Value Relevance of Accounting Information in Pre-Post Covid 19 Pandemic

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Abstract
This study examined whether the COVID 19 pandemic improves or not the value relevance of accounting information in healthcare companies in Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined the effect of book value per share on market price per share of healthcare manufacturing companies in Nigeria. The hypothesis was formulated in line with the objective of the study. Ex Post Facto research design, data were extracted from annual accounts of the sampled companies. The data were analyzed and tested with regression analysis via SPSS version 20.0. The study revealed that market value per share does not improve after the COVID 19 pandemic. Imply that emergence of COVID 19 pandemic does not contributes positively on the book value per share of healthcare manufacturing companies in Nigeria. Based on the study's findings, the study In order for Nigerian companies to improve their earnings, they need to place a greater emphasis on business expenses and devise novel strategies for cutting costs.

Keywords: Value relevance, Accounting information, Book value per share and Market value per shares.

1.1 INTRODUCTION
Rules and principles inherent in the accounting industry allow for manipulations and designs by professional accountants. As a result, given the necessary expertise and accounting acumen, two accountants may report two different profit figures from the identical records, and neither would be regarded to have erred in his consideration of certain fundamental ideas in the compilation of his accounts. Fair value accounting supporters perceive the primary justification for reporting all assets on the balance sheet at fair value as being more current and possibly more relevant (Cunningham & Harris, 2006).

The value relevance of accounting information refers to the significance of accounting information in stock investing choices. Investors put their money into something and want to know that their principal and return on investment will be returned shortly. The expectation of a positive rate of return is a necessary component of investment (Hossain, 2013). Before investing in stock, they want to know the company's competence and strength. They require reliable information about the companies in order to make an informed decision. According to (Hossain, 2020b), the main expectation of investors is to ensure the timely return of their investment. The company's many financial reports and disclosures are the primary sources of information for investors. Companies supply various accounting information to investors who are concerned about the company's performance and current state on a timely basis (Hossain, 2021).

Companies' financial reporting is accomplished through the creation and publication of financial statements. These financial statements must meet specified quality standards in terms of information content. According to Maines and Wahlen (2006) and Belkaoui (2002), accounting information in financial reports should have the following characteristics: relevance, verifiability, understandability, neutrality, timeliness, comparability, and completeness. Benston (2007) claimed that when financial reports disclose quality accounting information, the decisions of the users (investors, management, government, employees, creditors, analysts) of the reports can be qualitative and informed. Financial report users usually utilize the reports to make decisions about a company's viability. According to Ghofar and Saraswati (2008), investors are often overly reliant on the quality of accounting disclosure.

Investors make decisions about whether to buy, hold, or sell after receiving this information. As a result, this information is critical for both the investor as a whole and the company as a whole. Accounting information is relevant in investment decisions when it is utilized to make decisions about investing in equity (Omokhudu & Ibadin, 2015). If the accounting information is valued, investors will use it to value their shares. Accounting information's value relevance was described by Sami and Zhou (2004) as the ability of information supplied by accounting systems to change the stock price. Accounting information is valuable when potential investors use it to evaluate organizations and also use it when changing the share price (Barth, Beaver, & Landsman, 2001).

COVID-19 has significant ramifications, including business and production delays, supply-chain disruptions, volatility in the equities and debt markets, lower revenue and cash flows, and other economic consequences with accounting and financial implications. Other considerations include, but are not limited to: Reduced customer demand for products and services as a result of lost income and/or constraints on consumers' freedom of movement; The outbreak's financial reporting implications may be similarly broad for entities, and the precise consequences will vary on the facts and circumstances of each organization. As time passes and the outbreak's effects change and evolve, it may become difficult to distinguish which information, facts, and circumstances must be incorporated into the measurements as of the end of the reporting period and which must result in potential subsequent event disclosures supported by several changes in estimates, assumptions, and other analyses in a more descriptive manner (ICAS, 2020).

