Does Accrual-Based IPSAS Implementation Affect Accountability?

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of International Public Sector Accounting Standards implementation on accountability in terms of clarity for office-holders' decisions and action; efficient service delivery; actualisation of developmental promise; proactive and fair public funds management. Data are gathered from a sample of 540 respondents. Based on Multivariate regression analysis, findings are that IPSASs implementation has a statistically significant effect on accountability at .000 level of significance, in the area of Clarity for office-holders' decisions and action with scores of $F(1, 395.92) = 456.49$; $p < .000$; Efficient service delivery scores $F(1, 402.11) = 437.09$; $p < .000$; Actualisation of developmental promise scores a statistically significant value of $F(1, 403.27) = 547.02$; $p < .000$; Proactive and fair public funds management scores $F(1, 450.33) = 320.42$; $p < .000$. The R squared are ≈ 0.5. Hence, IPSASs implementation is a major factor for improving office-holders' accountability.

Keywords: Accountability, International Public Sector Accounting Standards, Public funds management, Officeholder

1.0 Introduction

The desire for accountability is a critical issue in the public sector. Accountability is the requirement to establish that work has been conducted following agreed regulations and standards and report justly and accurately on performance results concerning mandated roles (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2008). Its rise promotes effective, transparent public management. Ball and Pflugrath, (2012); Salawu and Agbeja, (2007) find an alignment between accountability and best practise. 'Weak accountability is the source of many ills in the world' (Michael, 2005, p. 97). The failures in the public sector are attributable to weak accountability. Haroun (2007) argues that the Government is reluctant to insist on transparent accounting reforms because of the impression that accountability poses a risk to public servant income levels.

Nigerians are dissatisfied with government accountability process of accounting. For instance, Onalo, Lizam, and Kaseri (2013) argue that an enormous part of government spending is budgeted based on guesswork and electoral manipulations. Babatunde (2013) explains that low accountability leads to corruption and consequently results in a high rate of poverty. Low poverty rate poses security risks such as experienced with Boko Haram, Ansir- Dine and militancy in Borno state, Plateau state and Niger-Delta respectively. Moreover, Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (2019) placed Nigeria at a score of 27% or a rank of 144 out of 180 Countries surveyed for perceived levels of public sector corruption. The ranking did not improve and has recorded perpetual failure over the years.

The persistent accountability failure could be due to an accounting style that allows for low disclosure of necessary information for appropriate decision making. For instance, Hitherto the adoption of IPSASs, Nigeria operates under cash accounting basis, which entails that only cash transactions are recorded. In cash basis of accounting, the government does not explicitly disclose its finances and revenue as and when necessary, it does not capitalise the costs of assets at acquisition and no trace of the life of the asset in the records of accounts. Contingent liabilities such as pensions and commitments like salaries are ignored in the financial reports (Omolehinwa & Naiyeju, 2015).

This inadequate disclosure of information in the accounting books of records hinders users from determining the correct revenue of the government or establish the expenditure, the beneficiary of government spending and the items upon which the spending occurs. There is no useful trail of government debtors and creditors (Babatunde, 2019; Omolehinwa & Naiyeju, 2018). This type of record-keeping has adversely affected accountability in the area of responsiveness to the yearnings of citizens with a dire consequence on the future generation because inter-generational activities are omitted in the records. The trend must be reversed for proper accountability.

According to Omolehinwa (2012), accountability is the requirement from public servants to ascertain that work has been conducted based on rules, regulations and generate report fairly and accurately on performance results based on electorates mandate and government plans. An analysis of the need for improved accountability drive in government has generated debate stemming from the New Public Management (NPM). Andriani, Kober and Ng (2010); Mack and Ryan (2006); Cortes (2006) explain that NPM focuses on efficiency, performance measurement, fiscal discipline, accountability and transparency (Onalo, et al., 2013). Bevir (2011) argues that social conflicts are resolved from an accountability perspective as guided by the NPM theory. Haroun (2007) explains that in tandem with NPM, there is a growing consensus concerning the merits of accounting reforms in the public sector.

As a response to NPM expectation, Nigeria took a historic step to develop a more democratic system and improve the responsibility of the government. The country adopted a set of new accounting standards based on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) in 2010 for the public sector alongside the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the private sector. IPSASs implementation is for an efficient provision of services to Citizens. Ironically, despite all these efforts, not much improvement has been recorded.

