KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI, GHANA

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR – A CASE OF SEKONDI-TAKORADI METROPOLIS

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the award of MSc. Accounting and Finance and that, to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to Almighty Allah, for His favor and to my family for their great support.

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ABSTRACT

Accounting is an integral part of any organization be it a sole proprietor or state-owned enterprise. This means that the aspect of computerized accounting must be taken serious especially in this current trend of digital globalization for the thriving of the business depends on this department. In order to find out how effective computerized accounting and financial reporting are in the public sector, descriptive survey in the form of purposive sampling were adopted. Data was collected through administering a Likert-scale type of questionnaire to 100 respondents, mainly accountants and other staff who had accounting backgrounds within the Sekondi- Takoradi and the adjoining districts (EKMA and Shama District). At the end, the research using correlation concludes that computerized accounting software has a positive relationship on financial performance in the public sector. Though the findings reveal that not all the software are known by most accounting practitioners within the public sector, it is expedient that government encourage the strict incorporation and implementation of these software and programmes to have quality accounting information. Again, tertiary institutions should incorporate into their curriculum this software for would –be accountants to be familiar with these before they graduate from school, this would make room for no excuse of having no knowledge on any software.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Accounting as subject is a key functional arm of any Organization be it a profit making or not for profit making Organization. This is seen in the face of businesses or organizational function which see non-owner managers give an update to owners of what is going on in the organization (Alfred, 2014; Mohamed Shiraj, 2017). Account maintenance and management are very important to the success of businesses especially in taking decisions that are operational and applicable either in nonprofit or profit earning organizations. This is mostly through periodic financial reports which is made available to stakeholders of the organization. However, there are always inconsistencies, report of loss of documents and records, hold ups in preparing documents and its related struggles. These issues therefore necessitated the research to undertake this research (Osmond, 2011; Mohamed, 2017).

In few time past, it has become so important that information technology system has taken center stage in the management and running of businesses and enterprises. This is because, the manual systems of accounting and financial reporting were inaccurate and inconsistent for many organizations. These inaccuracies existed as data was handled haphazardly and analyzed in readiness for a trial balance and balance sheet (AGNES, 2011) and this gave way to human errors.

Book-keeping in itself comprises several controls and techniques including summarizing, categorizing, taking records as well as gathering financial information to aid entities take decisions and also translate it to understand their financial status. Computerized accounting is applied via computerized accounting software through computers in the recording, analyzing and storing of financial data. (Williams, 2020). It was established that as compared to a manual accounting

system, a computerized accounting system has many advantages and hence produce financial information that are dependable (Osmond, 2011 in Alfred, 2014; Mohamed Shiraj, 2017). These accounting protocols were executed manually until the advent of ICT in accounting practice. These days, however, many accountants and non-accountants prefer using computer software to capture, monitor and compiled into financial reports (Weber, 2011 in Alfred, 2014).

1.2 Problem Statement

Many institutions, most especially the private sector and not for profit organizations in the recent past have tried to improve efficiency in their fields of practice including accounting practice. According to Mohamed Shiraj (2017), in sub-Sahara Africa, the measures taken by some government to improve efficiency in accounting practice in public institutions. The introduction of computerized accounting systems and financial reporting aims at improving speed, accuracy and reliability. Usually, there are a lot of reports of incidences involving accounting malpractice, delays in preparation of financial reports, financial misreporting and fraud associated with the manual system (Osmond, 2011 in Alfred, 2014; Mohamed Shiraj, 2017). Although many studies abound on the impact of computerized accounting system and financial reporting mostly in private institutions, little studies have been conducted on the effectiveness of computerized accounting systems and financial reporting in the public sector. It is for this reason the research seeks to find the effectiveness of computerized accounting and financial reporting in the public sector.

1.3 Objectives of The Study

The general objective of this research is purposely to find out the effectiveness of computerized accounting and financial reporting in the public sector using some selected government agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis and its environs. The research is hinged on the following specific objectives;

1. To ascertain the types of computerized accounting and financial reporting usage in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis
2. To establish the strengths of the computerized accounting and financial reporting system usage in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis
3. To investigate the challenges faced in the used of computerized accounting and financial reporting system usage in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis
4. To examine the relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis

1.4 Research Questions

The research shall be conducted with the research trying to find responses to the following questions

1. What are the types of computerized accounting and financial reporting usage in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis?

2. What are the strengths of the computerized accounting and financial reporting system usage in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis?
3. What are the challenges faced in the used of computerized accounting and financial reporting system usage in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis?
4. What is the relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance in some selected public sector agencies in the Sekondi Takoradi metropolis?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research shall be very important to the government as the main stakeholder in this research. It will provide much documentary report about computerized accounting and financial reporting and the effect it has had so far on the financial aspect of various public agencies. Employees of the various agencies and departments within the sector will be introduced and trained on the types of computerized accounting software that have been passed by the government to enhance their field of work. It will contribute to the already existing knowledge on the subject matter on the financial reporting quality in the public sector to make better- and well-informed decisions towards investor interest in government's financial systems. Another major significance shall be outlining the relationships that exist between computerized accounting and financial reporting and how this has impacted financial performance in the public sector. These shall be very vital source of information for the public sector and co-operate world as well as for future researchers who shall find imperative to conduct research in this area. The success of this paper will be a partial fulfilment required for the award of a degree in Master of Science in Accounting and Finance at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This research shall be limited to a content scope and geographical scope. Contextually, the study is aimed to find out the effectiveness of computerized accounting and financial reporting in the public sector using some selected government agencies. Geographically, it shall be covering a metropolitan and other two districts that are located in the western region. These are Sekondi Takoradi metropolitan assembly, Effia-Kwesiminstim municipal assembly and Shama District assembly shall be covered as the target study centers.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

This study like other scientific studies is limited by number of factors such as limited scope, small sample size and research approach. The sample size used in the study is too small to enable generality of findings. The limitations of this study would basically be the difficulty in moving from one department to another to seek information on the subject matter. It is for this reason the geographical scope is restricted to these three district assemblies to represent all government agencies in the country.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This paper shall be structured in five (5) parts. Chapter one gives an overview of various sub items of the subject matter. Chapter two shall be devoted to reviewing literature on the on the topic. Chapter three shall describe the methods and all procedures in the design of this paper. Chapter four shall also discuss the survey results and the analysis of data. The concluding part which is chapter five will sum up the study outcomes and wind up the report in addition to making propositions in recommendations for future research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter seeks to review–related literature to this study through a historical background information. It begins by looking at the overview of computerized accounting and financial reporting, then conceptual-and theoretical perspective of the study with the specific objectives as the themes.

2.1 Conceptual Review

Computerized accounting system by Marivic (2009) in Agnes (2009) describes it as a method or scheme by which financial information on business transactions are recorded, organized, summarized, analyzed, interpreted and communicated to stakeholders through the use of computers and computer-based systems such as accounting packages. Agnes (2009) emphasized that Marivic (2009) opines that "it's a mechanized process of facilitating financial information inflows as well as the automation of accounting tasks such as database recording and report generation". But due to the small nature of volume of accounting data, accounting professionals found it quite manageable using the manual system. Considerable growth in population has seen a significant rise in the capacity of accounting trades and surge in coverage of information to errors owing to complexity accounting systems, there was a need for a system that could defeat and discourage the use of the manual system. This led to the improvement and induction of accounting software packages, (Opoku Ware, 2015).

