Effect of IPSAS Adoption on Accountability and Transparency in the Nigerian Public Sector Organizations

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Abstract

This study examined the effect of international public sector accounting standards (IPSAS) adoption on accountability and transparency in the Nigerian Public Sector Organizations using ministry of finance Anambra State of Nigeria as reference point. Primary source of data was employed and the data collected were analyzed using Wilcoxon statistical test tool. The result of this research shows that the adoption of international public sector accounting standards has significantly influenced accountability and transparency in the Nigerian public sector organizations. This is to say that the adoption of IPSAS is expected to increase the level of accountability and transparency in public sector of Nigeria and that it will provide more meaningful information for decision makers and improve the quality of the financial reporting system in Nigeria. The study however concludes the adoption of IPSAS is expected to increase the level of accountability and transparency in public sector of Nigeria and that it will also help to provide more meaningful information for decision makers and improve the quality of the financial reporting system in Nigeria. Based on these, the research report recommends among others that for accountability to be successfully entrenched in public offices in Nigeria, there must be a reduction in the level of corruption, improving public sector accounting and auditing standards, legislators taking positions as champions of accountability and total restructure of public accounts committees. Government should enforce the adoption of IPSAS since its adoption has significantly improved and enhance the level of accountability and transparency in the public sector organizations.

Keywords: *IPSAS, Accountability, Transparency and Nigerian Public Sector Organizations.*

Introduction

From existing records, countries of the world have defined and set the standards of financial reporting in their individual territories. However, globalization has brought about ever increasing collaboration, international trade and commerce among the countries of the world; hence, there is dire need for increased harmonization in the standards guiding financial statements so that such statement would remain comprehensible and convene the same information to users across the world. The need for the development of unified accounting standards has been the primary driver of international public sector Accounting Standards for public sector financial reporting.

International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) is at present the focal point of global revolution in government accounting in response to calls for greater government financial accountability and transparency. The Public sector comprises entities or Organizations that implement public policy through the provision of services and the redistribution of income and wealth, with both activities supported mainly by Compulsory tax/levies on other sectors. This comprises governments and all publicly owned, controlled and or publicly funded agencies, enterprises, and other entities of government that deliver public programs, goods, or services. Public Sector Accounting is a system or process which gathers, records, collates, classifies and summarizes and reports the financial events existing in the public or government sector to ensue for accountability and financial transparency of those to users associated to public institutions. It is interested in the receipts, custody, disbursement and rendering of stewardship of public funds entrusted.

The acronym IPSAS means International Public Sector Accounting Standard. IPSAS are international Accounting Standard used as guidelines for the preparation of public sector financial Statements. According to Adoagye (2012), IPSAS are high quality global financial reporting standards for application by public sector entities other than government business enterprises and being issued by international public sector accounting standard board (IPSAS B) which is formerly known and called public sector committee.

IPSASB's a body of International Federation of Accounting (IFAC) with autonomy to develop and issue IPSAS. In a study conducted by John (2011) he revealed that IPSAS Board comprises of 18 members, out of which 15 are nominated by the member bodies of IFAC while the other three are appointed as public members, who may be appointed by any individual or organization.

The main aim of IPSAS is to enhance the quality of general purpose financial reporting by public sector which would provide better means of assessing the resources allocation by government and also increased transparency and accountability.

The practice of government sector accounting evolved over the years with focus on cash receipts and disbursements on the cash accounting basis or modified cash accounting basis. Hence, government revenue is only recorded and accounted for when cash is actually received and expenditure is incurred only when cash is paid irrespective of the accounting period in which the benefit is received or the service is rendered. It therefore means that, the amounts incurred by the government in purchasing fixed assets are treated the same way as expenses. They are therefore written off as part of expenditure for the period the costs were incurred Oecon, (2010).

Statement of Problem

Recently, the adoption of IPSAS has raised controversy on whether it will help to ensure accountability and transparency in the Nigerian Public Sector. Scholars who have conducted studies on the subject matter have contended that the adoption of IPSAS will improve accountability and transparency while others are of the opinion that adoption of IPSAS will have negative effect on the public sector accountability because of the cost of the introduction.

