



**POLAC MANAGEMENT REVIEW (PMR)
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCE
NIGERIA POLICE ACADEMY, WUDIL-KANO**



EFFECT OF AUDIT FEE AND AUDIT FIRM AGE ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF QUOTED CEMENT COMPANIES IN NIGERIA

Haruna Hafsah Ruggah

Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto

Abstract

This study investigates the impact audit fee and audit firm age on Financial Performance of quoted Cement Companies in Nigeria. The study specific objectives are to examine the impact of audit fees and audit firm age on financial performance (ROA). The population of the study is made up of 3 quoted Cement Companies on the NGX as at 2021. Data is secondary in nature and was sourced from the annual reports and accounts of the sampled Cement Companies from 2013-2021. The finding of the study indicated audit fee has significant relationship with financial performance, while, audit firm age has insignificant association with financial performance among cement companies. The management of these Cement Companies should ensure that they pay the auditors the audit fees charged as and when due, they must ensure that they don't owe the auditors any fees after the end of their audit assignments. The audit firms charged with the responsibility of examining the accuracy and fairness of the reports and accounts of these Cement Companies must ensure that they continue to gain more professional knowledge and must abreast themselves with the current happenings in the field of auditing and constant changes in the Cement industry.

Keywords: Audit Quality, Audit Fee, Audit Firm Age and Financial Performance.

1. Introduction

Audit performed in organisation is one of the most important areas in auditing today, because it is important to many people and other different groups, both internal and external, and these people and other different groups are referred to as firm stakeholders. Financial statement auditing is a mechanism for continuously monitoring the information contained therein, reducing information asymmetry, and protecting the interests of various stakeholders by providing reasonable assurance that management's financial statements are free of material misstatements. The societal responsibility of auditors should be to contribute significantly to the financial performance by reducing the risk of substantial misstatements and ensuring that financial statements are prepared in conformity with established norms and rules. Financial performance refers to how successfully a company meets its financial goals and meets the expectations of its shareholders. Corporate financial performance can

be defined as an organization's level of performance at a certain point in time. This can be quantified in terms of overall earnings and losses, as well as asset usage (Iliemena & Ijeoma, 2019).

The importance of audit quality in determining an organization's performance cannot be overstated, because it is expected that when an audit performed in relation to a company is qualitative, the company's image both within and outside the company will be improved and guaranteed, to attracting the interest of prospective investors and thus improving its financial and non-financial performance. Cement Companies are a very important and delicate sector of the economy that is constantly controlled by the proper authorities. The resources invested in this sector are typically vast, necessitating the assurance of investors' wealth, which can be achieved in part by the quality of the audit performed by auditors, which is based on the gap that exists between resource owners (shareholders) and resource managers (management). It is against this

backdrop that this study seeks to investigate the impact of audit quality on the financial performance of quoted Cement Companies in Nigeria covering a period of 9 years ranging from 2013- 2021.

The perceived reliability of audited financial data has been discovered to be eroding. On the other hand, the perceived importance of audited financial data has increased. Impact of financial performance relevant to audit quality has recently piqued the interest of researchers in the Western world. While these studies (Beasley, 1996; Heil, 2012; Miettinen, 2011) indicate justification from lively capital markets, there has been relatively little study on the relationship between audit quality and organizational financial success in countries with less established capital markets (Beasley, 1996; Heil, 2012; Miettinen, 2011). Thus, it is clear in Nigeria that there is a need for research on audit quality and organizational financial performance.