Accounting Software is an application software that records and processes accounting transactions within functional modules such as payroll and other accounting variables. Thus, these software

suites permit the entire accounting system to be run on a processor hence the name Computerized Accounting System, (Daniel Bricklin, 1985 in Opoku Ware, 2015).

A countess Ada Lovelace calculating machine was the premier equipment produced and used for accounting. The IBM 9Pac was one of the first program design systems that paved the way for more modern accounting systems, (https://visual.ly). In recent years, from the dawn of this 21st century, globalization and technology has brought to fore a paradigm shift in the face of doing business and for that matter accounting. Computers have completely transformed the manner in which we run businesses. Recently, they are used in various work fields, including accounting. In fact, they have been incredibly useful in accounting especially in moving with the fast-growing pace in technologies.

Opoku Ware 2015 again states that section 123 of Ghana's Companies Code (1963), Act179 "obliges companies to maintain proper book-keeping practices with respect to their financial positions and changes therein". He further believed that "the objective of financial statements is to offer facts about all aspects of the financial status of an entity that is useful to a wide range of users in making economic decisions.

As businesses change their modus operandi to meet the growing market, organizations need to maintain very precise and current accounting documentation. This makes Computerized Accounting System appropriate to help integrate and streamline all the business processes and help produce information that can be depended by users of its financial reports. (Raymond and Bergeron, 1992 Opoku Ware, 2015).

Financial Reporting can be defined as the practice of rendering financial data concerning a company's financial position, performance, and its flow of funds (Rose & Hudgins, 2008 Opoku Ware 2015). Financial Reporting is thus, the presentation of a complete set of financial statements which consist of information on financial position, comprehensive income, changes in equity, cash flows and Notes to accounting procedures applied. (Greuning, 2006 in Opoku Ware 2015). In addition to the above statements, the Companies Code also outlines other additional reports such as a report by the directors and auditors (s. 133). Deusidedit (2014) concluded that accounting software is used to enforce the method of computerized accounting. The idea of a database is focused on computerized accounting; it is standard software that enables access to the data stored in the database. The following are the elements of applications for computerized accounting.

Accounting document preparation; Accounting records such invoices and accounting vouchers are prepared by computers. Computerized accounting systems provide user-defined templates that provide quicker, reliable transactions input and therefore can easily automate all documents and reports (Deusidedit, 2014).

Recording of transactions; Ordinary business exchanges are recorded with the assistance of program. Each record and exchanges is allotted an exceptional code where the gathering of record is done at the primary stage. This cycle disentangles crafted by recording the exchange. Marivic (2009) in Deusidedit, (2014) set that, current programs will limit human mistakes in recording exchanges and this makes available references of each exchange.

Preparation of trial balance and financial statements; Data is automatically transferred to the subsidiary ledgers by the computer after documenting transactions. The trial balance is prepared by the machine to verify the accuracy of records; the computer can be configured to prepare the detailed income statement and the financial status statement (Deusidedit, 2014).

2.2 Theories

2.2.1 Agency Theory

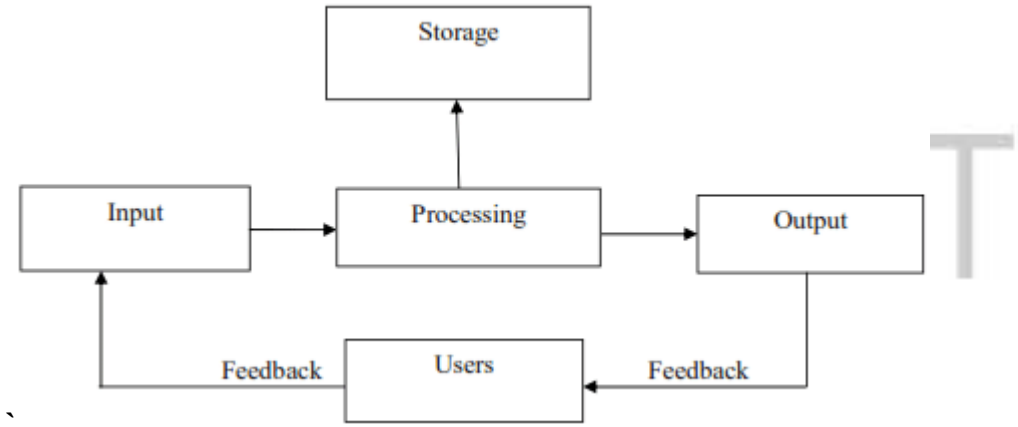
The agency theory describes the government (principals') delegated authority to agencies (MDAs, MMDAs, Departments, Ministries) (the agent) to operate on behalf of the principals' welfare depending on the government agencies accordingly (Jensen and Meckling, 1976). Basically, the government seeks to operate under a cost-effective system and this most at times are not in line with the personal interest of workers. This study seeks to survey the effect of computerized accounting system on financial performance in the public sector. The primary purpose of the government is to cost effectively achieve its economic objective to satisfy its citizens. This exclusively is dependent on the public sector worker (agents). Hence, the adoption of computerized accounting system by government to enhance performance.

2.2.2 Systems Theory

The systems theory is applicable to this study because the methods suggested by the theory are to perfect multipart units formed by several interrelated components that describe the features that are internal or external to the system. The Computerized Accounting System is a computer-based system that incorporates the concepts of accounting principles and the concept

of the information system in order to generate financial information for its users in order to make economic decisions Gelinas et al (2005).

Figure 1: A Computerized Accounting System Model



Source: Dacosta et al (2012)

2.3 Empirical Review

This part of the review elaborates on the specific objectives of the subject matter in relation to write ups from other authors on this topic. Below are discussions done on each of the four specific objectives of the study.

2.3.1 Types of Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting That Are Used

There are a lot of accounting software developed and used by various organizations within the public sector for specific purposes, some of these softwares includes but not limited to; GIFMIS, E-SPV, E-Payslip, E-Transactional tool and e-pv.

Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS)

According to Mac-Effort (2015), it is an integrated computerized financial management system for including but not limited to: Budget Preparation, Budget Execution. Accounting and Financial Reporting, Cash Management, Assets management, Human resource and payroll management

The aim is to establish an integrated ICT based PFM Information Systems in Ghana at the MDAs located at National, Regional, and District levels and MMDA to improve efficiency in public financial management. This accordingly would help bridge the Lack of interface/integration between various PFM Systems, Inadequate budgetary controls over public expenditure Lack of transparency in budget execution, Poor record keeping on public financial transactions, Undue delays in processing transactions due to cumbersome manual processes, Lack of reliable data for effective fiscal planning due to weak accounting and fiscal reporting system, Delay in financial reporting, especially at the National level.