Conflicting and mixed results were also noted from the previous studies for instance; the study of Ijeoma (2015) argues that the implementation of IPSAS will improve the reliability, credibility and integrity of governments financial reporting where the study of Okeke (2015) on the same note argues that the implementation of IPSAS will have negative effect on the public sector accountability based on the opinion that the cost of such implementation will be extremely exorbitant.

Thus made empirical evidences on the implications of IPSAS on Public sector accountability inconsistent and inconclusive which the present study however seeks to sought and address

Objectives of the study

This paper seeks to;

i. Examine the effect of IPSAS adoption on accountability in the Nigerian public sector.

ii. Investigate whether the adoption of IPSAS improves transparency in the Nigerian public sector.

Research Questions

i. To what extent has the adoption of IPSAS improve accountability in the Nigerian public sector?

ii. To what extent has the adoption of IPSAS enhance transparency in the Nigerian public sector?

Hypothesis

Ho_1: The adoption of IPSAS has no significant effect on accountability in the Nigerian public sector.

Ho_2: Has the adoption of IPSAS ha no significant effect on transparency in the Nigerian public sector.

Literature Review

The Concept of IPSAS

The IPSASs have been accepted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) hence, they are requiring that all countries or bodies use these standards for accounting for funds. Also other International organizations which provide funds to developing countries stipulate IPSASs compliance as a condition. Thus, creditor countries are beginning to use public sector accounting compliance to IPSASs to assure themselves that funds and grants given are being used in the public (Izedomi & Ibadin, 2013).

Chan (2008) described IPSAS as benchmark for evaluating government accounting processes and practices worldwide. The World Bank in collaboration with the office of the Accountant-General cited in Omolehinwa and Naiyeju (2011), conducted research and formed that the 2010 financial report of Nigeria has no record in the consolidated account for external aids and grants; no complete disclosure of financial activities of controlling entities such as NPA, NNPC and CBN; unrealistic gain/losses due to foreign exchange were not reported; payments on behalf of their parties were not disclosed; inability of controlling entities of the Federal Government of Nigeria to pay their account as at when due; no account for undrawn assistance and inadequate disclosure of cash out of direct controls for instance under litigation.

However, according to Wynn, Emasu and Nyangulu (2011), some of the good financial practices identified in Nigeria using the 2008 financial statements include: inclusion of Audit certificate from the auditor general; inclusion of statements cash flow, assets and liabilities, consolidated revenue fund and capital development fund and the consistency of the main totals between them; inclusion of comprehensive set of notes and accounting policies including outstanding imprest and advances; detailed schedule provided for internal and external loans; details provided of subventions to parastatals by the overseeing of ministry, department and agency; consistency of the financial statements from 2005 to 2008 (when the new format stated); financial statement appear on the internet; the development of some financial reporting guidelines by FAAC. According to Obazee (2008), even though in Nigeria government operations and accounts have been conducted within the general framework of the principles of fund accounting, there is a major problem when it comes to the absolute application of the principles of financial reporting.

However, according to Okolieaboh (2013) concluded that "the introduction of IPSAS at the time of the twenty-first century is a constant reminder that the evolution of accountancy is not restless, continues in the endless quest to improve his space in time. Rightly or wrongly, IPSAS has come to be accepted as the flagship accounting and reporting standards for the public sector. Globally, the acceptance and adoption rate is increasing by the day".

Ngama (2012) noted that the adoption of IPSAS would provide the basis for the establishment of a harmonized budgetary system for the three tiers of government. He further stressed that the era of IPSAS would also enhance the country's eligibility to access economic benefits from donor agencies, private sector, Financial Institutions and Worldwide Financial Institutions such as the World Bank. Preparing the country's financial statement using IPSAS which is an international standard would definitely encourage investors into the country.

Nongo (2014) is also of the opinion that the adoption of IPSAS in the public sector accounting reporting system would enhance better service delivery in the public sector, support efficient internal control and bring into focus the performances of the agencies. It would also enhance creditability of government financial information and help build confidence of Nigerian citizens and Nigeria development partners both within and abroad. The adoption of IPSAS would also enhance access of information to the public thereby promoting the aims of freedom of information Act 2011 and facilitating the expression of individuals' opinion on government activities. Adoption of IPSAS at the Local Government would also help to fight corruption which can be easily trace to the local government because of lack of proper accounting system stipulated by the subcommittee.

