



Audit and Accountability in Government Agencies (The Polytechnic Ibadan and Emmanuel Alayande College of Education)

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Abstract

The study was examined the effect of auditing and accountability in government agencies. This study selected 2 tertiary institutions. The data analyzed through descriptive statistics such as percentages. Result of multiple regression techniques. The result shows that the null hypothesis of no significant impact between control environment and accountability in government is accepted because the p value is $0.851 > 0.05$, while, the null hypothesis of no significant impact between monitoring activities and accountability in government is rejected because the p value is $0.009 < 0.05$. This research recommends is that the government agencies should enhance internal auditing in order to ensure accountability.

Keywords: control environment, risk management, monitoring activities.

Introduction

Accountability is all about being answerable to those who have invested their trust, faith, and resources to you. Adegbite (2017) defined accountability as the obligation to demonstrate that work has been conducted in accordance with agreed rules and standards and the officer reports fairly and accurately on performance results vis-à-vis mandated roles and or/plans. It means doing things transparently in line with due process and the provision of feedback. Johnson (2018) says that public accountability is an essential component for the functioning of our political system, as accountability means that those who are charged with drafting and/or carrying out policy should be obliged to give an explanation of their actions to their electorate.

Globally, accountability has become a crucial topic and this has made all managers of statutory corporations (or sometimes known as state owned enterprises in other jurisdictions) to be conscious about their spending and providing how the public finances have been spent. Accountability failures are evident in many jurisdictions for example, Uganda's Auditor General has continuously lamented accountability failures in the country (Bananuka, *et al.*, 2018). Much of the divergence among these studies can be explained by the diversity of auditing or monitoring under examination. Much like other tools of democratic accountability, auditing offers tools that can produce accountability; however, these are frequently insufficient on their own. In this study examine the

experiences context for accountability and accountability-oriented interventions, as it scores poorly on governance, accountability, and corruption-related indices (Pérez and Zechmeister, 2019); Transparency International, 2019).

According to Gupta (2017), internal audit is an independent appraisal function established within an organization to examine and evaluate its activities as a service of the organization. Similarly, Okezie (2018) sees internal audit as an independent appraisal function within an organization for the review of system of control and quality of performance, as a service to the organization. According to Azubike (2017), internal audit is the process of continuous review of the financial transaction in order to ensure that they are working as the management intends. All regulations, instruction, and accounting systems or procedures and rule set should be controlled to ensure that they are working as prescribed. The study assures management of adequacy and appropriate of the system to internal control by testing their operation. To him the auditor of the government accounts should ensure that the internal control is function properly and attention should be paid on: Internal checks (segregation of duties), procedures and rules, internal audit. Internal audit measures, analysis and evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of other control established by management in order to ensure smooth administration, control cost minimization, and ensure capacity utilization and maximum benefit derivation (Unegbu and Obi, 2017).



In the title of their article, Avis, Ferraz, and Finan (2018) ask if government audits reduce corruption, and they find evidence from Brazil that suggests the answer is "yes." Other studies have also found that audits reduce corruption or have other positive outcomes (Björkman and Svensson, 2019). In perspective on the previous and in accordance with the World Bank standards and approach intercessions in underdeveloped nations, great administration includes a productive open administration, an autonomous legal framework and legitimate structure to authorize contracts and capable organization of open assets. Different prerequisites for good administration incorporate a free open inspector capable to a delegate lawmaking body, regard for the law and human rights at all dimensions of government and a pluralistic institutional structure.