Electronic Salary Payment Voucher System (E-SPV): The Electronic Salary Payment Voucher System (E-SPV) allows easy validation and submission of salary payment voucher online to the Controller Accountant General Department (CAGD) within a limited time of the month. To access the system, an authorized staff must first be registered and setup by the system administrator. A secure user identity will be established where a password and login details will be provided. When salary payment vouchers have been validated and CAGD has paid on that instruction, the Head of Department (HOD) is required to print, sign and file the final payment voucher. It is important to note that your Current voucher cannot be validated and submitted by the HOD if the previous month's voucher has not been certified. Certification can only be done by HOD.

Electronic-Payslip: An E-Payslip is a monthly electronic payslip made available for workers to have access to their individual salary information online through internet supported devices. E-Payslips give a few focal points to staff including: rapidly and handily got to from any PC or cell phone with web access to past cumulated payslips just as E-Payslips help the C&AGD to meet its responsibility to making employees' payslips promptly accessible, successfully serve GOG

staff, and right a portion of the coordination challenges confronted with conveyance of printed payslips in all locations within the nation.

Electronic-Transactional tool: This is a system designed for hospitals that are under the Ghana Health Service to suit their transactions which helps in their financial reporting.

Electronic-payment voucher: system which enables easy generate, design and issue digital coupons or e-vouchers. The electronic payment voucher (E-PV) authorizes the spending of money. It can be used to pay an outside vendor or to transfer money within an entity.

2.3.2 Strengths of The Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting System

McRae (1998) cited in Agness (2009) believes that computerized accounting systems are advantageous in processing accounting information. This aspect seeks to look at the advantages of computerized accounting in general. Some of the strengths include but not limited to the following.

Better Record keeping and data Security; It is an undisputed fact that human error can corrupt a data stored no matter how meticulous one becomes. For instance, entering figures in wrong fields, yet a decent package will lessen this chance and guarantee that there is a reference for all exchanges for example for each check or receipt entered. It helps in case of tracking for errors. For record-keeping and consistence with the law, organizations regularly should save financial records for quite a long time (Deusidedit, 2014). With electronic bookkeeping arrangement, documents and significant financial data can be put away on the web or on off-website information cartridges or both giving a business the degree of recovery that it needs to recuperate from a calamity and guaranteeing consistence with all appropriate information maintenance laws. (Mc Laney and Atrill, 2005 in Deusidedit, 2014).

Time and Cost Savings: Computerized Accounting Systems has the propensity of sparing a firm as far as time and cash are concerned. The utilization of an electronic framework makes contributing bookkeeping data very straightforward. Transactions are entered into the system and the system processes and posts transactions accordingly. Automated accounting Frameworks decrease staff time getting ready records and lessen review costs as records are perfect, exceptional and exact. Enhanced utilization of resources and time; improvement in cash flow through better debt collection and stock mechanism. Most essentially, Financial reports are produced on time to foster better economic decisions by stakeholders (Deusidedit, 2014).

Storage capacity and Speed: After data is gone into the framework, the data is put away indefinitely. Organizations perform back-ups on the framework consistently to try not to lose any data. The presentation of Electronic Accounting Frameworks gives the capacity to see the ongoing condition of the organization's financial position, (Deusidedit, 2014), this should be possible at whatever time of the day.

Accuracy; electronic accounting being examined assists with diminishing the measure of time you need to spend observing and arranging your records as an organization. Records will be on hand at any point in time with help of a suitable device. A well-formed record can easily be assessed with little or no errors to the information. This will assist you with improving your business productivity in zones, for example, client relations, and employee management. You can easily build upon your benefits and improve general business productivity, (Deusidedit, 2014). Moreover, as a result of inbuilt programmed estimations there is a remote possibility of committing errors figuring solicitations. The framework naturally computes comprehensive and restrictive figures. Mc Laney and Atrill (2005) and also in Ahmed (2018) who opined that this leads to improved accuracy.

Improvement in operational efficiency; A computerized accounting system removes the cumbersomeness associated with labor-intensive practices. Notwithstanding figuring being mechanized, many bookkeeping programming programs permit different reports, for example, year-end and measurements to be produced at the dash of a catch. A report that once took junior bookkeeper a great deal of time to gather would now be able to be made very quickly (Deusidedit, 2014). Again, captured by Ahmed (2018), who opined that computerized accounting system at the government ministries in Nigeria leads to improvement in operational efficiency of organizations.

2.3.3 Challenges Faced in The Used of Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting

All or most systems have merits, there are possible issues relating the application such system. This aspect delves into the disadvantages. In reference to Deusidedit, (2014) although computerized Accounting has apparently many benefits, they are certainly confronted with challenges. Below are some challenges discussed in relation to existing literature by other authors.

Installation and running costs: Deusidedit, (2014), is reported to be have cited Nora (1981) who indicated that the price tag or fees charged in installing computers and the required software applications in an organization is expensive as it needs colossal amount of money. This is a key deterrent to the inability of organizations to have computers. Again are insufficient security and not having data support and print accoutrements, (Ahmed, 2018). Running such system can still be costly, not only to purchase its accessories, but to maintain them as well, explained by Ahmed (2018). He further states that extra costs for training new employees would be the emerging challenge in respect of managing the organization. Expenditure that have to be routinely

considered consist of upgrading to newer versions as well as hardware that may be deemed appropriate to catch up with emerging technological systems

Power Failure. According to Akwasi Boateng, (2015) intermittent irregular power distribution is one of the core difficulties in ensuring the use of computerized accounting system. With no electricity, the PC come to be a "white elephant". Likewise, no or low power flow may cause the deficiency of information in the essential storing capacity while an excessive amount of power flow may likewise destroy chips or other electric segment of a PC. This is why some practitioners always wants to use power buck ups. This assertion has been made by NORA (1981) who is cited by Deusidedit, (2014). Deprived of electrical energy, most businesses' accounting systems would be rendered redundant as no reports can be produced

Network challenges; Another thought that restricts the utilization of computerized accounting is where the program may dwindle if the PC network isn't appropriately set up, the product can't be reached and can't be used. Most entities are confronted with incessant network disappointments that eases back the rate at which activities are executed in associations. This allows loss of information henceforth setting aside more effort to be recovered. (Deusidedit, 2014

Computer Virus: A main stressing worry in the whole world with regards to information systems are the issues of computer viruses. NORA (1981) as referred to by Deusidedit, (2014), attest that PC infections ordinarily contaminate frameworks presented through outer stockpiling gadgets which have just been tainted. This has prompted loss of information the greater part of which is outrageous to get back as it will require specialists who are welcome to introduce and configuration new bundles. Framework security concerns can present impediments on bookkeeping programming. Other than agonizing over infections and worms, entrepreneurs likewise should be worried about unapproved access of electronic bookkeeping information.

PC Hacking; Deusidedit, (2014) again believed that hacking is a genuine trial to computerized bookkeeping, in that study, it alludes concerning when people make unapproved admittance to electronic frameworks particularly through dial-in-lines or across PC organizations. This stimulates loss of information and burdens to the individual influenced by the programmers. These unscrupulous acts are geared towards disrupting and illegally making changes or acquiring confidential information of organizations.