Investigations into the connection between audit quality and financial performance are critical in a country like Nigeria, where businesses strive to build trust among domestic and international investors. Prior research (Suraj, 2017; Cheng, Chen and Chen, 2018) has emphasis on the link that exists between audit quality and financial performance in (Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and other countries). The direct impact of audit quality qualities on a company's financial performance is a source of worry for researchers. To this end, audit quality will be measured using a proxy of audit firm type, audit independence, audit fees, audit tenure, audit firm age, and return on asset (ROA) will be used as the proxy for measuring financial performance to determine the impact of audit quality on the financial performance of cement companies in Nigeria. Firm age is the number of years the audit firm has been operating and undertaking its audit services. This number of years of operations is expected on the aggregate to have an increase in the experience that will give the firm a competitive advantage in performing its audit assignment. In line with the affirmation problems the study aims to achieve the following objectives;

i. Evaluate the relationship between audit quality (auditor fees) and financial performance of Nigerian listed cement companies

ii. Examine the relationship between audit quality (audit firm age) and financial performance of Nigerian listed cement companies.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Issues

Internal Audit Quality (IAQ)

Internal audit quality is an internal component within the corporate governance model which includes the audit committee, senior management, external auditors, and board of directors (Anderson & Verma, 2012). From the perspective of De-Angelo (1981), internal audit quality is the joint probability that the audit will truly present the audit findings in the accounting system of its client, for the public interest. It is necessary to maintain the quality of the audit because it helps to minimize the agency problem. Internal audit quality requires auditors to conduct their constitutional objectively in compliance with accepted rules for professional practice; internal audit activity evaluates and plays a significant role towards control, risk management and governance using different systematic and disciplined approved approach.

External Audit Quality

External audit quality is achieved when all the concerned participants work together because every stakeholder including the manager regulator and those in governance has an important role to play. Equally important are the prevailing environmental factors, such as the financial reporting standard, business laws adult regulations, cultural elements, corporate governance, information system, etc, as they are likely to affect the inherent characteristics and quality of financial reporting and by implication the audit quality (IAASB, 2015). For external auditors to achieve audit quality there are attributes they should possess that are considered vital. The auditor's predisposition to apply ethics, values, and tendency to dedicate adequate time

to their work plus a laborious audit process are all necessary to attain audit quality.

A quality audit should be able to challenge the content of financial statements for it to reach an opinion as to whether they are truthful and fair (Ems & Young, 2013). The opinion given determines the shareholder confidence in the information provided by management and by extension the financial performance of the company. According to Neri and Russo (2014), audit quality is an important contribution to the stability of an efficient market environment.

Audit quality is defined as the transparency accuracy and fair presentation of the relevant financial information contained in the auditor's report. Audit quality, according to De Angelo (1981), is defined as the auditor's independence in detecting, competency and reporting material misstatement. High-quality auditors are more likely than low-quality auditors to discover questionable accounting practices by clients and report material irregularities and misstatements. Audit quality, according to De LasHeras, Canibano, and Moreira (2012), is the likelihood of detecting disciplining auditors, audit failure, and incentivizing them to constrain managerial opportunism. As a result, higher audit quality can better constrain earnings management and improve financial report quality (Ching, Teh, San & Hoe, 2015). From the various definitions of audit quality, this study views audit quality as the vigorous scrutiny and examination of the financial statement of an organization, to ensure the detection of any possible material misstatement that is capable of affecting decisions by various stakeholders.

2.2 Empirical Review

Babatunde et al (2021) evaluate the effect of audit quality on the firm performance of Nigeria Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) in using both market measures assessing performance accounting. Based on a panel data technique, the study used 9 chosen banks out of 16 quoted on the Stock Exchange (NSE) market over eight financial years between 2012 and 2019. Furthermore, the data was gathered from the sampled banks' annual

reports and financial statements. The observed variables in the model are analyzed using correlation multiple regression approaches in this study. Both auditor size and audit fee have a positive and significant link with accounting measures of bank performance, according to the findings (ROA). Audit fees and size, on the other hand, have a positive but not substantial effect on Tobin's Q, a market indicator of performance. To improve the performance of deposit money banks in Nigeria, the report suggests that executives utilize the services of audit organizations whose honesty and character are unquestioned.