Accounting reforms continue in the standardisation of operations and formats of presentation. The promulgation of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN) Act No.6 2011 to improve the quality of the Nigerian public sector reporting system. FRCN (2011) mandates the adoption of IPSASs. The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). IFAC (2012) urges all countries of the World to adopt IPSASs because of their numerous benefits, including accountability.

IPSASs are a set of accounting standards that are issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standard Board (IPSASB) for non-commercial government entities in the preparation of financial statements (Babatunde, 2017). IPSASs are based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). IPSASs were first issued on a cash basis, but later developments resulted in their improvement. They are currently released on an accrual basis of accounting. Accrual basis of accounting deals with the financial status of a business organisation by identifying economic events at the time of occurrence, not notwithstanding when cash is exchanged for the event. It allows the current cash flows to be combined with future cash flows to provide an accurate picture of a company's current financial condition. Accrual-based IPSASs promote accountability and performance-based measurement techniques in government organisations. It affords attribution of the pension costs of government employees to the period when they are employed, accumulating and providing their pension rights as and when due, instead of having this as an independent expenditure. Also, Jagalla, Becker, and Weber (2011) explain that instead of an increase in spending when individual capital projects are purchased, they are included in the operating expenditures with provision for depreciation.

Furthermore, the recognition of loans and guarantee programs on an accrual basis promotes more attention to the risks of default, and it, and it accommodates pre-funding by the government (Marti, 2013; Ball & Pflugrath, 2012; Jagalla et al., 2011). Users of government financial reports are conversant with how an officeholder spends tax-payers' money. Danescu and Rus (2013) argue that accounting information available should serve the users for their target purpose. However, The Nigerian public sector is still lagging in the application of accrual-based IPSASs in defiance of the requirements of FRCN Act 2011 as aforementioned.

Drawing on these perspectives, the motivation for this study lies in consequence of low accountability on the citizen in the area of the high unemployment rate, for example. The shortage of IPSASs studies in a transitional economy is also a concern to this study. Some studies have discussed accrual accounting generally, but only a few have investigated its workings in the government departments (Rkein, 2008; Harun, 2012; Thaddeus, 2014). There are also divergent views on the benefit of IPSASs. For instance, Caruana and Grima (2019) find that IPSASs worsens deficits. They argue that IPSASs implementation does not affect the quality of macro-surveillance. Whereas, Balogun (2016) argues that IPSASs improves accountability. Hence, it is necessary to investigate the issue of IPSASs benefits like accountability further. This study is based on a descriptive analysis that is suitable for understanding accounting change and the outcomes of the change in the public sector. This approach is appropriate for the study because it encompasses the description of the authenticity of the foundations of accounting reforms and its implications for performance in the public sector. The study stimulates discussions on the link between accountability process and economic development.

This study exposes the more worrisome issue of accountability as a critical necessity in the government appropriations to reduce the menace of corruption in a transitional economy. It is a scholarly contribution to citizens' welfare strategy to improve the availability of limited research on accounting reforms. This study utilises a methodological style in the assessment of accrual-based IPSASs by using the concept of cost/benefit analysis procedure, with accrual-based IPSASs reform as the cost and accountability, the resultant, improved citizens' welfare as the benefit. Accountability is approached in four perspectives. That is the provision of clear reasons for officeholders' decisions and actions PCRDA; Efficient Service Delivery (ESD); Actualisation of developmental promise (ADP); Government pro-activeness and fairness to public funds providers (GPFPP). Therefore, this study investigates the implementation of accrual-based IPSASs as it affects accountability. It is expected that IPSASs implementation would affect accountability.

Accountability challenges are unresolved. Failing responsiveness to the plight of citizens continues to the detriment of the society. Although some factors have been suggested as essential elements in governance, the effects of accountability appear a common trend. Unfortunately, attention has not been paid to accrual accounting as a tool for improving accountability in transitional economies. If inadequate accountability continues, the Nigerian nation may be backward in economic development. However, the benefits of accountability as essential features of accrual IPSASs have been documented in the literature (Babatunde, 2017; Babatunde, 2013; Ball & Pflugrath, 2012; Marti, 2013). In practice, the adoption of new policies involves a complicated process. Hence, further analysis of the way forward for IPSASs implementation is necessary.