2.3.4 The Relationship Between Computerized Accounting System and Financial Performance.

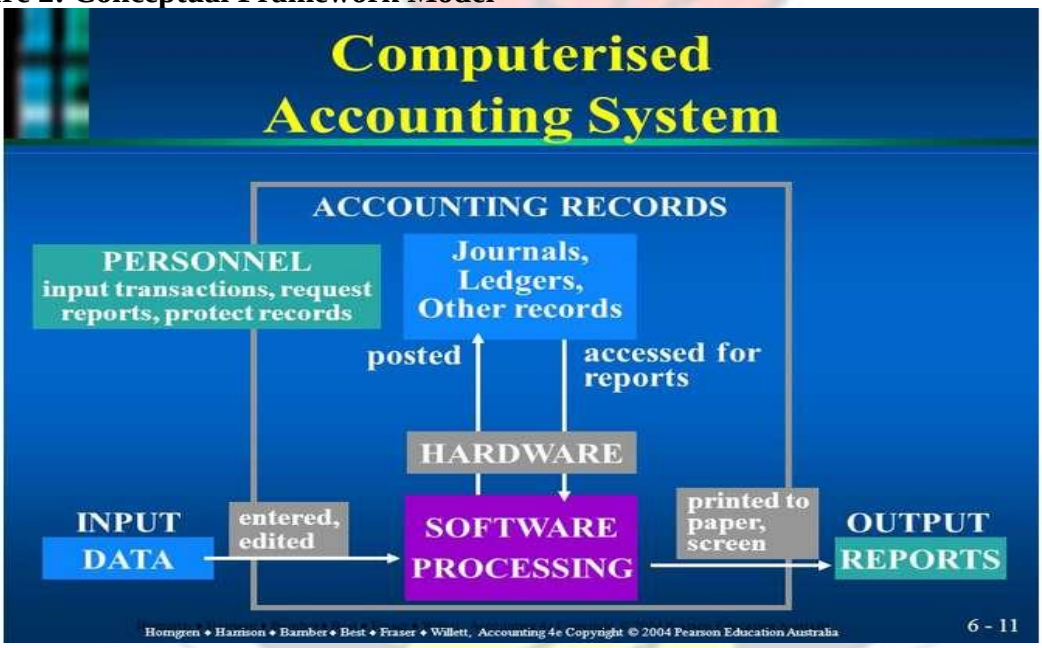
This aspect explores the relationship between computerized accounting and financial reporting between entities using this accounting method, especially in the public sector of the economy. Deusidedit (2014) claims that computerized financial reporting accounting is related to the advantages of implementing the computer method when creating financial reports. For their fast processing speed and broad storage space, computerized accounting systems have been credited.

In addition, relative to manual processes, it is alleged that the accuracy of financial reports is ensured with a computerized accounting system. The system of data input and processing is typically sophisticated, making data accuracy very high. This ensures that there would be small mistakes in financial reports. The computerized system would facilitate usability and faster transformation of data stored in computers, so that financial reports can be easily accessed without delay and timely decision-making through the online system (Kwarijuka, 1998 in Deusidedit, 2014). In related study, the use of computer-based systems in businesses will allow workers from different functional areas and divisions to produce timely financial reports that allow managers to track company operations and important finance decisions (Wailes, 1999 in Deusidedit, 2014).

According to Mohamed Shiraj, (2017) The study showed that the computerized accounting system had a significant effect on financial report efficiency. The findings show that the variables under study have a clear, favorable connection. Akande (2016) agrees with the statement that there is a meaningful correlation between an organization's performance and the use of the computerized accounting system, adding that "we accept the main interpretation that there is a significant relationship between the computerized accounting system and the performance of entities."

2.4 Conceptual Framework

Figure 2: Conceptual Framework Model



Source: Financial *accounting / Horngren, Harrison, Oliver, Best, Fraser, Tan, Willett* Pearson Australia Group Frenchs Forest, NSW

The manual method of accounting has become insufficient in decision-making as the nature of information technology systems progresses. Subsequently, in industrialized and emerging

economies, both the private and public sectors assess computerized accounting as leading an effective and efficient flow of information and assisting in managerial decision-making. The organization would also improve its ability to achieve the business plan and corporate targets that have been set.

Accounting software helps the company to perform its financial operations earlier in the process of achieving the objectives compared to using manual processes. This enhances productivity for both staff and clients in the long run. As a result, research in this field helps organizations and general scholars to recognize the most accurate and best applications in terms of speed and precision. In situations where particular software falls short, rather than modifying the entire software used to conduct accounting in the company, an organization may choose to change it. This decreases costs and also reduces the chance of inconvenience when updating software.

2.5 Summary

From the collected works studied above, many studies have been conducted on the advantages and disadvantages of computerized accounting system, the effect computerized accounting has on the private sector organization's reports, their internal controls. However, there's little research which has been conducted on the effectiveness of computerized accounting system and financial reporting in the public sector. This success of this study aims to fill that gap.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This sector focuses on various sub-headings which includes the research design, the sample population size, the example and the methods of test choice. It as well shows the instruments employed for the collection of data, pre-testing of instruments, the system followed in directing the exploration and the technique for information examination.

3.1 Research Design

According to Gay, (1987), study design comprises gathering facts into testing assumptions or answering research problems on the status of the topic being studied. According to Amedahe (2004), "a research design is a special strategy that you employ in collecting, analyzing and reporting the research". These are put under two categorical views; qualitative and quantitative research. This study adopts both explanatory and descriptive designs. The explanatory explains the causes and effect relationship in the study whiles the descriptive survey, concentrate on producing statistics on the nature as well as position of exact phenomena at a certain time. Therefore, the reason for choosing a descriptive design. In the view of Kerlinger (1973) survey is the paramount research design for finding facts that are related to social issues, beliefs and attitudes. In this regard, survey research may possibly study huge as well as lesser populations in determining comparative distribution and interrelation of sociological and psychological variables.

In a survey, usually, questionnaires are used as a tool for collection of data. This assertion is corroborated by Ajala (1996), who recommended that descriptive survey is the best technique necessary to capture people's views, experience, values and impressions about a matter.

3.2 Population of the Study

The study would have some selected accountants, account officers and other accounting staff from accounts department of various public sector agencies in Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) and that of Shama and Effia-Kwesimintsim Municipal Assembly (EKMA) as the target population to be studied. This included all principal and subordinate accounting staff.

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

A total of hundred respondents were purposively sampled out of the number accounting staff on different grades from various government agencies within the Sekondi-Takoradi metropolis, Effia-Kwesiminstim Municipality and Shama district. The researcher distributed the total number of targeted populations in the percentage of 50, 25 and 25 amongst the various districts respectively. The study used purposive method of sampling due to the nature of this paper, directed at acquiring facts from definite respondents. The research adopted a non-probability sampling procedure for convenience sake. This was in the form of purposive sampling as said by Ankrah (2011), that a purposive sampling allows the selection of interview objects which fits the emphasis of the study. Also, with the purposive sampling, the sample units are not chosen based on random procedure rather decisively chosen carefully for the study. Convenience sampling was adopted alongside the purposive sampling method for convenience purposes since data collection tool was administered through the internet using WhatsApp and e-mails. A duration of a week was given to respondents before they are retrieved for analysis.

