



Analysis of Reinventing Governmental Accounting For Accountability Assurance in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Public Accountability is of utmost importance to sustenance and growth of democracy in third world countries such as Nigeria. This paper provides evidence on the current state of reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance in Nigeria. The purpose is to empirically ascertain the influence of reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance. Survey data were obtained from 283 respondents using researcher designed questionnaire validated by experts and the reliability of the instruments were calculated and found to be with in the accepted Cronbach Alpha values of 0.90. The result of the empirical analysis was computed using 283 copies of completed and usable questionnaire. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient, multiple regression and partial correlation coefficient statistical techniques were used in analyzing the data. The work highlights positive and strong influence between reinventing governmental accounting on fiscal responsibility and corrupt practices in Nigeria. Based on the above concluding remark, the study clearly recommends among other things that government at all levels, financial regulatory agencies, professional accountancy bodies, private and public companies and institutions, and accountancy firms, all need to fast track IFRS in order to boost competences.

Keywords: Accountability Assurance, Audit Morale, Corrupt Practices, Fiscal Responsibility and Reinventing Governmental Accounting.

INTRODUCTION

In a number of jurisdictions throughout the world, entire economy, the outputs and outcomes of government accounting are as critical case as they are complicated. However, reviews on government spending in Nigeria overtime have particularly presented discouraging outputs and outcome (Castro-Leal et al, 2009; Adebisi, 2002; Askery, 2006; Fadipe, 2007). This may imply that the series of World Bank sponsored public sector reforms have had insignificant effects on public sector accounting (Uddin & Tsamenyi, 2005; Goddard, 2010). As a consequence, governmental accounting in most states in Nigeria is not meeting its objectives of stewardship reporting satisfactorily. This deficiency, no doubt, undermines public accountability in the affected states and the consequences are obviously numerous.

These include the fact that some states hardly realize their full tax potentials. Empirical studies reveal that just 40% of possible tax income is actually collected (Waitts & Trinks, 2017). Evidently, the situation is worse in Imo State, for example, shortfall of collectable recurrent revenue under sub-head's (statement No. 3.11) in excess of N10,000 was about 99% in 2002 and 97% in 2003 (Jackson & Irvine 2003). This leads to loss of income for the government with all the attendant consequences. Fiscal control can hardly be achieved if serious consideration is being

given to the need to be more accountable for the often vast amount of investment in resources at the command of governments, which exercise administrative and political authority over the actions and affairs of political units of people. Government spending is a very big business and the public demands to know whether the huge outlays money are being spent wisely for public interest.(Muhammad, 2009; Ibrahim & Okwoli, 2012). Those in authorities assume fiduciary status with the attendant responsibilities requiring them to render their stewardship accounts to those for whom the authority is held in trust. As a result, public administration reforms are increasingly requiring public sector managers to be accountable by demonstrating effective use of public assets and public funds in the delivery of services and pursuit of government objectives because “the management and control of the public purse is the heart of governmental administration”. This makes governmental accounting imperative as the hallmark, as well as landmark, of public accountability (Obazee, 2006).

In sub-Saharan African, where governments’ increasing activities in the financial system to provide a wide variety of services exert immense influence over the functioning of the actual financial results are not reported on a timely fashion and with full disclosure (Anyafu, 2000). A purposeful leadership that demonstrates probity and transparency can easily generate public support for its internal revenue efforts (Obazee, 2006) because effective tax requires rely on fair, transparent and efficient authorities to bolster public accountability. Furthermore, the basic tenets of democracy is public accountability (Okoye, 2006). Poor governmental accounting may partly explain why democracy has yet found a solid root in Nigeria. Building trust and communication between citizens, government workers, and political executives has the potential of strengthening the very fabrics of governmental processes (Oshisami, 2007). Moreover, Keller et al (2002) find that weakness in accurately assessing the financial health of a country could be the sign of crisis in the making. The endless political, communal and religious wars in Nigeria may be a profound proof. As a consequence, most developing countries are characterized by stagnant or even retrogressive economic growth, gross inequality, and low expectancy rate (Rotbery, 2017).