Although researchers have written about the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, none can be found in Nigeria, to the best of my knowledge, with the exception of the contributions of forward-thinking audit firms such as Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), KPMG, and Akintola Williams & Delloitte (AWD). In Nigeria, studies have been done to determine the value relevance of accounting information (Adaramola & Oyerinde, 2014, Abiodun, 2012). However, it is unclear whether the importance of accounting information has increased or decreased through time. According to Sami and Haiyan (2004), the explanatory power of profits of stock return is quite modest, which is consistent with previous studies in the United States. Accounting information and market price per share are linked, according to Habib and Elhamaney (2009) and Perara and Thrikawala (2010). Accounting information has the potential to capture information that impacts equity values, according to Halonen, Parlovic, and Pearson (2013); Mechelli and Cimini, et al (2014). This study set out to determine whether value relevance of financial information in Nigerian healthcare manufacturing companies has improved after COVID-19 pandemic.

2.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
2.1 Value Relevance of Accounting Information
Different researchers held opposing views on the VARI. Many of them believed that the value significance of EPS had decreased while the value relevance of BVPS had increased. Halonen, Pavlovia, and Pearson (2013) investigated the Swedish stock market and discovered that accounting information such as EPS and NAVPS can explain a considerable portion of stock price. Riaz, Liu, and Khan (2015) found that EPS and BVPS had a statistically significant influence on MVPS.

The "connection between accounting quantities and security values" is referred to as value relevance (Barth & Beaver, 2000). Financial reporting information's ability to summarize and capture information that affects share values has been empirically tested as a statistical association between accounting and market values" and mapping from financial statements to "intrinsic" value (Hellström, 2006; Tharmila & Nimalathasan, 2013). Similarly, the value relevance of financial information can be predicted and statistically measured by examining the relationship between stock market values or returns and the information reported by the financial statement (Barth, Cram, and Nelson, 2001), as well as the ability of the disclosed information in financial statements to capture and summarize firm value (Beisland, 2009; Kargin, 2013). Omokhudu and Ibadin (2015) conducted a VARI study in Nigeria from 1994 to 2013 and determined that accounting information such as earnings, dividends, and cash flows are statistically significant and have value relevance in Nigeria. They also suggest that while making investment decisions, investors should prioritize the following accounting information: earnings, dividends, and cash flows. Olugbenga and Atanda (2014) discovered the VARI using the OLS regression method and discovered that accounting information is value relevant for the organizations studied. Khanna (2014), Lam, Sami, and Zhou (2013), and Der, Polak, and Masri (2016) all found a link between EPS, BVPS, and MVPS.

Financial reporting is concerned with giving useful information to users of financial statements

in order for them to make informed decisions. Accounting standards setters around the world believe that in order for information to be useful to users, it must have two critical qualitative characteristics: relevance and dependability (Mbekomize & Popo, 2020). It is worth noting that in recent conceptual frameworks of financial reporting, particularly those of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (2010) and the International Accounting Standards Board (2011), the attribute of reliability has been replaced by the characteristic of faithful representation (2018). Brain Mass (n.d.) Relevance refers to information that has the ability to affect the decisions of users. Furthermore, information with the potential to influence decisions must have predictive value (the ability to forecast future outcomes) and/or confirmatory value (the ability to provide feedback on earlier judgements) (Financial Accounting Standards Board, 2010; International Accounting Standards Board, 2018). According to Alexander, Britton, and Jorissen (2007), for information to be relevant, it must resonate with why the user needs that knowledge in the first place.

2.2 Market Price Per Share (MPS)

The market price of a publicly listed company is highly volatile since it is governed by the forces of market supply and demand and is based on the expectations of buyers and sellers (Menaje, 2012). Earnings and dividends declared by a corporation are related to share market prices, according to O'Hara, Lazdowski, Moldovean, and Samuelson (2000). Regardless of the accounting numbers that can be used to predict market price, if these numbers contain new information, a reaction in the market over the market price of share is always expected; this reaction evidence in share price is found to consistently drift in the same direction as that of the initial information.

