Stakeholders’ Perception of the Impacts of Corporate Compliance with Nigerian Accounting Standards on Shareholders’ Wealth

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ABSTRACT

Shareholders are crucial in business organizations. In addition, the primary purpose of a business is the maximization of shareholders’ wealth. In this regard, the accounting standards issued in Nigeria, like in other parts of the world, prescribe rules and principles that are supposed to promote good business practices that should in turn enhance owners’ wealth. The objective of this study, therefore, was to examine the impact that compliance has on the wealth of shareholders.

Six hundred and eighty respondents were sampled through a multistage sampling technique from the population of the numerous stakeholders. The primary data consisted of perceptions and opinions of stakeholders on standardization. The data were captured on a Likert scale of one to five using a structured questionnaire. Z-statistics were used to investigate the mean responses of the perceptions of respondents of the impact of standardization on shareholders’ wealth.

The study showed that stakeholders agreed that standardization is good for business, but that compliance with standards does not improve shareholders wealth.

The conclusions of the study, therefore, are that corporate compliance to accounting standards still leaves room for improvement and that compliance has not improved shareholders’ wealth. The study recommended among others, that standards should be reviewed on continuous basis with the aim of ensuring that better business practices are enforced.

Keywords: Compliance with Standards; Shareholders’ Wealth; Stakeholders’ Perceptions

INTRODUCTION

The colonial governments from the developed countries gave charters to early explorers of Africa. These include the one given to The Royal Niger Company, by the British government, for Nigeria. This type of business introduced the corporation form of ownership to the underdeveloped countries. In similar manner, accounting in America and Britain has significant influence on developing nations, including Nigeria. American and English standards determine, significantly, the International Financial Reporting Standard (formerly International Accounting Standards) and accounting standards of developing economies are significantly influenced by the International Standards. Nigeria followed global developments and established the Nigeria Accounting Standard Board in 1982.

Freedom of incorporation with limited liability came to Britain in 1856. France followed, and by 1860, most of the US states had adopted it. By the last quarter of nineteenth century, European nations had also followed. Freedom of incorporation prevails to date all over the world, including in Nigeria. As corporation form of businesses grows in size, owners no longer control the corporations, instead, managers were running the companies at their whims and accountable to no one (Drutman, 2005). Owners take little interest in the manner of management of their company and managers had few consequences for mismanagement. “This meant that managers could more easily use the corporation to enrich themselves, which they increasingly did” (Drutman, 2005).

The depression experienced in the United States of America’s economy around 1929, which witnessed companies reaping off, especially, the dispersed investors masses, coupled with devastating insider related manipulations could be said to be the foundation of Accounting standardizations, as they are today, all over the world. Between 1938 and now, bodies set-up for regulation in the United States of America have issued standards that guide financial reporting in America. Similarly, in England, a conglomerate of accounting professional also formed the Accounting Standard Committee, to issue standards. As stated earlier, the standardization in these two countries influenced other countries of the world including Nigeria.

Since 1982 when Nigeria Accounting Standard Board was established, the board has issued various standards, covering issues like disclosure of accounting policies, information to be disclosed in financial statements, taxation, investment, leasing, accounting for depreciation and most recently, abridge financial statements (thirty in total). The Accounting Standards prescribes rules and principles that are supposed to enhance business practices. It is also expected that better business procedure and practices, ceteris paribus, will enhance shareholders' wealth. On the contrary, businesses continue to suffer from problems of instability, insolvency and poor profitability. The situation, therefore, motivate a study into the impact that standardization of financial reporting procedures have on the standardized organizations' finances and consequently on owners.

