
The Relevance of Forensic Accounting, Fraud Examination and Investigation in Selected Public Sector in Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the relevance of forensic accounting, fraud examination and investigation in public sector. The research aims to determine the effectiveness of forensic accounting in detecting and preventing fraud, and its impact on financial transparency and accountability in the public sector. Using a case study approach, the study will gather data from federal parastatals in Oyo State, Nigeria, and analyze the data using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study expects to find a positive correlation between the implementation of forensic accounting and the reduction of fraud cases, improvement of financial transparency and accountability, and recovery of stolen assets and funds. The study's findings will contribute to the existing literature on forensic accounting and fraud prevention in the public sector, and provide recommendations for policy makers and practitioners on the effective implementation of forensic accounting in fraud examination and investigation.

Keywords: *Forensic Accounting, Fraud Examination, Fraud Investigation, Public Sector, Federal Parastatals, Oyo State, Nigeria.*

Word Counts: 122

Introduction

Forensic accounting and fraud examination are critical disciplines that help uncover and investigate financial crimes. Forensic Accounting apply accounting principles to legal issues it can also be use in analyzing financial data for legal purposes by Using accounting expertise in court cases or by Providing expert testimony while Fraud Examination Investigating suspicious financial activities, identifying potential fraud schemes also help in gathering evidence and documenting finding and helping prosecute fraud cases. Akintoye (2008) said forensic accounting is accounting that is suitable for legal review, offering the highest level of assurance, and including the new generally accepted connotation of having been arrived at in a scientific fashion and providing the needed findings in settling disputes.

According to Godwin Emmanuel Oyedokun 2020 said Forensic accounting falls within the context of our environmental needs. That is, to give forensic assistance in accounting issues. This is very vital in the environment that is flooded with moving businesses and polluted issues, and also with politicians who have powers to corrupt well – meaning businessmen. This normally happens in detriment of well-planned public projects that are roughly implemented. This introduction provides a foundation for understanding the principles and practices of forensic accounting and fraud examination.

The interrelationship among auditing, fraud examination, and forensic accounting is dynamic and changes over time because of political, social, and cultural pressures. Independent auditors operate in an environment impacted by Dodd-Frank, SOX, and SAS 99; consequently, they are expected to have adequate knowledge and skills in the area of fraud detection and deterrence. In addition, auditors, fraud examiners, and forensic accountants often have skill sets in multiple areas and are able to leverage their skills and abilities from one area when working in others.

Fraud investigation is becoming increasingly important today as public demand for transparency, honesty, and fairness in reporting increases (Oyedokun G. E., 2020). Fraud examination is the discipline of resolving allegations of fraud from tips, complaints, or accounting clues. It involves obtaining documentary evidence, interviewing witnesses and potential suspects, writing investigative reports, testifying about investigation findings, and assisting in the general detection and prevention of fraud. Fraud examination has overlap with the field of forensic accounting the latter also uses financial knowledge, skills, and abilities for courtroom purposes. Forensic accounting may involve not only the investigation of potential fraud, but a host of other litigation support services.(Huber, 2017). Academics further argue that fraud, along with other financial misconduct, is too complex to be explained by one-dimensional frameworks, as it involves social, cultural, legal, economic, and organizational aspects (Lokanan, 2015; Free, Macintosh, & Stein, 2007).

1.1 Statement of Problem

This project is to address some of the deficiencies by looking towards a forensic accountant as the best antidote to curbing financial and economic crimes, and also to prevent and reduce misappropriation of corporate funds. Also the failure of statutory audit to prevent and reduce this misappropriation of corporate funds and increase in corporate crimes has put pressure on professional accountant and legal practitioners is to find a better way of exploring fame in business world. A nationwide study conducted by Kessler international showed that 39% of organizations have considered the need for a forensic accountant.

The main challenges in forensic accounting include the lack of regulation, lack of internal controls and oversight, lack of control over profession entry, lack of agreement on how to teach forensic accounting, lack of highly qualified practitioners and educators, and lack of public recognition and occupation reputation.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study was to determine the fundamentals of forensic accounting and fraud examination. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. evaluate how the practices of forensic accounting could play an important role in solving the vexed problems of a company's corporate performance.
2. assess how forensic accounting and corporate performance can provide professional investigative and litigation support services in Nigeria.
3. determine the extent at which forensic accounting services in Nigeria quoted companies can detect fraudulent activities.
4. ascertain the Skills required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria .

