INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN ACCOUNTING, FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL

Vol 14, Issue 2, (2024) E-ISSN: 2225-8329

The Effect of Audit Committee Attributes on Nigerian Listed Companies' Firm Performance

Norfadzilah Rashid

Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Terengganu, Malaysia.

Mustapha Jamiu

[1]Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Terengganu, Malaysia, [2]Accounting Education Department, Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, Kano State, Nigeria

Corresponding Author Email: mustaphajamiu74@gmail.com

Auwal Garba

Accounting Education Department, Federal College of Education (Technical) Gombe, Nigeria

To Link this Article: http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARAFMS/v14-i2/21055 DOI:10.6007/IJARAFMS/v14-i2/21055

Published Online: 15 May 2024

Abstract

This research examined the effect of audit committee attributes on the performance of Nigerian-listed firms. A sample of 88 listed firms with 880 observations was utilised from 2012 to 2021. This study analysed data obtained from secondary sources utilizing the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM). The findings discovered a significant positive correlation between audit committee chair, audit committee tenure, audit committee female member, and firm performance of Nigerian listed companies. However, the result indicates that audit committee share ownership does not influence firm performance. These findings provide evidence for Nigerian regulators, investors, and executives to consider when developing corporate policies. Therefore, executives and stakeholders may benefit from the empirical data provided by this study. The study suggests controlling members who possess significant shareholdings in the audit committee. In turn, this may improve the performance of the firm by increasing investors' propensity to safeguard their capital and facilitate more thorough monitoring and overseeing of the financial reporting process.

Keywords: Audit Committee Attributes, Firm Performance, Generalized Method of Moment (GMM), Nigerian Stock Exchange

Introduction

One of the primary ways in which businesses inform their users of their financial performance and position is through a financial statement, which is the most important component of the financial reporting system. The purpose of financial reporting is to communicate and share a company's financial status with interested parties (Bala, 2018). This report has several positive qualities, including its relevance, dependability, and readability. To safeguard the interests of current and future investors, companies set up monitoring committees to oversee the provision of accurate and useful information. The Audit Committee (AC) stands out as the most crucial of these committees since it reviews financial accounts, both audited and unaudited, to ensure that they are accurate and help prevent unethical or abusive accounting practices on the part of management (Bala et al., 2019). Li et al (2012) found that the AC's characteristics significantly influenced its ability to carry out its responsibilities; the more positive attributes the AC possesses, the higher the performance of the firm, and the more confident investors will be in its financial reports (Zabri et al., 2016). AC attributes including tenure, chair, ownership of shares, and female representation on the committee are crucial to the success of the committee. It has been generally maintained that the quality of such AC attributes contributes to the committee's efficacy, which in turn has a substantial beneficial influence on the performance of the firm (Abeygunasekera et al., 2021; Carcello & Neal, 2003).

The financial crisis of 2008 exposed several problems with global corporate practices. This comes on the heels of several big company collapses and accounting scandals, including WorldCom, Enron, Satyam, African Petroleum, Xerox, American Insurance, Transmile, Cadbury, Lehman Brothers, Toshiba and Global Crossing (Ali & Kamardin, 2018; Ibanichuka & Ihendinihu, 2012). Investors now have scepticism about the veracity of financial statements and the effectiveness of the AC in protecting their best interests. An efficient AC is seen to be a key factor in preventing and rectifying misleading financial reporting. While it has been established in the literature that ACs are effective tools for corporate governance, they also serve to identify and remedy weaknesses in internal control, enhance the effectiveness of the board of directors' oversight, and coordinate the work of internal and external auditors (Bédard et al., 2004). However, in the Nigerian context, little research has examined the connection between specific AC attributes and firm performance (Omotoye et al., 2021; Orjinta & Evelyn, 2018; Osemene & Fakile, 2018). This necessitates more research to determine the influence of AC attributes on firm performance in Nigeria. The necessity to evaluate the effect of AC attributes on firm performance in Nigeria, such as female committee membership, tenure, share ownership, and committee chair, cannot be overstated. This is necessary due to the significance of corporate governance and the findings of several international research on the link between AC attributes and firm performance.