3.4 Data Collection

The data was collected at the various selected public sector account units from the three districts in retrospect. Primary data would be the main source of data collection obtained through the use of self-administered questionnaire to respondents following systematic and established academic procedures, as suggested by Nunnally and Bernstein (1994).

The research used a set of formulated questionnaires for the study. There was an introduction to the questionnaire which explained the purpose for administering them which is for academic purposes. The different parts of the questionnaire were created from the research questions. This survey consisted of primarily close ended points demanding respondents to mark answers which suits them most. It is anticipated that the calibre of respondents participating, provided real, sincere and reliable responses which lacks irrelevant impact. There would be no issue of self-reporting since questions are not directed at the respondent's personal assessment but rather assessment of the general system on the subject matter.

The close-ended items is also intended at guaranteeing consistency in the response and in so doing avoiding bias of any kind. Many of such would be exemplified in the Likert-scale form. The five-point Likert scale were deemed more suitable due to recommendations of Casley & Kumar (1998). They asserted that there was a rise in the trend for respondents to choose answers which are extreme even though they are talking about the same thing. To Casley & Kumar (1998), in real level analysis these extremes of strongly agree and strongly disagree are collapsed to represent agree and disagree respectively. With this, respondents are required to pick between affirmative and adverse attitudes and opinions. Limited open-ended phrases would as well be incorporated in

the questionnaire to elicit open and unlimited response from respondents on issues in relation to the research.

The questionnaire would be segregated into Five (5) sections (A, B, C, D and E). Section A consist of questions on demography of respondents. Section B would focus on the types of computerized accounting on financial reporting that are used in the public sector of Ghana. Section C, would consider the strengths of the computerized accounting and financial reporting system used in the public sector. Section D, deals with the challenges are faced in the used of computerized accounting and financial reporting system in the public sector. Section E, looks at the relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance in the public sector. The questionnaires were developed in consultation with the supervisor of the study.

3.5 Data Analysis

Quantitative analyses was employed to analyse data. Tables, percentages, and frequencies were used as statistical tools to analyse the data obtained using Excel. The data was edited for completeness and consistency after which data extraction was performed. It enabled us to come out with the final findings of the research. Coding of the data was followed by data entry, after which results were run via the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software which has several means in evaluating research. This paper employed a descriptive statistic, implementing frequencies in the analyses procedure as well as correlation where variables with a link would be calculated to determine the level of relationship between them. Descriptive statistics aids in measuring many behavioural variables which are often in hundreds, and again descriptive analysis aids develop, organize, summarize, and make measures quite simple for a better understanding of the literature. Even though numerous samples of descriptive statistics exist; frequencies,

descriptive ratio cross tabulation etc., the study would adopt frequencies and cross tabulation an analytical tool, where the data could be used to produce statistics and charts as well as tables with related variables. The motive behind the use of the frequency as an analytical tool is that, this method can generate such statistics as: frequencies (counts), percentages, quartiles and percentiles. In addition, the correlations were tested which sought to establish relationship between variables. These techniques of data presentation and analysis were chosen because they are easily applicable and easily understandable to this study.

3.6 Reliability and Validity of Data (Pre-Test)

Reliability and validity are conceptions used to assess the worth of research. They point out how well a system, procedure or trial measures something. Reliability is concerned with the regularity of a measure, whereas validity looks at the accuracy of a measure. In order to have easy access to the respondents, the research would introduce the intent of research to respondents. The research would test the questionnaire by giving a few copies out to people within the accounting field as a piloting procedure to see whether the questions could be easily understood and answered by respondents.

In order to guarantee discretion, secrecy and confidentiality, questionnaire content would not demand for personal credentials, and ultimate report will not mention individual reactions.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

The study will seek to gather data by getting in touch with respondents through electronic means by phone calls, WhatsApp and email. They will be first briefed on the reason for administering the survey form and content according to the sections into which they appear. Respondents will

be assured of anonymity on the opinions they express on the questionnaire. Reference will be given to appropriate sources of data.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This section provides a thorough description about the outcomes among the various government agencies as well as determine the type of Computerized Accounting Software available for their perusal. It measures the staff reaction in relation to the Computerized Accounting System used and how its impacting the financial unit within their organizations.

4.1 Background of Respondents

The demographic distribution of the respondents considered in the study included the gender and age distributions, as well as the term of service in the public sector.

Table 1: Background of Respondents

Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	60	61.2
Female	38	38.8
Age		
24-29	6	6.1
30-35	58	59.2
36-41	34	34.7
Service Duration		
Under 5 years	16	16.3
6-10 years	58	59.2
11-15 years	20	20.4
Above 15 years	4	4.1
Marital Status		
Single	32	32.7
Married	66	67.3
Level of Education		
HND	25	25.5
First Degree	67	68.4
Chartered Accountant	6	6.1

Source: Field Data, 2020.

From the table above, it could be observed that the total number of respondents was 98 out of the total 100 expected. The male respondents were 60 which forms 61.2 percent out the total respondents and that of the female respondents were also 38, forming 38.8 percent.

The age distribution of the respondents and the findings made is also presented. It could be seen that the age range that formed majority respondents were between 30 – 35, with a frequency of 58 forming 59.2 percent, 36 – 41 age group had a frequency of 34 forming 34.7 percent of the total respondents and the least age respondents being within 24 – 29, having a frequency of 6 and forming 6.1 percent out of the total respondent. It can therefore be affirmed that the public sector has a youthful employee status.

This research again tried to find the service duration of respondents in their capacities related to this research. It was realized that the highest number of respondents with frequency of 58 (6 -10 years) with 59.2 percent, the second highest was 20 respondents being within (11 -15 years) which formed 20. 4 percent. The third category was those who had worked under 5 years, which formed 16.3 percent with a frequency of 16 and the least number of respondents were those who worked above 15 years. These were 4 respondents and they formed 4.1 percent. The table presents the results on the marital status of the sampled respondents. The study found that majority of the respondents 67.3 percent were married whiles the remaining 32.7 percent were single. Also, regarding to the level of education of the respondents, the study found that majority of the respondents' 68.4 percent were first degree holders, 25.5 percent were HND holders' whiles the remaining 6.1 percent were holding chartered account certificates.

4.1.2 Awareness of Computerized Accounting System

From the data collected it was revealed that majority of the respondent agreed to the fact that they are aware that various accounting software were developed for the purpose of financial reporting and accounting in the public sector space. This was made up of 82 respondents making 83.5 percent from the total respondents, a further 6 respondents, forming 6.1 percent stated that they were not aware of any such software, with 10 respondents which formed 10.2 percent saying they had no opinion about the existence of such software. This corroborate the write ups for research like Eileen, (2020), Mac-Effort (2015) the rest who have enumerated various accounting software being used in the accounting space.