From the perspective of investors, the market value to book value ratio (MBV) compares a company's market value to its book value. When it comes to interpreting capital structure decisions, the market-to-book ratio is one of the most important sources of inspiration for the costly external financing theory (Olanrewaju & Tabitha, 2017). This variable was chosen appropriately because the major purpose of this study is to analyze the effect of financial performance on capital structure choice of enterprises listed on the NSE. A company's book value is an important component to consider when calculating its worth. Book values have a substantial impact on a company's valuation. Ohlson (2001), using cross-sectional data from 1997 to 2003, Aras and Yilmaz (2008) discovered that the market to book multiple had a significant impact on stock return predictions for 12 nations. When predicting stock prices, the study gives a mechanism for calculating the impact of price on book value.

There are various procedures involved in calculating the market price per share. The first step is to decide on a date for calculating the market price per share. The second step is to determine the price on that specific date. It can look up the stock price on that particular date in the company's monthly, quarterly, or yearly report. Thirdly, one must consider the preferred stock, if any, that this company owns. If the company owns and has paid dividends on its preferred stock, subtract those dividends from the stock price you have found from the financial report. Market Price Per Share = Net Income - Preferred Dividends over Number of Shares of Common Shares Outstanding.

2.3 Book value per share (BV)

The BV is the owner's equity divided by the number of shares in circulation. We can predict a positive association between share prices and book value based on the idea (Ohlson, 1995). The researcher calculates book value per share by dividing the value of common stock by the number of shares outstanding for each quarter. While the fundamental function of earnings in value relevance has long been established in accounting literature, the same cannot be said of equity book value (Subramanyam & Venkatachalam, 2000). The framework of the clean surplus valuation, which is based on Ohlson's (1995) residual income valuation model, suggests that the book value of equity plays an anchoring role in valuation by representing the net stock of resources on which firms' future earnings are dependent and providing information on liquidation.

The book value of equity per share (BVPS) is an accounting indicator that helps investors to assess the financial health of a firm. The BVPS analyzes a stock's current common equity and outstanding shares to determine if it is undervalued or overvalued (Setven, 2015). The BVPS is calculated by dividing the total number of outstanding shares by the common equity value of a corporation. Assume a company's common equity is worth N100 million and it has 10 million outstanding shares. The corporation's book value per share will be exactly N10 (i.e. N100 million/10 million).

The book value per share formula is used to determine a company's per share value based on the equity accessible to common shareholders. The term "book value" refers to the assets minus liabilities of a firm and is also known as stockholder's equity, owner's equity, shareholder's equity, or simply equity. The balance statement for the corporation shows common stockholder's equity, also known as owner's equity. The whole stockholder's equity is employed in the absence of preference shares. Total Common Shareholder's Equity divided by the number of common shares equals book value per share.

2.4 COVID-19 Health Crisis

The coronavirus illness (COVID-19) is caused by a new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that has never been seen in humans before. It was initially reported to WHO on December 31, 2019 in Wuhan, China (NCDC, 2020). Because of the extensive impact, some nations and states were forced to proclaim a state of emergency. The sickness has resulted in a major decrease in social connection, as well as the closure of public facilities and restrictions on physical interaction (GAS, 2020). De Vito and Gómez (2020) did a study on how the COVID-19 health crisis could affect the liquidity risk of listed corporations in 26 countries, It was discovered that the average firm's cash holdings would be depleted in roughly two years and that its current obligations would rise over a sustainable level, necessitating an injection of around 53% of noncurrent debt (compared to the 2018 level) to avoid a liquidity crisis. They also projected that around one-tenth of all enterprises would become insolvent within six months. COVID-19: Financial reporting implications for Nigerian companies were also discussed, and it was concluded that COVID-19 associated accounting repercussions will differ depending on the business processes and industries of the companies (BDO, 2020).

Through the ICAN (2020), the Financial Council of Nigeria published, The council reiterated the need for members to gain a thorough understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the client's reporting framework, as well as assess the implications of on the client's business operations and financial reporting processes, concluded that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic harms firm performance in Nigeria, and thus recommended that the government include private businesses in its stimulus packages or palliative programs (Eric, 2020).

2.5 Empirical Review

Several studies have been conducted both inside and outside Nigerian borders on the value relevance of accounting information within and outside of the new accounting reporting for or against the established theories.