Numerous studies have been conducted and are still being conducted to empirically evaluate the influence of AC attributes on firm performance. Despite the significance of the association, several research studies have shown a favourable correlation between AC attributes and firm performance (Issa & Siam, 2020; Zraiq & Fadzil, 2018). and some unfavourable correlations between the AC attributes and firm performance (Agyemang, 2020; Koutoupis & Bekiaris, 2019), whereas other researchers found conflicting findings (Alqatamin, 2018; Bagais & Aljaaidi, 2020). Thus, the association remains uncertain, attracting the attention of further scholars. Previous studies in Nigeria paid minimal attention to investigating particular AC characteristics such as AC tenure, AC share ownership, and AC chair. Other committee characteristics, such as AC meetings, independence, size, legal expertise, and financial accounting expertise, have been the subject of research in Nigeria. Studying the effect of these factors on the performance of firms listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) is an attempt to bridge this knowledge gap. The findings of such a study will supplement earlier research by integrating AC attributes that have not been thoroughly explored in the Nigerian literature. As a result of its bigger sample size and longer time frame (2012-2021), this research offers a more comprehensive view of corporate governance.

Moreover, prior research examining these associations in Nigerian listed companies did not use suitable methodological techniques to address econometric and statistical concerns including autocorrelation, omitted variable bias, heteroscedasticity, endogeneity and so on. Most of these studies use generalised least squares (GLS), random effects, fixed effects, or ordinary least squares (OLS) (Chaudhry et al., 2020; Dakhlallh et al., 2020). These studies' regression findings are often prone to misleading conclusions and may even be inaccurate or inconclusive (Al Farooque et al., 2019). As a result, potential endogeneity issues are often present in the corporate governance literature and cannot be minimised using the aforementioned statistical methods. In contrast, this paper utilises the dynamic generalised method of moments (also known as system GMM), a sophisticated methodological technique, to address the endogeneity problem and other econometric/statistical issues. Consequently, GMM can be used to produce credible results between AC attributes and firm performance relationships. Therefore, it can be stated that the results of this research are not limited, hence contributing to a significant methodological improvement in the setting of a developing market. The outcomes of this study add value to discussions on corporate governance in a developing market such as Nigeria and have policy implications on regulatory bodies, and other relevant parties as improving the effectiveness of the audit committee has become a regular task for safeguarding the interests of investors globally, including those in Nigeria. The next sections of this work are organised into sections on previous studies and hypotheses, theories, and methods. The data analysis and interpretation follow immediately, with the last part covering the study's conclusion and recommendations.

Previous Studies and Hypotheses Development

This study investigates the association between certain AC attributes and firm performance. These characteristics include AC chair, AC share ownership, AC tenure, and female members of the AC. However, there is conflicting evidence in the existing research about the association between AC attributes and firm performance. While some research found a favourable link, others identified a negative link. The AC's chair acts as its leader and main point of contact with the board, and the internal and external auditors (Usman et al., 2017). The chair serves as the AC's chief executive officer. The chairperson, who bears a higher level of responsibility compared to other committee members, is largely accountable for ensuring the quality of financial reporting and the effectiveness of AC's activities. Consequently, the chairperson has the primary responsibility for the success or failure of the financial reporting system (Wan-Hussin et al., 2021).

The AC needs an experienced chair with the abilities and knowledge to develop the committee's operations and activities and to ensure the financial reporting quality and performance for maximum functioning and effectiveness. The financial competence possessed by the AC chair allows him or her to guarantee that financial reporting requirements are followed, that the committee performs essential audits, and that financial reporting accuracy is improved. The chair's monitoring experience assists the AC chair in managing and supervising the committee's activities and meetings, reducing agency issues and, as a result, the firm's agency costs. Furthermore, because of his or her extended duration of service within the organisation and extensive expertise and understanding of the firm's unique operations, an experienced AC chair is better equipped to ensure the accurateness of the committee's financial disclosures (Chiru & Gherghina, 2019; Ghafran & Yasmin, 2018). Alodat et al., (2023) discovered that AC chair characteristics had a favourable and substantial effect on firm performance. Literature on AC chairs and firm performance is, however, scarce. Hence, the following hypothesis is proposed

H1: The AC chair significantly positively affects firm performance.
The ownership structure refers to the proportion of equity held by organisations, individuals, or families. It refers to the sort of ownership that exists inside a corporation (Obigbemi et al., 2017). Bolton (2014) discovered a positive link between AC share ownership and corporate performance in large US companies. In contrast, Dakhlallh et al (2020) found that shares held by the AC showed a negative correlation with firm performance in their research of AC attributes and firm performance. However, there is a lack of scholarly investigation into the correlation between AC share ownership and firm performance. As a result, the following hypothesis is proposed