Table 2: Awareness of Computerized Accounting System

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	6.1
No Opinion	10	10.2	10.2	16.3
Agree	60	61.2	61.2	77.6
Strongly Agree	22	22.4	22.4	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020.

4.2 Types of Computerized Accounting

This part focuses on the awareness of computerized accounting by mentioning the types or forms of computerized accounting that's been used in the public sector. The findings are elaborated as follows under sub-headings.

4.2.2 Types of Computerized Accounting Software

This question that was asked sought to elicit the knowledge that respondents had on the various accounting systems in the public sector. In relation to the Ghana Integrated Financial Management

Information System. it was realized that 94 percent out of the total respondents agreed that they know of this particular system. A further 2 percent of the respondents disagreed that they do not have any knowledge on GIFMIS. A total number of 4 respondents also said they did not have any opinion on the GIFMIS. This finding corroborates that of Mac-Effort (2015). A 98.3 percent of the respondents had knowledge of E-SPV while 1.7 percent had not heard of this system. E-Payslip showed a percentage of 61 respondents affirming that they know of it, while a 27 percent of them had not idea of this systems. 12 percent did not have an opinion on this. E-transactional tool appeared to have 18.2 percent knowledge by the respondents while 65.4 had not heard about it. A 16.4 percent did not provide any response to this particular system. E-pv came out with a 15.2 percent of the respondents asserting to having knowledge of this system while 52.1 percent had not heard of this system. 32.7 percent did not have any response to this system.

Table 3: Types of Computerized Accounting Software (CAS) Used in the Public Sector

	Responses		
Types of CAS used in the public sector	N	Percent	Percent of Cases
E-Payslip	98	23.7%	100.0%
GIFMIS	98	23.7%	100.0%
e transactional tool	24	5.8%	24.5%
ESPV	96	23.2%	98.0%
E-PV	98	23.7%	100.0%
Total	414	100.0%	422.4%

Source: Field Data, 2020.

The table above: Table 3, is an extract from data indicating the percentage use of the types of computerized accounting software used. It is realized that all respondents have used the e-Payslip and GIFMIS system with a percentage level of hundred. The next set of items were E-SPV

4.3 Strengths of the Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting System

4.3.1 Better Records Keeping and Data Security

This was a question that was asked respondents to know the opinion of respondents on how computerized accounting impacts record keeping and data security. From the respondents it was revealed that 32 respondents, forming 32.6 percent agreed to the assertion that computerized accounting does not facilitate better record keeping and data security. A further 50 respondents representing 51 percent disagreed to the assertion. 16 respondents forming 16.3 percent indicated that they did not have any opinion. With the majority respondents of 51 percent, it indicates that there is a positive impact of computerized accounting on record keeping and data security. These findings corroborate that of Mc Laney and Atrill, (2005) and cited in Deusidedit, (2014). These findings are represented on table 4 below.

Table 4: Better Records Keeping and Data Security Using Computerized Accounting

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	30	30.6
Disagree	20	20.4
No Opinion	16	16.3
Agree	26	26.5
Strongly Agree	6	6.1
Total	98	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2020.

4.3.2 Time and Cost Savings

As computerized accounting is a modern technology in the accounting space, the study sought to find out whether this system had any role in saving time and cost using this system. The research revealed that 76 respondents, forming 77.5 percent agreed that computerized accounting enhances time and also saves cost. A further 8 respondents forming 8.1 percent disagreed with the assertion.

With the majority responding that time and cost are impacted come to corroborate that of Deusidedit (2014). This is represented on table 5 below.

Table 5: Time and Cost Savings of an Entity

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Disagree	8	8.2	8.2	10.2
No Opinion	20	20.4	20.4	30.6
Agree	68	69.4	69.4	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020.

4.3.3 Accuracy of Financial Information

The research again sought to find out if computerized accounting brings about accuracy in the line of duty of an accountant and the entire organizational space. It was realized that a total of 90 respondents which formed 92 percent, said yes, meaning they agreed that computerize accounting and financial reporting do bring accuracy. Only 8 respondents, which formed 8 percent said no, implying they disagreed that computerized accounting and financial reporting brings about accuracy in an organization. This corroborates the research for Alfred, (2014) and Deusidedit (2014). This is represented on figure 3 below.

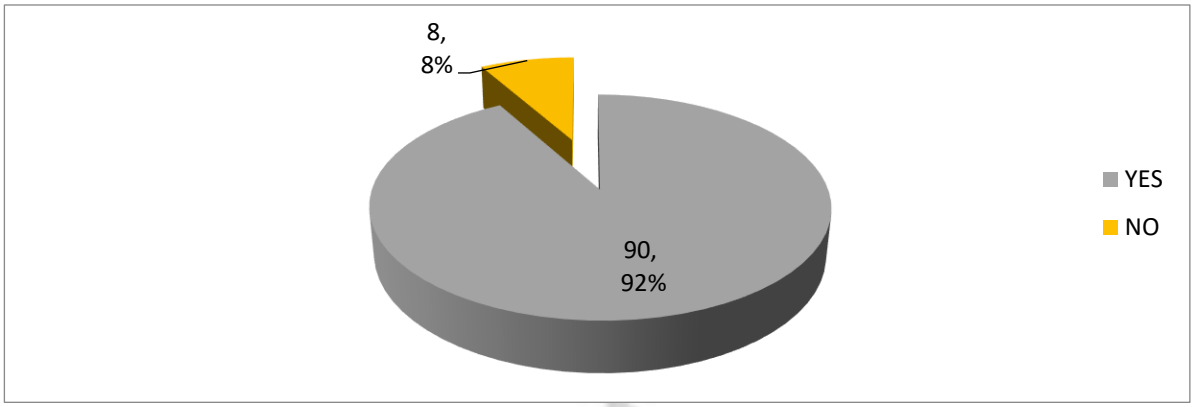


Figure 3: Accuracy in Computerized Accounting
Source: Field Data, 2020

4.3.4 Computerised Accounting Promoting Operation Efficiency

The study sought to find out whether computerised accounting promote operation efficiency. The study found that 82 respondents representing 83.7 percent indicate that yes indeed computerised accounting promote operation efficiency. The remaining 16 indicating 16.3 indicated they do not accept the fact that, computerised accounting promotes operation efficiency. These findings support that of Mac-Effort (2015), who theorize that it helps improve efficiency in public financial reporting. This finding is put on table 6 below.

Table 6: Computerised Accounting Promoting Operation Efficiency

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	82	83.7	83.7	83.7
No	16	16.3	16.3	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020

4.4 Challenges in The Use of Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting

This was when the research tried to find out the challenges encountered when trying to use computerized accounting and financial reporting.

4.4.1 Installation and Running Cost

When the question of whether installation cost could be a major hindrance to implementing computerized accounting. It was realized that 72 respondents, forming 73.5 percent agreed with the assertion that installation cost could be a major hindrance in implementing computerized accounting, a further 6 respondents, forming 6.1 percent disagreed. Again 20 respondents forming 20.4 percent said they did not have any opinion in respect of the question posed. This corroborates with Ahmed (2018) and Deusidedit (2014) as seen on table 9 below.

