

THE INFLUENCE OF APPLICATIVE FACTORS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCRUAL-BASED IPSAS IN TANZANIAN PUBLIC CORPORATIONS

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Abstract

Auditing and accounting materials are vital and have a justifiable linking to administrative and nationwide development. The determination of this study is to examine the influence of applicative factors on implementation of accrual-based IPSAS in Tanzanian public corporations. To attain this objective qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used whereby cross-sectional survey research design techniques of data gathering method were used. Both primary data and secondary data were involved in the form of interviews, document reviews and survey. Systematic and unsystematic random sampling and purposively sampling was used as sampling procedures in the study, this study involved with the sample size of 73 respondents. The findings show that staff knowledge, staff experience have positive relationship with the implementation of accrual-based IPSAS while management support has negative and significant relationship with the implementation of accrual-based IPSAS. The findings from this study recommend that the accrual-based IPSAS should be embraced by all stakeholders and prescribed as a basis for the preparation of public sector financial statements. Thus, the parliament and other government bodies should influence the implementation of accrual-based IPSAS in public sector organizations.

Keywords: *Applicative, IPSAS, Public Corporations, Tanzania*

INTRODUCTION

The IPSAS has become a worldwide revolution in government accounting reforms. Many national governments and government institutions have started implementing the accounting reforms to bring into line with IPSAS. These are a result of the demands from the public to increase transparency and accountability over the management of the financial affairs of governments, government institutions, and international governmental organisations (Chan, 2006; Christiaens et al., 2015; Navarro Galera and Rodríguez Bolívar, 2007; Tickell, 2010). All these reforms are undertaken by public organizations with the sense of improving the quality of financial information to equip those charged with governance to make well-informed decisions. Before this revolution, most of the government institutions in emerging economies relied significantly on the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). These acted as the principal move towards accounting for the utilization of public resources. Also, GAAP has neither been able to uphold the intensity of responsibility, comparability, and transparency within the community nor harmonise international trade and commerce between emerging nations and the developed world (Ijeoma and Oghoghomeh, 2014). The IPSAS is equally implemented in both the developed and developing countries and has had improved eminence in the financial information, mostly in the public corporations to reinforce the openness of public financial records and promote responsibility to those charged with governance and add value to be more informed decision makers (Anton, Pisani Gagna, 2012; Ilie and Miose, 2012; IPSAS, 2019).

Globally, there have been many reforms under the umbrella of the New Public Management or NPM since the 1980s (World Bank, 2008). The new reform under the NPM is a phenomenon which focuses on the

marketization and/or application of various theories and principals to improve service deliverance to the public at large. These reforms have highly taken place in developed countries and they are now the aspired role models for the implementation of accrual accounting. The implementation of accrual accounting is promoted to enhance accountability, transparency, and trust amongst the users who eventually make well informed decisions (Christiaens et al., 2015; Connolly, 2006; Hyndman, 2006). Unlike developed countries, many African countries have not effectively achieved the implementation of accrual accounting and, thus, have not produced good results. This gives an implication that many third world countries have chipped into implementing the standards before they have had enough preparation for accounting professional, resources as well as infrastructures (Christiaens et al., 2015; Connolly and Hyndman, 2006). The available report by ACCA shows that only 25 percentages of countries in the world has adopted and implement the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

In Tanzania, the whole process for implementation of the accrual-based accounting followed from various challenges noted from the implementation of the Public Financial Management Reform Programme, Phase III (PFMRP III) which sought to improve public financial management. These challenges included undue focus on programme activities and their details, lack of awareness about the accrual accounting in the public sector, poor execution of programme-based budgeting system (PBB), and the integration and harmonization of ICT systems. As such, accrual-based IPSAS in the country was introduced to address such challenges and enhance financial management reforms. This recovers accountability and transparency in public resources management. Accrual accounting is thus better well matched to planning of resources to equip those charged with governance with quality financial information. It also assists in improving the level of decision-making in financial information inside public corporations and give responsibility and openness of the state of affair of the entity (Dabbicco, 2015). Despite many studies about the adoption, implementation, and determinant of factors influencing accrual basis accounting implementation in public sectors, the process has not been satisfactory in the country.