These are domestic as well as international problems. Welch & Wong (2011) point out that in this era of globalization, governmental accountability is not only important in the relationship between citizenry and government at the domestic level; it is also an internationally important issue. Boundaries are becoming increasingly irrelevant as they are dramatically merging by technologies (O. Neil, 2002). Transparency in domestic institutions; for example, provides alternative channels for information collection and verification. Therefore, greater transparency in public organizations can lead to higher accountability at both domestic and international levels, to both citizens and member states of international organizations. Thus, as the velocity of change is increasing exponentially, a compelling case is being made for change in the public sector accounting and accountability assurance in Nigeria. The outcome is the demand for more attention on reinventing public sector accounting for improved accountability in Nigeria in line with global dictates.

The remainder of this empirical paper is arranged as follows: Section two provides a review of the related literature, theoretical framework, concepts and hypotheses. Section three discusses the research methodology and model specification. Section four presents the empirical results and discussion. Section five ends up the paper with summary, conclusion and recommendations.

Review of Related Literature and Hypotheses Government and Accountability in Nigeria.

Accountability can be defined as the obligation of any one handling resources, public office or other position of trust to report on the intended use of the resources of the designated office (UNDESA DPADM, 2004). Accountability is all about being answerable to those who have invested their trust, faith and resources. It is often used synonymously with such concepts as answerability, responsibility, blameworthiness, liability and other terms associated with the expectation in both public and private (corporation) worlds. It is expected to make public officials and their activities easy to understand and thus, it contributes to enhancing governmental responsiveness, legitimacy and the improvement of policy implementation of government

(Elaigwa, 2002; Ezekwesili, 2002). In leadership roles, accountability is the acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies including the administration, governance and implementation within the scope of the role or employment position and encompassing the obligation to report explain and be answerable for resulting consequences. Thus, Barker (2000) defines governmental accountability as “the duty of public officials to report their actions to the citizens, and the right of the citizens to take actions against those conducts the citizens consider unsatisfactory”. Accountability is one of the most important ethical values that are required of all politicians and public officials in underpinning governance that is in the public interest.

Ultimately, democratic governments are held accountable at the poll. Therefore, for accountability to be meaningful, citizens must have access to information by which to judge the performance of their government (Obagee, 2006). Hence, accountability on the part of democratic governments requires investment in production of timely and reliable information with which the citizens can judge the performance of public servants and politicians. This has to be done transparently. The attributes of transparency include accessibility, comprehensiveness, relevance, quality, reliability and timely disclosure of economic, social and political information about the activities of government. Vishwanath & Kaufmann (2001) emphasize that functional accounting practice is a sine non to transparency but note; however, that transparency in itself is not sufficient without accompanying enforcement mechanisms of facilitate disclosure and enforce appropriate behaviour. Actually, the rationale for accountability in the general fear that public officers might exploit the governmental apparatus for their own personal aggrandizement. These fears come from the fact that public officials usually command much power, expertise, information and resources that can be misapplied (Sorkan, 2013).

An impressive thing about many figures in some Asian countries when they are found to have abused public trust is their public demonstrations of regret, contrition, shame and even tears before cameras. Some even commit suicide to avoid public shame. For example, Rohmoo-hynn, a former south Korean leader, committed suicide on May 23, 2009 to spare those close to him additional grief as a result of allegations against him for accepting bribe of some \$6 million from a businessman while in office. (The Nation, 2009a). This culture of remorse and contribution which serves as an institutional glue that binds the society and politics together does not exist in Nigeria, where attributes are still quite brazen. In Nigeria, for considered a national virtue, particularly among the political class. (The Nation, 2009b). Consequently, public confidence in most of the leaders is low and they are often objects of derision, presented as greedy, corrupt and aggressive around the world.

Historically, Nigerian top leadership past and present were somehow not accountability and ruled with impunity, especially with regard to the management of public finances. The expectations of Nigerians with regard to their leaders is also broadly not one that expect altruism to drive decision-making; opts for the second best of hanging to see what they can gain directly for themselves and their families. This may now be changing with expectations driven by global imperatives, albeit slowly. Democratic tradition has truly kicked off across the continent. One of the most interesting issues arising as a result of the spate of peaceful transitions from military to democratic governance across the African continent since the mid-1990s is that of political accountability. Nigerian past and present is yet to produce a leader who can stand up and agree to having looted the public purse and express contrition for it. However, the country could be moving to a situation where the leaders who get caught in their corrupt acts may no longer enjoy the spontaneous and determined support of their ethnic people. They could be shamed and shunned, even by their natives, especially where democracy is truly established as was experienced in America when the former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich was rejected by the people of his state, bounced out of office by legislators and indicted by federal prosecutors for corruption in 2009. Despite some set backs and bizarre developments across the country, it is becoming clear that public service means serving the people and not an individual, that the public no longer accepts that weary excuse of the past that one received orders from above to break the law or abuse public trust in anyway. So a culture of political accountability may be

begging to take root. It may lead to increasing calls for greater accountability in particular in the coming years which might be expressed through effective reforms. This is a significant stride but a lot still has to be done because the fact remains that public office holders exhibit a very high propensity to evade accountability in most countries.