In this study, we investigated the perception of stakeholders of the impact of standardization on business. Consequently, the study intends to answer the question 'has corporate compliance led to better performance, maintenance of status quo or a reduction result of business conduct. The results of the investigation is therefore, expected to allow an informed conclusion on whether Nigerian Accounting Standards are in the interest of the shareholders in business. As a contribution, therefore, it is expected that the result of the study shall provide information on the impact of standardization, which shall facilitate the procedures for standard setting and provide bases for the nature of standards that shall be issued in Nigeria and other countries where, financial reporting is standardized.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

■*Accounting Standardization Concept*

Accountants are responsible for preparation of accounts and financial statements. Accountants bring knowledge and skills to bear in carrying out these acts. Although there may not be anything ordinarily wrong with this, it meant that accountants used and applied varying accounting principles in treatment of accounting transactions, as long as such principles were not contravening the Generally Accepted Principles in Accounting (Oghuma and Iyoha, 2005). The procedures were not standardized and the major consequence was that given the same company, at the same point in time, but with different managements and different accounting ideologies, two different set of accounts may be generated and both giving a true and fair view. In addition, some accounting issues require judgment. The judgment can be based on individual skill, experience and the knowledge of the person that is passing the judgment. These variables involve individual differences and may affect the judgment. Different accountant, therefore, can produce different balance sheets for identical companies with similar characters and in the same industry (Oghuma and Iyoha, 2005).

In addition to this, the accounting profession needed more in terms of proper record keeping, transparency, compatibility and enhanced public confidence, in financial reporting. Arising from the above, standards were developed as a guiding tool, which defines how companies should display transactions and events in their financial statements. This is to ensure the needed uniformity of practice, enlightenment of users of financial reports, and provision of a framework for preparation, presentation and interpretation of financial statements (Kantudu, 2005) and (Oghuma and Iyoha, 2005). These fundamentally, should be in the best interest of the owners.

The global body for the issuance of accounting standards is the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), with global head office in New York. The International Accounting Standard Board (formerly Committee) is the arm of IFAC that is charged with the responsibility of developing the standards and the Board has been responsible for the issuance of about seventy Standards as International Accounting Standards (IASs) or International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). Countries choose between adopting the International Standard directly, developing their own standard to reflect what the international standards have provided, with or without modification, or producing different domestic standards. Whatever the individual country is adopting, serves as the measure for the regulation of their accounting and reporting.

■*Accounting Standardization in Nigeria*

The responsibility for the development and production of Accounting Standards in Nigeria lies in the Nigeria Accounting Standard Board. The Board evolved from the then Association of Accountants of Nigeria, which was formed in 1960 (Kantudu, 2005). Nigeria Accounting Standard Board (NASB) was established as a private sector initiative in 1982. The board became an agency of government ten years later. Although, the body issued standards with statutory backing since establishment, the enabling law for the operations of the agency was only enacted in 2003.

The Nigerian Accounting Standard Board has domesticated standards issued by the International Standard setting body, though; Nigeria-ROSC (2004) reported significant gap between Nigeria Accounting Standards and the International Accounting Standards. In the report of Nigeria-ROSC 2004 twenty IASs are said to have no equivalent SASs, about 4 SASs, also, have no International equivalent. Some International standards have been dropped, which are still in use in Nigeria. Updates and revisions to IASs are not implemented in relevant SASs. Overall about 29 (now 30) SASs have been issued so far, while IAS/IFRS issued are close to 50 (now 69) (Nigeria-ROSC, 2004). These demonstrate and evidently confirm the gap said to be existing as reported.

EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

Adeyemi (2005) studied the impact of accounting standards on financial reporting. The study was on the extent of compliance and the impact that compliance have on financial reporting. From a study of 96 companies, the study showed that Nigerian companies comply with accounting standards reasonably well. The level of compliance is, however, less than the international benchmark of 91%, and there are variations in the depth of disclosure by the studied companies. On the impact of compliance on financial reporting, the study found 'that there is a significant positive impact of the extent of equity participation of multinational companies on the extent of compliance with accounting standard' and that 'there is no significant relationship between audit firms' size and compliance with accounting standards in Nigeria'. The study by Adeyemi (2005) is similar to that of Wallace (1988). The two studied examined disclosure practice by Nigerian companies, in compliance with Nigerian accounting standards. The study found that company size, ownership structure, company age, multinational affiliation, auditor's size, number of employees; stock exchange listing and profitability are associated with disclosure level.