This study aims to provide concise analysis to assess the implementation of IPSAS accrual accounting as it impacts on good governance in the area of accountability in Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives are to:

Examine the effect of accrual IPSASs on accountability. The research question is how does IPSASs implementation affect accountability?

The findings from this study shall provide information on new knowledge about the accounting basis desirable for public accounting. It addresses a diverse population of practitioners, thereby contributes to the scientific field of expertise in Nigeria. The results are essential for the government on the implementation of IPSASs. This study could benefit students and researchers given the dearth of similar studies. The findings could serve as a reference to regulatory authorities, investors for decision making and officeholders for policy formulation.

This study provides the missing link in public sector accounting reforms in Nigeria, which is the bane of Nigeria's development. It provides answers as to; what accounting basis is required to turn around an inefficient and ineffective public sector. Expectedly, this study will be useful to scholars and practitioners in public sector management in general and accounting reforms in particular. The citizenry would use the findings of this study to benchmark the requirements to improve their welfare through effective management of public resources and expenditure in the form of the budget.

The public sector accounting system in Nigeria is across all the three tiers of government, Federal, State and Local government. An extensive literature review was done to covers other areas such as laws and regulations, government reports and press releases. The study also uses a questionnaire for gathering primary data from the accountants who are experienced technocrats involved in the implementation of IPSASs in both Federal and States civil service of Nigeria.

By relying on the use of primary data for research in Nor-Aziah & Scapens (2007); Sharma and Lawrence (2008); Yin (2003), this study concentrates on related questions on the effect of IPSASs on accountability in the Nigeria public sector. Primary data is adopted because IPSASs have not been fully actualised in Nigeria. Thus, it only discusses evidence which is obtainable through the fill of the people. For this reason, this study does not offer a complete analysis but provides some to show how practitioners perceive the subject matter.

2.0 Literature Review

Accrual accounting is an accounting method which recognises economic events irrespective of when cash transactions occur. It affords the current cash flows to be associated with future cash flows and gives an accurate representation of an entity's current financial condition.

The adoption of accrual accounting consists of a substantial amount of work in transforming a change towards improved service delivery. It was based on improvements in efficiency, resource management, transparency and accountability to the public. Babatunde (2013) explains that there are divergent views about accrual accounting in government. Scholars like Ouda (2007) argues that on the average, accrual-based financial information offers better information about the sustainability of fiscal policies. Whereas Omolehinwa (2012); Wynne (2007); Wynne (2008) recognise that there are weaknesses in accrual accounting. They explain that because financial reports prepared on accrual bases involve complex assumptions about future events which are prone to self-judgment and manipulation. The cost of executing accrual-based reports, viz-a-viz the usefulness of the reports, are expensive. The challengers of accrual accounting in government argue that it does not prevent an ENRON type of mess because ENRON reported its finances on the accrual basis, but accrual basis does not remedy the 'off-balance sheet' problem.

However, accrual accounting is not the issue, but ENRON failed to use accrual accounting appropriately, especially in the area of absolute disclosure requirements. ENRON avoided consolidating special purpose entities by not following accounting standards. Accrual financial statements cover cash flow information for transaction disclosure. Hence, the merits of accrual accounting in government reforms strategy overshadows the demerits. IFAC) (2003) provides regulations for non-commercial government entities on the implementation of accrual-based IPSASs. This is with a view to ensuring that corruption is dealt it in the financial reporting practices of the public sector, which Dandago (2008) feels should be fought against as per the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Azrina and Mohammed (2014) find that accounting employees are willing to move to accrual accounting. Jorge, Carvalho and Fernandes (2007) find that governmental accounting reform in Portugal is directed towards international harmonisation with some teething problems which are similar to those faced by several other countries. This study covers practical and technical issues only. This study has a broad coverage of the whole of Nigeria. Carpenter and Feroz, (2001); Hopwood (1983); and Dandago and Shakirat2014). opine that a gap exists between the concept of accounting change and its ultimate development and the eventual application. Harun (2012); Jorge et al. (2007) argue that IPSASs accrual in government has not been adequately researched. In line with the World Bank (2018)'s call for transparency, accountability and sustainability in government, the need to fill the identified shortage of related research in developing nations is partly satisfied in this study by focusing on Nigeria an economy that is craving for development.