Towards Reinventing Governmental Accounting and Accountability:

The foregoing circumstances necessitate reconstitution and transformation of the Nigerian state and society. This is instructive because sub Saharan African countries had been advised to accelerate structural reforms that will remove impediments to investment and growth, and also reduce poverty and inequality by promoting good governance in all aspect (Calamitsis, 2001; Achua, 2009).

Governmental accounting system and public accountability are probably the most critical areas of reforms at the moment, as these would underpin and sustain the implementation of the entire country for faster and more equitable growth. Some policy questions and operational issue, however, need to be addressed for governmental accounting reforms to achieve its full potential in Nigeria. Reforms must begin in the area of legal framework. All inhibiting laws, rules, regulations and policies must be repealed and refined to accommodate the adaptation of internationally best practice guidelines standards and practices like GAAP, IPSGs and IPSASs. This will also facilitate the introduction of programmes, performance evaluation and measurement (Pitts, 2000; Shipman, 2005; Nwaiwu, 2006) as practiced in some countries of the world today. This will ensure that changes in public expenditure are judged by measuring public goods valued at appropriate prices.

As part of the legal reforms, the proposed freedom of information ((FOI) Bill that has been dumped at the NASS should be enacted. In addition, an apparatus such as whistle blowing, among others, should be embraced as integral to maintaining the integrity of public accountability. Unfortunately, whistle blowers are punished, blackballed, go broke and their lives are ruined because “The road to exposing government error as corruption is very bumpy and very costly” (Robinson, 2005). This could be strengthened by legislation (Pitts, 2000). This taxpayer protection law could protect disclosures regarding illegality, abuse of authority, gross waste and gross financial mismanagement. This would complement the proposed for act. Information is an essential prerequisite to responsibly exercised authority.

The National Assembly (NA) should be strengthened in practice with mechanisms such as the government accountability office (GAO) America. To foster this proposal, the Auditor General of the Federation should be able to support the National Assembly in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the people by rendering timely and reliable reports on financial reports from the office of Accountant – General of the federation. The same reform is required for the office of Auditor – General of the federation and the states can bolster financial transparency and public accountability. The audit Act and the finance (Control and Management) Act will have to be overhauled. One way of fostering this reform is to identify and replicate the best practices in hiring and recruiting of the private sector (Trahan & Yearout, 2006) and to ensure training and retraining of staff as well as ensuring the compatibility of their motivation with that of the private sector.

Due to notions of efficiency and effectiveness with regard to government operations, there has been a fundamental shift in the manner in which services are provided. One objective of government is to provide services at least cost, while maintaining or improving service quality. The government and its agencies should be ready to partner with the private sector for improved service delivery. Quality and image are the underlying reasons for outsourcing accounting services (Sciulli, 2004). This is where the accounting professional bodies, among other professions, are relevant. The professional accounting bodies in Nigeria have an essential role to play in ensuring, reforming and enforcing the reinvention of satisfactory governmental accounting systems. They can do this by assisting the government in the reform processes, training their members adequately and enforcing compliance of their members to the reforms.

They must be in the forefront of initiating and implementing strategic and annual planning models, and the reporting processes to help guide the governed in looking at government and how it does business. This could be to establish a framework for addressing not only current issues but also emerging challenges. Such short-term and strategic plans can be made available to help the NASS by promoting oversight, insight, and foresight supports. They should develop the capacity to influence the law-makers' views about what they believe to be important, current, and emerging issues. As professionals, they have to be awake and alert, presently and prospectively, on all issue pertaining to governmental accounting.