In addition to the fact that the work of Adeyemi (2005) on the impact of compliance on financial reporting, the study also measured the degree of compliance by Nigerian businesses. His study showed 74% compliance by Nigerian companies, which is below the international benchmark of 91%. Kantudu, (2005) assessed the level of compliance with the requirement of 'SAS No 2' 'information to be disclosed in financial statement' by Nigerian Quoted Companies. Based on a study of 25 sample firms' data for 5 years, between 1998 and 2003, the study found that gap exists between requirement of the standard and disclosure practice of listed firms. The work of Kantadu (2006) was to investigate the impact of enforcement power given to Nigerian Accounting Standard Board on compliance, specifically, with the standard on employees' retirement benefits. His investigation was based on 10 years study of 30 companies and his result was that the Act has significantly influenced the application index. The study, however, showed that there is less variability on the application of the accounting standard on employee retirement benefit between quoted firms in Nigeria.

Oghuma and Iyoha (2006) investigated the level of compliance of listed insurance companies to accounting standards. They evaluated 15 out of the 25 listed insurance companies based on their compliance with 11 relevant standards. Their result was that quoted insurance companies generally comply with disclosure requirement of statement of accounting standards. According to the study, however, in few situations where they did not comply, the concerned company preferred to pay penalty, because to pay penalty is cheaper than compliance. Izedomin (2001) investigated the level of compliance to accounting standards in the banking industry concludes that banks could be said to be complying, significantly but not totally, with the requirements of the standards.

Nigeria-ROSC (2004) was about observance of standard and codes of accounting and auditing by Nigerian companies. It involved a review of the institutional framework for regulation and an empirical investigation of the regulated institutions. Nigeria-ROSC (2004)'s evaluation based on a review of 45 sets of financial statement of listed companies observed some compliance gaps between IAS and the National Standards. The document reported that most of the entities reviewed complied with limited number of national disclosure requirements and that disclosures by companies are summarily inadequate. It, however, stated that banks generally comply with national accounting standards, despite their contravention of Bank and other Financial Institutions Act. The result of interviews as stated, contrary to the findings of financial statement review, put presentation and disclosure in financial statement as good with confirmation that the statements are, however, not free from biases and errors. In the same manner, Kasum (2009), examined the applicability of standardization, drawn from best practices to all aspects of business organizations and concluded that standardization is good for business and can be applied to all areas of business. All of these studies are interested in compliance alone and not the impact of compliance on owners.

Shareholders' theory defines the primary duty of a firm's manager as the maximization of shareholders' wealth (Berle and Means; and Friedman cited by Danielson, Heck and Shaffer, 2008). Bainbridge (1993) cited Dodge Vs Ford case as stating:

"A business corporation is organized and carried out primarily for the profit of the stockholders. The powers of the directors are to be employed for that end. The discretion of the directors is to be exercised in the choice of means to attain that end, and does not extend to a change in the end itself, to the reduction of profit, or to non-distribution of profits among stockholders in order to devote them to other purposes".

The overriding goal of the corporation, thus, is to maximize shareholders' wealth (Anderson, Jones, Marshall, Mitchell, and Ramsay, 2007). Shareholders' wealth is usually reflected in the value of business.

Issue of business value is of a fundamental duality, creating value and capturing value. "Whereas creating value is an inherently cooperative process, capturing value is inherently competitive. To create value, people cannot act in isolation. They have to recognize their interdependence. To create value, a business needs to align itself with customers, suppliers, employees and many others". For value capturing, however, just as businesses compete with one another for market share, customers and suppliers are also looking out for their slice of the pie with the shareholders (Brandenburger and Nalebuff, 2002). Brandenburger and Nalebuff (2002) summarized that "creating value that can be captured is the essence of business". The shareholder value theory states that a company creates this value when it meets or exceeds a cost of capital that suitably reflects its investment risk (Lambert and Burduroglu, 2000: 10). The objectives of performance measurement and management are to increase the shareholders' value, profitability, growth, competitiveness, quality, customer satisfaction and any other goal of an organization resulting in improved performance (Moncla and Arents-Gregory, 2003).