The Government's focus has been on reforming operation systems, such as improving the preparation and presentation of financial reports for decision making to those charged with governance, enhancing revenue collection resources, enhancement of integrated financial management systems, and human resources management systems. In performing these reforms, the Government of Tanzania has implemented financial management reform programmes which were conducted in different phases from I to IV. Further initiatives taken by the government included training of accounting officers, accountants, auditors and public authority committee members, introduction of electronic gateway for revenue collection known as GePG, introduction of National Data Centre, and amendment of legislation governing resource management. These reforms were undertaken to support the implementation of IPSAS to produce desired results (Ilie & Miose, 2012). Despite the efforts to ensure that transparency and accountability of resources mobilization and management in the public sector are enhanced as well as improving capacity for decision making, the factors influencing successful implementation of the IPSAS have not been studied (CAG Report 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 and technical assistance report IMF mission 2019).

Studies have been conducted in both developed and developing countries (Ijeoma and Oghoghomeh. 2014, Matekela, 2018, Nadia (2015), Salia, 2018, Tanjeh, 2016). These studies have focused on the implementation of IPSAS, challenges, expectations and benefits of accrual accounting implementation, factors influencing the acceptance and adoption of IPSAS. In 2017, the ACCA prepared and produced a report which shows the status of implementation of accrual based international public sector accounting standards in the global world and revealed the level of adoption and implementation of these standards.

However, the question of factors influencing implementation of international public sector accounting standards in public corporation remain un answered. Many of the studies conducted focused on the adoption of international public sector accounting standards in various countries and entities, impeding factors that lead to implementation of international public sector accounting standards and the implementation of the accrual accounting.

The reviewed empirical literature has generally pointed out crucial information about the adoption, acceptance, influence of implementation of IPSAS, challenges of accrual accounting implementation, and the impeding factors for the implementation of IPSAS accrual basis in various developed and developing countries, such as New Zealand, Canada, UN, Malaysia, Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan, China, Kenya, and Uganda. Further, the accrual accounting implementation in developed countries has shown great success and highly complied as compared to developing countries, Tanzania being one of them (Okungu, 2015; Ahmad et al., 2015; Ahmad, 2016; Olanrewaj, 2016; Salia and Atuilik, 2018; Wang & Mira, 2018). However, there are scarcity studies that assess the factors that influence successful implementation of accrual IPSAS in public corporations in Tanzania, developing countries as well as developed countries. This deficiency motivated the researcher to consider undertaking the study in public corporations. To the best of my knowledge and understanding the researches on the implementation of accrual IPSAS in public corporations are scarce. While most studies ignored the public corporations, there was an apparent gap about the implementation of these standards in public corporations to assist users to be well informed in decision making. Therefore, this study was undertaken to fill up the knowledge gap on the applicative factors on implementation of accrual-based IPSAS in Tanzanian public corporations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Whitefield and Savvas (2016) fielded a study on the adoption and implemented of accrual accounting IPSAS in United Nations agencies. IPSAS became a resolution and agreement by the UN General Assembly in improving reporting mechanism the study reports that IPSAS have brought about steadiness in financial reporting and enhanced decision making as well as improved the internal control systems in UN Agencies. However, the adoption and implementation of IPSASs have experienced many challenges during and after implementation period; these challenges include high implementation cost of the system, lacked or inadequate trained staff on IPSASs, resistance to change by management and complication of the standards.

In his study, Tanjeh (2016) revealed the acceptance and adoption of IPSAS in government entities can improve the reliability of the financial information. This study recommended that lack of knowledge and awareness has become a stabling block for implementation. Therefore, knowledge and skills in IPSAS must be communicated to executives, those charged with governance and those involved in lawmaking in the government. The study concluded by reporting that capacity building, continuous development programs as well as management information system play a great roll in implementing accrual-based IPSAS.

