MALETE JOURNAL OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
A Publication of the Department of Accounting and Finance,
Kwara State University, Malete
Vol. 3 No. 2, December, 2022 ISSN: 2735-9603

INFLUENCE OF INTEGRATED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (IFMIS) ON THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT
Public Sector Performance has been a contemporary discourse among researchers in Nigeria. Despite the formidable regulatory and institutional frameworks put in place to strengthen public sector finance management in Nigeria, the domain continues to struggle with huge financial management infractions that are not in tune with the norms as well as international best practices thereby resulting to performance failure. The main objective of this study was to investigate the influence of Integrated Financial Management information System (IFMIS) on performance of government entities' in Nigeria. The research design deployed was descriptive and inferential mixed research design using a purposive sampling technique. The study population was 1504 comprises of selected top and middle level pool officers in the Accountant-General for the Federation office on grade level 13 to 17. The study's primary data source sample size was 306 using Krejcie and Morgan, (1970) while the interview sample size was also 3 (three). Primary data was collected using questionnaire and interview while Partial Least Square was used to analyse the quantitative data and Thematic/NVIVO was used to analyse the Qualitative data. Finding from the quantitative analysis shows that a positive statistically significant relationship exist between the two variables as the path model coefficient results indicates that IFMIS is significantly related to both financial ($\beta = 0.466$; $p < 0.05$) and non-financial performance of government entities' with ($\beta = 0.490$; $p < 0.001$). Finding from the qualitative analysis corroborated with the quantitative findings, its results however, indicates existence of various challenges ranging from infrastructures deficient as well as

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capacity building issues for IFMIS operators; The study therefore concludes that IFMIS significantly influence both financial and non- financial performance of government entities with limitations of various challenges. The study recommends therefore, that government should endeavour to provide strong Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and the right capacity building of the operators as it is expected to increase the level of performance in entities', and assist in providing more meaningful information for decision making process.
Key Words: - *Entities', Infractions, Integrated, Failures.*

INTRODUCTION

The public sector is the most important component of every country's economy, employs the most people, and holds the majority of their financial resources (Stephen, 2018). The public sector in Nigeria's dismal state of poor performance in managing accounting procedures and financial reporting encourages an unusual level of transgressions. (Otieno, Stephen & Emmanuel, 2017). The majority of public entities' in Nigeria has failed to fulfil the reasons for which they were founded, which has led to the public sector suffering setbacks (Bakre, Lauwo & McCartney, 2017). An essential component of contemporary democratic governance is public accountability. If individuals in authority cannot be held publicly accountable for their wrongdoings and omissions, for their decisions, policies, and expenditures mostly owing to inadequate record keeping, democracy remains a paper process (Ibietan, 2013).

Consequently, accountability has turn out to be more important on the premise that it is now recognised that the secrets to creating wealth and keeping a free society are largely found in the same place. Both demand that the government implement broad-based accountability measures (Agbatogun, 2019). The persistent committing of financial offences and the inadequate reporting of governmental performance are among the faults of the Nigerian public sector that have been noted in numerous fora. Since democracy has been established, residents' expectations of the government have shifted from the simple supply of public services to the efficiency and delivery of services. One of the major challenges to achieving reliable and timely reporting in Nigeria is the capability of the cash basis of accounting to meet the reporting requirements of policies and practices.

Performance management is an objective, technical approach that could improve managerial judgement, accountability, and performance in the public sector (Lewis 2014); However, Public Sector In light of the New Public Management (NPM) reforms that have been implemented since the late 1980s in various nations, including Australia, the US, and the UK, performance management is at present universally used (Gerrish. 2016). Until

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public managers are able to successfully solve the numerous problems connected with its implementation, notably the non-technical issues, the promise of the performance-enhancing impacts of performance management in the public sector is likely to remain a mirage (Taylor, 2021).

Accounting is universally acknowledged as the act of gathering, analysing, and disseminating economic data so that those who will utilise it may make educated decisions. the information that was shared (Winfred & Emelia, 2020). The users of an organization's accounting information are both internal and external, with diverse accounting background as well as information needs for various decisions to be taken. These users could be identified in the public and private sectors of the economy as well as non-governmental organisation (NGO). Public Accounts are required to be prepared annually by the government in accordance with legislation. The Public Accounts are financial statements that show the financial results of a government for a fiscal year.