Onwubuariri, (2012), reported that the Federal Executive Council of Nigeria in July 2010 approved the adoption of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), for the private and public sectors. The adoption is aimed at improving the country's accounting and financial reporting system in consonance with global standards. Consequently, the Federation Account Allocation Committee, (FAAC), in June 2011 set up a sub-committee to work out a roadmap for the adoption of IPSAS in the three tiers of government. However, he noted that some stakeholders believe that the tools and strategies needed to fully implement IPSAS in the three tiers of government in Nigeria are still problematic. He explained that IPSAS is a good development and an international best practice which has been embraced in most developed countries. There is nothing wrong with Nigeria taking queue in making sure that public entities in the country fully adopt IPSAS.

In the words of Aboagye (2012), he said that IPSAS board have so far been able to issue thirty two (32) accrual IPSAS and one(1) comprehensive cash IPSAS this is also in line with IPSAS handbook published in March, 2011. In other to enhance effective adoption and implementation of IPSAS in Nigeria, the Sub–Committee of FAAC has developed the following for all government establishments in Nigeria.

Components of IPSAS

A complete set of financial statements in accordance with IPSASs comprises of the following components: (a) A statement of financial position; (b) A statement of financial performance; (c) A statement of changes in net assets/quality; (d) A cash flow statement; (e) When the entity makes publicly available its approved budget, a comparison of budget and actual amounts either as separated additional financial statements or as a budget column in the financial statements; and notes that comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In addition, Biraud, (2012), listed the following set of 16 best practices for implementing a smooth transition to IPSAS:

1. Set up an interdepartmental IPSAS project steering committee or equivalent body tasked with ensuring that senior management understand the goals and vision driving the transition to IPSAS.

2. Conduct an in-depth analysis of gaps between existing business processes, procedures, financial reporting and functionalities developed under SAS and the requirement and impact of each IPSAS Standard.

3. In case of a major shift in the project environment re-assess the initial IPSAS adoption strategy and adjust this as necessary.

4. Apply proven project planning and implementation methodologies including clearly defined strategic objectives, deliverables, timeliness, milestones and mentoring procedures.

5. Develop a strategy for producing IPSAS compliant opening balances for the targeted implementation date (first day of the first year of compliance) as well as the closing balance for the previous day, based on the previous accounting standard (SAS), but easily translatable into IPSAS terms for the opening balance of the targeted year.

6. With a view to ensuring continued engagement of governing bodies in the change process, regularly update the governing bodies on progress made in the implantation of IPSAS and request that they adopt the relevant decisions, in particular with regard to amendments required to financial regulations and allocation of resources for the project.

7. Determine and budget for the additional human resources required in the administrative budgetary and finance areas to ensure not only effective implementation of the transition to IPSAS but also adequate capacity to maintain future IPSAS compliance.
8. Ensure that financial resources are made available for training where feasible, of in- house experts in accounting, business and change management or for the recruitment of external experts.

9. Thoroughly analyze existing (legacy) information system for comparability and synergy with IPSAS requirements and, as a major element of the initial gap analysis, appreciates the changes that the system must undergo to support IPSAS.

10. Communicate awareness on the transition to IPSAS through all available means of communication, training and documentation.

11. Ensure that existing and future staff, in particular managers, supply chain and finance staff are fully familiarized with the new procedures and requirements through the use of specific documentation (manual) and trainings.

12. Adopt risk assessment, management and mitigation strategies and practices for project implementation in accordance with the projects' objectives.

13. Plan and prepare interim financial statements for review by external auditor(s) well ahead of the final implementation data to avoid unpleasant surprises.

14. Establish and maintain, as soon as feasible, a bilateral dialogue between the organization and its external auditor(s) on the transition to IPSAS to help ensure that both external and internal auditors gain in depth understanding of the new system and its impact on control procedures, as the implementation of IPSAS would require migration to accrual based accounting.