Ogbonna et al. (2020) examined the impact of Audit Quality and Financial Performance of Quoted Firms in Nigeria. The study covered a period of 18 years, from 2000 to 2017. The dependent variable is Financial Performance, which is proxied by auditor independence, audit size, and audit committee, whereas the independent variable is Audit Quality, which is proxied by earnings per share and return on asset. Unilever Nigeria Plc., Oando Plc., and C & I Leasing Company were chosen for this investigation. Annual reports and accounts of the companies under consideration were used to get time series data. Using E-view 7.0, the researchers used the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimate technique.

Ahmed, and Mubarakatu (2020) determined the link between audit quality and the firm value of quoted insurance companies in Nigeria. The study data was gathered from company's annual reports and accounts of listed insurance companies for five years using an ex-post facto research design (2015-2019). Multiple regression approaches were used to examine the data, and the results revealed that the size of the audit firm has a negative association with firm value, which is statistically significant. Although there is a negative correlation between audit firm longevity and firm valuation, the association is not statistically significant. Audit fees have a large and beneficial impact on the value of a company. The size of quality on the firm value of all listed manufacturing companies on Indonesian Stock Exchange from 2013 to 2017.

Ogbeifun and Olorunsola (2020) assessed the effect of the audit quality on firm financial performance of listed consumer manufacturing companies in Nigeria. The precise goals are to investigate the impact of audit tenure; audit independence and audit firm size on firm financial performance of Nigerian consumer goods companies and lending credibility theory are all used in the research. Over 5 years, a descriptive and cross-sectional research approach was used to explore the association between audit quality and financial performance of quoted firms in Nigeria. The secondary data originated from the financial statements of five commonly traded consumer product firms.

Amahalu and Obi (2020). Examined the role of audit quality on the association between international diversification and firm value of Jordanian publicly listed firms. The findings revealed that foreign diversification has a negative impact on the firm value of diversified Jordanian enterprises when the data is compared between financial and non-financial industries.

Kwabena (2017) examined the impact of internal audit quality on firm financial performance of the 65 firms quoted on the Nairobi Securities Exchange. The study found that the quality of internal audits had an impact on a company's financial success. The firm financial performance of the firms was positively influenced by the auditor's professional competence, independence, quality of audit work, and support from top management.

Enekwe et al., (2020) examined the impact of audit quality on the firm financial performance of Nigerian quoted manufacturing companies for the 2006 to 2016. The study investigated the effect of audit committee, auditor's independence and audit fee on the return on assets of publicly traded manufacturing firms. An ex-post facto research design was adopted for this investigation. A stratified purposive sampling strategy was used to select 24 manufacturing businesses from among the 80 listed in Nigeria. Secondary data was gathered from the companies' yearly financial reports. The Ordinary least-squares regression method was used

to evaluate the data. Auditor independence, among other things, has a good and significant impact on the financial performance of publicly traded industrial enterprises, according to the research. According to the findings, audit quality parameters influence the firm financial performance of manufacturing businesses in Nigeria. The report recommended, among other things, that auditor independence be increased through enhanced control procedures, integrity evaluations, and proper application of auditor skills to improve the financial performance of industrial businesses.

Ugwunta et al., (2018) examined the impact of audit quality on the share prices of listed oil and gas companies in Nigeria using regression techniques and covariance analyses. The findings revealed that the audit committee's composition and auditor type have a considerable impact on the market prices of Nigeria's publicly traded oil and gas businesses. The study also demonstrated that auditing firm type (BIG4/NONBIG4) and auditor independence have a significant and positive effect on the market price of shares, while external auditors' tenure has a negative link with the market price of shares. According to the study, listed oil and gas firms in Nigeria should work with the BIG4 external auditors to improve the audit process' credibility and, as a result, their share prices.