The international community has an important role to offer enduring assistance in ensuring the success of the reforms. It should continue to persuade the government of the day to introduce the reforms. This is in congruence with IFAC's optimism that even through it has no authority to mandate compliance, other factors, such as the influence of investors, lenders, credit-rating agencies and voters, will encourage governments to cooperate. The main force for adoption is increased pressure on governments to account for and measure how well they improve their economies competitiveness (IFAC, 2000). It is pertinent to share in Enwegbara's (2007) worry that "If Nigeria could be drifting this way and we fail to express both our individual and collective concerns then, I am afraid that there wouldn't be any future for the black race". This is instructive because according to Rothberg (2007), "as Nigeria goes, as Africa goes".

Empirical Studies:

Reinventing Governmental Accounting (RGA) structures are open systems which have significant interactions with the environment. This implies the collective of various factors which impinge on establishing, enhancing, or mitigating the effectiveness of the accounting system. However, the number of studies performed in this area, that currently fall within the scope of this index provides evidence that the emphasis given to reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance has increased in terms of their empirical importance. Many empirical studies have documented a positive and significant relationship between the predictor and criterion (Jackson & Irvine, 2003; Shipman, 2005; Nwaiwu, 2006; Askary, 2006; Fadipe, 2007; Goddard, 2010; Barker, 2010; Sorkaa, 2013). The webometric analysis displays some recent studies related to this issue in terms of the sample, variables methodology and results.

Table 1: A webometric analysis of Reinventing Governmental Accounting Research.

S/N	Author/Year	Exploratory variable	Dependent variable	Methodology	Results
1	Nwaiwu 2006	Public sector auditing	Proper accountability	Pearson product moment of correlation coefficient.	The results indicate a positive influence between public sector account and proper accountability in government.
2	Njoku, (2006)	Public Audit	Accountability government	Multiple regression	The results of his fining revealed a mixed result between public audit and accountability: An appraisal of unethical practice.
3	Daniel(2008)	Mgt of Public fund	The legal perspective	Chi-square	Mgt of public fund have positive influence on the lay perspective.
4	Falae (2009)	Accountability in government	Public fund	Pearson product moment correlation coefficient	Positive strong relationship exists between accountability in government and public fund.
5	Nomant (2011)	Accountability	Audit of government	Chi-square	No positive influence between accountability and audit of government
6	Oshisami (2012)	Government accounting	Financial control	Partial correlation coefficient	Government accounting does not influence financial control in Nigeria.
7	Ibrahim & Okwop (2012)	Public Accountability	Previous experience and future challenges	Regression Analysis	Changes in public accountability enhance future challenges.

Other than these empirical works, surveys have been conducted by various organizations to evaluate the relationship between the two issues reinventing governmental accounting and accounting assurance. The study performed by Ibanichuka (2000) indicates the existence of the positive link between reinventing governmental accounting and accountability assurance on almost fifteen states.

Socio Cultural Environment

Cultural variations also play a vital role in governmental accounting. Askray (2006) examines the effects of culture on accounting professionalism in 12 developing countries and found out that the transparency of government accounts is dependent on the level of statutory control and professionalism on the government accounting authority. This has implications for governments in Nigeria. Where corruption, unfortunately, has become a leviathan of the structuring elements of the culture in public administration. Nigeria has been rated several times as one of the most corrupt countries in the world (Wendt, 2004). The 2008 global corruption perception index (CPI) (Transparency International, 2008) ranked Nigeria 121st with a score of 2.7. “Widespread corruption and poor governance are serious problems in many African countries. Of all the manifestation of behaviour that is unethical, corruption strands out glaringly and it is also all encompassing. Corruption is, no doubt, the single most important cause of waste and inefficiency in Nigeria’s public sector. Corruption seems to have become the order of the day and it is evidently practical and condoned by the powers that be, judging from the way it is treated with kid gloves. For instance, Tafa Balogun, former Inspector General of Police in Nigeria was jailed for only 12 months for stealing over N11 billion from public coffers (Okoye, 2006) it is readily justified by the indescribable and faceless monster which has come to be known as “Nigeria factors”....

Perhaps a self-servicing explanation or escape value is to blame the new legendary hydra-headed monster called the “Nigerian factor”. The havoc wrecked on this nation by this Nigerian factor has confined the nation to the pitiable existence of a patient on a life – support machine (Osisioma, 2009:7).