Hossain (2021) established the Value relevance of accounting information (VRAI), which stresses the impact of various accounting information on the market price of the share. This study attempts to calculate the VARI on pharmaceutical businesses' share prices on Bangladesh's Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). For this goal, the study collected data from several Pharmaceutical businesses listed on the DSE from 2017 to 2019. Correlation, ANOVA, and regression analysis were used in this study, and the results indicated a statistically significant positive link between NOCFPS and NAVPS. At the same time, the findings indicated a statistically significant negative association between EPS and MVPS. The findings also revealed that CDPS and SDPS do not have a substantial yet beneficial association with MVPS.

Anisere-Hameed (2021) investigated the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic on Nigerian accounting and financial reporting. The study takes a cross-sectional method, with data collected from several companies at a specific period in time. Secondary financial data was acquired from different sample sources to ensure a fair representation, particularly the Nigerian economy's manufacturing sector, banking sectors, and conglomerates. Using SPSS version 25, the independent t-test and Logit Binary Regression model were used to assess the study's hypotheses. This paper found a significant difference between published financial reporting before and after the COVID-19 era; COVID-19 has a significant impact on events after the reporting period, going concern of firms in Nigeria, interim financial reporting, and COVID-19 has a significant impact on changes in expected credit losses for financial assets.

Lawal, Mohamed, Abdalla, ElKelish and Lasyoud, (2022) explored the impact of accounting information systems (AIS) on business performance during the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as how they aid improve staff performance and the external auditing process. The inductive approach is used in this qualitative paper. Semi-structured interviews were used to collect detailed primary data in the year 2020. The empirical findings of this article reveal that AIS has a beneficial impact on business performance and an even greater impact on staff performance and the auditing process. The findings also reveal that there is no direct influence on the overall cash flow/revenues of enterprises.

Baltariu (2015) examined the scholarly literature on the value relevance of reported accounting

information in Cluj-Napoca during a twelve-year period beginning in 2002. The study takes a theoretical (conceptual) approach. To complete the goal of the paper, we choose longitudinal qualitative analysis as the research method. The qualitative analysis performed is deductive in nature. The primary results and scientific contributions found in the research field of interest are used to establish conclusions about the general characteristics of the study field relative to the value relevance of reported accounting information.

The goal of this research, according to Omokhudu and Ibadin (2015), is to contribute to the empirical literature on value relevance by investigating the extent to which accounting information is connected with business value in an emerging market environment. To determine the value relevance of accounting information in Nigeria, the paper employs the standard Ohlson (1995) model and a variation of the model that adds cash flow from operations and dividends. In the regression of share price and returns on accounting numbers, the study uses pooled and panel data. In the regression, the ordinary least squares (OLS) estimation and dynamic model estimation with the Random and Fixed effects variations were utilized. Earnings, cash flow, and dividends were found to be statistically significant predictors of firm value, however book value was found to be relevant but not statistically significant.

Abubakar (2015) evaluated the joint incremental value significance of intangible assets, such as brands, that are not currently recognized in accounting practice. The study also investigates the contribution of these assets to increasing the informative quality of accounting information provided to users, as well as the dependability of reporting intangible assets. The study used the Ordinary Least Square Regression technique for data analysis utilizing the Edward, Bells, and Ohlson Price model on a sample of nine high-technology enterprises during a seven-year period (2005-2011). At 99% confidence level, the study discovered that there is joint incremental value significance of recognizing intangible assets in the statement of financial situations of High-Technology enterprises in Nigeria. That is, recognizing intangible assets, in this case brand, in the financial statements of listed high-technology enterprises in Nigeria will improve the quality of the firms' accounting information. Similarly, the study discovered that intangible assets had high value relevance and dependability.