H2: The AC share ownership significantly positively affects firm performance.
The effectiveness and efficiency of the AC are influenced by the AC's tenure. Audit committee tenure refers to the length of service held by individual members of the audit committee. Longer tenures imply deeper familiarity with the company's operations, internal controls, and financial reporting procedures. Conversely, extended service periods may also increase the possibility of groupthink and stagnant viewpoints, potentially resulting in suboptimal decision-making. Previous research has shown that directors' effectiveness improves with their length of service on the board (Hermalin & Weisbach, 1991). Furthermore, Alodat et al., (2023) found a favourable link between the duration of the period an AC chair serves and the company's performance. Conversely et al (2023); Edem et al (2022) discovered a negative link between longer AC tenure and capital structure decisions and quality of financial reporting respectively. Moreover, Onyabe et al (2018) identified an insignificant negative association between AC tenure and financial reporting quality. However, there has been relatively little study on the link between AC tenure and firm performance. As a result, the following hypothesis is proposed

H3: The AC tenure significantly positively affects firm performance.
It is generally accepted that men and women approach work with different mindsets and codes of ethics. Evidence from the past suggests that AC's gender diversity and the inclusion of women on key decision-making committees contribute to better business outcomes (Albawwat & Alharasees, 2019). Corporate teams with an equal distribution of men and women have been shown to outperform those with a more male-dominated makeup in terms of sales and profits (Aldamen et al., 2018). The market may place further significance on the fact that a woman was appointed to the AC. Previous studies have shown that women's conservative and ethical tendencies boost corporate governance. As the management firm's watchdog, female ACs ensure that the business is run by the principal's wishes, which ultimately boosts the firm's worth (Susanto, 2016). Mwangi et al (2017) found that firms with a higher proportion of female executives had a lower probability of making false statements and were linked to lower audit costs.
However, concerns exist, that a more diverse workforce would have a detrimental impact on the company's management, consequently, may not enhance its information environment. According to Abad et al (2017), more gender diversity either brings different viewpoints and essential concerns or could lead to difficulties inside the organisation, including possible discrimination, higher conflict likelihood, and decreased cooperation, satisfaction, and

engagement. Earlier research on the effect of AC female members on firm performance found a favourable and substantial link between AC female membership and firm performance (Alqatamin, 2018). According to Agyemang (2020) study on the association between AC gender diversity and firm performance, a negative correlation was found in the sample of eight banks trading on the Ghana stock exchange. Nevertheless, considering the inconsistent empirical findings, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H4: The AC female member significantly positively affects firm performance.

Agency Theory

Agency theory focuses on the relationship between the principals (shareholders) and agents (managers) within a company. Principals delegate decision-making powers to agents, hoping that agents act in the principal's best interests (Jensen & Meckling, 1976). The principal-agent association has two basic interrelated difficulties. The first issue that arises within the principle-agent relationship is the presence of information asymmetry since the shareholders and the management team have different levels of knowledge about the company. The second factor to think about is the potential for the principal and the agent to have competing interests (i.e. conflict of interest) (Hillman & Dalziel, 2003). In the case of conflicts of interest, the agent’s decisions may not consistently align with the optimal interests of the shareholders. Managers as agents have the potential to put their interests ahead of those of the shareholders (Berle & Means, 1932; Huse, 2005).

Therefore, according to agency theory, principals and agents have conflicting interests, and principals may control this by incentivizing agents and paying for activities that monitor and restrict agents' pursuit of their self-interests (Jensen & Meckling, 1976). Bonazzi & Islam, (2007) proposed that by giving incentives and overseeing the agent's actions, the principal may make sure the agent is looking out for their best interests. AC is one of the bodies charged principally with the task of monitoring financial reporting. Based on the principles of agency theory, the efficiency of an AC is related to a firm's monitoring and control requirements. The primary objective of the AC is to safeguard the shareholders' interests by overseeing the management's actions and ensuring transparency in the company's operations, preventing any potential concealment of information from the firm's owners. To mitigate these types of disagreements and achieve high performance, an efficient and competent AC must be in place (Al-Matari et al., 2012).

Methodology

Secondary sources of data were utilized in the research, which was derived from the yearly reports of 192 registered firms on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) from 2012 until 2021. We chose 2012 as the year to begin since 2012 marks the beginning of Nigeria's mandated implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards. However, the Bloomberg and Thomson Reuters DataStream databases were utilised as secondary sources to collect firm performance data and to supplement any financial information missing from the yearly reports. This study excluded the financial sector (57) because the unique financial characteristics, level of regulation, and/or extensive use of leverage have the potential to distort the evaluated outcomes (Puwanenthiren, 2020). Furthermore, firms with incomplete data were excluded (47). Thus, a total of 88 of 880 firm-year observations made up the final sample.