The attraction for instructive and provable accounting system lies with the expectations of the stakeholders' theories. Freeman (2010) explains that the proponent of Stakeholders theory is Edward Freeman in 1984. The theory is used to identify how the stakeholders are to benefit in the spending process of the government, which necessitates moral constraints on the part of the office-holders. Stakeholders theory explains that numerous parties are involved in governance such as investors, trade unions, donor, public agencies, political groups and competitors (Heath, 2009). To this end, the citizens organise themselves into strata of the private entity and this constitutes stakeholder groups which contribute to the running of their affairs in anticipation of benefits. Stakeholder theory provides a decision-decision-making system in the area of performance measurement of how the government carries out its activities. According to Ball & Pflugrath (2012), the government insists on compliance with rules and regulations from the private sector; they patronize the private sector for their needs. Ironically out of selfishness, they are reluctant in applying a selfless reporting system that affords accountability in the public sector, such as what they enjoy from the private sector. Hence, it is necessary to assist stakeholders to have access to required information to meet their expectation for appropriate decision making. It is expected that accrual accounting basis of financial reporting provides a fundamental requirement of accountability to the citizens in their various groupings to meet their expectation from the government.

3.0 Methodology

The research method is quantitative, inductive research based on evidence from a primary source of data. This method of research design belongs to the numeric group called cross-sectional survey design. This design is used because of the peculiarity of this study, which is about a technically distinctive situation with numerous variables of concern.

Thaddeus (2014) explains that in primary data studies, the researcher has direct comprehensive contact with the respondents, and these contacts provide a primary source of research data. This study concentrates on actual practices. The research design involves field observation. The presentation of data is described in organisation context and methods. The primary data style provides some benefits to this study because it affords a reliable source of evidence such as documented survey (Harun, 2012; Yin, 2003; Thaddeus, 2014).

The population for this study comprises the qualified accountants working in the Federal and State government civil service establishments in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria namely, North-East, North-Central, North-West, South-East, South-West and South-South zones. According to the offices of the accountants and auditors-general reports as of January 31, 2017, there are 2242 Accountants and 1121 Auditors in the target population totalling 3363 qualified accountants. The choice of the population is because accountants are the knowledgeable users of IPSASs, whose work frequently interface with accounting standards. Clearance for cooperation with the researcher from each of the concerned jurisdictions was obtained through an official letter from the researcher backed up by a letter of introduction from the University of Lagos.

A representative sample size was determined using the Yamane's (1967) formula as follows:

$$\mathrm{n} = \frac{\mathrm{N}}{1 + \mathrm{N(e)2}}$$

Where n is the sample size, N is the target population size and e is the margin of error.

$$N = 3363$$

$$e = 0.05$$

$$n = \frac{3363}{1 + 3363\ (.05)2}$$

However, this calculated sample size was adjusted to accommodate possibility of no returns and non-responses to some items in the questionnaire by an assumed minimum questionnaire response rate of 65% based on the researcher's experience in previous studies carried out. Hence, the final sample is $n = \frac{357}{0.65} = 549$.

Convenience sampling technique was adopted in selecting a state from each of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. They are Federal Capital Territory-Abuja and the States of Bauchi, Imo, Kano, Lagos and Rivers. The proportionate stratified sampling method is applied to each of the jurisdictions to arrive at the final proportion of accountants and auditors according to the jurisdictions for the study sample of size 549.

The research instrument is a questionnaire designed on a five-point Likert-type scale. The instrument contains two sections, A and B. Section A contains questions on the bio-data of the respondents such as the respondents' length of service in government. These variables are important because they assist in classifying the respondents and their opinions correctly. Section B contains questions in the form of statements of affirmation and allows for unrestricted responses. The response rate is 98%. Hence the sample size utilised is 540 respondents. Reliability test reports a Cronbach's Alpha of .94, which is over the acceptable threshold of .7. This indicates that the data gathered are reliable.