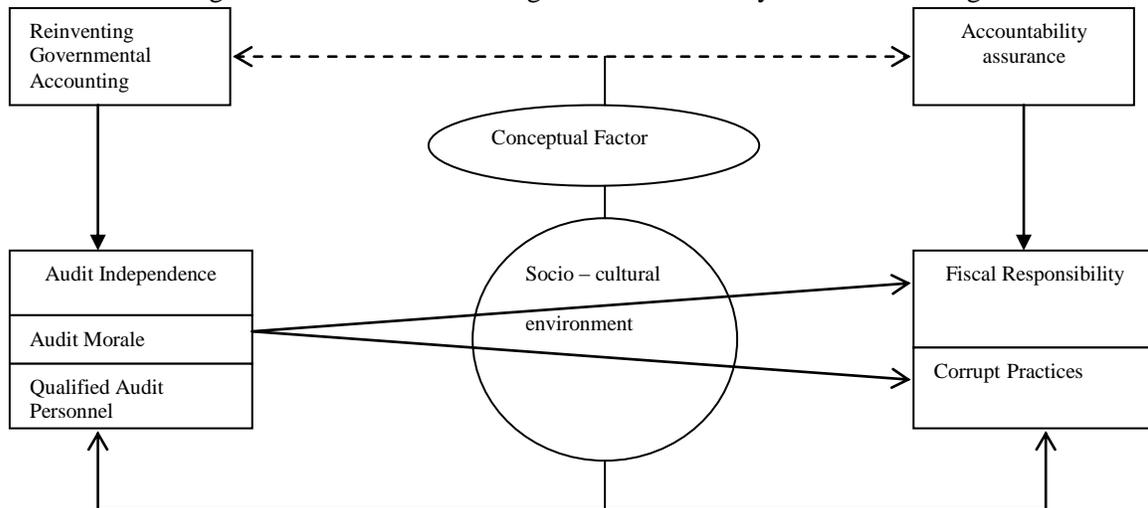
Several attempts by successive governments in Nigeria to establish political and administrative institutions of control and accountability have ended up as mere palliatives rather than surgical

operations to douse the cancer of unethical behaviour and the general lack of accountability in governance which has contributed immensely to underdevelopment (Sorkaa, 2003). For example, according to court documents from the Houston Federal court in the USA, Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), a former member of the Halliburton group, was fined \$402 million for criminal charges that it bribed Nigerian government officials to win contracts on a massive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in the country (This Day, 2009). The Halliburton Saga has been described as just one in the myriads of acts of gross moral turpitude and deliberate passivity of the federal government in combating corruption (Muhammad, 2009).

Research Hypotheses

The foregoing discussion provides the context for four important hypotheses that track the relationship and influence of Reinventing Governmental Accounting and Accountability Assurance formulated in the null form, to wit;

- H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between Reinventing Governmental Accounting and Accountability Assurance in Nigeria.
- H₀₂: Reinventing Governmental Accounting does not have significant influence on fiscal responsibility in Nigeria.
- H₀₃: Reinventing Governmental Accounting does not have significant influence on corrupt practices in Nigeria.
- H₀₄: Socio cultural environment does not have significant moderating influence on Reinventing Governmental Accounting and Accountability Assurance in Nigeria.



—————> Denotes Influence/Effect <-----> Denotes Relationship

Figure I Operational conceptual framework of analysis of reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance in Nigeria..

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section describes the methods adopted in this study. It specifies the research design, the source of data, and the procedures adopted in data collection and analysis.

Research Design

This study is explanatory, being the first empirical examination of the phenomenon of interest in Nigeria. It adopts a questionnaire approach in analyzing the research question. The study adopts a survey approach through a set of questionnaires which were designed to elicit opinions about the analysis, benefits and challenges of reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance in Nigeria.

Population and Sample

The population for the study comprised mainly senior workers in Rivers State and Bayelsa State of Nigeria. The choice restriction to these two states was due to reasons of logistics and resources (both in terms of time and money). Interactions with some workers in these two states (Federal and State) therein provided anecdotal evidence that was somewhat convincing about the reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance in Nigeria. Thus, it is not expected that the conclusions reached in this study will be markedly different from those of a wider population of similar respondents. Although this does not foreclose a broader coverage of the phenomenon of interest to enrich our understanding of this issues.

The sample respondents are auditors, accountants and directors of finance from Rivers State and Bayelsa State. For the purposes of questionnaire administration and subsequent analyses, there were altogether three sample groups: Auditors, Accountants and Directors of Finance.