1.3 Research Questions

1. How effective is the practices of forensic accounting could play an important role in solving the vexed problems of a company's corporate performance?
2. What are the challenges forensic accounting and corporate performance can provide in professional investigative and litigation support services in Nigeria?
3. To what extent at which forensic accounting services in Nigeria quoted companies can detect fraudulent activities?
4. What are the Skills required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria?

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will be of immense benefit to corporate companies, investors, Nigeria government, and the general public. The study will educate these groups on the importance of a forensic accountant and corporate performance in Nigeria. The study will also be beneficial to academicians and other users in similar subject matter. Finally, future researchers who are interested in doing work on forensic accounting and fraud examination, will be able to use the suggested areas for further study, replicate the work. Such research would build on the findings of the study to create their literature for the successful completion of their study.

Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

The review of related literature which the researchers used primary and secondary literature sources of information such as research reports, articles, books, journals, websites and abstracts. The chapter is organized under the following subheading: (1) What Forensic Accounting is all about. (2) Meaning of Fraud (3) What is the difference between Fraud and Abuse (4) The Professional's Skill Set (5) The Role of Forensic Accounting, Fraud Examination and Auditing (6) Creativity and Innovation Skills Required by Forensic Accountants (7) Duties of a Forensic Accountant Dueling Fraudulent Activities (8) Knowledge Base of Forensic Accounting (9) Crime

2.1 What Forensic Accounting is all about

The term “forensic accounting” was first mentioned by Maurice E. Peloubet (Holley & Flesher, 2020), and is used to describe fraud investigation in a holistic manner - including both fraud prevention and analysis of anti-fraud controls (e.g., fraud audit) (Singleton & Singleton, 2010, p. 12). While Merriam-Webster's Dictionary (n.d.) defines the word *forensic* as “*belonging to, used in, or suitable to courts of judicature or to public discussion and debate*” which proves its legal significance. The term forensic accounting can also be generalized to describe any financial investigation leading to legal repercussion (Singleton & Singleton, 2010, p. 17). Chattopadhyay (2014, p. 22) further highlights the implicational aspect of mirroring the accounting foundations, theories and discipline” to the legal framework while resolving a dispute (e.g. arbitration). Oyedokun (2020) sees it as a subfield of accountancy dedicated to investigation of fraud and theft with analysis of financial information in order for it to be applied in legal matters, for example being called to provide as an expert on the testimonial part of the court proceedings (Rufus, Miller, & Hahn, 2015, p. 17). Forensic accounting requires a broad multidisciplinary knowledge of accounting, finance, auditing, and taxation, as well as solid experience in quantitative research and an analytical mindset. The fact that the field

covers commercial transactions requires a procedural understanding and legal experience (Crumbley, 2019, p. 19). The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (2004) reports that the application of accounting in litigation requires extensive accounting expertise and auditing knowledge due to the broad expertise required to perform forensic accounting.

Business arrangements often lead to the engagement of a forensic accountant due to the belief that a fraudulent activity or event has occurred (Hossain, Alam, & Mazumder, 2020) or due to specific or foreseen disputes or legal proceedings (Oezkul & Pamukçu, 2012, p. 29). To meet legal requirements, post-investigation evidence should be presented in a clear manner and to a standard that is court-proof (Hopwood, Leiner, & Young, 2012, p. 3).

Forensic accounting also considers employment damages arising from unfortunate events such as a work injury, an auto accident where the victim is unable to work, partially

2.2 The Role of Forensic Accounting, Fraud Examination and Auditing

Fraud examination, forensic accounting, and traditional auditing are interrelated, yet they have characteristics that are separate and distinct. All require interdisciplinary skills to succeed—professionals in any of these fields must possess a capacity for working with numbers, words, and people.

Financial statement auditing seeks to ensure that financial statements are free from material misstatement. Audit procedures, as outlined in PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 5 or AICPA Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 99 (AU Section 316), require that the auditor undertake a fraud-risk assessment. However, under generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) auditors are not currently responsible for planning and performing auditing procedures to detect immaterial misstatements, regardless of whether they are caused by error or fraud. Allegations of financial statement fraud are often resolved through court action, and auditors may be called into court to testify on behalf of

a client or to defend their audit work, a point at which auditing, fraud examination, and forensic accounting intersect.