The integrated financial management information systems (IFMIS) can support administration of budgetary, financial, and accounting operations in the public sector and advance better PFM, especially, the consolidated register of public sector revenues and expenditures, The IFMIS integrates processes for managing the budget, accounting, treasury, and public debt and creates the related reporting documents, namely the financial statements

Statement of the Problem

The reforms responsibility of every countries' public sector financial management is domiciled with the ministry of finance which is expected to ensure system-based budgetary, revenue and expenditure controls on all transactions traceable to use of public funds under the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). This undoubtedly, is expected to lead to improvements in government entities' financial, non-financial and internal control systems that will address the on-going problems of persistent infractions, modify payments procedures that is currently shrouded in weird and seemingly failed accounting transactions processes, recording, reconciliation and reporting procedures.

Some government entities' lack competent hands to apply and go along with the reforms agenda of government probably due to their inability to understand the application of the Integrated Systems put-in-place to address the key reforms factors in use correctly to check-mate some of the controllable financial infractions in government entities'. The consequences of these unacceptable traits in entities' includes transaction with incomplete records which usually culminated to cluster misinformation arising from accounting

information dissemination to users, delay in ledger posting, difficulty in account reconciliation and balancing, inability to timely draw out the needed trial balance, delay in producing the management accounts for statutory (external) audit and ultimately, failure in producing financial report on statutorily appointed period of time that would be necessary to measure the entities' performance. This paper therefore, is set out to fill these identified gaps.

Research Hypotheses

This study was directed by the following null hypothesis:

H_1: The integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) has no significant influence on the performance of government entities' in Nigeria.

H_2: The integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) implementation challenges has no significant influence on the performance of government entities' in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Review

Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)

According to Cuenco (2013), a financial management information system (FMIS) is a collection of automated tools that enable governments to create, implement, and track budgets. When using FMIS and other PFM (Public Financial Management) information (for an example, Human Resources & Payroll Management Information Systems HRPMIS) which share the same central database to record and report all daily financial transactions, offering reliable consolidated results for decision support, performance monitoring and web publishing, they can be referred to as an "integrated" FMIS (or IFMIS).

In order to improve public expenditure management, the Federal Government of Nigeria is implementing GIFMIS, an information technology (IT) based system for budget administration and accounting, according to Omolehinwa and Naiyeju (2015). The introduction of GIFMIS is intended to help the government address critical flaws in public financial management, such as ineffective cash management, failure to enact the budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, preparation of the budget that is not based on realistic forecasts of cash availability, and a lack of integration between various financial management functions.

Financial information is stored, organised, and accessible thanks to an IFMIS or GIFMIS. It keeps detailed inventories of all financial assets (such as machinery, land, and buildings),

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liabilities, and details on inflows and outflows of funds in addition to storing all the financial data pertaining to spending in the current and previous years (debt) (Robin-Brown, 2008). Additionally, Mac-Effort (2015) listed some benefits of GIFMIS at the 2015 accountants conference held in Cape Coast, such as providing a central authority to regulate security access that increase overall data integrity and security; with all information in one place, financial fraud is harder to perpetrate and easier to catch perpetrators; improved management of cash, debt, and liabilities; and the capacity to use historical data to provide better modelling processes. However, a list of drawbacks was provided, including the need for on-going care and maintenance to preserve the system's integrity and usefulness including a high cost of switching.

IFMS Challenges in Nigeria

The main goal of implementing an integrated financial management information system, among other countries, is to automate the financial management operational activities of governmental bodies through monitoring and controlling the inflows and outflows of public funds.(Stephen, 2018). Furthermore, it is intended to stop and identify any possible and current transgressions, which is a clear road to improve the budget management process with application of medium-term sector strategy (MTSS), medium-term revenue framework (MTRF), and medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF). Although the government's noble intentions are appreciated, implementing them in Nigeria is fraught with difficulties due to the system's peculiar features, the bulk of which lack any kind of legal foundation due to the absence of a legislative framework (Ogbonna & Friday, 2019).