As much as it is important to stress shareholders' value maximization, an unbiased assessment will not be complete without consideration for other stakeholders in business value. Representation of value, directed towards only the shareholders is incomplete, since the firm's decisions involve consequences for all stakeholders. The concept of created value must be adapted, according to the efficiency principle, to take the whole stakeholders into account (Milgrom and Roberts, 1990). In addition, focusing on only the shareholders and the methods they use to control managers does not enable a proper identification of the mechanisms of value creation, in connection with some of the recent theoretical representations of the firm (Charreaux, 2004). In particular, it seems incompatible with the contractual representation, according to which the firm is a nexus of contracts between the different stakeholders or the one according to which, the firm constitutes a cooperative game between the different stakeholders (Aoki 1984). The first contractual representation is referred to as the economic theory of corporation. According to Anderson, Darvas, Forsyth, Gumley and Welsh (2006), it is a contract "with suppliers of inputs, employees, and customers of outputs" while the second is more like their 'team production theory' that "is based on the notion that two or more individuals must combine their valuable resources to produce a single output". Conflict, therefore, exists in sharing of captured values of the business (Brandenburger and Nalebuff, 2002). The view of Aoki (1984) above, which is also common to Soh and Markus (1995), attracted comment from Soh and Markus (1995), that all the views can be integrated. The systems resource and strategic constituencies' perspectives can be included in the goal model. Organizational performance, therefore, should consider a set of outcomes that reflect the different perspectives goal-seeking, coalition of constituencies and bargaining relationship with the surrounding.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Nigerian corporate stakeholders' population was studied in this work. The stakeholders include the owners, managers, customers, suppliers, creditors, regulator, analysts and experts and other members of the public. The stakeholders to Nigerian quoted companies are effectively the population of the country. Over-laps exist in the population of stakeholders. An individual can be a customer and/or a supplier or even a shareholder to multiple companies, at the same point in time. According to Anderson, Sweeney and Williams (2009; pp 261-262), a population like this, which is not capable of precise estimation or that is very large and widely scattered, is considered as infinite population. Primary data were collected and used for the study and the sample was six hundred and eighty out of the numerous stakeholders' population. The study was for the purpose of investigating the effect of corporate compliance with accounting standards on the entities and their owners. The study is, therefore, expected to facilitate informed conclusions, it will be proper to classify this study as an exploratory type that is seeking understanding of a phenomenon.

The opinions the stakeholders were collected on a Likert scale of one (1) to five (5) for the strongest disagree to the strongest agree responses, respectively. The place of the opinions of respondent stakeholders as against that of the population, which was set as an average of equal responses to all opinions, was the basis for determining the validity of the aggregate opinion. Z-statistics for comparing population mean with sample mean was used here to test for statistical significance.

■***Statement of Hypotheses***

Hypothesis One

Null- Corporate compliance of Nigerian businesses with accounting standards does not have positive impact on business.

Alternative- Corporate compliance of Nigerian businesses with accounting standards does have positive impact on business.

Hypothesis Two

Null- Corporate compliance of Nigerian businesses with accounting standards does not have positive impact on shareholders.

Alternative- Corporate compliance of Nigerian businesses with accounting standards does have positive impact on shareholders.

Decision rule: Two conditions need be satisfied to be able to draw conclusions on stakeholders' opinion. One is that a difference must exist between the sample mean and the population mean. If sample mean is higher, the result is suggesting that companies comply and vice versa. Whatever the difference is, it should be statistically significant and for it to be, the computed value of 'Z' should be greater than the table value. The population mean was set at '3', as explained above and the table value was based on 5% level of significance.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data are the responses of stakeholders of business corporations. They were collected and presented as appendix to this work. The responses are as provided, been an indication of their opinions on important fundamental statements made for them to agree or disagree with in the structured questionnaires. These opinions were collected as responses on a Likert scale between strong agreement and strong disagreement coded with scores between 5 and 1 respectively.

