate social responsibility into evangelism, revealing the extent to which corporate social responsibility contributes to both community development and church growth. Drawing from the foregoing, this study examined corporate social responsibility techniques in wooing members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt. The study concludes that corporate social responsibility techniques play a vital role in wooing members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Port Harcourt.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were put forward by the researcher.

- 1. The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) should formally integrate corporate social responsibility into its evangelism framework. This means developing structured corporate social responsibility programmes such as free medical outreaches, youth empowerment schemes, and skill acquisition projects that serve both spiritual and social purposes. Institutionalising corporate social responsibility as part of the church's outreach policy would enhance its capacity to attract and retain members by addressing their holistic needs.
- 2.The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) should design corporate social responsibility projects that directly respond to the pressing needs of its host communities such as education, healthcare, sanitation, and job creation. By aligning corporate social responsibility initiatives with community priorities, the church can strengthen its community—church relationship, build goodwill, and position itself as a trusted partner in social development.

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