However, each discipline also encompasses separate and unique functional aspects. For example, fraud examiners are generally called in after there is reason to believe that fraud has occurred or is occurring, and often assist in fraud prevention and deterrence efforts that do not involve the audit of nonpublic companies or the legal system. Forensic accounting professionals calculate economic damages, business or asset valuations, and provide litigation advisory services that may not involve allegations of fraud. Finally, most audits are completed without uncovering financial statement fraud or involving the legal system. Thus, auditing, fraud examination, and forensic accounting often use the same tools, but they also have responsibilities independent of the other.

2.6 Creativity and Innovation Skills Required by Forensic Accountants

Forensic accountants need a range of skills to effectively carry out their work. These skills include auditing skills, investigative skills, critical thinking skills, legal knowledge, communication skills, psychological, criminological and victimological skills, accounting skills, and ICT-related skills. They need to be equipped with multiple skill competencies to minimize fraud and damages in the corporate sector. Investigative skills are particularly important for identifying money laundering activities. Additionally, forensic accountants must have the ability to analyze, interpret, and summarize complex financial and business matters. They should also be knowledgeable about suspicious financial statements, defective internal controls, and poor corporate governance, as these are common loop holes that fraudsters exploit. Overall, forensic accountants require a combination of technical accounting knowledge, investigative abilities, critical thinking skills, and legal expertise to effectively detect, prevent, and expose fraudulent activities.

(F.O Egbokhare, Professor of Linguistics, UI 2023) People don't pass or fail assessments, they are "passed" or "failed" by the assessor. A colleague once complained

about the quality of scholarship of another person whom he had just assessed for promotion. I asked him about the outcome of the assessment and he said that he had to “pass” the candidate because he wanted to “help” him. After all, according to him, the beneficiary will not be paid from his salary. You can see how disconnected we are from the consequences of our failures. Whenever an incompetent person advances in a system, the system and every one else suffers. A student commits suicide because of a terrible teacher; a patient dies on the operating table needlessly because of a bad doctor and a nation is ruined by an incompetent leader. As a forensic accountant Our actions add up from the seemingly innocuous help we render to undermine the system, to the acts of subversion of due process which we call help.

Types of Crime

i. White-Collar Crime

The term *white-collar crime* was a designation coined by Edwin H. Sutherland in 1939, when he provided the following definition: crime in the upper, white-collar class, which is composed of respectable, or at least respected, business and professional men. White-collar crime is often used interchangeably with occupational fraud and economic crime. While white-collar crime is consistent with the notion of trust violator and is typically associated with an abuse of power, one difficulty with relying on white-collar crime as a moniker for financial and economic crimes is that many criminal acts such as murder, drug trafficking, burglary, and theft are motivated by money. Furthermore, the definition, though broad, leaves out the possibility of the perpetrator being an organization where the victim is often the government and society (e.g., tax evasion and fixed contract bidding). Nevertheless, the term white-collar crime captures the essence of the type of perpetrator that one finds at the heart of occupational fraud and abuse.

ii. Organizational Crime

Organizational crime occurs when entities, companies, corporations, not-for-profits, nonprofits, and government bodies, otherwise legitimate and law-abiding

organizations, are involved in a criminal offense. In addition, individual organizations can be trust violators when the illegal activities of the organization are reviewed and approved by persons with high standing in an organization, such as board members, executives, and managers.

iii. Organized Crime

These crimes are often complex, involving many individuals, organizations, and shell companies, and often cross jurisdictional borders. In this context, fraud examiners and financial forensic professionals often think of terrorist financing, the mob, international hacking, cyber-crime, and drug trafficking. Some of the crimes typically associated with organized crime include money laundering, mail and wire fraud, conspiracy, and racketeering.

Money laundering addresses the means by which organized criminals take money from illegal sources and process it so that it appears “as if” it came from legitimate business sources.