Statement of the problem

The future of accountability the macro aspects of economic and financial sustainability, as well as the micro aspects of service delivery. It should envisage a three-tier structure of accountability of official (both political and regular civil employees), that of intra governmental relationships and that between government and their respective legislatures. In many audit regimes, horizontal or vertical accountability might be unlikely given weaknesses in accountability mechanisms. In such cases, outcomes depend heavily on the discretion of the audit (i.e., the leadership of the audited institution). In many audit regimes, horizontal or vertical accountability might be unlikely given weaknesses in accountability mechanisms. In such cases, outcomes depend heavily on the discretion of the audit (i.e., the leadership of the audited institution). These audits are better viewed as a potential tool for learning rather than for accountability (Furubo, 2011). This entails a different causal chain highly dependent on the political will of the audit and a very different set of variables. For example, Van Look and Put's (2018) review of performance audits in mostly advanced industrial highlights the importance of good relationships between auditor and auditor, the extent to which the audited agency is open to advice, and the presence of a self-reflective organizational culture. Similarly, Boyne (2019) is primarily concerned with the skills and the abilities of the auditors to be able to add value to the knowledge that an organization already

has. These factors matter because the audit needs to be convinced of the value of the audit findings in order to act on them; impact is at the auditor discretion.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to investigate auditing and accountability in government owned agencies. However, specific objectives are to:

- i. Identify the effect of risk assessment of auditing and accountability in government agencies.
- ii. Ascertain relationship between control environment and accountability in government owned agencies.
- iii. Examine the relationship between monitoring activities and accountability in government owned agencies.

Research question

In view of the above statement, the following are the research question this study will address:

- i. What is the effect of control environment and accountability in government owned agencies?
- ii. What is the relationship between of risk assessment of auditing and accountability in government agencies?
- iii. What is the relationship between relationship between monitoring activities and accountability in government owned agencies?

Research hypotheses

The following hypotheses shall be tested during this research work:

- i. H₀1: There is no significant relationship between of risk management and accountability in government agencies.
- ii. H₀2: There is no significant relationship between control environment and accountability in government agencies.
- iii. H₀3: There is no significant relationship between monitoring activities and accountability in government agencies.

Definition of term

- i. **Risk Assessment:** A risk assessment is the process of identifying what hazards currently exist or may appear in the workplace.
- ii. **Control Environment:** Control environment is the of standard, process, and structures that provide the basis of carrying out internal control across the organization.



- iii. **Monitoring Activities:** Monitoring activities means all administration, financial or other review activities that are conducted to ensure compliance with all state and federal law, rules, regulations, authorities, and policies.

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive design; a descriptive survey is usually concerned with describing a population with respect to important variables with the major emphasis being establishing the relationship between the variables. The advantage of this type of research design is that it is easy to understand as recommended by (Kothari, 2014).

The research aims are to test the correctness of the theory or the results of existing research, which is formulated in the research hypothesis. Because before being tested or verified, the study variables will also be explained or described. Descriptive research method is also often called the survey method. In general, survey research is limited to research on data collected from a sample of the population to represent the entire population (Nazir, 2018) then it can be said the study is a descriptive verification study.

Robert (2018) defines population as the study of collection objectives that possess information sought by the research in the public sector entities of Nigeria. However, due to difficulty in conducting a successful research on the entire accountability entities in Nigeria, the researcher tends to limit the study on assessable population. The assessable population of the auditing and accountability of government agencies.

Result and discussion

This section presents the results of the field study; it shows the descriptive information of the respondents, the results of each of the research questions and the test of hypotheses.

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1

	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
ACCOUNTABILITY	50	1.00	4.00	1.5600	.73290
ETHICALVALUE	50	1.00	5.00	1.8400	.73845
RISK	50	1.00	3.00	1.6800	.62073
MONITORING	50	1.00	3.00	1.8400	.71027
Valid N (listwise)	50				

Source: Author's computation, 2023.

The descriptive statistics of the variables used is presented on Table 1 below the total questionnaires distributed were 50 and 50 questionnaires were retrieved from the respondents. From the result presented on the table, accountability has a mean of 1.56 and standard deviation of .73290. The maximum and minimum values are 4.00 and 1.00 respectively. In terms of ethical value, the mean was 1.8400 and standard deviation of .73845. The minimum and maximum values are 1.00 and 5.00 respectively. For risk, the mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum values are 1.6900, .620736, 1.00 and 3.00 respectively. As regard to the monitoring, the mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum values are 1.8400, .71027, 1.00 and 3.00 respectively. The result shows that the questionnaires were well administered.

Demographic Information of the Respondents

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents based on their Gender

	SEX			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	30	60.0	60.0	60.0
Valid Female	20	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's computation, 2023.