Table 8: Installation and Running Cost

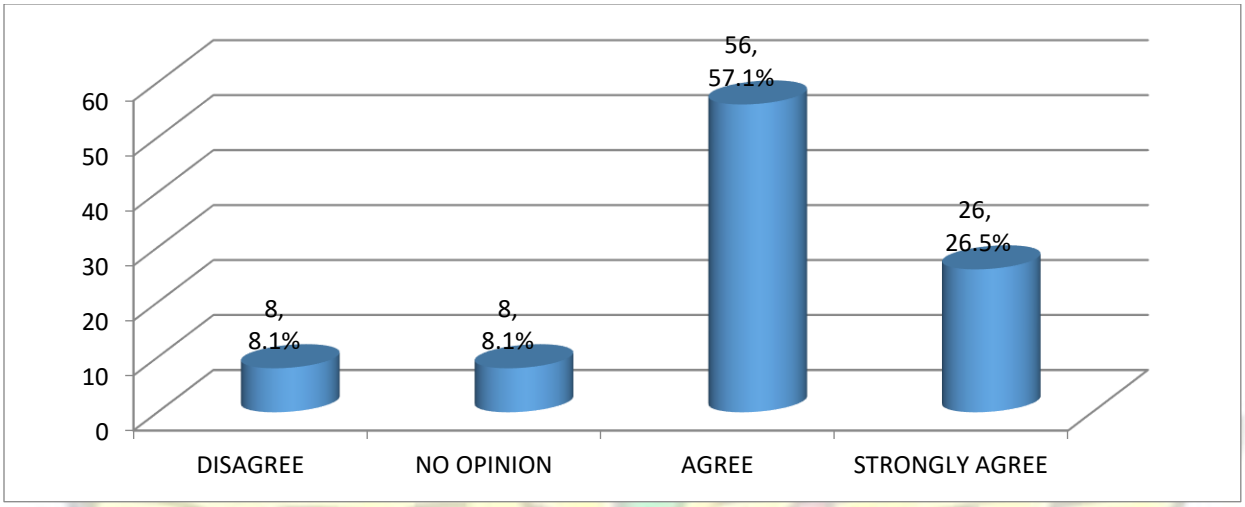
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	2	2.0
Disagree	4	4.1
No Opinion	20	20.4
Agree	44	44.9
Strongly Agree	28	28.6
Total	98	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2020.

4.4.2 Power Failure

This research in the attempt to measure the bearing power failure has on the implementation of computerized accounting, the research posed the question seeking to find out this phenomenon. It was realized that 82 respondents, forming 83.6 percent out of the total respondents agreed that power failure poses a challenge to the smooth implementation of computerized accounting and

financial reporting. A further 8 respondents, forming 8.1 percent respectively said they disagreed and no opinion respectively. This is in corroboration with the research by Akwasi Boateng, (2015) who remarked that failure and interrupted power supply is one of the main problems in using computerized accounting system. This is represented on figure 4 below.



Source: Field Data, 2020.

Figure 4: Power Failure

4.4.3 Network Challenges

This part of the questionnaire was to determine the respondents' reaction to whether network challenges was a threat to an easy employing of computerized accounting. It was realized that 84 respondents, forming 85.7 percent established the claim that network challenges can hinder the usage of computerized accounting, a further 4 respondents, forming 4.1 percent also disagreed, 10 respondents said they did not have any opinion about the question asked. With outcomes from majority of respondents agreeing to this statement, Deusidedit, (2014) who said that this leads to loss of data hence taking more time to be retrieved, is corroborated. This information is represented on table 9 below.

Table 9: Network Challenges

	Frequency	Percent
Disagreed	4	4.1
No Opinion	10	10.2
Agree	62	63.3
Strongly Agree	22	22.4
Total	98	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2020.

4.4.4 Viruses and data loss mostly affects the smooth running of Computerised accounting and financial reporting

The results in the table 10 indicate whether viruses and data loss mostly affect smooth running of computerised accounting and financial reporting. The results show that, 61 respondents representing 62.2 percent agreed that indeed viruses and data loss mostly affects the smooth running of computerised accounting and financial reporting, 25 respondent representing 25.5 percent strongly agreed to the fact that viruses and data loss affects the running of computerised accounting and financial reporting, 8 respondents representing 8.2 percent indicated they had no opinion whether viruses and data loss affect the smooth running of computerised accounting, 3 respondents representing 3.1 percent disagreed that, viruses and data loss affects smooth running of computerised accounting and the remaining respondent 1.0 percent strongly disagreed that, viruses and data loss affects smooth running of computerised accounting.

Table 10: Viruses and data loss mostly affects the smooth running of computerised accounting and financial reporting

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Disagree	3	3.1	3.1	4.1
No Opinion	8	8.2	8.2	12.2
Agree	61	62.2	62.2	74.5
Strongly Agree	25	25.5	25.5	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020

4.5 The Relationship Between Computerized Accounting and Financial Performance

4.5.1 Validating Staff Salary within EPSV time Frame

This part of the question was aimed to know whether computerised accounting has helped in validating staff salary within EPSV time frame. The results show that, 54 respondents indicating 55.1 percent agreed that, indeed computerised accounting has helped in validating staff salary within EPSV time frame, 22 respondents representing 22.4 percent slightly agreed that computerised accounting system help validate staff salary within EPSV time frame, 18 respondents indicating 18.4 percent strongly agreed that computerised accounting help in validating staff salary within the EPSV time frame and remaining 4 respondents representing 4.1 percent indicated that, computerised accounting has not helped in validating staff salary.

Table 11: Validating Staff Salary within EPSV time frame

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Highly agree	18	18.4	18.4	18.4
Agree	54	55.1	55.1	73.5
Slightly agree	22	22.4	22.4	95.9
Has not helped	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020

4.5.2 GIFMIS provide credible and transparent Information

This section was aimed to know whether GIFMIS provide credible and transparent Information. The results show that, 62 respondents representing 63.3 percent agreed to the fact that GIFMIS provide credible and transparent information, 32 respondents representing 32.7 percent strongly agreed to the fact GIFMIS provide credible and transparent information whereas the remaining 4

respondents representing 4.1 percent slightly agreed to the fact that, GIFMIS provide credible and transparent information.

Table 12: GIFMIS provide credible and transparent Information

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Highly agree	32	32.7	32.7	32.7
Agree	62	63.3	63.3	95.9
Slightly agree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020

4.5.3 Reliability of Information when using Computerised Accounting

This section aimed to know whether there is reliability of information when using computerised accounting. The result shows that, 96 respondents representing 98.0 percent indicated yes there is reliability of information when using computerised accounting while the remaining 2 respondents representing 2.0 percent indicated there is no reliability of information when using computerised accounting.