If one of the entities is either not compliant with or compatible with IFMIS, accounting transactions and recording in the form of revenue and expenditures are done directly on the automated platform, which required the application of heavy infrastructure. Particularly, issues pertaining to the collection of revenue from the various parties often become major challenges. This frequently makes it challenging to recover payments made to the wrong account. (Winfred & Emelia, 2020). The initial setup costs for the system may be rather high and outside of an entity's budget. Due to internal difficulties that banks encounter, such as network issues, switching issues, and system failures, payments may occasionally be delayed by the bank as a result of queue management. The availability of contemporary ICT equipment necessary to be compliant with IFMIS operations is a problem for some government organisations and some banks that lack the facilities necessary to verify biometric security systems. (Oluranakinse & Oloruntoba, 2018).

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Performance of Entities

Performance is described in various literary works according to various descriptions by various authors. For instance, Albanese (1978) defines performance as the efforts made to accomplish the goals in a productive and efficient manner. The use of integrated human, financial, and natural resources is required to attain goals. Target-achieving requires the coordinated use of human, financial, and environmental resources. In contrast to what Otley (1999) and Samsonowa (2012) concluded, they addressed a definition that, in the opinion of the scholar, is appropriate to match any subject and can adapt to any notion instead of providing the single standard definition that was promised. Otley (1999) stated that "An organisation is operating well when it is successfully achieving its objectives." The important terms in this definition are "successfully," which encompasses all aspects of performance: effectively, efficiently, economically, and with quality. The second key word is "objectives," as achieving the goals is the primary aspect of performance. This definition can be used as a starting point for any future work pertaining to performance management, but in order to apply it to a particular field, it was advised to be specific about which components to pick based on the field's needs. (Erich (1979); Armstrong and Baron (1998) and Armstrong (2004).

An accelerated attention has been focused recently on the concept of performance, robbing on large aspects of the activity of human (Elena-Iuliana & Maria, 2016). Performance is a subjective perception of reality, which accounts for the many criticisms of the idea and the metrics used to measure it. In Nigeria, there has been a period of transition in the public sector at the federal, state, and local government levels. Therefore, performance relates to the presentation of an entity or business with quality and the results obtained by management. The ability to track and evaluate progress in order to make decisions about the future is a vital part of life outlook. Government entities are expected to accurately measure effectiveness, outputs, efficiency, productivity, and service quality. The same principle applies to governance and business management, and given the growing commitment to increased accountability and improved performance, this expectation is only increasing.

The goal of the performance assessment system in public sector organisations, according to Schmidt and Günther (2016), is to assist public management in making strategic decisions using both financial and non-financial data. Because they establish a reward and punishment system, performance assessment systems in public sector organisations can be a tool for regulating these organisations. Political influences and the necessity to carry out project duties to constituents are factors that affect public sector organisations. Moreover, the primary functions of public sector organisations are not for profit. In order to avoid

simply transferring private sector measures to the public sector, performance indicators that respect the distinctive qualities of public sector agencies and the diversity in the types of those agencies must be developed (Samsonowa, 2012). The improvement of service delivery and, in particular, the lowering of service costs have received all of the attention paid to performance assessment (the Nigerian government's introduction of a monetization strategy in the late 2000s serves as an illustration of this).

Theoretical Review

Signaling Theory

Reducing information imbalance between two parties, such as the sender and receiver of a signal, is at the heart of signalling theory (Spence). 2002). For instance, Spence's (1973) important work on labour markets showed how a job candidate might act in ways to lessen information asymmetry that hinders potential employers' capacity for hiring. Spence demonstrated how the expensive signal of a demanding higher education allows high-quality prospective employees to separate themselves from low-quality possibilities. This study sparked a huge body of research that applies signalling theory to selection scenarios that happen across a variety of fields, from biology to anthropology.(Bird & Smith, 2005). In a variety of study scenarios, management scholars have also employed signalling theory to help understand the authority of information asymmetry. For instance, a recent study on corporate governance demonstrates how CEOs communicate to potential investors the unobservable quality of their companies through the observable quality of their financial accounts.(Zhang & Wiersema, 2009). To describe how businesses employ diverse boards to convey adherence to societal values to a variety of organisational stakeholders, diversity experts use signalling theory.(Miller & Triana, 2009).