In studying the effect of one variable on the other using linear regression statistics, Tanjeh (2016); Hoffman (2015) explain the need to regress the dependent and independent variables to assess their effects. Linear regression statistics are analysed based on the equation of a straight line, which is stated for the four items under focus are as follows:

$$Y_1 = a_1 + bX_1$$

$$Y_2 = a_2 + bX_2$$

$$Y_3 = a_3 + bX_3$$

$$Y_4 = a_4 + bX_4$$

Where X is the independent variable and Y the dependent variable

$Y_{1 \text{ is}}$ PCRDA

$Y_{2 \text{ is}}$ ESD

Y_3 is ADP

Y_4 is -GPFRP;

a_i is the intercept of model i; & b_i is the slope of model i

Two variables are recognised for studying the effect of the implementation of IPSASs on accountability, the independent and dependent variables. The independent variable is IPSASs implementation, while the dependent variables are the benefits accruable to the implementation of IPSASs, as per accountability attributes of PCRDA, ESD, ADP and GPFRP respectively. Hence, the accountability attributes are functions of IPSASs implementation, as presented in arithmetic models 1 to 4 as follows:

Model 1: PCRDA = $_f$IPSAI

Model 2: ESD = $_f$IPSAI

Model 3: ADP = $_f$IPSAI

Model 4: GPFRP = $_f$IPSAI

The variables are analysed using multivariate linear regression technique.

4.0 Data Analysis and Results

Table 4.1 depicts the social-demographic characteristics of respondents which are highest academic qualification, professional qualification, work experience, job title and place of work. The Table shows that 66.5% of the respondents have HND/B.Sc., 28.1% have MSc. /MBA while 5.4% possess M.Phil./Ph.D. This result implies that the respondents are well educated and knowledgeable enough to understand the issue of IPSASs implementation. Table 4.1 shows that ICAN members sampled are 23.9%, ANAN members are 52.1%, while others are 23.9%. The result indicates that respondents are adequately equipped professionally to attend to the questions asked on IPSASs in the questionnaire.

Table 4.1 shows that the respondents with above ten years of experience are in the majority at 45.6%. This result indicates that the respondents are well experienced civil servants who can address the questions asked adequately. Table 4.1 shows that majority of the respondents work as accountants at 67.2%, while those who work as auditors are 32.8%. This result shows that the respondents are the accounting practitioners in the public sector who cancan contribute to the debate on IPSASs implementation.

Table 4.1 illustrates that respondents are from a diverse locality in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. They work in both the Federal and State government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Out of 540 respondents, 265 of them work in FCT –Abuja. Lagos state government reported 111 respondents. Respondents from Bauchi, Imo, Kano and Rivers States are 73, 39. 32 and 20, respectively. The respondents satisfy the questions asked based on their qualifications and experience on the job, which makes the responses reliable.

4.1 Descriptive Statistics of the Measurement of the Research Variables: IPSASs Implementation

Table 4.2 shows the descriptive statistics of IPSASs implementation measurement. Table 4.2 shows that pilot study on the implementation of IPSASs has commenced in most MDAs (Pilot study: $\mu = 4.14$). There are also progress in the availability of detailed chart of account for elements of all expenditure ($\mu = 4.01$), all revenues ($\mu = 4.06$)) and that of all changes in net assets ($\mu = 4.00$) in the jurisdictions sampled. There is improvement in the existence of accounting regulation ($\mu = 3.98$) and adherence to transition timetable ($\mu = 3.95$) to some extent.

Table 4.2 shows that the respondents answered most of the questions with a high mean score recorded for all the questions. The mean scores are close to the maximum score of 5 at 4.01, 4.02, 4.00 and 3.96 for items 1 to 3. The result indicates that respondents agree that IPSASs implementation is a way of providing clear reasons for office-holders' decisions and actions. (Provision of the apparent reason for decision making: $\mu = 4.01$), efficient service delivery (Efficient service delivery: $\mu = 4.02$), actualisation of developmental promise (Developmental promise: $\mu = 4.00$) and it is also an effort to display pro-activeness and fairness to the providers of public funds (Pro-activeness and fairness: $\mu = 3.96$). The implication of these high mean scores recorded, as shown in Table 4.10 is that the data gathered are reliable.

4.2 Effect of IPSASs Implementation on Accountability

In Table 4.3 the multivariate analysis result indicates that IPSASs implementation has a significant effect on accountability at a .05 level of significance. There is also a significant level of Wilks' Lambda at .000. This result is further corroborated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 specifies that IPSASs implementation has a statistically significant effect on accountability at .000 level of significance. Further analysis of the effect records that clarity for office-holders decisions and action scores $F(1, 395.92) = 456.49$; $p < .0005$.