Ogbodo and Akabuogu (2018) assessed the impact of audit quality on the corporate performance of selected deposit money banks in Nigeria. The Scientific Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20 statistical regression tool was used to evaluate data that was gathered from the financial statements of the banks for the years 2008 through 2017. According to the research, audit firm size and audit committee independence both have significant effects on the equity of quoted Nigerian banks and the return on assets of listed Nigerian banks. The studies also show that the size of the audit committee significantly affects the profit margin of listed Nigerian banks, and banks are encouraged to select audit companies with a solid track record of quality audits.

Suraj (2017) carried out a study on how internal audit affects the financial performance of microfinance institutions in Kenya. Internal audit independence accounted for 28.4 percent of the firm financial performance of microfinance firms in Kenya, according to the study. Internal audit function independence was found to have a substantial relationship with firm financial performance. Internal audit standards, controls, and internal auditor competency, on the other hand, have little impact on financial performance.

Kwabena (2017). Evaluated the impact of audit quality on the financial performance of all the 15 listed DMBs in Nigeria from 2011-2017. Audit firm size, joint audit, and audit fee are employed as independent variables, while ROA, a proxy for financial success, is used as a dependent variable. Secondary data was used, which was collected from the listed DMBs' financial statements. For data analysis, the study used correlation and ex-post facto research designs, as well as multiple regressions. The research found a strong and positive association between audit firm size and ROA, a significant and negative relationship between joint audit and ROA, and a significant but negligible relationship between audit fee and ROA

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Lending Credibility Theory

According to the lending credibility theory, the primary aim of the audit is to increase the reliability of the accounting records (Okpala, 2015). According to the theory, the increased credibility conveyed by the auditor is the primary benefit of an auditor's service that attracts clients and boosts the confidence of financial statement users. According to the theory, audited accounting records can boost stakeholders' trust in management's stewardship (Ecaterina, 2007).

3. Methodology

The method of data analysis was the Panel Least Square. Descriptive statistics were used to compute the minimum, maximum, mean, median and standard deviation, values of sample data. A correlation matrix was also employed in determining the relationship

between dependent and independent variables while a panel regression model will be used to test the hypotheses. STATA version 14.0 was also used in estimating the regression results. The study population consists of (three) cement companies listed on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) as of December 2021 (NSE website, January 2022). The population of Cement companies quoted on the NSE in 2013 was 4 Cement Companies in Nigeria, but as a result of merger and acquisition, the number has been reduced to 3 quoted Cement companies in Nigeria as of 2021, hence the justification for selecting the entire population as sample size using the census sampling technique. These companies include Dangote Cement Plc, Lafarge Cement Plc, and Bua Cement Plc (formerly known as Cement Company of Northern Nigeria).

3.1 Measurement of Variables

Audit Independence is also an independent variable which was calculated by the Ratio of audit fee to the company's revenue (Enekwe *et al.*, 2020) Audit fees are also one of the independent variables which were measured by the amount logarithms of fees charged by the auditors on the cement companies (Enekwe *et al.*, 2020).

3.2 Model Specification

A Panel regression model was designed to evaluate the associations between the dependent variable and the five explanatory variables in this study to examine the effect of audit quality on firm financial performance of listed Cement Companies in Nigeria. The equation is as follows:

$$ROA = \alpha_0 + \beta_4 AUDFEES_{it} + \beta_5 AUDFAG_{it} + it \text{-----(1)}$$

Where ROA = Return on Assets (Dependent Variable)

AUDFEES= Audit Fees (Independent Variable)

AUDFAG= Audit Firm Age (Independent variable)

α = is constant

β_1 = coefficient of the independent variables

i = number of firms under observation

t = time

$=$ Error term

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Dependent and Independent Variables

Variables	Mean	Std Deviation	MIN	Skewness	Kurtosis
ROA	0.1146846	0.0759266	-0.021461	0.3820030	2.657625
AUDFAG	46.703700	18.415740	17.00000	-0.4362121	1.702026
AUDFEES	1.7000008	2.2300008	6.954243	0.3501925	2.444547

Source: STATA Output 14.0

The results of the mean of the ROA show a value of 0.1146846, which represents that the mean of the quoted cement companies in Nigeria is centered on 0.1146846. The mean value for AUDFEES shows a value of 1.7000008. Also, from the table, it shows that the standard deviation of the dependent variable (ROA) reveals a value of 0.0759266, while the values in respect of standard deviation for independent variables (AUDAGE and AUDFEES) reveal a value of 18.41574 and 2.2300008 respectively.