15. Perform continuous testing of internal controls during the preliminary implementation stage of an IPSAS project to ensure the accuracy of the data.

16. Ensure that an independent and comprehensive validation and verification of the system is performed towards the end of its completion.

Economic benefits of adoption of IPSASs

(a) Building confidence in donor agencies and lenders: adoption of IPSAS increases the country's eligibility to access economic benefits from donor agencies (USDP, USAID etc.), private sector financial institutions (Bonds and Bonds rating agencies), and official institutions (IMF and World Bank).

(b) Improved services delivery: As a result of greater accountability and transparency, adoption of IPSAS will improve Value for Money (VFM) expenditure.

(c) Aggregate Reporting: Adoption of IPSAS will ensure a holistic reporting of government financial transactions and positions.

(d) Enhanced public-private partnership arrangements: Collaborative efforts between the public and Private Sectors is enhanced with both running on similar set of accounting standards (IPSAS and IFRS).

(e) Economic leverage: Sovereign nations are induced with the prospect of commensurate benefits. Government susceptible to economic leverage is more likely to adopt IPSAS.

Transparency and Accountability in the Nigerian Public Sector

Literature revealed that financial management in government is for the purpose of providing adequate financial information to the citizens through talking to citizens and listening to them. This can be done through the process established for carrying out financial and non-financial activities. Compliance with the processes is necessary to ensure transparency and accountability (Wynne, 2007).

According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2008), accountability is the obligation to demonstrate that work has been conducted in accordance with agreed rules and standards. The officer reports fairly and accurately on performance results compared with plans. UNDP (2008), stated that transparency refers to a process by which reliable, timely information about existing conditions, decisions and actions relating to the activities of the organization is made accessible, visible and understandable.

UNDP (2008), argued that accountability and transparency are indispensable pillars of democratic governance that compel the state, private sector and the civil society to focus on results, seek clear objectives, develop effective strategies, and monitor and report performance.

In this regard, some authors McPhee (2006); Lee, Johnson and Joyce (2004)] support this view. They argued that accountability is essential in government. Accountability indicates that agencies should be held answerable for promised results by doing things transparently in line with due process. "The problem with this concept of accountability is that its focus is on whether or not spending votes are exceeded without questioning whether the amounts paid for services and goods are reasonable. Thus, this type of accountability in the Nigerian public sector cannot provide answers to a question like, 'what did the tax payers receive for the money spent?'" (Omolehinwa, 2012).

Omolehinwa (2012) stated that it is this limitation of accountability that shifted attention from compliance to performance-based accountability. The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (called GPRA in USA) and performance "contract" in form of Public Service Agreement in Britain, reinforced by Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB), are attempts at laying emphasis on performance-based accountability in government. Under both methods, the government is expected to indicate targets/outcomes that are supposed to be the commitment of government to their citizens on what to expect for the use of public funds. Through the annual budget reports, the public and the legislative arm of government can judge whether or not public funds are well spent.

Oladele (2001) stated that accountability expectation is enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Act No. 24 LFN, which emphasizes regulation and control of public funds and the whole aspect of financial management in government. Accountability includes financial, administrative, social, and political stewardship. This view is supported by Ula-lisa's (2005) study which established that when accountability is transparent it suggests that all means of facilitating citizens access to information and their understanding of decision– making mechanisms is based on integrity, in order to ensure an unimpaired condition of soundness synonymous with honesty. United Nations Economic Commissions for Africa (UNECA, 2005), stated that to talk about accountability is to talk about responsibility and responsiveness. Since public accountability is central to good governance, it has been generally taken to be the public expectation for fairness.

A reliable budget is expected to achieve this fairness. UNECA (2005) agreed with IMF (2001) that budgeting facilitates monitored by policy analysis, promotes transparency and accountability as a result of regular fiscal reporting, sound management of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all government institutions. Therefore, IMF (2001) argued that transparency and accountability in budgeting should be pursued based on good practices on fiscal transparency, there should be clarity of roles and responsibilities, public availability of information is essential, and there should be open budget preparation, execution and reporting.