The analysis carried out here was about investigating the opinion of stakeholders on accounting standardization issues, impact of standardization generally and impact of standardization on wealth of shareholders. The study did these by comparing sample responses with that of the whole population. For the purpose of this study, the population mean has been set at '3', which is the average of an equal representation of all the possible responses.

Pursuant to this, the study analyzed the responses by computing the mean and standard deviation. The study finally subjected the responses to 'Z' test to determine if the responses recorded are statistically significant or not. The study conducted the analyses stated above for each of the statements put forward.

RESULTS

In the following table are detailed results of the study's statistical analyses. The table presents the relevant descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation and the 'Z' statistics that assisted in testing the study's hypotheses. Explanation and interpretation of the statistics followed. The relevant data are attached as appendix to the work.

Table 1:study's descriptive and inferential statistics

Statements \ Sample Statistics	N	Mean	Std Dev	Z
Standardization is a good guiding tool	680	3.5515	1.3558	10.606
Standardization has been a good guiding tool in areas where it is been applied	680	3.5353	1.3212	10.566
Standardization has been of assistance in areas of business where it is been applied	680	3.5279	1.2943	10.637
Owners are the most important stakeholders in Business organization	680	3.3221	1.4636	5.738
Accounting Standardization was meant to protect owners	680	3.2691	1.4743	4.760
Accounting Standardization was meant to protect other stakeholders	680	2.7647	1.4736	-4.164
Accounting Standardization protects owners	680	3.0412	1.3310	0.807
Accounting Standardization protects other stakeholders	680	3.0206	1.4151	0.379
Accounting Standardization protects owners more than other stakeholders	680	2.6603	1.4103	-6.281
Accounting Standardization protects other stakeholders more than owners	680	3.2794	1.3266	5.492
Accounting Standardization should protect owners more than other stakeholders	680	3.1176	1.3946	2.200
Accounting Standardization should protect other stakeholders more than owners	680	2.8647	1.4781	-2.387
Nigerian companies are familiar with Standards issued by Nigeria Accounting Standard Board	680	3.5279	1.2690	10.849
Nigerian companies complies with Standards issued by Nigeria Accounting Standard Board	680	3.5412	1.2675	11.134
Nigeria Accounting Standards have enhanced preparation of financial statements	680	3.2912	1.3494	5.627
Nigeria Accounting Standards have enhanced the quality of presentation in financial statements	680	3.2471	1.3571	4.747
Nigeria Accounting Standards have improved information disclosures of financial statements	680	3.3529	1.3640	6.747
Majority of shareholders of quoted companies in Nigeria do not exercise control over Companies	680	3.1441	1.4369	2.615
Nigeria Accounting Standards protects owners more than other stakeholders	680	2.8044	1.2895	-3.955
Nigeria Accounting Standards protects other stakeholders more than owners	680	3.0779	1.4537	1.398
Nigeria Accounting Standards should protect owners more than other stakeholders	680	3.2338	1.4348	4.250
Nigeria Accounting Standards should protect other stakeholders more than owners	680	2.8853	1.4507	-2.062
Compliance with Nigeria Accounting Standards has increased value of Quoted companies	680	3.0750	1.2501	1.564
Compliance with Nigeria Accounting Standards increases shareholders wealth in Nigeria	680	2.8912	1.2292	-2.309
Nigeria Accounting Standards actually exposes company's activities	680	3.0368	1.3623	0.704

Source: Author's Computation, 2009

Statements number one, two, three, seven, eight, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen all seek to evaluate if standards and standardization are making positive impacts. The statements are positive descriptions of the impact of standardization for the respondents to agree or disagree with. The means of the scores of responses range between 3.0206 and 3.5515, all more than the study's population mean of '3' and with a standard deviations ranging between 1.2943 and 1.4151, which could be considered as moderate when compared to a mean of three in a '1' to '5' range analysis. These points to the fact that standards are considered by stakeholders to impact positively on the standardized procedures including in business accounting. The 'Z' calculated produced 10.606, 10.566, 10.637, 0.807, 0.379 5.627, 4.747 and 6.747 respectively.