3.0 Forensic Accounting vs Fraud Examination

Traditionally, academics have rationalized the fraud triangle (opportunity, incentive, rationalization) as the main concept justifying the fraudulent activity (Turner, Mock, & Srivastava, 2003) and defined such activity as deception by an organization or individual with the clear intent to gain personal advantage. Contemporary theories have shown that there are more dimensions (n - number) of fraud (Huber, 2017) with many reasons and motives such as misleading financial records, tax evasion, securing loans, and inflating stock price, all of which increase the complexity of investigating the fraudulent activity.

Until the late 1980s, there were no formal mechanisms for dealing with fraud, even though there had been fraud long before. However, since the end of the 20th century,

there has been a tremendous increase in the number of fraud cases, which is why the need for fraud investigation experts has been recognized (Narayanarao, 2016). As reported by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) (2020), more than \$1.5 million is the average amount lost by the victim organization or according to estimates by Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs), more than 5% of revenue is lost by organizations worldwide. It is critical to detect the fraud as soon as possible because fraud cases that last longer usually cost more (Kranacher, Riley, & Wells, 2010). Typically, the average fraud in 2020 lasted about 14 months before it was discovered and caused an average shortfall of \$8,300 per month during that time. Therefore, the importance of forensic accounting and fraud auditing is increasing as preventive measures are often insufficient due to human acumen and intelligence (Atağan & Kavak, 2017).

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted survey method for research design. Survey method according to Osuala (2005), involves the collection of detailed description of public opinion in existing phenomena with the intent to justify current conditions and practices to make better plans for improving phenomena. Survey research design is suitable for this study because it used questionnaire to elicit the opinions of respondents on the *relevance of forensic accounting, fraud examination and investigation in public sector*.

3.2 Population of the Study

The total population of the study consists Ten (10) Male and Ten (10) Female from *federal parastatals in Oyo State, Nigeria*. Four (4) from Nigeria Horticultural Research and Training (NIHORT), Three (3) from Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Two (2) are from Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Two (2) from Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IART), Two (2) from Moore Plantation Ibadan, Five (5) from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and Two (2) from Nigeria Institute of Medical Research, Yaba, Lagos (NIMR), totaling Twenty (20).

3.3 Sampling techniques

No sampling was made due to the relatively small size of the population.

3.4 Research Instrument

The main research Instrument for this research work is the questionnaire, and the questionnaire chosen is closed ended questionnaire. This questionnaire was structured and designed in such a way that will afford the respondent to answer the research-based question appropriately and with all sense of belonging. The questionnaire comprised of two sections: A and B. Section A of the questionnaire contains information on the personal data of the respondents, while Section B contain statements drawn from the research questions.

The questionnaire has four points on rating scale of:

SA	-	Strongly Agree	-	4points
A	-	Agree	-	3points
D	-	Disagree	-	2points
SD	-	Strongly Disagree	-	1point

3.5 Method of Data Collection

The data for the study were collected through the help of two research assistants, the research assistants were duly instructed by the researcher on how to administer the instrument, so as to ensure safe handling and return of the instrument. The two research assistants were hired from the case study. The researcher coordinated the activities of the research assistants and collated the retrieved questionnaire after two weeks of administration for data analysis. All questionnaire distributed were returned.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The researchers employed the uses of simple mean method. The following formula is used.

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\sum Fx}{N}$$

Where:

X= Score

F= Frequency

N= Total number of respondents

Decision Rule

The decision rule was 2.5. Any mean score of 2.5 or above signifies that the item was of significance to the study, while any score in the findings that is below 2.5 indicates that the item was not of significance to the study.

Data Analysis and Presentation

4.0 Introduction

This is designed to analyze (John Tukey 1962) and interpret various views and opinions of the respondents who responded to the questionnaire. It gives answers to the questions relating to the topic.

4.1 Analysis of Bio-Data of the respondents

Section A

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
		Male
10	50	
		Female
10	50	
Total	20	100

The above table shows that 50% of the respondents are male while the other 50% shows they are female

Table 2: Age of Respondents

Age	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
21-30years	2	10
31-40years	8	40
41-50years	7	35
51years and above	3	15
Total	20	100

The above table shows that 2 (10%) of the respondents were between the age of 21 – 30years, 8 (40%) of the respondents were between the age of 31 - 40years, 7 (35%) of the respondents were between the age of 41-50 years, 3(15) of the respondents were between the age of 51 and above.