Ekot and Ogala (2011) describe the Nigerian 2011 budget as one that is expected to help deal with an overhanging deficit by reducing an over-bloated overhead and running cost. This description agrees with the view of Ula-lisa (2005), who stated that bad leadership traits in budgeting are the very reason why the leaders must not only be accountable but also transparent in all things. In this manner, the people can monitor and determine what direction they want from their representatives. UNECA (2005), argued that to achieve assurance of integrity, fiscal data should meet accepted quality standards and should be subjected to independent scrutiny, there should be mechanisms in place that provide assurances to the public about data integrity. Some improvements are needed to ensure that the budget data reflect recent revenue and expenditure trends, underlying macroeconomic developments, and well-defined policy commitments. The improvements may be achieved by reviewing the cash basis of accounting and adopting accrual accounting

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework gives the meaning of a word in terms of the theories on International Financial Reporting Standards such as Signaling Theory and it assumes both knowledge and acceptance of the theories that this research work depends upon.

Signaling Theory

Signaling theory is useful in describing behavior when two parties have access to different information. In that setting, the ender (communicator) chooses how to communicate or signal the information to the other party (the receiver), who chooses how to interpret the signal. Because of the role of information in organizational growth and competiveness, signaling theory is prominent in management literature and has been gaining momentum in recent years (Connelly, Cerrto, Ireland &Reutzel, 2011).

Under signaling theory, managers use the accounts to signal their expectations to investors who use accounting information for decision making. Managers who expect a high level of future growth would signal that via published financial statements. Even managers of firms with poor financials would signal positive news to retain high rating among investors (Godfrey, Hodgson, Tarca, Hamilton & Holmes, 2013).

The adoption of IPSAS provides opportunity for MDAs in developing countries to present financial reporting using high quality accounting standards. Consistent with signaling theory, some IPSAS adopters may send the proper signals, while others may convey deceptive signals.

Empirical Evidence

Shakirat (2012) conducted a study on the effects of adoption of accrual-based budgeting on transparency and accountability in the Nigerian public sector. A sample of two hundred and ninety-five respondents in the Nigerian public sector, drawn from Cross river, Edo, Kwara and Lagos States of the federation, was used to conduct the study. Two hundred and fifty-eight valid responses representing 87% of the sample were used in the analysis. This study employed Karl Pearson coefficient of correlation "r" statistics for analysis. Findings from this study indicated significant impact of accrual budgeting on transparency and accountability, there is also significant impact of transparency and accountability on economic growth in the Nigerian public sector. This study provides important management information, and can be used in enhancing fiscal transparency and accountability towards good governance in the Nigerian public sector.

Balogun (2015) examined the impacts of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in the Nigerian Public Sector (Case Study of The Office of The Accountant General of Ekiti State. The objectives of this study are determining the impact of adoption of IPSAS on the Level of Accountability and Transparency in the Public Sector of Nigeria and to ascertain the contribution of adoption of IPSAS in enhancing comparability and international best practices. Primary source of data was employed to generate the data of interest. Research questionnaire was designed, which was made of hypothetic questions of the research work. Interview questions were formulated and tested for validity before dispatching to the chosen sample populace of 45 staffs of the Office of The Accountant General of Ekiti State. The statistical tool employed was the Chi-square test. From the findings of the study, it was observed that adoption of IPSAS is expected to increase the level of accountability and transparency in public sector of Nigeria. It was found that the adoption of IPSAS will enhance comparability and international best practices. Also, it was denoted that adoption of IPSAS based standards will provide more meaningful information for decision makers and improve the quality of the financial reporting system in Nigeria.

Ijeoma & Oghoghomeh (2014) investigated on the expectations, benefits and challenges of adoption of International Public SectorAccounting Standards (IPSAS) in Nigeria. The objectives of this study are determining the impact of adoption of IPSAS on the Level of Accountability and Transparency in the Public Sector of Nigeria and to ascertain the contribution of adoption of IPSAS in enhancing comparability and international best practices. Primary source of data was employed to generate the data of interest. The statistical tools employed were the Chi-square test, Kruskal Wallis test and descriptive analysis.