Sayed-Ahmad, (2019) conducted the study on Impact of Implementing IPSAS on Public Organizations and factors that influenced users to resist in implementation of accrual basis IPSASin Lebanon. In this study, the researcher reported several factors including partner's opinion, technology changes and system enhancement. Furthermore, the issue of lack of top management support and personal successful for adopting the changes to enhance reliability of financial information becomes a challenge. The study reflected that employees from accounting profession are prepared to accept and implement accrual-based IPSAS.

Similarly, Okungu (2015) featured a study relating to the impact of implementation of International Public

Sector Accounting Standards on financial reporting in Public Sector in Kenya. In this study, qualitative methodology administered by a questionnaire circulated to respondents who mainly were accountants in the central government in Kenya. This study pointed out that as it is important for adoption and implementation of the high-quality related standards to improved responsibility in government resources management, comparability, transparency and reliability of Public sector financial information in Kenya. The study mainly focused on the IPSAS adoption and implementation in Central Government including forty-seven Counties in Kenya. However, this study applied descriptive method in analyzing data collected of which it did not bridge the gap on model for Accrual accounting in decision making which resulted in the attention to perform Facto analysis that shows the magnitude of each variable in the model.

The empirical literature examined how other studies stated and reported on issues relating to factors that affect implementation of accrual accounting. Matekele (2018) in his study in the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) implementation of accrual IPSAS, indicated that staff experience, understanding of the standards, capacity building, skills enhancement and participation of professional accountants can influence implementation of accrual accounting. Furthermore, the study noted that publication of financial information in agreeable format improves transparency and accountability which eventually contribute significantly to influence execution of accrual-based IPSAS in the LGAs.

Generally, the finding from this study narrated that there are costs associated with the implementation of IPSAS accrual. Further, the capacity of staff to undertake the reform is a challenge which poses another increment in training cot to equip staff with technicalities to perform the changes. Therefore, in ensuring that implementation is smoothly undertaken it is important to set aside budget for training and other related tasks. Furthermore, donors externally push for changes to be undertaken but don't provide resources or funds to ensure that implementation is accomplished as required. In addition, the study finding showed that politician can influence the implementation of accrual IPSAS to a successful achievement.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To attain this objective qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used whereby cross-sectional survey research design techniques of data collection method were used. Both primary data and secondary data were involved in the form of interviews, document reviews and survey. Systematic and unsystematic random sampling and purposive sampling was used as sampling procedures in the study, this study involved with the sample size of 73 respondents from staffs.

ECONOMETRIC MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Multiple Linear Regression model was used determining the influence of applicative factors on implementation of accrual-based IPSAS in public corporations in Tanzanian public corporations. The reason of choosing the multiple linear regression model is due to the reality that the dependent variable of the research is *"continuous in nature"* therefore; the multiple linear regression model is fitting for this study.

$$Y_{EG} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \varepsilon \dots \dots \dots (i)$$

Whereby: Y_{EG} = Accrual – based implementation; β_0 = Intercept Term, β_1 = Intercept of Variables, X_1 = Applicative factors, X_2 = Stimuli factor; ε = Error Term