Signaling theory is also vital to human resource management, where a number of studies have examined signaling that occurs during the recruitment process (Suazo, Martínez, & Sandoval, 2009). In recent years, the management literature has accelerated the application of signalling theory as scholars have broadened the scope of potential signals and the circumstances in which signalling happens. Despite the development of signalling theory in management research, a clear assessment of the management literature is still lacking. As a result, when describing the fundamental principles of the theory, management researchers nearly invariably cite either Spence's (1973) investigation of signalling in labour markets or Ross's (1977) investigation of managerial incentives as signals. But over time, the fundamental ideas of signalling theory have become muddled (Deephouse, 2000; Ryan, Sacco, McFarland, & Kriska, 2000; The adoption of IFMIS provides opportunity for entities' in developing countries but Nigeria in particular, to present financial reporting using high quality accounting standards. Consistent with signaling theory, there are

tendencies that IFMIS adopters are likely to send the proper signals through holistic compliance with the standards, while others might convey deceptive signals through the window dressing or creative accounting, hence, the relevance of the theory to IFMIS adoption

Empirical Discourse

Otieno, Stephen and Emmanuel, (2017) reviewed the critical success factors that impacted theoretically, over integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) implementation with an intention of detecting a suitable factor(s) between technical, organizational, environmental, cultural and ethical behaviour which ultimately, could improve efficiency and transparency through direct payments to suppliers and contractors, reduced prices due to gains based on the time value of money for Migori County of Kenya. Theories were focused directly to full compliant with application of advanced technology within the public sector IFMIS.

Stephen, (2018) in his study opined that according to the GIFMIS Project Charter, the government's main goal in investing in GIFMIS is to "increase the effectiveness of service delivery and the allocation of scarce resources, using the new tools and processes coming from the GIFMIS system. Additionally, strengthening public finance management is necessary for enhancing effective service delivery. The study concluded that automation and integration of Nigeria's financial management information systems present a number of significant potential for enhancing PFM effectiveness.

Similarly, the impact of GIFMIS on government financial transactions in connection to public finances management and how it has significantly influenced government policy were explored by Olurankinse & Oloruntoba (2018). A survey design was used and primary data were collected administering well-structured questionnaires. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyse the obtained data. According to the findings, the adoption of GIFMIS has significantly reduced financial irregularities, corruption, and leaks, which has resulted in increased accountability and transparency in the management of public finances. However, the research omitted to discuss if GIFMIS adoption as part of financial management reforms techniques improves performance of organisations other than transparency, accountability, and wise use of public funds.

Ogbonna and Friday, (2019) studied the effect of Nigeria's economic progress on the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS)..The study obtained secondary data from the Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant- General of the Federation, National Bureau of Statistic as well as the United

Nation Development Programme which was analysed using t-test statistical tool to test the significant difference between independent and dependent variables. The empirical results showed, among other things, that GIFMIS had a beneficial effect on Nigeria's economic growth. The study found that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) adoption's of GIFMIS had a positive impact on the country's economic growth through the budgeting and budgetary system, payroll management system, cash management reforms, and expenditure ceiling for MDAs in Nigeria during the review period.

Ndegwa and Mungai (2019) evaluated the influence of internal control systems in IFMIS on financial management in Ministry of Finance with the specific objective to determine effects of internal control system in Ministry of Finance on the financial management applying descriptive research design. Population of the study consisted of 128 staff of the Ministry selected using stratified random sampling method to generate appropriate responses. Sample size was 97 on which questionnaires was administered for data collection. Regression analysis was used to analyse quantitative data as well as Graphs, tables and pie charts for display of frequencies and percentage while tables were prepared using each variable or indicator. The study found that internal control systems had significant positive relationship with financial management in Ministry of Finance and financial reporting systems had significant positive relationship with financial management in Ministry of Finance.