Following, the rule for deciding in Z-statistics, the means of the responses to statements one, two, three, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen are significantly different from that of the population and hence the study concluded that standards actually did well in the reference circumstances. This is because the 'Z' calculated for all the statements are greater than the table value, which is 1.960. Only the responses to statements seven and eight which are evaluating the impact of standardization generally on shareholders in the case of seven and other stakeholders in the case of eight, recorded 'Z' calculated that is lesser than the table value. The implication of recording 'Z' that is lesser than table value is that, the mean results are not of statistical significance, therefore it might have been influenced by sampling bias. It is also worthy of note that statements number fifteen, sixteen and seventeen, which suggested that standards checked out well in meeting the aims of issuing, are with reference to Nigerian Accounting standards.

Statements number seven to ten, statement number nineteen and statement number twenty seeks respondents' perception of the current bias of the standards. Where seven, nine and nineteen enquires the perceptions on standardization being shareholder biased, eight, ten and twenty investigates if the perceptions are that they are other stakeholders biased. Two out of the three means for shareholders showed that standards are not currently shareholders biased while the three means for the other analysis suggested that standards might be bias towards other stakeholders. Z-statistics results showed that the two means that indicated that standards are not bias towards shareholders are of statistical significance, while the only mean supporting bias towards the shareholders recorded 'Z' of 0.807, making it vulnerable to sampling error. Two of the three statements indicating the perceptions that standards are other stakeholders biased are statistically significant. In all, there is indication, that respondents' perception is that standardization is more biased (more favorable) towards other stakeholders' than the shareholders'.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

Statement no. 3 is relevant to testing of the first hypothesis. The mean score in the analysis was 3.53; this is greater than the population mean, which is 3. Z calculated was 10.63 against the table value, at 0.95 confidence interval of 1.960. Since the study's computed 'Z' is greater than the table value, going by the stated decision rule, the alternative hypothesis that stated that 'Corporate compliance of Nigerian businesses with accounting standards does have positive impact on business' can be accepted. The implication of the result is that it is the opinion of the study's respondents that standardization is good for business.

The 'Z' test conducted for testing of the second hypothesis was based on the four statements that jointly implied that compliance with accounting standards, in the opinion of respondent stakeholders, impacts on shareholders' wealth. The mean score in the analysis was 2.9772; this is lesser than the population mean which is 3. Z calculated was 0.874 against the table value, at 0.95 confidence interval of 1.960. Since the study's computed 'Z' is lower than the table value, going by the stated decision rule, the alternative hypothesis that stated that 'compliance does impact on shareholders' wealth' cannot be accepted. The meaning of this is that the study's respondents are of the opinion that compliance is not favourable to the shareholders.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the study concludes that accounting standards are good tools of guidance for businesses and for business financial reporting, but there are rooms for improvement on the standards issued in Nigeria. This is similar to the conclusion of Kasum (2009). Also, that compliance to standards is not, currently, beneficial to shareholders. Detailed analyses showed that it is the opinion of stakeholders that standardization is more beneficial to other stakeholders than it is to shareholders. Similar previous studies like Nigeria ROCS (2004), reported that interview result indicated that companies comply with accounting standards, that the standards are good for business, but that the standards are not free from bias and errors. It however did not identify beneficiary of the bias and errors, if any.

Based on the conclusions drawn and supported by other findings from this study the following are, hereby, recommended. That:

- Standard setting body(ies) should review on continuous basis, the standards being issued so that best business practices, as demanded by global changing business environment, are actually ensured.
- Standards that are in line with the establishment of the primacy of shareholder in organisation, which will protect and favour the interest of owners of the businesses, should be encouraged, as may be desired from time to time.
- Based on the responses of stakeholders and also the importance established in literature of other stakeholders in the organisation, however favourable to shareholders standard issued would be, the interests of other stakeholders like employees, creditors and customer, should also be protected.