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Most of the respondents 55% (30) were Certified Public Accountant (CPA), 28% (16) had no any professional qualification, and 9% (5) had other professional qualification, while 4% (2) were in Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Accounting Technician Certificate (ATEC) were 4 % (2) (see Table 4.1). Following the factor analysis as depicted in Table 1 , professional qualification was found with factor rotation below the cut-off point of 0.5 and it was dropped in the analysis. The analysis made in this study revealed that professional qualification did not have significant effect to the implementation of IPSAS. This finding contrasts the findings of the study by Tanjeh (2016) who reported that there is positive association between professional certification and the level of implementing the accrual-based IPSAS. Also, Zeghal & Mhedhbi (2006) supported that well-trained and qualified accountant promotes successful and satisfactory implementation of accrual accounting. More of this is reiterated by Zeghal & Mhedhbi (2006) that education level to be positively related with the implementation of IPSAS. It is, however, important to understand that the training should be on the specific field of implementation. Though the accountants and auditors in this study were educated, they could be lacking education on the implementation of IPSAS. The following table summarized the demographic characteristics of the respondents of the study.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency (N=55)	Percent
Male	30	55
Female	25	45
Marital Status		
Married	29	52
Divorced	2	4
Widowed	2	4
Unmarried	22	40
Professional qualification		
Non	16	28
ATEC	2	4
CPA	30	55
ACCA	2	4
Others	5	9

Source: Field Data 2022

B. NORMALITY TEST

The study used Shapiro-Wilk tests for Normality to measure the normal distribution of variables used in this research in this model. Table 4.7 below presents the results

Table 2: Shapiro-Wilk W test for normal data

Variable	Obs	W	V	z	Prob>z
Implementation_IPSAS	55	0.986	0.686	-0.809	0.791
Statutory Control	55	0.974	1.301	0.564	0.286
Transparency	55	0.991	0.468	-1.630	0.948
Conservatism	55	0.977	1.179	0.354	0.362
Knowledge	55	0.981	0.981	-0.041	0.516
Management Support	55	0.984	0.816	-0.436	0.668
Staff Experience	55	0.977	1.174	0.343	0.366

Years of Experience	55	0.996	0.224	-3.212	0.999
Age	55	0.993	0.358	-2.204	0.986
Education	55	0.931	3.512	2.694	0.004

Source: Field data, 2022

Table 2 above presents the normality test results for the variables used in this study. From the results, all the variables that have a probability greater than 0.05 are normally distributed and those variables that have a probability less than 0.05 are not normally distributed. The results indicate that education has a probability value of 0.004 which is less than 0.05, which indicate that education data are not normal distributed. All other variables except for education follow a normal distribution.

C. MULTICOLLINEARITY

The study employed Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) to diagnose for the presence of multicollinearity for the independent variables under custom value factors, applicative factors, and demographic values. The table below presents the results.

Table 3: Multicollinearity

Variables	VIF	1/VIF
Applicative Factors:		
Staff Experience	1.67	0.5971
Management Support	1.5	0.6672
Knowledge	1.2	0.8323
Mean VIF	1.46	

Source: Field data, 2022.

Table 3 above presents the multicollinearity results for the independent variables used in this study. The results demonstrate that there is no multicollinearity among the variables used in all three models since the Variance Inflation Factor for all variables is less than 5.

D. TEST FOR HETEROSCEDASTICITY

In this study, Breusch Pagan test was done to diagnose whether there is a presence of heteroscedasticity in the regression model to be used for data analysis. Table 4 below presents the heteroscedasticity results for this study.

TABLE 4: HETEROSCEDASTICITY TEST

Breusch-Pagan / Cook-Weisberg test for heteroscedasticity		
Ho: Constant variance		
Variables	chi2(1)	Prob > chi2
Implementation_ IPSAS (Applicative factors)	1.51	0.2187

Source: Field data, 2022.

Table 4 above presented the heteroscedasticity results for the three-regression model used in this study. The Breusch Pagan tested the null hypothesis of constant variance (homoskedasticity). From the results above, the probability chi2 for all models were above 0.05 which made it fail to reject the null hypothesis of constant variance, thus the models used in this study are free from heteroscedasticity.

E. THE INFLUENCE OF APPLICATIVE FACTORS ON SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCRUAL-BASED IPSAS

This study also examined the applicative factors on the influence of successful implementation of accrual-based IPSAS. Table 4.13 shows the model results of regression analysis, the R-Square is 0.304. These findings imply that the independent variables in a model explain 30.4% of the variability of Implementation of accrual-based IPSAS in the analysis.

