

Assessment Of Accountants Utilization Of Data Management System On Daily Activities In Yenegoa Metropolis

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ABSTRACT

The study looked at an assessment of accountants' utilization of data management system on daily activities in Yenegoa, Bayelsa State. One research question and hypothesis was used in the study. The survey research design was used in the study. The population of this study covers total number 200 accountants in different firms both public and private in Yenegoa metropolis in Bayelsa state. All the population was used as sample for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument used for the collection of data. The questionnaire item was titled "Accountants Utilization of Data Management System on Daily Activities" (AUDMSDA). The instrument was face validated by some experts in the department of Business Education in the Rivers State University. The experts checked the research questions, hypothesis and questionnaire items.

Test retest method was used to obtain the reliability coefficient of the instrument. On using Pearson product moment correlation, the value of coefficient resulted to 0.75%. Research questions were analyzed using weighted mean averages. The hypothesis was analyzed using the chi-square contingency table. The chi-sq was used since the distributions are multinomial and the sample size is large (180), 0.05 significance level was chosen, and the degree of freedom (df) for each hypothesis was computed. The findings of the study showed that accountants of organization use accounting software & data base management system in performing their functions to a very large extent and use the internet to large extent and that there is a significant increase in use of ICT by accountants while performing their functions. Based on the findings above, it was recommended that ICT related courses should be introduced in the curriculum/syllabus of departments and institutes of Business Education. Further, government should carry out enlightenment campaign on the importance of ICT to the public and also make provisions for computer training programs for their accountants as to give them computer education.

Keywords: Accountants Utilization, Data Management System & Daily Activities

INTRODUCTION

The computer is widely used in the accounting system because it stores, processes and summarizes large quality of financial data/information faster and more accurately. According to Hunton, (1994) the audit software creates a client data base to store all related audit files for each client. The documents in the database can be easily retrieved by a search function or with associated links.

Also an accountant can store a purchase or sales ledger or any other financial information in the system and retrieved it whenever he/she wants without any stress with the aid of the accounting software packages.

The spreadsheet help the accountants a lot, particularly the junior ones, since their primary tasks are accounting procedures and preparation of working papers. Most of these tasks are relatively repetitive and involve substantial calculation and referencing across different accounts for example the amount of cash

may appear in the balance sheet, trial balance, cash flow schedule and the bank reconciliation statement and so on. According to Abbe and King, (1988): the application of the spreadsheet, can automate such structure tasks and substantially reduce the processing time. In addition, the reduction in monotone work allows individuals to concentrate on more complex tasks and enhance their individual performance; (Giluuno 1982; Millman and Hartwict 1987).

There have been several researches on discovering the solution to high unemployment amongst higher institution graduates with particular emphasis on accounting graduates ever since the issue became a national phenomenon especially since the incidence of economic downturn years back (Udepi, 2013). Paramount amongst the solutions proffered is ICT, having recognized its potentials in preparing students for the labour market. Lopez (2003) opined that using ICT provides better opportunities for accounting students in higher institutions for the acquisition of valuable ICT knowledge and skills which are fundamental for gaining employment in the present day job market. This is therefore to say that ICT increases student's preparation for most future careers (Udepi, 2013).

In the words of Adebayo (2012), applying ICT to accounting in an organization could bring about getting information on financial position of an organization by mere pressing/touching a button, providing detailed information on expenditure in order to aid decision making of management, reduction in financial and administrative overhead, prevention of fraud and timely report on the financial performance and position of an organization. Information and communication technology refers to the application of various software and hardware that supports all of those activities involving information (Igbaji, 2014). According to OECD (1987), Information technology is "a term used to cover technologies used in the collection, processing and transmission of information". Ebijuwa and to Anyakoha (2005) define ICT as "tools and as well as means used for collection, capture, process, storage, transmission and dissemination of information". Ukpebor (2006) opined that information and communication technologies are vast web of high speed digital communication networks involving delivering of information, education and entertainment services to schools, offices, homes amongst others.

The use need to advance accounting system is necessary for a developing economy. This entails payment of salary systems, record keeping, auditing and so on. It is pertinent for business educator and an accountant to develop adequate skills on ICT to carry out modern accounting.

Observation shows that many ministries and agencies do not have competent accountants that are familiar with computer systems. They tend to maintain analogue approach in delivering services to the public. There is a need to make known the evolution on accounting via application of ICT technology. This at the long run will build prospective accountants towards modern adaptable accounting systems.

Purpose of the Study

The study looked at assessment of accountants' utilization of data management system on daily activities in Yenegoa metropolis, Bayelsa State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Find out the extent do accountants utilize the database management system in their day to day activities?