The displays the minimum value in respect of the dependent variable (ROA) which shows a value of -0.021461 and that of the independent variables (AUDAGE and AUDFEES), which shows a value of 17 and 6.954243 respectively. The table also shows the

Skewness figures for both the dependent and independent variables ROA and AUDAGE and AUDFEES respectively. The values are 0.382003, -0.4362121, and 0.3501925 respectively. The ROA and AUDFEES are skewed to fairly skewed. While AUDAGE is skewed to the left indicating that it is moderately skewed. Kurtosis is a test for normality, which reveals whether used for the study is normally distributed. The results displayed in respect of Kurtosis show a value of 2.657625 in respect of ROA and for all the independent variables (AUDAGE and AUDFEES) show a value of 1.702026 and 2.444547 respectively. From the displayed values, it is evident that the study data used is distributed normally because data is said to be normally distributed when it is above and greater than 0.30 (Koop, 2009)

Table 2: Correlation Results of Dependent and Independent Variables

Variables	ROA	AUDAGE	AUDFEES
ROA	1.0000		
AUDAGE	0.4502	1.0000	
AUDFEES	0.2698	0.4433	1.0000

Source: STATA Version 14.0

The table displays the correlation results in respect of the dependent variable (ROA) and the independent variables used for the study (AUDAGE and AUDFEES), it can be seen that positive relationships

exist amongst the variables used for this study. ROA has a positive relationship with AUDAGE, and AUDFEES, which is evident from the values of 0.4502 and 0.2698 respectively.

Table 3: Multicollinearity Test of Independent Variables

Variables	VIF	1/VIF
AUDAGE	2.772946	7.48007
AUDFEES	2.888093	0.000822
MEAN VIF	2.40	

Source: STATA Version 14.0

The test for multicollinearity in respect of the independent variables (AUDAGE and AUDFEES). From the above outcome in the Table, it justified that the mean of the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)

displayed a value of 2.40 which is less than the acceptable benchmark of ranging between 1 and 10. The results, therefore, revealed the absence of multicollinearity (Gujarati, 2003).

Table 4: Random Effect Regression results of the Dependent and Independent Variables

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
AUDITFEES	0.081268	0.032656	2.488605	0.0213
AFAGE	0.001654	0.000837	1.976759	0.0613
C	-0.589492	0.219724	-2.682875	0.0139
R-squared	0.747937	Mean dependent var		0.068565
Adjusted R-squared	0.687922	S.D. dependent var		0.072092
S.E. of regression	0.040273	Sum squared resid		0.034061
F-statistic	12.46249	Durbin-Watson stat		1.884990
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000011			

Source: STATA Version 14.0

Table 5: Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey

F-statistic	0.278756	Prob. F(5,21)	0.9196
Obs*R-squared	1.680467	Prob. Chi-Square(5)	0.8914
Scaled explained SS	0.643529	Prob. Chi-Square(5)	0.9859

Source: STATA Output 14.0

The table displays the outcome of the Heteroscedasticity test, which was conducted to find out if there is the presence of Heteroscedasticity in the model. From the prob>barchi2 results of 0.9196, 0.8914, and 0.9859 reveal that there is the absence of heteroscedasticity because the results reveal that it was not significant at a 5% level of significance. This, therefore, reveal that the deviation of the dependent and

independent variables investigated over time is constant.