Winfred and Emelia (2020) looked into what prevented Ghana's integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) project from being implemented successfully. Stratified and purposeful sampling methods were adopted with questionnaire to obtain data from 346 respondents in targeted ministries departments and agencies (MDAs). Descriptive statistics was applied to evaluate IFMIS effects and information and communications technology (ICT) competency in IFMIS implementation. The impact of top management support on the success of IFMIS deployment was assessed using Multitiple Regression Analysis. The results showed that IFMIS is a useful instrument for public financial management; nonetheless, the main requirements for a successful deployment of IFMIS are a lack of ICT competency and top management support mechanisms. By reducing corruption and financial mismanagement, IFMIS can successfully be used to overhaul the nation's financial management.

The Impact of Integrated Financial Management Information Systems on the Procurement Process in the Public Sector in Developing Countries, Particularly Zambi, was also examined by Muwema and Phiri in 2020. Seventy-five (75) responders from the Ministries of Finance, Works and Supply, and the Anti-Corruption Commission provided

information. Regression analysis using the Social Package and Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and Microsoft Excel was used to analyse the data. According to the study, there is a substantial inverse association between IFMIS and efficiency, speed, and reduced financial leakages. The analysis came to the conclusion that IFMIS had not improved transparency, decreased financial leaks, increased efficiency, or sped up processes.

In South Sudan, Chol, Ayuen, and Lual (2021) investigated the functions and adaptations of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) Free Balance. Mixed-method research design was used where qualitative and quantitative data were gathered using questionnaires, interviews and document analysis. The study used multistage sampling to pick the respondents for the questionnaires and interview. Results of analysis were presented in tables, various independent variables, identified as; accountability, transparency, decision-making support, Management and efficiency-oriented and evaluation. Each attribute was analysed in relation to the effect it has on Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS). Both Secondary and primary data were the main source considered as important source of this study by researchers. While the data obtained were analysed using tabulation from Advance excel. The study showed that, policies without appropriate implementation interventions are not effective in promoting IFMIS implementation.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study applied mixed method approach as a convergent parallel where questionnaire and interview survey research methods were used to collect data. The primary data was collected through a properly structured questionnaire (quantitative approach) and semi-structured interviews (qualitative approach) (Creswell, 2013; David, 2014). This approach enabled the researcher the opportunity of an interface interaction with the targeted respondents to source detailed information about their perceptions, candid opinion and share experiences on the subject matter of this study.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

A sample size of 306 (three) hundred and six) was derived using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table for the quantitative aspect while purposive sampling technique was adopted to select 3 (three) respondents for the interview (qualitative aspect) in accordance with Gentles, Charles, Ploeg & McKibbon, (2015) recommended threshold. Consequently, 3 (three) key respondents directly connected with the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) implementation were randomly selected, The selection was informed by the subjective

nature of qualitative approach and on the basis of the researcher's experience and perceived judgment with the assurance that those respondents so selected would provide fact based responses on the Influence of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) implementation and performance of government entities' in Nigeria. (Kombo & Tromp, 2009).

Method of Data Collection

Data for this study was collected through primary source with the administering of well-structured 5 (five) Likert Scale Questionnaire for the quantitative and for the qualitative approach, the targeted respondents were interviewed using semi-structured questions in order to have a proper understanding of the subject matter of the study.

Data Analysis and Technique

The study employed both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to analyse the data collected from the survey. Descriptive statistics provides a snapshot of construct/variable using frequency, mean score and standard deviation to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The mean score and standard deviation were determined for each item used in the study to measure each construct on the research instrument which produced summary of responses upon which inferences were drawn. Diagnostic preliminary test of normality (skewness statistics and kurtosis statistics), linearity and multi-collinearity (correlation matrix, tolerance value, variance inflation factor) to fulfil the basic underlying assumptions of the regression analysis were conducted to confirm the nature of the data distribution for each construct (Pallant, 2010; Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2014)