Table 3: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital status	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	5	25
Married	15	75
Divorced	-	-
Total	20	100

The above table shows that 5 (25%) of the respondents were single, while 15 (75%) of the respondents were married.

Table 4: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Qualification	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
OND	-	-
HND	3	15
B.Sc.	6	30
M.Sc.	8	40
PhD	3	15
Total	20	100

The above table shows that 3 (15%) of the respondents were HND holder, 6 (30%) of the respondents were B.Sc. holder, 8 (40%) of the respondents were M.Sc. holder while 3 (15%) of the respondents were PhD.

Table 5: Year of Working Experience of Respondents

Length of Service	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1-5years	4	20
6-10years	3	15
11-15years	7	35
16years and above	6	30
Total	20	100

The above table shows that 4 (20%) of the respondents were between 1 to 5years lengths of service, 3 (15%) of the respondents were between 6 to 10years lengths of service, 7 (35%) of the respondents were between 11 to 15years lengths of service while 6 (30%) of the respondents were between 16years and above lengths of service.

4.2 Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question 1: How effective is forensic accounting in detecting and preventing fraud in public sector?

Table 6: Items on the detection and prevention of forensic accounting which are complex processes that involve a range of strategies and technical tools:

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remarks
	The detection and prevention of forensic accounting are complex processes that involve a range of strategies and technical tools:						
1.	Analyze financial data and transactions to identify potential fraud	14	6	-	-	3.7	Positive
2.	Investigate fraud allegations and gather evidence	12	8	-	-	3.6	Positive
3.	Help prosecute fraud cases.	16	4	-	-	3.8	Positive
4.	Provide expert testimony in court	3	17	-	-	3.15	Positive
5.	Help organization improve their internal controls and fraud prevention measures	13	7	-	-	3.65	Positive
6.	Assist in deposition	4	16	-	-	3.2	Positive
7.	Assist in civil and criminal investigations	15	5	-	-	3.75	Positive
8.	Write expert reports	13	7	-	-	3.65	Positive
	Grand Mean					3.57	

Many respondents of 3.7 means agreed that analyze financial data and transactions to identify potential fraud, 3.6 agreed that investigate fraud allegations and gather evidence, 3.8 agreed that help prosecute fraud cases, 3.15 agreed that provide expert testimony in court, 3.65 agreed that

help organization improve their internal controls and fraud prevention measures, 3.2 agreed that assist in deposition, 3.75 agreed that assist in civil and criminal investigations, 3.65 agreed that write expert reports in detection and prevention of forensic accounting are complex processes that involve a range of strategies and technical tools. The above table shows the grand means of 3.57 which falls within the grand range of positive response.

Research Question 2: What are the challenges faced by forensic accountants in investigating fraud in the public sector in Nigeria?

Table 7: Items on the challenges faced by forensic accountants in investigating fraud in the public sector in Nigeria

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remarks
	The following are the challenges faced by forensic accountants in investigating fraud in public sector in Nigeria						
1.	Lack of regulation	9	11	-	-	3.45	Positive
2.	Lack of control over professional entry	12	8	-	-	3.6	Positive
3.	Lack of agreement on how to teach forensic accounting	13	7	-	-	3.65	Positive
4.	Lack of specialized research journals	17	3	-	-	3.85	Positive
5.	Lack of highly qualified practitioners and educators	18	2	-	-	3.9	Positive
6.	Lack of public recognition and occupation reputation	11	9	-	-	3.55	Positive
	Grand Mean					3.67	

Many respondents of 3.45 means agreed that lack of regulation, 3.6 agreed that lack of control over professional entry, 3.65 agreed that lack of agreement on how to teach forensic accounting, 3.85 agreed that lack of specialized research journals, 3.9 agreed that lack of highly qualified practitioners and educators, 3.55 agreed that lack of public recognition and occupation reputation is the challenges faced by forensic accountants in investigating fraud in public sector in Nigeria. The above table shows the grand means 3.67 which falls within the grand range of positive response.

Research Question 3: How can Forensic Accounting be used to improve financial transparency and accountability in public sector?