Given its ability to account for possible dynamic endogeneity, simultaneity, and unobserved heterogeneity, this research employed the Generalised Method of Moment (GMM) to assess the connection between AC attributes and firm performance. There are several potential causes of endogeneity issues in regression models, including reverse causality, omitted variable bias, measurement error, and simultaneity (Al Farooque et al., 2019). STATA 17 was used to analyse the data. Specifically, the empirical model described below is developed:

$$FP_{it} = p_0 + p_1 AUDCHAIR_{it} + p_2 AUDOWN_{it} + p_3 AUDTEN_{it} + p_4 FEAUDCOM_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

Where:
P = Firm Performance, $\boldsymbol{p_0}$ = Constant, $\boldsymbol{p_1}, \boldsymbol{p_2}, \boldsymbol{p_3} \& \boldsymbol{p_4}$ = Parameters, $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ = Error Term, **t** = Period of Study, **i** = No. of Companies, **AUDCHAIR** = AC Chair, **AUDOWN** = AC Share Ownership, **AUDTEN** = AC Tenure and **FEAUDCOM** = AC Female Member.

Measurement of Variables
Two categories of variables were used namely dependent and independent variables. The independent factors include female AC members, AC tenure, AC share ownership, and AC chair whereas the dependent variable is firm performance proxied by Tobin's Q.

Table I
Variables measurements

Dependent Variable		
Firm Performance	FP	FP is proxied by Tobin's Q ratio is obtained by dividing the aggregate market value of equity and total debts by the corresponding book value of equity and total debts (Itan & Chelencia, 2022).
Independent Variables		
AC Chair	AUDCHAIR	This is a dichotomous variable, set to 1 when a shareholder leads the AC, and it is 0 if a director leads the AC (Bala et al., 2018).
AC Share Ownership	AUDOWN	The percentage of shares possessed by members of the AC to the total number of company shares (Dakhlallh et al., 2020).
AC Tenure	AUDTEN	Average number of years served in the current AC membership (Pozzoli et al., 2022).
AC Female Member	FEAUDCOM	This is a dichotomous variable and is set to one when there is at least one female AC member, and 0 otherwise (Fiardhani, 2022).

Results and Discussion

Descriptive Statistics

Table 2 presents descriptive data for variables associated with models of the relationships between AC attributes and firm performance. The dependent variable Tobin's Q is a performance indicator, and its mean and Std. dev. values are 0.7216 and 1.2547, respectively. These findings suggest that listed companies in Nigeria had a positive market return between 2012 and 2021. Concerning independent variables of AC attributes, the range of AUDCHAIR is from 0.000 to 1.000. This suggests that in some companies, directors preside over ACs whereas in others, representatives of shareholders do so. According to the AUDCHAIR mean of 0.91, 91% of companies have a shareholder as their AC chair, whereas only 9% have a director as their AC chair. The data demonstrates that certain ACs' directors have sizable stock positions in their respective companies, whereas other companies' ACs' directors have no such stakes. Furthermore, the AUDTEN minimum and maximum figures are 0 and 5, respectively. This means that audit committee members serve for a maximum period of five years. The results also show that at some companies, the AC did not include any women. On average, 52% of ACs had female directors, with the remaining 48% without female representation.

Table II
Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Dev.	Minimum	Maximum
TOBINSQ	0.7216781	1.254755	0.013937	10.90605
AUDCHAIR	0.9136364	0.28106	0.000000	1.000000
AUDOWN	0.2890046	7.703837	0.000000	228.5389
AUDTEN	1.935795	2.143361	0.000000	5.000000
FEAUDCOM	0.5204545	0.4998655	0.000000	1.000000

Correlation Analysis

Table 3 presents the correlation matrix between dependent and independent variables. The table shows that there is a weak relationship between the variables in the model design. Therefore, multicollinearity is not a problem. It was found that there were fewer multicollinearity issues since all the coefficients were lesser than 0.5. According to Shrestha (2020), multicollinearity is assumed to exist if the correlation between any two predictors is 0.80 or higher.

Table III
Correlation Analysis

Variables	TOBINSQ	FEAUDCOM	AUDTEN	AUDOWN	AUDCHAIR
TOBINSQ	**1.0000**				
FEAUDCOM	0.1389*	**1.0000**			
AUDTEN	-0.4600*	-0.0489	**1.0000**		
AUDOWN	-0.0109	-0.0341	-0.0321	**1.0000**	
AUDCHAIR	0.0547	0.1422*	-0.0829*	0.0110	**1.0000**

p<0.01 = *, p<0.05 = **, p<0.1 = ***

Dynamic Panel Results

Table 4 displays the regression results on the effect of AC features on firm performance in the Nigerian stock exchange using dynamic GMM panel regression models. It was claimed that the dynamic panel models (Difference GMM and System GMM) were Windmeijer-corrected. The study estimated One-step and Two-step Difference GMM and System GMM. The results are presented in Table 4 for models 1 to 4. Models 1 and 2 are estimated using one-step and two-step Difference GMM respectively. Models 3 and 4 are estimated with one-step and two-step System GMM respectively.