The quantitative data obtained were analysed using Partial Least Square-Structural Equation Model (PLS-SEM) regression analysis to establish the relationship between the variables of the study. PLS-SEM allows great flexibility on how the equations are specified and can accommodate multiple related simultaneous equations thereby offering a number of advantages over more familiar methods, and provides a general framework for linear modelling (Kante, Chepken & Oboko, 2018). It is more suitable in a complex setting to validate large-hierarchical models by providing robust solutions (Chin, Peterson, and Brown 2008) and focuses on the prediction of a specific set of hypothesized relationships that maximizes the explained variance in the dependent variables (Hair, Sarstedt, Hopkins & Kuppelwieser. (2014). The qualitative data collected for the study were analysed using descriptive and narrative analyses. This method of analysing qualitative data has history of simplicity in its application and reliability in its results

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Vol. 3 No. 2, December, 2022 ISSN: 2735-9603

Model Specification

The study adapted the model of Effiong, Loren,zo, Godspower, Raphael and Etop (2017) to establish the relationship between TSA, IPPIS, IFMIS and fraud management in Public Sector (FMPS) in Nigeria with linear regression model stated as:-

$FMPS = \beta 0 + \beta 1TSA + \beta 2IPPIS + \beta 3IFMIS + \mu$……3.1.

Where:

FMPS = Fraud management in Public Sector
TSA = Treasury Single Account
IPPIS = Integrated Personnel & Payroll Information System
IFMS = Integrated Financial Management Information System
μ = Error Term

The model specified in equation (3.1) above, was modified in order to achieve the objectives of this study as stated below:

$GEP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 IFM_i + \mu$ ……..……... (3.2)

Where:

GEP = Government Entity Performance
IFM = Integrated Financial Management Information System
μ = Error Term

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Respondents' demographic details showed more male respondents (178) than female respondents (128). Majority of the respondents (195) are graduates, while 111 are post graduate degree holders as the highest educational qualifications. The result showed that majority of the respondents have the requisite knowledge about the subject matter as many of them possessed relevant professional qualifications as well as requisite experience on the job. The implication of the above analysis is that their opinion can be used to validate findings of this study.

Table 1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Parameters	Items	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	178	58.2
	Female	128	41.8
Education Qualification	Graduate	195	63.7
	Post-Graduate	111	36.3
Professional Qualification	ICAN	101	33.0
	ANAN	183	59.8

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	CITN	14	4.6
	Others	8	2.6
Length of Service	Less than 5 years	3	1.0
	5-10 years	83	27.1
	10 - 15 Years	170	55.6
	Over 15 years	50	16.4
Designation	Senior/Middle Level Officer	245	80.1
	Director	61	19.9

Source: Author's Computation, 2022

Preliminary Analysis

Normality Test

This test is typically used to determine whether the data collected for the study is normally distributed; thus, in this regard, the researcher used Skewness and Kurtosis statistics. As seen in Table 2 below, all Skewness and Kurtosis values for each research variable are within recommended range of -3 to +3. The scores on each variable are assumed to be normally distributed in many parametric statistics (in example, follow the shape of the normal curve). The findings in this investigation as indicated in Table 2 below which depicted that results are fairly normally distributed.

Table 2 Test of Normality

	N	Skewness	Kurtosis
Financial Performance	306	-1.217	1.156
Integrated Financial Management Information System	306	-2.548	2.518
Non-Financial Performance	306	-1.454	2.263

Source: Author's Computation, 2022

Descriptive Statistics of Integrated Financial Management Information Systems

The respondents' views on the Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) are shown in Table 3 based on questions from IFM1 to IFM15. The mean score for the Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) ranges from 4.05 to 4.37, with standard deviations between 0.704 and 0.932, respectively.

Table Descriptive statistics for Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS)

Items	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
IFM1	306	4.05	0.884

IFM2	306	4.30	0.834
IFM 3	306	4.21	0.853
IFM 4	306	4.36	0.739
IFM 5	306	4.28	0.794
IFM 6	306	4.28	0.746
IFM 7	306	4.37	0.636
IFM 8	306	4.43	0.635
IFM 9	306	4.37	0.704
IFM 10	306	4.30	0.790
IFM 11	306	4.28	0.723
IFM 12	306	4.32	0.645
IFM 13	306	4.26	0.804
IFM 14	306	4.19	0.932
IFM 15	306	4.15	0.930

Source: Author's Computation, 2022

Path Coefficients Results for Model

The hypothesis was formulated to assume that Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) will not influence the performance of government entities'. Upon this assumption, H_1 was formulated that IFMIS will not influence both financial and non-financial performance. As presented in Table 4 and Figure 1, the result indicates that IFMIS is significantly related to both financial and non-financial performance as ($\beta = 0.466$: $p< 0.05$) and non-financial performance government entities' at ($\beta = 0.490$: $p< 0.001$).