Testing of Hypotheses

H₀₁ There is no significant relationship between audit quality as proxied by auditor fees and the firm financial performance of listed Nigeria Cement Companies.

Table 6: Regression Results of Audit Fees and Financial Performance

Variables	Coefficient	P-value
AUDFEES	0.081268	0.0213

Source: STATA Version 14.0

The table displays the regression results as it relates to the association between audit fees and the firm financial performance of listed Nigerian Cement Companies. The coefficient value of the relationship revealed a figure of 0.081268, which is a positive association and the p-

value revealed a value of 0.0213 which was found significant. The outcome of the hypothesis shows that there is a significant association between the fees charged by auditors for their services and firm financial performance of these listed Cement Companies. The

result gave rise to the rejection of the null hypothesis state which states that there is no significant relationship between audit fees and firm financial performance listed Nigeria Cement Companies. The findings support of the findings of Babatunde *et al.*, 2021; Chukwuma *et al.*, 2020 and Ahmed *et*

al., 2020, who also found a significant relationship between audit fees and financial performance.

H₀₂ There is no significant relationship between audit quality as proxied by audit firm age and the firm financial performance of listed Nigerian cement companies.

Table 7: Regression Results of Audit Firm Age and Financial Performance

Variables	Coefficient	P-value
AFAGE	0.001654	0.0613

Source: STATA Version 14.0

The table displays the regression outcome as it relates to the association between audit firm age and the firm financial performance of listed Nigerian Cement Companies. The coefficient value of the relationship revealed a figure of 0.001654, which is a positive relationship and the p-value revealed a value of 0.0613 which was found not significant. The outcome of the hypothesis indicate that there is no significant impact between the age of these audit firms consulted for their professional services and the firm financial performance of listed Cement Companies in Nigeria. The result gave rise to the acceptance of the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between audit firm age and the financial performance of quoted Cement Companies in Nigeria.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The following recommendations are in line with the findings and conclusion of the study;

In relation to the results of the association between audit fees and the firm financial performance of quoted Cement Companies in Nigeria, the study concludes that the more audit fees charged by these quoted audit firms in Nigeria as stipulated by regulations, the more extensive audit work they will carry out, enabling the audit firms not to leave any stone unturned as regards every aspect of the quoted cement companies reports, accounts and financial statements, which will end up affecting the financial performance of these quoted Cement Companies in Nigeria.

The study concludes in connection with the relationship between audit firm age and the firm financial performance of listed Nigerian Cement Companies, that the result can be linked to the fact that the audit firm age does not necessarily means that the audit firms might not have acquainted itself with the continuous changes in audit standards and guidelines as it relates to auditing of special kind of businesses in which Cement Companies is one of them, for the continuous years they continue to operate. They might have not gathered the needed experience in auditing Cement Companies, which in the end does not affect the financial performance of these Cement Companies in Nigeria.

The following are recommendations are based on the conclusions of the study:

The management of these Cement Companies should ensure that they pay the auditors the audit fees charged as and when due, they must ensure that they don't owe the auditors any fees after the end of their audit assignments.

The audit firms charged with the responsibility of examining the accuracy and fairness of the reports and accounts of these Cement Companies must ensure that they continue to gain more professional knowledge and must abreast themselves with the current happenings in the field of auditing and constant changes in the Cement industry. This can mostly be achieved by constant presence or attendance at the frequently organized Mandatory Continuing Professional