In Table 4, the results show that the coefficients of the lagged dependent variable (Lagged TOBINSQ) in models 1 to 4 are positive and statistically significant at the 1% level, which indicates that all the models are dynamic in nature. The results of the first variable AC chair (AUDCHAIR) show a positive and statistically significant coefficient in model 4 at a 1% level, negative and significant at a 1% level in model 1, positive and significant at a 5% level in model 3 while negative and insignificant in model 2. The results of the second variable show that, AC share ownership (AUDOWN) has negative and statistically significant coefficients in models 3 and 1 at 5 and 10% levels respectively, while negative and insignificant coefficients in models 2 and 4. The results of the third variable show that AC tenure (AUDTEN) has positive and statistically significant coefficients at a 1% level in model 4, but negative and insignificant coefficients in models 2, 3, and 4. The results of the last variable show that, AC female members (FEAUDCOM) have positive and statistically significant coefficients in models 3 and 4 at a 1% level, but positive and insignificant coefficients in models 1 and 2.

System GMM estimators, according to Blundell and Bond (1998), are more dependable than difference GMM and fixed effect estimators. In this section, we base our analysis and conclusions mostly on the outcomes of the two-step system GMM estimate. Furthermore, based on these results, model 4 is considered less biased and efficient due to robust standard errors used in two-step System GMM. Examining the System GMM output reveals that AUDCHAIR has a considerable favourable impact on firm performance ($\beta = 0.1850$, p-value = 0.000), indicating that if AUDCHAIR is led by a shareholder representative, firm performance is more likely to increase. The result supported H1 of the study and, therefore, was accepted. This result is in line with Alodat et al (2023) studies that discovered a significant and favourable connection between AUDCHAIR and firm performance.

The results of the study indicate a statistically insignificant negative association between AUDOWN and company performance (TQ). The coefficient for this relationship is -0.0102, and the p-value is 0.554. Hence, the results of this study did not support the proposed hypothesis that a positive connection exists between the number of shares owned by the AC and the performance of the company. As a result, H2 was not accepted. The obtained results contradict the works of Dakhlallh, et al (2020) who found a significant negative association and Bolton (2014) who discovered a positive relationship with firm performance. The agency theory predicts that the principal may influence or even eliminate this by providing incentives to the agent, hence our findings go counter to that prediction. The insignificant negative relationship implies that high levels of AC share ownership may align their interests more closely with management than with shareholders, potentially compromising their independence and oversight effectiveness. Therefore, when AC members hold significant shares in the company, they may prioritise protecting their investments over challenging management decisions, potentially leading to lax oversight of financial reporting practices.

Also, the result shows that AUDTEN has a coefficient of 0.9653 and a probability of 0.000. This means that the AUDTEN has a substantial positive effect on firm performance. This result aligns with the research conducted by Alodat et al (2023), which identified a favourable association between AUDTEN and the quality of financial reports. However, the result contradicts the conclusion given by Edem et al (2022) since their research indicated a negative association between AUDTEN and the quality of financial reports and Özer & Merter (2023) AUDTEN tend to have lower levels of financial leverage. Additionally, Onyabe et al (2018) discovered an insignificant negative correlation between the AUDTEN and financial reporting quality.

A positive significant association between FEAUDCOM and company performance was also found (p0.000), with a coefficient of 0.2010, at a significance level of 1%. The findings provide credence to H4, which postulates that having women serve as AC members significantly improves company performance. Hence, the presence of women within AC of publicly listed firms in Nigeria is expected to have a positive impact on company performance. The research of Lückerath-Rovers (2013) showed that companies with female board members outperformed those without any female directors on their boards. The outcome aligns with Alqatamin (2018) who discovered a significant positive correlation between FEAUDCOM and firm performance but contradicts Agyemang (2020) studies that identified an unfavourable correlation between AC gender and firm performance.

