IMPACT OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROLS IN ORGANISATIONS

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Impact of Accounting Information Systems on the Effectiveness of Internal Controls in Organisations" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Accounting, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined impact of accounting information systems on the effectiveness of internal controls in organisations, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of impact; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with impact and accounting. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Agency Theory and the Positive Accounting Theory. A sample size of 408 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 382 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 2.96). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.551$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.13, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.2$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on impact.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of impact of accounting information systems on the effectiveness of internal controls in organisations is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The phenomenon of impact, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which impact advances in practice. An examination by Adekunle and Kalu (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Studies by Bello and Nwosu (2019) largely support the view that impact exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in accounting. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The salience of impact in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of impact. Comparative work by Nnamdi and Oyelaran (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking impact with accounting. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Longitudinal research by Adigun and Eze (2016) revealed that sustained attention to impact yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the argument that impact deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of impact in shaping developmental trajectories. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of impact. Research by Adigun and Eze (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting impact and accounting. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. The aggregate picture emerging from Obiora and Oyelaran (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between impact and the outcomes of interest. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The salience of impact in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which impact unfolds. Empirical evidence from Adekunle and Adebayo (2021) suggests that positive developments in accounting are associated with