Table 4.4 reveals that there is a statistically significant effect of IPSASs implementation on accountability in terms of efficient service delivery which scores $F(1, 402.11) = 437.09$; $p < .000$; Actualisation of developmental promise scores a statistically significant value of $F(1, 403.27) = 547.02$; $p < .000$;

In Table 4.4 accountability in terms of proactive and fair public funds management scores $F(1, 450.33) = 320.42$; $p < .000$;

For the four criteria tested the mean scores are also close to 1 at .758, .837, .773 and .863 for accountability in terms of clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions, efficient service delivery, actualisation of developmental promise, proactive and fair public funds management respectively. The results indicate that the respondents agree with one another in their choices of answers to the questions asked.

The extent to which IPSASs implementation affects accountability is depicted with the results of R Squared and the Adjusted R Squared, as shown in Table 4.4. For instance, the R Squared ≈ 0.5 and similarly for the Adjusted R Squared for clarity for office-holders' decisions and action. This implies that the proportion of accountability in terms of clarity for office-holders' decisions and action that is predicted by IPSASs implementation is to a large extent.

For efficient service delivery, the R Squared ~ 0.5 and similarly for the Adjusted R Squared. This result implies that the proportion of accountability in terms of efficient service delivery that is predicted by IPSASs implementation is to some extent, as shown in Table 4.4. For Actualisation of developmental promise the R Squared = 0.512, Adjusted R Squared = 0.511 which implies that the proportion of accountability in terms of Actualisation of developmental promise that is predicted by IPSASs implementation is to a large extent as shown in Table 4.4 Table 4.4 demonstrates that accountability in terms of proactive and fair public funds management R Squared = .38, Adjusted R Squared = .379. This result implies that the proportion of accountability in terms of active and fair public funds management that is predicted by IPSASs implementation is to an extent, as shown in Table 4.4. In all the criteria tested the R squared are close to .5. These results imply that other factors may affect accountability in addition to IPSASs implementation in Nigeria. However, the overall results indicate that IPSASs implementation has a statistically significant effect on accountability in Nigeria. Therefore, the tested null hypothesis is not supported.

4.3 Findings

This study finds that IPSASs implementation has a significant effect on accountability. The result supports the findings in some earlier studies. For instance, Babatunde (2019); Wang and Miraj (2018) argue that IPSASs improves accountability. Kartiko, Rossieta, Martani and Wahyuni (2018) finds that accrual practices based on IPSASs strengthen accountability if government prioritises accrual accounting policies extensively. Ademola, Adegoke and Oyeleye (2017) find that adoption of IPSASs improves accountability. Similarly, Acho (2014) finds that the adoption of IPSASs improves accounting and financial recording systems in Nigeria. The results bolster the need to implement IPSASs across the globe as advanced by IPSASB (2017); IFAC (2003) and IFAC (2012). Notably, IPSASs implementation is necessary for improved accountability. The study lays credence to the presumption that the variables tested could combine to benefit citizens. This study further reinforces the principles of stewardship as enjoined by stakeholder theory.

5.0 Conclusion, Recommendations and Contributions to Knowledge

5.1 Conclusion

Accountability is about the promotion of effective and efficient service delivery. It allows for office-holders' decisions and actions to meet peoples' expectation. The government is not able to deliver on its promises to fit the life expectancy of the people in general and that of the users of financial reports in particular. A solution to improve officeholders' accountability to ameliorate the suffering of the citizens has been found in this study which concludes that accrual IPSASs prevent Office-holders culpability in governance mismanagement as IPSASs implementation will enhance accountability.

5.2 Recommendations

The findings of this study suggested the need for governments to fast track the implementation of IPSASs to improve accountability and reduce corruption rate.

I. This study reveals that accountants are sceptical that IPSASs implementation alone could solve the accountability problems of office-holders in terms of proactive and fair public funds management. Hence, special attention is required in this area from all angles of financial reporting in addition to IPSASs implementation.

II. The government should improve on policy reform processes to ensure accountability such as in the area of service delivery system.

III. Further study could explore how best IPSASs implementation could contribute to improve the behavioural aspect of financial reporting as it affects proactive and fair public funds management.

5.3 Contributions to Knowledge

I. This study contributes some unique multivariate regression models that can be referenced in further studies.

II. This study presents four variables of accountability to ease further research in the study area.

III. This study exposes the proactive and fair public funds management aspect of accountability as a difficult variable that will be hard to be solved with IPSASs implementation alone. This exposure will improve decision making by policymakers and users of General Purpose Financial Reports (GPFRs).