Mwila (2015) sought empirical evidence on the impact of earnings per share, book value per share, return on equity, and assets turnover ratio on the share price of public sector banks listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (S&P BSE 500). Secondary data was used in this study. Two panel data methodologies (the fixed effect model and the Random effect model) were used to investigate the value relevance of accounting information in public sector bank shares. Earnings per share are reported to have a positive and statistically significant association with share price. While book value per share, return on equity, and assets turnover ratio were discovered to have a negative and statistically insignificant association with share price. Earnings per share, book value per share, and return on equity, on the other hand, were found to have a positive association with share price, but the positive correlation between return on equity and share price was observed to be quite low.

Lawani, Umanhonlen, and Okolie (2015) focused on the conservatism and value relevance of

accounting information to publicly traded enterprises in Nigeria. Secondary data sources, statistical instruments such as multiple regression and correlation coefficient were employed in data analysis. For the pooled OLS, fixed, and random effects models, it was discovered, among other things, that there is a substantial inverse link between Market-based conservatism (BMCONA) and Earnings per share (EPS). The findings show that more conservative corporate procedures will impair the informativeness of financial projections, and losses in stock returns may be interpreted as a result of the market's judgment of disclosure reliability.

From 2001 to 2010, Charumathi and Suraj (2015) investigate the value relevance of earnings and book value on the share price of 14 banks (6 private banks and 8 public banks) listed on the Bombay stock exchange. They used regression analysis with the Ohlson valuation model's theoretical framework (1995) and provided accounting information of book value and earnings per share to find a positive and substantial association between the share price of 14 banks' stocks. The result found that book value per share found to be more relevant than earnings for equity valuation of banks stock.

There is a scarcity of studies on Nigerian manufacturing companies in relation to COVID 19 pandemic era, besides most of the studies on value relevance of accounting information on COVID 19 were in developed countries.

3.0 METHODOLOGY
3.1 Research Design
Ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. This is appropriate because the study aims at measuring the relationship between one variable and another, in which the variables involved are not manipulated by the researcher.

The population of the study consists of eight Healthcare manufacturing companies quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange . Namely; Glaxo Smithkline Consumer plc, May & Beker plc, Fidson Healthcare, Deko-PharmaPlc, Morison industry & co, Evans medical, Neimeth international pharm and Nigerian-German Chemicals Plc.

To obtain reliable information that will help the researcher to ensure the effectiveness of the study, data was collected from only secondary sources. The data were sourced from the annual reports and accounts of the sampled companies. The data for the study were collected from annual reports and accounts of Healthcare manufacturing companies quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange . The variables includes; Market Value per Share (MKS) and Book Value per Share (BVS). To determine whether COVID 19 pandemic has impacted on value relevance of accounting information; the study divided the periods into pre-COVID-19 (2018-2019) and post-COVID 19 (2020-2021).

3.2 Model Specification
The researcher adopted Ohlson (1995) price model from two financial reports indicators (financial position and comprehensive income) is being used to test the value relevance of financial reporting. This was used to explore the relationship between market value with one

main financial reporting variables; the book value per share which represents financial position which represents comprehensive income.

By the Ohlson (1995) Model:

$MKTPjt = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BVSHjt + \beta_2 EPSjt + ejt$

Where: $MKTPjt$ = the market price per share (SP) of firm j at time t

$BVSHjt$ = Book value per share of firm j at time t

$EPSjt$ = Earnings before extraordinary items per share of firm j at time t

β_0 = Constant or intercept.

B_1 = Coefficients of explanatory variables.

εjt = Error term.

The researcher adopted Ohlson (1995) model for the study

$MKPjt = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BVSjt + ejt$- -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -i

Where:

$MKPjt$ = the market price per share (SP) of firm j at time t

$BVSjt$ = Book value per share of firm j at time t

β_0 = Constant or intercept.

β_1 = Coefficients of explanatory variables.

εjt = Error term.

Chow test structural stability version of the ordinary least square method of econometric regression is used to test the formulated hypotheses. Chow test is a special kind of F-test propounded by Chow and it based on the idea that a series of data can contain a structural break. In this case we are interested in finding out whether the series of data in our variables had a structural break following the adoption of COVID 19 in 2020.

The method uses a F-test to determine whether the perceived structural change has a measurable effect on the study periods and aim is to determine whether a single regression covering the periods before and after the adoption of COVID-19 in 2020 is more efficient than two separate regression involving splitting of data into two samples, one representing the period before 2020 and the other for the period after 2020.