Source of Data and Instrument of Data Collection

The study’s main instrument for data collection is the questionnaire. The questionnaire were adopted, mutatis mutandis, from those Achua (2009), Castroleal (2009), Sorkaa (2013) and distributed to Auditors (Internal & External), Accountants and Director of Finance. The questionnaires are designed to measure the Reinventing Governmental Accounting, Accountability Assurance, Fiscal Responsibility and corruption in Nigeria. The questionnaire consists of closed type questions which are easier to answer, process, and analyze. The questionnaire is made-up of likert scales: (“strongly agrees” to “strongly disagree”), numerical rating scales, etc. they were partitioned into two main sections. The first section contains demographics, contains background. Information, socio-economic status, education, etc. The second section contains attitudinal questions, covering respondents’ opinions, etc.

Technique for Data Processing and Analysis.

The analyses were tested using appropriate statistical tools, such as Pearson product moment correlation coefficient, multiple regression and partial correlation coefficient will be used to test the relationship between reinventing governmental accounting and accountability assurance (Pitts, 2000). The multiple regression test places no such restriction on the influence or effect (Nwaiwu, 2006). While the partial correlation coefficient was used to test for the moderating influence of socio-cultural environment on Reinventing Governmental Accounting and Accountability Assurance (Njoku, 2006).

Model specification

$$\begin{aligned}
 RGA_{it} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 AInd_{it} + \beta_2 AM_{it} + \beta_3 QAP_{it} + e_{it} & - & 1 \\
 AA_{it} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 AInd_{it} + \beta_2 AM_{it} + \beta_3 QAP_{it} + e_{it} & - & 2 \\
 SCE_{it} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 AInd_{it} + \beta_2 AM_{it} + \beta_3 QAP_{it} + e_{it} & - & 3
 \end{aligned}$$

Where

- RGA_{it} = Reinventing Governmental Accounting from period i to time “t”
- AA_{it} = Accountability Assurance from period i to time “t”
- SCE_{it} = Socio-Cultural Environment from period i to time “t”
- AInd_{it} = Audit Independence from period i to time “t”
- AM_{it} = Audit moral from period i to time “t”
- QAP_{it} = Qualified Audit Personnel from period i to time “t”
- FR_{it} = Fiscal Responsibility from period i to time “t”
- CP_{it} = Corrupt practices from period i to time “t”

$\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$ are the correlation coefficient e_{it} is the random variable or error term that accounts for the variability in the dependent variable which cannot be explained by the linear effect of the independent.

Reliability and Validity of Instrument

The researcher designed questionnaire that was validated by experts in public sector accounting and forensic auditing, and its reliability established using Cronbach Alpha in a test – retest

interval of three weeks was used. It gave a reliability of 0.90% which is considered to be high enough.

EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We present the data, analysis and interpretation of results.

Table 2. Summary of Questionnaire Administration.

Nature of organization	No. of questions sent	No. returned	percentage
Auditor General Office	55	50	.17%
Accountant General Office	65	61	.20%
Federal Inland Revenue Service	75	72	.24%
State Internal Revenue Service	105	100	.33%
Total	300	283	0.94%

Table 2 shows that 283 responses were received out of 300 questionnaires administered, representing 0.94% response rates. The overall response rate (0.949) as well as the response rates for both Auditor general office 50(0.17%), Accountant General Office 61(0.20%), federal Inland revenue Service 72(0.24%), and State Internal Revenue Service 100(0.33%) were quite impressive and compares very favourably with most survey studies (see, Askary, 2006; Njoku, 2006; Achua, 2009; Adebisi, 2012).

Table 3. Characteristics of sample Respondents (N=283)

Gender Male: (212) 70.7% Female: (89) 29.3%	Work experience(Yrs) 1 = 10: (20) 0.7% 11 = 20:(150) 0.53% 21 = 30(75) 0.27% Over 30: (38) 0.13%	Educating qualification B.Sc = (130) .46% MBA = (85) .30% Ph.D = (8) .3%
Age(years): less than 10:(18) 0.7% 11 = 20:(130) 0.46% 21 = 30:(95) 0.33% Over 30: (40) 0.14%	Working Classification Auditors: (19) .32% Accountants: (145) .51% Director of finance: (44) .17%	Professional qualification ICAN: (25) .9% ANAN: (200) .71% CITN: 58 .20%

Table 3 presents the characteristics of the respondents. It shows that the respondents are fairly balanced in term of gender. In terms of professional qualification, ore than half of the professional are members of association of national accountants of Nigeria. Thus, the respondents can be presumed to have a good grasp of the reinventing governmental accounting.

