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2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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RT: Forensic Accounting Techniques and Corrupt Practices in Selected Public Tertiary Institutions in South-West, Nigeria

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AB: Corruption is widely regarded as an unethical act and the polar opposite of growth and development. Education system in Nigeria has experienced setbacks orchestrated by the inability of the government to eradicate corrupt practices. The level of fraud occurrence, embezzlement, self-dealing, nepotism, bribery and budget padding is on the increase. Studies have revealed that while some state and federal institutions have integrated forensic accounting techniques in their tertiary institutions to resolve this menace, corrupt practices still persist in tertiary institutions in South-West, Nigeria. Several studies have focused on fraud as the major proxy for corrupt practices neglecting issues of embezzlement, self-dealing, nepotism, bribery and budget padding that are currently being considered. This study therefore, examined the effect of forensic accounting techniques on corrupt practices in the selected public tertiary institutions in South-West, Nigeria.

The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 257,061 staff and students of the faculty of Management Sciences (Department of Accounting, Finance and Business Administration) in the selected six universities and six polytechnics in South-West, Nigeria. The sample size of 500 was determined using Taro Yamane's formula. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used to select the respondents. A structured and validated questionnaire was administered to the respondents with a response rate of 85%. The Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients for the constructs ranged from 0.70 to 0.84. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential (multiple regression) statistics at a 5% level of significance.

The findings revealed that forensic accounting techniques have significant effect on corrupt practices in the selected public tertiary institutions ($Adj.R^2 = 0.45$, $F(6, 423) = 58.73$, $p < 0.05$). Forensic accounting techniques had significant effect on fraud occurrence ($Adj.R^2 = 0.36$, $F(6, 423) = 40.77$, $p < 0.05$), embezzlement ($Adj.R^2 = 0.42$, $F(6, 423) = 53.52$, $p < 0.05$), self-dealing ($Adj.R^2 = 0.40$, $F(6, 423) = 48.14$, $p < 0.05$), nepotism ($Adj.R^2 = 0.22$, $F(6, 423) = 20.70$, $p < 0.05$), bribery ($Adj.R^2 = 0.46$, $F(6, 423) = 62.13$, $p < 0.05$) and budget padding ($Adj.R^2 = 0.41$, $F(6, 423) = 50.76$, $p < 0.05$) in the selected public tertiary institutions in South-West, Nigeria.

The study concluded that forensic accounting techniques reduced corrupt practices in the selected public tertiary institutions in South-West, Nigeria. It was recommended that government should establish a forensic account, audit and investigation unit in every tertiary institution in order to ensure accountability and transparency in their financial operations and ensure that other forms of corrupt practices outside of fraud should be included. The administration of tertiary institutions in Nigeria should institute legal action against any official caught with corrupt practices in order to deter others from such behavior.

Keywords: Bribery, Budget-padding, Embezzlement, Forensic accounting, Fraud occurrence, Nepotism, Self-dealing

Word Count: 445

Abbreviations: *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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