Chow Specification

a) A single or pooled regression to fit the whole series of data (before and after COVID 19 Pandemic)

$Y_1 = a_i + b_i X_1 + u_i$

Where;

Y_1 = Market price (MKP)

X_1 = book value per share (BVS),

Chow test statistics is obtained as follows;

$$F = \frac{RSS_1 - (RSS_2 + RSS_3) / k}{RSS_2 + RSS_3/n-2k}$$

Where: RSS = Sum of Square residual

k = Total number of variable included

n = Total sample size

Decision Rule:

If the Chow test statistics is greater than the tabulated F-value, then the null hypothesis

that is no structural break of change (that is there is no significant change) is rejected and vice versa

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Methods of Data Analysis

Regression analysis with aid of SPSS version 20.0 was employed to determine if there is a significant difference between the pre- COVID-19 and post COVID-19 on value relevance of accounting information. The depended variable is market price while the independents variable was book value per share (BVS).

Decision Rule:

If the Chow test statistics is greater than the tabulated F-value, then the null hypothesis that is no structural break of change (that is there is no significant change) is rejected and vice versa

4.2 DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PerMKS	16	-.326	3.043	.70625	1.112372
PreBVS	16	-.559	4.534	.86456	1.456189
PostMKS	16	-.559	4.534	1.10494	1.659289
PostBVS	16	-.326	3.043	.70556	1.112788
Valid N (listwise)	16				

According to the descriptive statistics, the market value per share (MVS) for Pre-COVID 19 (2018-2019) shows mean and standard deviation scores of 0.706 and 1.112 respectively against the mean and standard deviation scores of Post-COVID 19 (2020-2021) of 1.105 and 1.659 respectively. Thus, as a result of migration from pre-COVID 19 to Post-COVID 19, volatility of the value was also higher under Post-COVID 19 than Pre-COVID 19.

Book value per share (BVS) under Pre-COVID 19 periods indicates a mean and standard deviation scores of 0.865 and 1.456 respectively. The MVS values for the mean and standard deviation scores under post-COVID 19 periods shows, 0.706 and 1.113 respectively as was observed, book value per share (BVS).

4.3 Test of Hypothesis

H_O: Book value per share has not significantly improved in determining market price of healthcare manufacturing companies in Nigeria during COVID 19 pandemic.

Table 2: Separate regression (before COVID 19 Pandemic)

Dependent Variable: MKS
Method: Ordinary Least Square (OLS)
Sample: 2Years (2018-2019)
Included Observation: 8

Variables	Coefficient	Std.Error	t-Statistic	Prob
BVS	-0.073	0.089	-0.822	0.425
MKS	0.816	0.311	2.627	0.020

R^2	.046	Mean dependent Var			0.852
Adjusted R^2	-.022				
RSS_1	**17.668**				
F	0.675				
d.f	2				
n	8				

Source: Regression Data Analysis (2022)

Table 3: Separate regression (After COVID 19 Pandemic)
Dependent Variable: MKS
Method: Ordinary Least Square (OLS)
Sample: 2Years (2020-2021)
Included Observation: 8

Variables	Coefficient	Std.Error		t-Statistic	Prob
BVS	0.267	0.392		0.682	0.507
MKS	0.916	0.505		1.815	0.091
R^2	0.032	Mean	dependent		1.327
		Var			
Adjusted R^2	-0.037				
RSS_2	**39.972**				
F	0.465				
d.f	2				
N	8				

Source: Regression Data Analysis (2022)

Table 4: Pooled regression (before and after COVID 19 Pandemic)
Dependent Variable: MKS
Method: Ordinary Least Square (OLS)
Sample: 4Years (2018-2021)
Included Observation: 8

Variables	Coefficient	Std.Error		t-Statistic	Prob
BVS	0.237	0.133		1.777	0.097
MKS	1.291	0.506		2.551	0.023
R^2	0.184	Mean	dependent		8.612
		Var			
Adjusted R^2	0.126				
RSS_3	**32.164**				
F	3.159				
d.f	2				
n	8				