IV. This study fills shortage gap of similar study for referencing in further research in a developing economy.

V. This study enhances the doctrine of stakeholder theory in government financial reporting.

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Appendices

Table 4.1: Social-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

S/N	Respondents bio-data		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Highest academic qualification	HND/ B. Sc.	359	66.5
		M.Sc./MBA	152	28.1
		M.Phil. /Ph.D.	29	5.4
		Total	**540**	**100**
2.	Highest professional qualification	ICAN	129	23.9
		ANAN	281	52.0
		Others	130	24.1
		Total	**540**	**100**
3.	Job title	Accountant	363	67.2
		Auditor	177	32.8
		Total	540	100
4.	Work experience	1-5 years	133	24.6
		6-10 years	161	29.8
		Above 10 years	246	45.6
		Total	**540**	**100**
5.	Place of work	FCT-Abuja,	265	49.1
		Bauchi State	73	13.5
		Imo State	39	7.2
		Kano State	32	5.9
		Lagos State	111	20.6
		Rivers State	20	3.7
		Total	**540**	**100**

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Table 4.2: Descriptive Statistics for IPSASs Implementation Measurement

Item No.	Description	Mean
1.	Existence of accounting regulations for the implementation of IPSASs.	3.98
2.	Adherence to transition timetable for the implementation of IPSASs.	3.95
3.	Commencement of Pilot study on the implementation of IPSASs.	4.14
4.	Availability detailed chart of account for the element of all revenues in the MDAs.	4.06
5.	Availability of detailed chart of accounts for the element of all expenditure in the MDAs.	4.01
6.	Availability of detailed chart of accounts for the element of all changes in net assets in the MDAs.	4.00

N = 540; Scale: Max. = 5; Min. =1

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Table 4.3: Multivariate Tests[a] for IPSASs Implementation Effect on Accountability

Effect		Value	F	Hypothesis df	Error df	Sig.
Intercept	Pillai's Trace	.112	16.368[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
	Wilks' Lambda	.888	16.368[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
	Hotelling's Trace	.126	16.368[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
	Roy's Largest Root	.126	16.368[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
IPSASIMP	Pillai's Trace	.541	152.803[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
	Wilks' Lambda	.459	152.803[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
	Hotelling's Trace	1.178	152.803[b]	4.000	519.000	.000
	Roy's Largest Root	1.178	152.803[b]	4.000	519.000	.000

a. Design: Intercept + IPSASIMP

b. Exact statistic

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Table 4.4: Tests of Between-Subjects Effects of IPSASs Implementation on Four Accountability Criteria

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	Clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions.	346.238[a]	1	346.23	456.49	.000
	Efficient service delivery	336.711[b]	1	336.71	402.11	.000
	Actualisation of developmental promise.	422.606[c]	1	422.60	547.02	.000
	Proactive and fair public funds management	276.433[d]	1	276.43	320.42	.000
Intercept	Clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions.	27.983	1	27.98	36.89	.000
	Efficient service delivery	29.358	1	29.35	35.06	.000
	Actualisation of developmental promise.	10.626	1	10.62	13.75	.000
	Proactive and fair public funds management	46.991	1	46.99	54.46	.000
IPSASIMP	Clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions.	346.238	1	346.23	456.49	.000
	Efficient service delivery	336.711	1	336.71	402.11	.000
	Actualisation of developmental promise.	422.606	1	422.60	547.02	.000
	Proactive and fair public funds management	276.433	1	276.43	320.42	.000
Error	Clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions.	395.920	522	.758		
	Efficient service delivery	437.098	522	.837		
	Actualisation of developmental promise.	403.272	522	.773		
	Proactive and fair public funds management	450.336	522	.863		
Total	Clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions.	9295.000	524			
	Efficient service delivery	9238.000	524			
	Actualisation of developmental promise.	9274.000	524			
	Proactive and fair public funds management	9023.000	524			
Corrected Total	Clarity for office-holders' decisions and actions.	742.158	523			
	Efficient service delivery	773.809	523			
	Actualisation of developmental promise.	825.878	523			
	Proactive and fair public funds management	726.769	523			

a. R Squared = .467 (Adjusted R Squared = .466)

b. R Squared = .435 (Adjusted R Squared = .434)

c. R Squared = .512 (Adjusted R Squared = .511)

d. R Squared = .380 (Adjusted R Squared = .379)

Source: Field survey, 2018