Table 8: Items on how Forensic Accounting can be used to improve financial transparency and accountability in public sector

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remarks
	The following are how forensic accounting can be used to improve financial transparency and accountability in public sector						
1.	Applying accounting principles with legal issues	12	8	-	-	3.6	Positive
2.	Analyzing financial data for legal purposes	14	6	-	-	3.7	Positive
3.	Using accounting expertise in court cases	15	5	-	-	3.75	Positive
4.	Providing expert testimony	16	4	-	-	3.8	Positive
5.	Investigating suspicious financial activities	17	3	-	-	3.85	Positive
6.	Gathering evidence and documenting findings	18	2	-	-	3.9	Positive
	Grand Mean					3.77	

Many respondents of 3.6 means agreed that applying accounting principles with legal issues, 3.7 agreed that analyzing financial data for legal purposes, 3.75 agreed that using accounting expertise in court cases, 3.8 agreed that providing expert testimony, 3.85 agreed that investigating suspicious financial activities, 3.9 agreed that gathering evidence and documenting findings is how forensic accounting can be used to improve financial transparency and accountability in public sector. The above table shows the grand means 3.77 which fall within the grand range of positive response.

Research Question 4: What are the Skills required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria?

Table 9: Items on the skills required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria:

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remarks
	The following are the skills required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria						
1.	Accounting knowledge	19	1	-	-	3.95	Positive
2.	Analytical skills	12	8	-	-	3.6	Positive
3.	Investigating skills	16	4	-	-	3.8	Positive
4.	Communication skills	18	2	-	-	3.9	Positive
5.	Legal knowledge	13	7	-	-	3.65	Positive
6.	Auditing skills	17	3	-	-	3.85	Positive
7.	Psychological criminological and victim logical skills	15	5	-	-	3.75	Positive
8.	ICT- related skills	18	2	-	-	3.9	Positive
	Grand Mean					3.8	

Many respondents of 3.95 means agreed that accounting knowledge, 3.6 agreed that analytical skills, 3.8 agreed that investigating skills, 3.9 agreed that communication skills, 3.65 agreed that legal knowledge, 3.85 agreed that auditing skills, 3.75 agreed that psychological criminological and victim logical skills, 3.9 agreed that ict- related skills is a skill required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria. The above table shows the grand means of 3.8 which falls within the grand range of positive response.

5.1 Summary of Findings

Based on the data collected through the use of questionnaires and analysis of data, the following findings were made;

The analysis of data on the above research question shown in table six of chapter four, a means response of 3.57 which falls within the positive range. *The* detection and prevention of forensic accounting which are complex processes that involve a range of

strategies and technical tools were analyze financial data and transactions to identify potential fraud, investigate fraud allegations and gather evidence, help prosecute fraud cases, provide expert testimony in court, help organization improve their internal controls and fraud prevention measures, assist in deposition, assist in civil and criminal investigations and write expert reports.

The analysis of data on the above research question shown in table seven of chapter four, a means response of 3.67 which falls within the positive range. Challenges faced by forensic accountants in investigating fraud in the public sector in Nigeria were lack of regulation, lack of control over professional entry, lack of agreement on how to teach forensic accounting, lack of specialized research journals, lack of highly qualified practitioners and educators, lack of public recognition and occupation reputation

The analysis of data on the above research question shown in table eight of chapter four, a means response of 3.77 which falls within the positive range. How forensic accounting be used to improve financial transparency and accountability in public sector were applying accounting principles with legal issues, analyzing financial data for legal purposes, accounting expertise in court cases, providing expect testimony, investigating suspicious financial activities, gathering evidence and documenting findings.

The analysis of data on the above research question shown in table nine of chapter four, a means response of 3.8 which falls within the positive range. Skills required by forensic accountants to practices in Nigeria were accounting knowledge, analytical skills, investigating skills, communication skills, legal knowledge, auditing skills, psychological criminological and victim logical skills, and ICT- related skills..

5.4 Recommendations

From the findings and conclusion of this research work, the following recommendations were made:

1. Professional accounting bodies in Nigeria and national university commission should include forensic accounting in their academic Programme.
2. Government should develop interest in forensic accounting for monitoring and investigation fraud.
3. Government should have an effective plan with other countries in extraditing runaway fraudsters from anywhere around the global.
4. It is therefore recommended that forensic accountants should update their computer technology knowledge to be able to stay on top of criminals and fraudsters in a fast changing – world of information technology and increase use of computer system.

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