Table IV
Dynamic Panel Results

Variables	Difference GMM		System GMM	
	Model 1 One-step	Model 2 Two-step	Model 3 One-step	Model 4 Two-step
Lagged TOBINSQ	0.8113* (0.000)	0.8129* (0.000)	0.7741* (0.000)	0.7744* (0.000)
AUDCHAIR	-0.3050* (0.009)	-0.3023 (0.215)	0.1871** (0.052)	0.1850* (0.000)
AUDOWN	-0.8733*** (0.137)	-0.8492 (0.352)	-0.9654** (0.069)	-0.0102 (0.554)
AUDTEN	-0.0204 (0.845)	-0.0163 (0.492)	-0.0069 (0.946)	0.9653* (0.000)
FEAUDCOM	0.0546 (0.555)	0.0350 (0.552)	0.2022* (0.009)	0.2010* (0.000)
Number of observations	704	704	792	792
Number of companies	88	88	88	88

p<0.01 = *, p<0.05 = **, p<0.1 = ***

Conclusion

This research investigates the impact of AC attributes on the performance of publicly traded firms in Nigeria during a period spanning from 2012 to 2021. The results indicate that the AC chair, tenure, and female members. have a favourable and statistically significant effect on the firm's performance. Nevertheless, there exists a negative correlation between firm performance and the holding of shares among the AC members. Managers and boards of directors may find the study's results useful when deciding on the best AC attributes and corporate governance practices to improve firm performance. In addition, the attributes of an AC that have been found to enhance a company's performance are elucidated in this research, providing directors with evidence to guide them as they shape the audit committee to foster its effectiveness and contribute to the company's overall performance. Our research may also help shareholders better understand their corporate governance and make informed investment choices. The findings give policymakers enhanced insights into the many attributes an audit committee should possess so that they can incorporate this knowledge into future policy formulation to better protect shareholder wealth, safeguard the interests of diverse stakeholders, and increase investors' confidence in the company. Moreover, the research recommends controlling the AC members who own substantial shareholdings. Consequently, the performance of the company may be enhanced by increasing the investors' propensity to safeguard their capital and enabling more rigorous monitoring and supervision. Finally, the findings also highlighted the importance of diverse and independent AC composition in promoting effective corporate governance practices.

References

Abad, D., Lucas-Pérez, M. E., Minguez-Vera, A., & Yagüe, J. (2017). Does gender diversity on corporate boards reduce information asymmetry in equity markets? *BRQ Business Research Quarterly*, *20*(3), 192–205. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brq.2017.04.001

Abeygunasekera, A. W. J. C., Weerasuriya, R. M. I. H., & Kehelwalatenna, S. (2021). Effect of Attributes of Audit Committee on Financial Performance: The Case of Sri Lanka. *Global Review of Accounting and Finance*, *12*(1), 43–57.

Agyemang, J. K. (2020). The Relationship Between Audit Committee Characteristics and Financial Performance of Listed Banks in Ghana. *Research Journal of Finance and Accounting*, *11*(10), 22–35. https://doi.org/10.7176/RJFA/11-10-03

Al Farooque, O., Buachoom, W., & Sun, L. (2019). Board, audit committee, ownership and financial performance – emerging trends from Thailand. *Pacific Accounting Review*, *32*(1), 54–81. https://doi.org/10.1108/PAR-10-2018-0079

Albawwat, I. E., & Alharasees, M. N. A. (2019). Gender Attributes of Audit Committee Members and the Quality of Financial Reports. *International Journal of Academic Research in Accounting, Finance and Management Sciences*, *9*(3), Pages 24-37. https://doi.org/10.6007/IJARAFMS/v9-i3/6323

Aldamen, H., Hollindale, J., & Ziegelmayer, J. L. (2018). Female audit committee members and their influence on audit fees. *Accounting & Finance*, *58*(1), 57–89. https://doi.org/10.1111/acfi.12248

Ali, B., & Kamardin, H. (2018). Audit Committee Characteristics and Real Earnings Management: A Review of Existing Literature and the New Avenue of Research. *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, *6*(12), 128–135.

Al-Matari, Y. A., Al-Swidi, A. K., Fadzil, F. H. B., & Al-Matari, E. M. (2012). Board of Directors, Audit Committee Characteristics and Performance of Saudi Arabia Listed Companies. *International Review of Management and Marketing*, *2*(4), 241–251.