From the findings of the study, it was observed that adoption of IPSAS is expected to increase the level of accountability and transparency in public sector of Nigeria. It was found that the adoption of IPSAS will enhance comparability and international best practices. Also, it was denoted that adoption of IPSAS based standards will enable provide more meaningful information for decision makers and improve the quality of the financial reporting system in Nigeria. In addition, it was found that adoption of IPSAS by Nigerian government will improve comparability of financial information reported by public sector entities in Nigeria and around the world.

Matsvai (2015) investigated the issue of either implementing cash or accrual accounting based financial reports for central government in Zimbabwe. It is trying to provide some literature on this area by contributing to the improvement of public sector accounting and reporting. The qualitative research design was used in this study because of its ability to extract views from respondents. The population of this was made up of Accountants, Economists, Trainers and Auditors. A sample of forty three from these public finance management people was used and stratified and convenience sampling methods applied to balance on the issue of time-cost saving and representation. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data together with analysis of annual financial reports for four developing countries in Africa. The results show that cash and accrual basis of accounting has benefits and challenges and IPSAS accrual and modified are preferred because of their comprehensiveness for the earlier and latter to enable some sort of comprehensiveness. Recommendations are the current financial reports under cash basis should include a statement of receipts and payments, accounting policies and considerations for migrating to IPSAS and further research on the challenges of adopting IPSAS indifferent countries identifying both the factors and strategies.

Ijeoma (2015) evaluated the impact of International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) on reliability, credibility and integrity of financial reporting in State Government Administration in Nigeria. The purpose of this study is to ascertain the impact of International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) on reliability, credibility and integrity of financial reporting in State Government administration in Nigeria. The findings of this study showed that implementation of IPSAS will improve the reliability, credibility and integrity of financial reporting in State Government administration in Nigeria.

Also, it was observed that implementation of IPSAS based standards can facilitate efficient internal control and result based financial management in the public sector of Nigeria. Equally, it was found that implementation of IPSAS can enhance Federal Government's goal to significantly deliver services more effectively and efficiently. Accountability is no doubt the hallmark for good governance, if Nigeria is to be a member of the twenty most developed nations of the world by the year 2020, political office holders, citizens and all stakeholders in the Nigerian project should embrace integrity, transparency and accountability in the management of public funds. Furthermore, we concluded that implementation of IPSAS by public sectors in Nigeria will not only impact positively on reliability, credibility and integrity of financial reporting but is expected to pave way for a uniform chart of financial reporting by the three tiers of Government in Nigeria.

Joseph (2013) conducted a study on "public sector restructuring and governance in Nigeria: perspectives, processes and challenges" draws our attention to the issues affecting the smooth implementation of restructuring efforts in Nigeria. The objectives of this paper are to examine the public sector restructures in recent times, identify the factors affecting the implementation of public sector restructures and to determine the processes of public sector restructuring in Nigeria. Survey method was adopted to elicit data for this study.

Meanwhile, the paper revealed among other things that bad leadership significantly affected the implementation of the structure programmes in Nigeria's public sector. The paper recommends inter alia; that initiators of restructuring should understand the relationship between public sector restructuring and organizational culture, build consensus on restructure agenda between the political actors, drivers of restructure and the bureaucracy regarding the scope, strategy and implementation modalities of the restructure process, strengthen the implementing and coordinating mechanisms for restructure and strengthen central agencies crucial to change. Implication of this finding for government officials is that it is only full implementation of public sector restructures that can bring about the attainment of greater efficiency, productivity and consequently lead to socio-economic transformation.

Methodology

The design used in this study is Ex Post Facto design. It is established to predict and envisage the effect of IPSAS adoption on Accountability and Transparency in the Nigerian Public Sector Organizations. The study population used in this research comprises of workers in the finance offices of Anambra State Ministry of Finance.

A total of seventy five workers in the finance offices of the Ministry of Finance were consequently selected for the study. Data for the study were obtained from both primary source.

The questionnaire survey was designed where respondents were asked to assess the level of accountability and transparency in the Nigerian Public Sector prior to the adoption of IPSAS and after the adoption of IPSAS using five scales points, referred to as; (1) to a very large extent, (2) to a large extent, (3) neutral, (4) to a low extent and (5) to a very low extent.