Relationship between Reinventing Governmental Accounting for Accountability Assurance in Nigeria.

H₀₁: There is no significance relationship between reinventing governmental accounting for accounting assurance in Nigeria.

Table 4 Relationship between Reinventing Governmental Accountability for Accounting Assurance in Nigeria.

		Correlations	
		Reinventing Governmental Accounting	Accountability Assurance
Reinventing Governmental Accounting	Pearson Correlation	1	.359**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	849	283
Accounting Assurance	Pearson Correlation	.359**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	283	283

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4 presents the test result on the relationship between reinventing governmental accounting for accounting assurance with an r value of 0.359 significance at 1% probability level. The result indicated the existence of significant positive relationship between reinventing governmental accounting for accounting assurance as investigated is Nigeria. This research finding is consistent with the work Falae (2009) who found a positive strong relationship between accountability in government and public fund in Nigeria.

H₀₂: There is no significant influence between Reinventing Governmental Accounting for Accounting Assurance in Nigeria.

Table 5. The influence of Reinventing Governmental Accounting on Fiscal Responsibility in Nigeria.

Variables/Test statistics	Linear	Exponential	Semi-log	Double log
Constant	-1.387*** (187.041)	1.146*** (-3.564)	3.751*** (.784)	.164*** (3.452)
Audit independence	.220** (1.097)	.329** (.855)	4.28** (.335)	.534*** (18.865)
Audit morale	.675* (2.020)	.679** (2.301)	.343* (1.930)	.542*** (3.842)
Qualified audit personnel	.824* (1.302)	.357* (3.270)	.562** (1.570)	.671** (2.288)
R	.495	.499	.479	.943
R ²	.403	.437	.495	.837
Adjusted R ²	.348	.405	.592	.807
Standard Error of the Estimate	6.1409	3.70002	6.1157	1.60428
f-ratio	729.624***	908.789***	782.021***	1545.632***

NOTE: *** = Significant at 1%; ** = Significant at 5%; and * = Significant at 10% and above t-values are shown in parenthesis.

In terms of the number of significant variables and the statistical values of the test statistic, the double-log form yielded the best fit and is accordingly used in our discussion. The function produces an r of .943 indicating a strong influence between the Reinventing Governmental Accounting and identified predictors (x_1 , x_2 & x_3). With an r^2 of 0.837, the study evidences that only about 12.7% of the changes in the Reinventing Governmental Accounting are attributable to other factors besides the three factors used in this study. The appropriateness of the model specification is further highlighted by the F-Ratio of 1545.632 which is significant at 1%.

The result implicates two (2) factors (Audit Independence and Audit qualified Reports or personnel) as core determinates of reinventing governmental accounting in Nigeria, each of which was significant at 1% level. Audit morale is shown to be significant 5% probability level. Audit morale is indicated as having insignificant effect on reinventing governmental accounting in Nigeria. This result is coming against the back drop of earlier research findings in developed countries. The potency of these audit morale in Nigeria is well documented in Nwaiwu (2006), Njoku (2004); Okwoil (2014) all of which indicate that audit morale is not a very strong determinant of the Reinventing Governmental Accounting in Nigeria. Thus, factors affecting the Reinventing Governmental Accounting are not the same among countries of the world, as the factors which were significant determinants in developed countries do not necessarily account for high level of reinventing governmental accounting in a developing country, like Nigeria; where the identified audit morale constitute serious socio-cultural challenges to inhabitants.

H₀₃: There is no significant influence between reinventing governmental accounting for corrupt practices in Nigeria.

Table 6. The influence of Reinventing Governmental Accounting on Corrupt Practices in Nigeria.

Variables/Test statistics	Linear	Exponential	Semi-log	Double log
Constant	2.695*** (-125.075)	2.960*** (105.245)	3.750*** (217.349)	3.156*** (108.071)
Audit independence	.648** (8.302)	.643* (2.105)	.989*** (.789)	.648** (.456)
Audit morale	.548** (7.814)	.759*** (2.970)	.887*** (.691)	.732* (.625)
Qualified audit personnel	731*** (6.251)	.648** (1.793)	.903** (.702)	842*** (643)
r	.308	.455	.550	.550
r ²	.435	.652	.538	.582
Adjusted r ²	.435	.581	.629	.629
Standard Error of the Estimate	4.379	5.439	8.1175	5.319
f-ratio	1189.135***	1240.132***	1326.455***	1200.965***

NOTE: *** = Significant at 1%; ** = Significant at 5%; and * = Significant at 10% and above t-values are shown in parenthesis.