The table above indicates the distribution of the respondents for this study based on the gender of the respondents. The table showed that the respondents for the study were distributed between male and female, male of 60% of the total respondents while female were 40%. This showed that male dominated the organization.

Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents based on their institution

	SCHOOL			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
College	22	44.0	44.0	44.0
Valid Polytechnic	28	56.0	56.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's computation, 2023.

The table 3 above indicates the distribution of the respondents based on their tertiary institution, the table shows that about 44 percent of the respondents used in this study works in Colleges while 56 percent works in the Polytechnic.



Table 4: Distribution of the Respondents based on the position in the tertiary institution

	POSITION		Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Frequency	Percent		
Valid Accountant	20	40.0	40.0	40.0
Admin	8	16.0	16.0	56.0
Officer				
Auditor	22	44.0	44.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's computation, 2023.

The table 4 shows the position of the respondents in the school, 44 percent are Auditors, and 40 percent are Accountant while 16 percent are Administrative Officers. The result shows that larger percent of the respondent are financially inclined.

Table 5: Distribution of the Respondents based on academic qualification

	LEVEL		Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Frequency	Percent		
Valid O level	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
ND	1	2.0	2.0	4.0
BSc/HND	27	54.0	54.0	58.0
MSc/PhD	21	42.0	42.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's computation, 2023.

Table 5 below shows the academic qualification of the respondents. Based on the table below, the degree holders have 54% while respondents with master and PhD has 42% while ND and O level has 2% each.

Table 6: Distribution of the Respondents based on number of the staff in the tertiary institution

	STAFF		Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Frequency	Percent		
Valid 21-30	3	6.0	6.0	6.0
31 and above	47	94.0	94.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's computation, 2023.

Table 6 below shows the number of the staff in the school of the respondents. Based on the table below, 94% of respondents comes from the school with thirty-one staff and above.

Regression Result

1 Control environment and accountability in government agencies.

The result obtained from the table below shows that the control environment has a no significant relationship with financial accountability in the selected government

institutions of the study p value of 0.851 and F of 0.392. The significance of the result indicated that there are other factors that influence accountability apart from control environment

Regression ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1.123	5	.225	.392	.851 ^b
Residual	25.197	44	.573		
Total	26.320	49			

a. Dependent Variable: ACCOUNTABILITY
b. Predictors: (Constant)

2 Risk management and accountability in government owned agencies

The result obtained from the table below shows that the risk management has no significant relationship with financial accountability in the selected government institutions of the study with the p value of 0.117. The significance of the result indicated that risk management with its determinants is an important determinant of accountability.

Regression ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	4.641	5	.928	1.884	.117 ^b
Residual	21.679	44	.493		
Total	26.320	49			

a. Dependent Variable: ACCOUNTABILITY
b. Predictors: (Constant)

3 Monitoring activities and accountability in government owned agencies

The result obtained from the table below shows that the monitoring activities has significant relationship with financial accountability in the selected government institutions of the study with the p value of 0.009. The significance of the result indicated that monitoring activities with its determinants is an important determinant of accountability.

Regression ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	3.836	5	.767	1.501	.009 ^b
Residual	22.484	44	.511		
Total	26.320	49			

a. Dependent Variable: Accountability
b. Predictors: (Constant)

Conclusion

The findings from the study made it imperative to conclude that auditing is an effective tool had a significant, positive and higher impact on accountability of government agencies a case study of the Polytechnic and Emmanuel Alayande College of education, Oyo.



Recommendation

This research recommends that the government agencies should enhance interval auditing in order to ensure accountability. This paper is useful for academics, policy makers, and practitioners.

Limitation and future studies

The findings of this paper are limited to verifying the influence of some parameters of internal auditing on accountability. This research only studied the Polytechnic of Ibadan and Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo. The study has added to the existing literature on the determinants of accountability of the government agencies by establishing that auditing plays important role in achieving a better accountability by the Polytechnic of Ibadan and Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo. In addition, the study re-established the importance of interest of internal and external stakeholders of the government agencies in achieving better accountability for the organizations.

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