In view of this, 75 copies of questionnaire were administered to relevant accounting departments of the Ministry of Finance Anambra State.

The Likert five scale points was used to transform the data to scale measurement and the hypotheses were statistically tested using Wilcoxon test tool operated with SPSS V20 at 5% level of significant.

Presentation and Analysis of Data

The data (i.e variables) needed for the study was presented on the table 1 below as thus:

Table 1: The Mean Performance of MDAs prior to and after Adoption of IPSAS

Designation	The Mean Level of Accountability after IPSAS adoption	The Mean Level of Accountability prior to IPSAS adoption	The Mean Level of Transparency after IPSAS adoption	The Mean Level of Transparency prior to IPSAS adoption
Directors of Accounts	3.00	2.10	3.00	2.20
Higher Executive Officers	2.50	2.00	2.00	1.80
Senior Executive Officers	3.00	1.80	2.50	2.00
Accountant I	2.50	1.90	2.50	3.00
Accountant II	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.00
Total	**14.00**	**9.80**	**13.00**	**11.00**

Source: Researcher's computation from questionnaire survey (2019).

4.1 Result of the Study

Wilcoxon statistical test tool was explored to test the linear relationship between the dependent and independent variable using SPSS version 20 as shown in the tables below:

Table 1: Result on effect of IPSAS Adoption on Accountability of Nigerian Public Sector.

Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig	Decision
The median of difference between Accountability prior to IPSAS Adoption and Accountability After IPSAS Adoption equals O.	Related Samples Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test	0.043	Reject the null hypothesis

Table 2: Result on effect of IPSAS Adoption on Transparency of Nigerian Public Sector.

Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig	Decision
The median of difference between Transparency prior to IPSAS Adoption and Transparency After IPSAS Adoption equals O.	Related Samples Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test	0.042	Reject the null hypothesis

Results and Discussion

Ho_1: IPSAS Adoption has no significant effect on the Accountability in Nigerian Public Sector.

From table 1 above, hypothesis one result shows that there is a significant difference on the accountability of Nigerian Public Sector before and after the adoption IPSAS in the Nigerian Public Sector. With a P-value of 0.043 which is lesser than the 5% significant adopted, the test is however considered statistically significant. Null hypothesis was rejected and alternate hypothesis accepted which contends that the adoption of IPSAS has significant effect on Accountability in the Nigerian public sector organizations.

The finding is in tandem with that of the Ijeoma (2015) who evaluated the impact of International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) on reliability, credibility and integrity of financial reporting in State Government Administration in Nigeria and consented that IPSAS adoption has positively impacted and intruded integrity in the Nigerian public sector organizations.

Ho$_2$: IPSAS Adoption has no significant effect on Transparency of Nigerian Public Sector.

From table 2 above, hypothesis two result shows that there is a significant difference on the transparency of Nigerian Public Sector before and after the adoption IPSAS in the Nigerian Public Sector. With a P-value of 0.042 which is lesser than the 5% significant adopted, the test is however considered statistically significant. Null hypothesis was rejected and alternate hypothesis accepted which contends that the adoption of IPSAS has significant effect on Transparency in the Nigerian public sector organizations.

This is in alignment with the priori expectations of Ijeoma & Oghoghomeh (2014) who investigated on the expectations, benefits and challenges of adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in Nigeria. The study however captured that the adoption of IPSAS is expected has increase the level of transparency in public sector of Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of this study, the study concludes that the adoption of IPSAS is expected to increase the level of accountability and transparency in public sector of Nigeria and that it will also help to provide more meaningful information for decision makers and improve the quality of the financial reporting system in Nigeria.

Recommendation

In view of the findings of the study, it is recommended that

- Government should enforce the adoption of IPSAS since its adoption has significantly improved and enhanced the level of accountability and transparency in the public sector organizations.
- For accountability to be successfully entrenched in public offices in Nigeria, there must be a reduction in the level of corruption, improving public sector accounting and auditing standards, legislators taking positions as champions of accountability and total restructure of public accounts committees.

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