Alodat, A. Y., Al Amosh, H., Khatib, S. F. A., & Mansour, M. (2023). Audit committee chair effectiveness and firm performance: The mediating role of sustainability disclosure. *Cogent Business & Management*, *10*(1), 2181156. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2023.2181156

Alqatamin, R. M. (2018). Audit Committee Effectiveness and Company Performance: Evidence from Jordan. *Accounting and Finance Research*, *7*(2), 48–60. https://doi.org/10.5430/afr.v7n2p48

Bagais, O. A., & Aljaaidi, K. S. (2020). Corporate governance attributes and firm performance in Saudi Arabia. *Accounting*, 923–930. https://doi.org/10.5267/j.ac.2020.8.005

Bala, H. (2018). *Audit Committee Characteristics and Financial Reporting Quality in Nigeria: The Mediating Effect of Audit Quality* [PhD]. Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Bala, H., Amran, N. A., & Shaari, H. (2018). The Relationship between Audit Committee Attributes and Audit Fees of Listed Companies in Nigeria. *The Journal of Social Sciences Research*, *6*, 402–408. https://doi.org/10.32861/jssr.spi6.402.408

Bala, H., Amran, N. A., & Shaari, H. (2019). Audit committee attributes and cosmetic accounting in Nigeria: The moderating effect of audit price. *Managerial Auditing Journal*, *35*(2), 177–206. https://doi.org/10.1108/MAJ-06-2018-1897

Bédard, J., Chtourou, S. M., & Courteau, L. (2004). The effect of audit committee expertise, independence, and activity on aggressive earnings management. *A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *23*(2), 13–25.

Berle, A., & Means, G. (1932). *The Modern Corporation and Private Property*. Macmillan.

Bolton, B. (2014). Audit Committee Performance: Ownership vs. Independence—Did SOX get it wrong? *Accounting and Finance*, *54*(1), 83–112.

Bonazzi, L., & Islam, S. M. N. (2007). Agency theory and corporate governance: A study of the effectiveness of board in their monitoring of the CEO. *Journal of Modelling in Management*, *2*(1), 7–23. https://doi.org/10.1108/17465660710733022

Carcello, J. V., & Neal, T. L. (2003). Audit Committee Characteristics and Auditor Dismissals following "New" Going-Concern Reports. *The Accounting Review*, *78*(1), 95–117. https://doi.org/10.2308/accr.2003.78.1.95

Chaudhry, N. I., Roomi, M. A., & Aftab, I. (2020). Impact of expertise of audit committee chair and nomination committee chair on financial performance of firm. *Corporate Governance: The International Journal of Business in Society*, *20*(4), 621–638. https://doi.org/10.1108/CG-01-2020-0017

Chiru, M., & Gherghina, S. (2019). Committee chair selection under high informational and organizational constraints. *Party Politics*, *25*(4), 547–558. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068817741765

Dakhlallh, M. M., Rashid, N. M. N. M., Abdullah, W. A. W., & Al Shehab, H. J. (2020). Audit Committee and Tobin's Q As A Measure of Firm Performance among Jordanian Companies. *Journal of Advanced Research in Dynamical and Control Systems*, *12*(1), 28–41. https://doi.org/10.5373/JARDCS/V12I1/20201005

Edem, I., Chukwu, U. C., & Ekpe, E. B. (2022). Relationships between Auditor Quality, Audit Committee Tenure and Financial Reporting Quality of Listed Firms in Nigeria. *European Journal of Marketing and Management Sciences*, *5*(03), 1–23.

Fiardhani, A. (2022). THE EFFECT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARACTERISTICS AND WOMEN ON BOARD ON FIRM PERFORMANCE: AN ANALYSIS OF INDONESIAN MANUFACTURING FIRMS. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting Research*, *6*(4), 2221–2233.

Ghafran, C., & Yasmin, S. (2018). Audit committee chair and financial reporting timeliness: A focus on financial, experiential and monitoring expertise. *International Journal of Auditing*, *22*(1), 13–24. https://doi.org/10.1111/ijau.12101

Hermalin, B. E., & Weisbach, M. S. (1991). The Effects of Board Composition and Direct Incentives on Firm Performance. *Financial Management*, *20*(4), 101. https://doi.org/10.2307/3665716

Hillman, A. J., & Dalziel, T. (2003). Boards of Directors and Firm Performance: Integrating Agency and Resource Dependence Perspectives. *Academy of Management Review*, *28*(3), 383–396.

Huse, M. (2005). Accountability and Creating Accountability: A Framework for Exploring Behavioural Perspectives of Corporate Governance. *British Journal of Management*, *16*, 65–79.

Ibanichuka, E. A. L., & Ihendinihu, J. U. (2012). Creative Accounting and Implication for Dividend Payout of Companies in the Financial Sub-Sector of Nigerian Economy. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, *3*, 15.

Issa, G., & Siam, Y. A. (2020). Audit Committee Characteristics, Family Ownership, and Firm Performance: Evidence from Jordan. *International Journal of Innovation*, *14*(4), 15.