Education (MCPE) by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

REFERENCES

- Ahmad, I, Farida, M. & Mubarakatu, G (2020). Audit Quality and Firm Value of Listed Insurance Company in Nigeria.
- Amahalu, N.A and Obi, J.C (2020). Effect of Audit Quality on Financial Performance of Quoted Conglomerates in Nigeria. *International Journal on Management Studies and Social Science Research*.
- Babatunde, M.A, Adedeji, L.O & Adegbite, I.O (2021). Audit Quality and Financial Performance of Banks in Nigeria. *Journal of Accounting Information and Innovation*.
- Cheng, Y.S., Chen, Y.S., & Chen, Y.C. (2018). Direct and mediating effects of auditor quality on auditor size and performance. *International Business Research*, 6(11), 134-148.
- De Angelo, L. (1981). Auditor size and audit quality. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 2 (1).
- Eneisik, G.O, Erasmus & Micah, L.C (2021). Audit Quality and Market Price Per Shares of Listed Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Law Research*, 9(4), 1-22
- Enekwe, C, Chike & Sergius, N (2020). Effect of Audit Quality on Financial Performance of Listed Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria. *Advance Journal of Management, Accounting and Finance*, 2364-4219.
- Heil, D. (2012). The influence of the auditor on the earnings quality of their clients. (Unpublished Masters Thesis). Department of Accounting, Auditing and Control, Erasmus University, Rotterdam.
- Iliemena, R.O.C., & Okolocha, C. B. (2019). Effect of Audit Quality on Financial Performance: Evidence from a Developing Capital Market, *International Journal of Recent Research in Commerce Economics and Management*, 6(3), 191-198.
- Kwabena, K. A. (2017). *The Effects Of Internal Audit Quality On Financial Performance Of Firms Listed At The Nairobi Securities Exchange*. A Thesis submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Master in Business Administration. Degree of the School of Business University of Nairobi.
- Miettinen, J. (2011), The role of audit quality on the relationship between auditee's agency problems and financial information quality. Paper presented at the Department of Accounting and Finance, University of Vaasa, Finland
- Morteza, Z. (2014). The Effect of Audit quality on the Performance of Listed Companies in Tehran Stock Exchange, *International Letters of Social and Humanistic Sciences*, 21, 36- 43.
- Neri, Lorenzo; Russo, A. (2014). A Framework for audit quality: Critical analysis. *Business and Management Review*, 3(9), 25–30. Retrieved from http://gala.gre.ac.uk/14798/1/14798_NERI_A_Framework_for_Audit_Quality_%28pub_PDF_O
- Ogbefun, I.E & Olorunsola, F.F (2020). Audit Quality and Financial Performance in Quoted Consumer Goods Companies in Nigeria. *International Journal of Current Research*. 12(5), 11468-11474.
- Ogbodo, O. C. Akabuogu, N. J. (2018). Effect of Audit Quality on the Financial Performance of Selected Banks in Nigeria, *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development*, 3(1), 99- 112.
- Ogbonna, G.N, Onuaha, T.E & Christopher, I.S (2020). Audit Quality and Financial Performance of Quoted Firms in Nigeria. *West African Journal of Business and Management Sciences*, 9, 14-43.
- Suraj, I. A. (2017). The effect of internal audit on financial performance of microfinance institutions in Kenya.
- Teoh, S.H & Wong, T.J (1993). Perceived Auditor Quality and the Earnings Response Coefficient. *The Accounting Review*, 68(2):346-366.

- Tom, A., & Ying, Z. (2018). *The Effect of Audit Quality on a Firm's Internal Information Environment: Evidence from Group Audits*
- Ugwe, C.C, Aikpitanyi, L.N & Idemudia, S (2020). The Effect of Audit Quality on Financial Performance of Deposit Money Banks (evidence from Nigeria). *Journal of Economics and Business*, 3(1), 270-281.
- Ugwu, C. C., Aikpitanyi, L. N., & Idemudia, S (2020), The Effect of Audit Quality on Financial Performance of Deposit Money Banks (Evidence from Nigeria), *Journal of Economics and Business*, 3(1), 270-281.
- Ugwunta, D.O., Ugwuanyi, B.U. & Ngwa, C.U. (2018). Effect of audit quality on market price of firms listed on the Nigerian stock market, *Journal of Accounting and Taxation*, 10 (6), 61-70.