Table 5: Model Specification for Applicative Factors

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.552 ^a	.304	.221	.50821

a. Predictors: (Constant), Management Support, Knowledge, Staff Experience

Source: Field Data 2022

Table 5 shows the analysis of variance results from regression analysis, the results show F-value of 3.645, and the p-value associated with F-value is 0.026 which is significant. This means that the independent variables show a statistically significant relationship with the dependent variable (Implementation of accrual-based IPSAS).

Table 6: Analysis of Variance for Applicative Factors

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	2.824	3	0.941	3.645	.026 ^b
Residual	6.457	25	0.258		
Total	9.281	28			

a. Dependent Variable: Implementation_IPSAS
b. Predictors: (Constant), Management Support, Knowledge, Staff Experience

Source: Field Data 2022

Three applicative independent variables were used in the analysis to assess their impact on implementation of accrual-based IPSAS. The independent variables used in this analysis are free from multicollinearity problem, which imply that predictor variables do not explain each other. The regression study found a normal regression model at 30% and the average relationship statistically significant (P= 0.026) refer Table 6. The results from this analysis confirm the reliability of applicative variables in explaining the Implementation of accrual-based IPSAS.

Table 7: Regression Coefficients for Applicative Factors

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.780	.518		1.507	.144
Knowledge	.022	.198	.020	.111	.913
Staff Experience	.186	.281	.143	.663	.513
Management Support	-.977	.319	-.625	-3.063	.005

Source: Field Data 2022

From the analysis, knowledge and experience of staffs have revealed a positive and insignificant

relationship with the implementation of the accrual-based IPSAS. The analysis reveals that a unit increase in staff knowledge contributes to an increase in implementation of accrual-based IPSAS by 0.022. Also, one-unit increase in staff experience causes an increase in IPSAS implementation by 0.186. This implies that knowledge and experience of staffs is crucial in ensuring that the adoption and implementation of new accounting standards in the organization. When organization has experienced employees, they easily adopt new standards and procedures in performing organization activities. The findings of this study are consistent with the study of Edeigba & Amenkhenan (2017) who also found staff knowledge and experience are positively related to the implementation of accrual-based IPSAS. Tanjeh (2016) in the examination of factors influencing the acceptance of international public sector accounting standards in Cameroon found that awareness and knowledge is positively related to adoption and implementation of accrual-based IPSAS which is consistent with the findings of this study. This shows that once an individual has knowledge and experience on the existence of new accounting standard, the chances of implementing the standard will increase.

The results of this study showed that management support has a negative and significant relationship with implementation of the accrual-based IPSAS. The involvement and support from the top management of the normally is expected to create a positive reaction among accountants and auditors in implementation of new accounting standards, but the findings of our study exhibit the involvement of top level management have a negative relationship with the implementation of accrual-based IPSAS which means that top management does not contribute to ensuring staffs are well trained and equipped in adopting new procedures and standards. The findings of this study reveal that there is poor support and involvement from the top management to accountants and auditors who deal with the implementation of new accounting standard. The findings of this study are consistent with the results of Irvine (2011) who asserted that lack of involvement and support from top management would arise a conflict between members in the organization as the changes process are poorly managed.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that, Public corporations with strict rules and regulation on preparation and presentation of financial information and other regulatory rules, enjoy the highest level of compliance in the implementation of new policies and accounting standards. Further corporations which insist on career development through training, improves the knowledge and experience of their staff which has a substantial impact on adopting and implementing new standards when are issued. These result simply that it is necessary to invest much in capacity building and training in order to ensure that implementation of any reforms is well succeeded.

The study recommends for the application of special and continuous training to the preparers on the preparation skills of financial statements through the accrual-based IPSAS. This should be mandatory to all preparers who participate in the preparation of financial statements for public organizations.

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