Source: Regression Data Analysis (2022)
To compute the Chow Test using the formula thus;

$$F_{cal} = \frac{RSS_1 - (RSS_2 + RSS_3) / k}{RSS_2 + RSS_3/n - 2k}$$

( )- t-value, RSS – Residual Sum of Squares, ** - (p<0.05) – significant at α= 0.05

The tables above shows that;

Sum of Square residual for periods before and after COVID 19 =88823204.249

Sum of Square residual for periods before COVID 19 =66212063.052

Sum of Square residual for periods after COVID 19 =164.048

Following the F distribution with (n -2k) df in the numerator and the denominator respectively, in this study, $k = 2$, since there are only two parameters in each sub-regression and n =n -2k = 8 - 4 = 4

Therefore,

$$F_{cal} = \frac{RSS_1 - (RSS_2 + RSS_3) / k}{RSS_2 + RSS_3/n - 2k}$$

$$= \frac{.17.668 - (39.972 + 32.164) / 2}{39.972 + 32.164/54 - 2 \ x2}$$

$$= \frac{17.668 - 72.136 / 2}{72.136/ 4}$$

$$= \frac{-54.468}{18.034}$$

$$= 3.020$$

$$F_{tab} = F_{α},[k,(n -2_k) = F0.05,[2,4] = 5.143$$

From the results Chow Test computed above, at α=0.05, F_{cal}= 3.020 < F_{tab}= 5.143 at (2, 4) degree of freedom. We therefore accept the null hypothesis (Ho$_1$) and conclude that there is a structural change on companies BVS after the COVID 19 pandemic at 0.05 level of significance. We therefore conclude that the COVID 19 pandemic era has not improved the book value per share in determining market price of healthcare manufacturing companies in Nigeria.

4.4 Discussion of Finding

This hypothesis determine structural break/ change, the study discovered that book value per share F-table value is =5.143 > F-critical value=3.020, showing that the adoption of IFRS has not significantly improved the book value per share in determining market price of healthcare manufacturing companies in Nigeria. This finding therefore supports our prior expectation and the findings of Mwila (2015); Hossain (2021), and negate the finding, the finding of Omokhudu and Ibadin (2015), Charumathi and Suraj (2015).

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Although the value relevance of accounting information has been studied in many perspectives, some related studies has offered contradicting results about whether relevance of accounting information has declined or increased over time. Some empirical studies revealed that value

relevance of accounting information declines, many studies found that value relevance of accounting numbers increases. This study therefore, examined whether the COVID 19 pandemic improves or not the value relevance of accounting information in healthcare companies in Nigeria. The result of the change in accounting regulations is as weaknesses of NGAAP and low disclosure requirements. From all indication, there is no improvement on the book value per share of the Nigerian healthcare manufacturing companies' couple with the COVID 19 pandemic. In order for Nigerian companies to improve their earnings, they need to place a greater emphasis on business expenses and devise novel strategies for cutting costs.

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ANNEXTURE - DATA

COMPANIES	Years	PREMKS	PREBVS	POSTMKS	POSTBVS
EKOCORP PLC	2018	0.052	0.080	0.103	0.052
EKOCORP PLC	2019	1.900	0.103	-0.559	1.900
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	2018	0.056	-0.559	0.277	0.056
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	2019	0.468	0.277	0.063	0.468
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG PLC	2018	3.041	0.063	0.051	3.041
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG PLC	2019	-0.326	0.051	2.880	-0.326
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	2018	0.079	2.880	0.084	0.079
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	2019	0.058	0.084	0.138	0.058
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC	2018	1.913	0.138	2.524	1.913
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC	2019	0.095	2.524	4.534	0.095
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	2018	0.421	4.534	0.055	0.421
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	2019	0.466	0.499	2.792	0.466
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	2018	-0.102	0.055	0.226	-0.102
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	2019	0.056	2.792	0.086	0.069
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	2018	3.043	0.226	0.272	0.056
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	2019	0.080	0.086	4.153	3.043

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