Table 4 Hypothesis Testing

					Confidence Interval	
	B	**Std Error**	**T-Value**	**P Values**	**5.00%**	**95.00%**
IFMIS -> FP	0.466	0.131	3.553	0.000	0.248	0.614
IFMIS -> NFP	0.490	0.138	3.551	0.000	0.192	0.640
IFMIS ->IFMIS	0.260	0.105	2.477	0.007	0.089	0.434

Source: Author's Computation, 2022

Linearity Tests

This study tested the linearity of the data collected based on the assumption of the residual scatter plots. It is expected that the residuals should have a straight-line relationship with the predicted score of the study's dependent variable (Pallant, 2007). The scatter plot for the dependent variables: financial performance, and non-financial performance

respectively, indicated that the linearity assumption was met as the residual score converged at the center along with zero points.

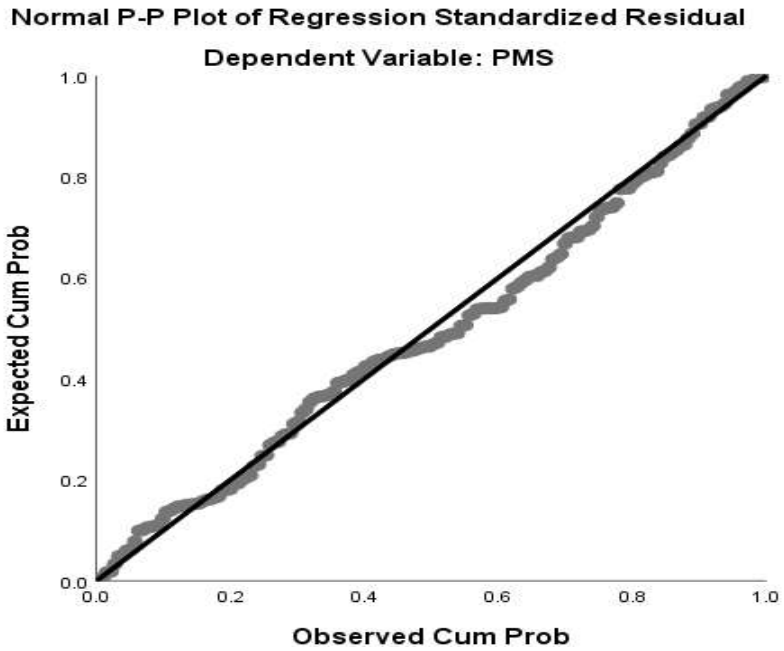


Figure 1 Residual Scatter Plot for Financial Performance
Author's computation, 2022

Assessment of the Measurement Model

This study assessed the measurement model to determine the validity and reliability of the measurement items. The individual item loadings, internal composite reliability, convergent validity and discriminant validity were examined. All measurement model results measured variables measure what they are supposed to measure based on a grounded theoretical measure (Hair, Hult, Ringle & Sarstedt. (2016).