This study is limited, majorly, by the fact that the impact of standardization was determined based on opinions. The impact can also be measured by actually investigating financial statement items like incomes, expenses, profit and assets that have being prepared and presented in compliance with the requirements of the standards.

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Appendix: Data collected

A) Demographic Data

Table 2: Gender Distribution of Respondent

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	410	60
Female	270	40
Total	680	100

Source: Author's Field Study, 2009

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondent

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 18 years	Nil	-
18 years and above	680	100
Total	680	100

Source: Author's Field Study, 2009

Table 4: Distribution of Respondent by Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
O. level	36	5
A. Level/ND/NCE	152	22
Degree/Higher Diploma	376	55
Others Higher Qualifications	116	18
Total	680	100

Source: Author's Field Study, 2009

Table 5: Distribution of Respondent by Years of Experience

Years of Experience	Frequency	Percentage
Below 5yrs	97	14
5-10yrs	322	47
10-20yrs	125	18
Above 20yrs	76	11
Total	680	100

Source: Author's Field Study, 2009

Table 6: Distribution of Respondent by Stake in Business

Stake	Frequency	Percentage
Owner/Shareholder	153	23
Manager	83	12.5
Customer	137	21
Creditor	66	10
Analyst/Experts	50	8.5
Regulator	48	7.5
Employees	111	17
Others	32	0.5
Total	680	100

Source: Author's Field Study, 2009

B) Operational Data

Table 7: Presentation of Aggregate Data

	Responses				
Questions	**St. Ag**	**Agree**	**Indiff**	**DisAg**	**St. Disag**
Standardization is a good guiding tool	212	200	98	97	83
Standardization has been a good guiding tool in areas where it is been applied	196	212	104	96	72
Standardization has been of assistance in areas of business where it is been applied	185	218	118	89	70
Owners are the most important stakeholders in Business organization	215	124	109	129	103
Accounting Standardization was meant to protect owners	203	134	102	140	111
Accounting Standardization was meant to protect other stakeholders	119	125	107	135	194
Accounting Standardization protects owners	135	114	172	162	97
Accounting Standardization protects other stakeholders	139	137	136	135	133
Accounting Standardization protects owners more than other stakeholders	100	109	121	160	169
Accounting Standardization protects other stakeholders more than owners	150	186	131	130	81
Accounting Standardization should protect owners more than other stakeholders	158	122	151	140	109
Accounting Standardization should protect other stakeholders more than owners	133	127	111	133	176
Nigerian companies are familiar with Standards issued by Nigeria Accounting Standard Board	199	165	171	86	59
Nigerian companies complies with Standards issued by Nigeria Accounting Standard Board	203	164	167	90	56

Source: Author's Field study, 2009

Table 8: Continued

Questions	Responses				
	St. Ag	Agree	Indiff	DisAg	St. Disag
Nigeria Accounting Standards have enhanced preparation of financial statements	172	139	175	103	91
Nigeria Accounting Standards have enhanced the quality of presentation in financial statements	165	135	183	97	100
Nigeria Accounting Standards have improved information disclosures of financial statements	185	155	139	117	84
Majority of shareholders of quoted companies in Nigeria do not exercise control over Companies	163	147	116	133	119
Nigeria Accounting Standards protects owners more than other stakeholders	86	116	194	147	137
Nigeria Accounting Standards protects other stakeholders more than owners	160	136	111	143	130
Nigeria Accounting Standards should protect owners more than other stakeholders	186	134	118	137	108
Nigeria Accounting Standards should protect other stakeholders more than owners	134	113	139	129	165
Compliance with Nigeria Accounting Standards has increased value of Quoted companies	119	111	242	118	90
Compliance with Nigeria Accounting Standards increases shareholders wealth in Nigeria	98	77	267	129	109
Nigeria Accounting Standards actually exposes company's activities	131	130	172	127	120

Source: Author's Field study, 2009