Research Questions

The research question was developed and used as a guide for the study:

1. To what extent do accountants utilize the database management system in their day to day activities?

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference in the use of accounting software/internet/data base management system by accountants in performing their day to day activities between the years of 2000 and 2010.

METHODS

The survey research design was used in the study. The population of this study covers total number 200 accountants in different firms both public and private in Yenagoa metropolis of Bayelsa state. All the population was used as sample for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument used for the collection of data. The questionnaire item was titled “Accountants Utilization of Data Management System on Daily Activities” (AUDMSDA). the instrument is a five point likert scale consisting of Very large Extent (5 points), Large Extent (4 points), Fairly Large Extent (3 points), Small Extent (2 points) and No Extent (1 point). A mean response of 3.0 and above was regarded as significant.

The instrument was face validated by some experts in the department of Business Education in the Rivers State University. The experts checked the research questions, hypothesis and questionnaire items.

Test retest method was used to obtain the reliability coefficient of the instrument. Questionnaire items were administered to a small group of respondents to fill. Two weeks later, the same instrument was given to the same group to fill. The corresponding answers were put together and analyzed using Pearson product moment correlation coefficient which resulted in a value of 0.75%. Research questions were analyzed using weighted mean averages.

Table 3.1 Decision Rule Table

Ranges of Score	Decision
4.1-5.0	Very large Extent
3.1-4.0	Large Extent
2.1-3.0	Fairly large Extent
1.1 -2.0	Small Extent
0.1 -1.0	No Extent

The hypothesis was analyzed using the chi-square contingency table. The chi-sq was used since the distributions are multinomial and the sample size is large (180), 0.05 significance level was chosen, and the degree of freedom (df) for each hypothesis was computed.

Decision Rule:

If the calculated chi-square is less than the tabulated chi-square, the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected while if the calculated chi-square is greater than the tabulated chi-square, the null hypothesis is rejected

DATA ANALYSIS

Research Question 1

To what extent do accountants use of data base management system in their day to day activities?

Table1: Responses on the extent of use of Data Base Management System by accountants.

S/NO	Response	W	X	%	Wx	$\frac{\sum Wx}{\sum x}$	Remark
1.	Very Large extent	5	75	42	375		
2.	Large extent	4	58	32	232		
3.	Fairly Large extent	3	32	18	96		
4.	Small Extent	2	15	8	30		
5.	No Extent	1	0	0	0		
	Total	15	180	100	733	4.07	VLE

Source: Survey data 2010.

75 out of the 180 respondents (42%) estimated that accountants use data base management system for accountants functions to a very large extent; 32% of the respondents say accountants use data base to a large extent; for 32 (18%) of the respondents, accountants use data base to a fairly large extent, while only 15 (8%) of the respondents believe accountants use data base management system to a small extent for

accounting functions Accountants, therefore use data base management system to a very large extent since the weighed mean score is 4.07.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference in use of accounting software/packages, database management system, and internet for accounting functions between 2000 and 2010.

Table 2: Chi-square Table on comparison of observation and expected frequencies

	o (2010)	e (2000)	o-e	(o-e) ²	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$
Very large extent	81	23	58	3364	146
Large extent	61	24	37	1369	57
Fairly large extent	21	29	-8	64	2.2
Small extent	10	42	-32	1024	24.4
No extent	7	62	-55	3025	48.8
					278.4

Source: Survey data 2010

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(o-e)^2}{e} = 278.4$$

Calculated value of $X^2 = 278.4$

Tabulated Value of $X^2 = 9.488$ since df is 4 (see appendix D)

Decision:

Since the calculated X^2 is greater than the tabulated X^2 , the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there is a significant difference in the use of accounting software/packages, internet and database management system in organizations for accounting purposes between 2002 and 2010.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Accounting Software, Data Base Management System & Internet as Accounting Function

The findings of the study showed that accountants of organization use accounting software& data base management system in performing their functions to a very large extent and use the internet to large extent and that there is a significant increase in use of ICT by accountants while performing their functions. The result of the study is in accordance with the works of Ezechukwu (2001), Forrester (2003) Salawu and Salawu (2007), Oruame (2008), and Adeyemi (2008). They all affirmed that accountants use these ICTs in their day to day accounting functions to a very large extent and that there is a significant increase in use of these ICTs by accountants within the past ten years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above, it is recommended that:

1. ICT related courses should be introduced in the curriculum/syllabus of departments and institutes of Business Education.
2. Government should carry out enlightenment campaign on the importance of ICT to the public and also make provisions for computer training programs for their accountants as to give them computer education.

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