Itan, I., & Chelencia, V. (2022). The Mediating Role Of Capital Structure In Corporate Governance On Firm Performance Of Family Companies. *Jurnal Ecodemica : Jurnal Ekonomi Manajemen Dan Bisnis*, *6*(2), 306–318. https://doi.org/10.31294/eco.v6i2.13027

Jensen, M. C., & Meckling, W. H. (1976). Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure. *Journal of Financial Economics*, *3*(4), 305–360.

Koutoupis, A. G., & Bekiaris, M. (2019). Audit Committees Impact on Company Performance: The Greek & Italian Experience. *International Journal of Auditing and Accounting Studies, 1(1), 1–12.*, *1*(1), 1–12.

Li, J., Mangena, M., & Pike, R. (2012). The effect of audit committee characteristics on intellectual capital disclosure. *The British Accounting Review*, *44*(2), 98–110. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bar.2012.03.003

Lückerath-Rovers, M. (2013). Women on boards and firm performance. *Journal of Management & Governance*, *17*(2), 491–509. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10997-011-9186-1

Mwangi, A. K., Oluoch, J. O., Muturi, W., & Florence, M. (2017). Effect of Audit Committee Diversity on Quality of Financial Reporting in Non-Commercial State Corporations in Kenya. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, *7*(6), Pages 288-302. https://doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v7-i6/2963

Obigbemi, I. F., Omolehinwa, E. O., & Mukoro, D. O. (2017). Ownership Structure and Earnings Management Practices of Nigerian Companies. *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce*, *22*(S8), 1–8.

Omotoye, O., Aderemi Adeyemo, K., Omotoye, T., Okeme, F., & Leigh, A. (2021). Audit committee attributes, board attributes and market performance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. *Banks and Bank Systems*, *16*(1), 168–181. https://doi.org/10.21511/bbs.16(1).2021.15

Onyabe, J. M., Okpanachi, J., Nyor, T., Yahaya, O. A., & Ahmed, M. (2018). Effect of Audit Committee Tenure on Financial Reporting Quality of Listed Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal*, *14*(4), 257–271. https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2018.v14n4p257

Orjinta, H. I., & Evelyn, I. N. (2018). *Effect of Audit Committee Characteristics on Performance of Non-Financial Firms: Evidence from A Recessed Economy*. *24*(1), 10.

Osemene, O. F., & Fakile, O. G. (2018). Effectiveness of Audit Committee and Financial Performance of Deposit Money Banks In Nigeria. *Fountain University Osogbo Journal of Management*, *3*(3), 23–34.

Özer, G., & Merter, A. K. (2023). Audit Committee Financial Expertise, Tenure, and Capital Structure Decisions, Evidence from Turkey. In N. Özataç, K. K. Gökmenoğlu, D. Balsalobre Lorente, N. Taşpınar, & B. Rustamov (Eds.), *Global Economic Challenges* (pp. 55–66). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-23416-3_5

Pozzoli, M., Pagani, A., & Paolone, F. (2022). The impact of audit committee characteristics on ESG performance in the European Union member states: Empirical evidence before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, *371*, 133411. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.133411

Puwanenthiren, P. (2020). Do Audit Committee Attributes Affect Firm Performance of Sri Lankan Firms? *Management & Accounting Review*, *19*(2), 118–130.

Shrestha, N. (2020). Detecting Multicollinearity in Regression Analysis. *American Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics*, *8*(2), 39–42. https://doi.org/10.12691/ajams-8-2-1

Susanto, Y. K. (2016). The Effect of Audit Committees and Corporate Governance on Earnings Management: Evidence from Indonesia Manufacturing Industry. *International Journal of Business, Economics and Law*, *10*(1), 32–37.

Usman, A. B., Amran, N. A., & Shaari, H. (2020). The Effect Of Corporate Governance Mechanisms On The Valuation Of Comprehensive Income Reporting In Nigeria. *Malaysian Management Journal*. https://doi.org/10.32890/mmj.21.2017.9048

Wan-Hussin, W. N., Fitri, H., & Salim, B. (2021). Audit committee chair overlap, chair expertise, and internal auditing practices: Evidence from Malaysia. *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*, *44*, 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intaccaudtax.2021.100413

Zabri, S. M., Ahmad, K., & Wah, K. K. (2016). Corporate Governance Practices and Firm Performance: Evidence from Top 100 Public Listed Companies in Malaysia. *Procedia Economics and Finance*, *35*, 287–296. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2212-5671(16)00036-8

Zraiq, M. A. A., & Fadzil, F. H. B. (2018). The Impact of Audit Committee Characteristics on Firm Performance: Evidence from Jordan. *Scholar Journal of Applied Sciences and Research*, *1*(5), 39–42.