Table 5 Summary of the Construct Loadings, Convergent Validity and Reliability

Constructs	Items	Loadings	CR	AVE
Financial Performance	FP3	0.803	0.808	0.514
	FP4	0.699		
	FP5	0.713		
	FP6	0.643		
Non-Financial Performance	NFP4	0.665	0.766	0.524
	NFP5	0.689		

	NFP6	0.809		
Integrated Financial Mgt Info System	IFM3	0.710	0.737	0.486
	IFM5	0.785		
	IFM6	0.582		
	IFM7	0.830	0.810	0.681
	IFM9	0.821		
	IFM10	0.876	0.803	0.671
	IFM11	0.759		
	IFM13	0.800	0.705	0.547
	IFM14	0.673		

Note: FP2; IFMS 1,4,12; were removed due to lower loadings.
Author's computation, 2022

Qualitative Result on IFMIS

In his response, **respondent one** said "For IFMIS it has been adopted all over Nigeria and it has helped government entities' to manage a uniform account prepared by the entities'. In terms of budgeting, the budget is prepared in IFMIS platform where you have personnel, overhead and capital. In Chart of Account there's a code called National Chart of Account. All it requires is just to have a uniform code to be used by every MDAs in the nation. In case of audit reform, it makes it easier for people as they don't need to carry all paper work up and down all they have to do is to login IFMIS platform once they login, all the details of the organization will be provided which can go through an audit".

According to **respondent three "***The performance in sense that in the area of financial performance that we also have the financial reporting requirement which is international public sector accounting standard which has formed a stage for how the reporting system in public sector improved which gives them power to carryout functions and oversight functions also added to reform and performance the public sector MDAs so the financial management reform has gone a long way to improve the performance of MDAs in Nigeria".*

Challenges of Integrated financial management information systems practices

In response to research question two and from the perspective of respondents "Some of the challenges we face is power failure, internet interruptions and the likes. For instances, if there is no strong internet connection it will make it very difficult to access/operate the systems. What the government could provide is strong solar system and strong internet

connections. If electricity is provided 24/7 and there's good internet system the whole reform will be in order".



Source: author's Conceptualization, 2022

Discussion of Findings

The general objective was to investigate how Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) influences performance of government entities' in Nigeria, the specific objective was to determine how Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) implementation challenges influence performance of government entities' in Nigeria. According to these objectives, it was hypothesized that IFMIS as well as the implementation challenges have no significant influences on the performance of government entities' in Nigeria. This notwithstanding, the results indicated that a positive statistically significant relationship existed between the two variables with IFMIS explaining the mean score ranging from 4.05 to 4.37, with standard deviations between 0.704 and 0.932, respectively. Similarly, the path model coefficient result also indicates that IFMIS is significantly related to both financial at ($\beta = 0.466$: $p < 0.05$) and non-financial performance of government entities' with ($\beta = 0.490$: $p < 0.001$).

Furthermore, the result of qualitative analysis corroborated the above findings on the first variable as well as confirming that some challenges abound in the area of infrastructures and capacity building for operators of the IFMIS. This finding on the first objective agrees with the conclusion of Otieno, Stephen and Emmanuel, (2017); Stephen, (2018); Olurankinse and Oloruntoba, (2018);Ogbonna and Friday, (2019) that concluded that IFMIS adoption will result in strengthened internal controls, boosts financial and resource stewardship and increased efficiency in decision making and good governance.

As a result, qualitative financial reporting for government entities are vital pre-requisite for the stewardship. This is because, besides being accountable as an agency of government use of IFMIS has the potential to foster smooth dissemination of financial information and enhance political and administrative transparency and accountability and in the long-run, aided entities' performance if the right infrastructures are deployed and capacity of the human elements operating the system is enhanced.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Arising from the result and findings, the study concluded that Integrated Financial Management Information Systems will raise the level of performance of government entities if the appropriate infrastructures are provided and capacity of the technical crew operating the system is enhanced. Timely financial reporting using IFMIS by government entities' which is vital pre-requisite for the rendition of stewardship would be enhanced. This is because, besides being transparent and accountable as an entity of government, application of IFMIS has the potential to foster smooth dissemination of financial information as level of infractions are eliminated and enhance entities' performance towards administrative as well as political transparency and accountability and provide more meaningful information for decision making process as well as improve the performance of entities' in Nigeria.

In line with the above conclusion, the study therefore recommended that government should enforce universal application of IFMIS by entities' at all tiers with provision of strong Information Technology {IT} infrastructure and the right capacity building of the operators as it is expected to increase the level of performance thereby enhance and sustain Financial Reporting Reforms effort of government as well as assist in providing more meaningful information for decision making process towards improving performance of entities' in Nigeria.

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