In terms of the number of significant variables and the statistical values of the correlation coefficient(r), coefficient of determination (r^2), and F-ratio, the linear form yielded the best fit and is accordingly used in our discussion. The linear form produced an r of .550 indicating a strong negative influence between reinventing governmental accounting on corrupt practices. With an r^2 of .629, the study evidenced that about 62.9% of the changes in corrupt practices is attributable to variations in audit independence, audit morale and qualified audit reports. F-ratio of 1326.455 was significant at 1% while qualified audit reports are significant at 5%. We hereby conclude that audit independence and audit morale has a strong influence on corrupt practice, while qualified audit reports. These findings offer empirical supports to previous studies on reinventing governmental such as Oshisami 2012, Nomamt (2011) Ibrahim & Okwoli (2012) and Nwaiwu (2006). Although, our result is not in concordance with Daniel (2008), which may be attributed to the analytical framework and techniques used by the researchers. Thus, factors

affecting the reinventing governmental accounting are not the same among countries of the world, as the factors which were significant determinants in advanced countries do not necessarily account for high level of reinventing governmental accounting in a developing country like Nigeria; where the identified audit morale constitutes serious socio-cultural challenges to inhabitants.

H₀₄: Social cultural environment does not significantly mediate the influence between reinventing governmental accounting for accounting assurance in Nigeria.

The study investigated three (3) factors perceived to be critical determinants of the reinventing governmental accounting in Nigeria. The results from our test are shown in table 7 below.

Table 7. Moderating influence of socio-cultural environment on reinventing governmental accounting for accounting assurance in Nigeria.

		Correlations	
		Reinventing Governmental Accounting	Accounting Assurance
Reinventing Governmental Accounting	Pearson Correlation	1	-.347**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	849	283
Accounting Assurance	Pearson Correlation	-.347**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	283	283

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 7 is the partial correlation result of the moderating influence of socio-cultural environment on the influence between Reinventing Governmental Accounting for Accounting Assurance in Nigeria. A partial correlation coefficient of r value of -.347 is shown to be significant at 1% probability level but negatively correlated. Hence, reject the null hypothesis and conclude that socio-cultural environment significantly mediate the influence between reinventing governmental accounting for accounting assurance in Nigeria. The results are however parallel to the conclusion of Castro et al (2009) and Barker (2010), that the socio-cultural environment cannot provide a satisfactory explanation for the accounting assurance choice of public sectors in China and Thailand.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The literature on the dimensions of reinventing governmental accounting has expanded considerably since the seminal work of Owasanoye (2009). Most related studies have been from the developed country context, with very little empirical attention to developing countries. This study is an attempt at filling this gap, using Nigeria, an important developing country. In the sub-Saharan Africa, over the period of years. Evidently, the current governmental accounting system in Nigeria is grossly deficient. Financial reports are out dated and unreliable at all levels of government. This study draws from the little literature which posits that governmental accounting is a prime determinant of assurance accounting.

Based on the literature, a leading hypothesis was formulated for this study. The study conducted analyses to assess the relationship, influence as well as to ascertain the moderating influence of socio-cultural environment on reinventing governmental accounting and accountability assurance, using Pearson product moment correlation. Our results compared with the results of an earlier study by Sulaimon (2012) their results depict a strong positive relationship between reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance in Nigeria. In the main, evidence was

found about a positive and strong influence between reinventing governmental accounting on fiscal responsibility and corrupt practices in Nigeria.

This study is important because while the perceived dominance of the reinventing governmental accounting for accountability assurance is often peddled as a significant problem, the extent (or even the existence) of this problem has not been clearly identified and empirically assessed. The preceding analysis merely scratched the surface of the deep discontent in accountancy/audit assurance. In the light of the decline in governmental accounting for accountability assurance thereof, the quest for improvement calls for concerted efforts in a developing country like Nigeria. Such improvement could compel regulatory searchlight on accountability assurance mechanisms rather than the proxy of reinventing governmental accounting in Nigeria.

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