Table 13: Reliability of Information when using Computerised Accounting

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	96	98.0	98.0	98.0
No	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2020

4.5.4 Impact of Computerized Accounting System on Financial Performance

The use of computerized accounting system and its relation to performance has been affirmed by respondents with 61 percent of them conceding to the impact its usage has on financial performance in the public sector. They agree that it has a very significant influence in providing

quality financial reporting. 25 percent of the respondents believe that it has a impact on performance while a percentage of 14 are of the view that it has a low impact. Based on the majority agreeing to the significance, it is corroborated by a statement made by Akande (2016) who affirms the positive link between computerized accounting system and financial reporting performance.

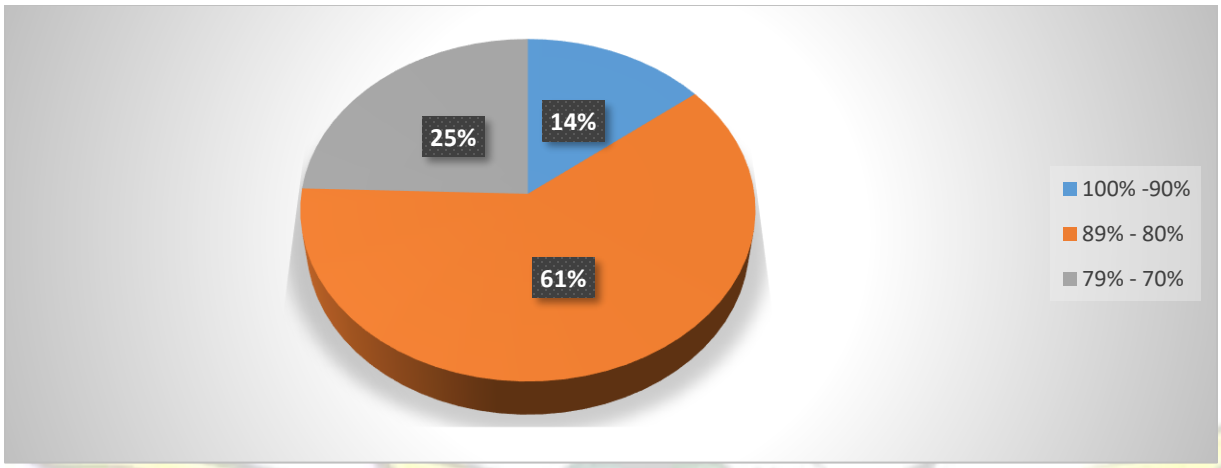


Figure 5: Rating Computerised Accounting leading to improvement of Performance
Source: Field Data, 2020

4.5.5 Relationship between the use of accounting software and performance on public sector financial information

This section seeks to provide statistical proof to the claims made by some authors in relation to the link computerized accounting system and financial performance have. This was done using the correlation method.

Table 14: Correlation test between the use of accounting software and performance on public sector financial information

		usage of CAS	computerized accounting system produces efficient financial reporting information
usage of CAS	Pearson Correlation	1	.235
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.104
	N	49	49
computerized accounting system produces efficient financial reporting information	Pearson Correlation	.235	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.104	
	N	49	49

Source: Field Data, 2020.

The correlation test run between usage of computerized accounting software and public sector financial performance has a correlation co-efficient of R=0.235. This indicates a positive connection between the use of computerized accounting software and public sector financial performance. This indicates an efficient financial system as performance is enhanced with the use of computerized accounting system. Akande (2016) agrees with the statement that there is a meaningful correlation between an organization's performance and the use of the computerized accounting system, adding that "we accept the main interpretation that there is a significant relationship between the computerized accounting system and the performance of entities."

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

This section of the study is the final part and it exhibits a concise information of outcomes of the research, deliberates the results, draws suppositions and pass some recommendations for the effectiveness of computerized accounting and financial reporting in the public sector – a case of Sekondi-Takoradi metropolis.

5.1 Summary of Findings

5.1.1 Types of computerized accounting and financial reporting usage public sector agencies

Upon conducting the research on the effectiveness of computerized accounting and financial reporting in the public sector using Sekondi-Takoradi as a case study, the following findings were gathered. Types of public sector computerized accounting system was to be determined as the first aim of this study was to find out from respondents, the types of computerized accounting systems that existed and those that were used in the public sector. From the data collected it was revealed that majority of the respondent represented by an 83.6 percent agreed that they were aware that various accounting software were developed for the purpose of financial reporting in the accounting space. It is realized that the most popular system used are the e-Payslip and GIFMIS with a combined response rate of 48.8 percent. E-SPV was the next high rated system used which saw a 27.9 percent rate while E-transactional tool and E-PV had outcomes of 7.1 percent and 8.2 percent respectively. Based on this finding, it can be drawn that all respondents one way or the other had knowledge of and used either or more than one of these systems mentioned.

5.1.2 Strengths of the Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting System

The Strengths of Computerized Accounting that were tested included but not limited to whether computerized accounting system does not facilitate better records keeping and data security, from the respondents it was revealed that 50 respondents representing 51 percent disagreed to the assertion, with the majority respondents of 51 percent it indicates that there is a positive impact of computerized accounting on record keeping and data security. Respondents further agreed with a 77.5 percent that computerized accounting saves time and cost with the adoption of electronic method of accounting and financial reporting. It was again appreciated that a total rate of 92 percent, chose the option yes, which implied that computerize accounting and financial reporting does bring accuracy in its reporting. The remaining 8 percent had a negative response to this. This corroborates the research for Alfred, (2014) and Deusidedit (2014). The survey had an 89.8 percent support that computerized accounting system has an important role in providing large storage of information and also its speedy response to commands. Hence information can be processed quickly and stored for further running of financial report. Additionally, on operation efficiency, it was observed afterwards that 82 respondents, which formed 83.7 percent said yes to that fact that the electronic system of accounting enhances and ensure efficiency.

5.1.3 Challenges in The Use of Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting

Challenges associated with computerized accounting usage included Studies by Ahmed (2018) and Deusidedit (2014) corroborates this paper's findings with a majority of 73.5 percent confirming installation cost being a major hindrance in implementing computerized accounting, while the rest provided negative responses to these findings. Survey on availability of power supply produced an 83.6 percent out of the total respondents agreeing that power failure poses a challenge to the smooth implementation of computerized accounting and financial reporting while

the remaining showed adverse responses. An 85.7 percent showed results of respondents who agreed that network instability will slow down work and also affects the enthusiasm of users as there's room for an untrusted system.

5.1.4 Relationship between the use of accounting software and performance

The Relationship Between Computerized Accounting and Financial Performance sought to determine the effectiveness associated with this paper on financial performance. A correlation test was done between usage and presenting efficient report. Hence, from the discoveries, it will be seen that various authors have confirmed the positive relationship between computerized accounting and public sector financial performance. It is therefore prudent to apply more systems to help government meet targets and also produce quality reporting.

5.2 Conclusion

The research concludes that computerized accounting software really has a favourable impact on the quality of accounting processes and subsequently the report it produces. Though the findings reveal that not all the software are known by most accounting staff, the ones they have knowledge on are in use notwithstanding the difficulties the system comes with. The Relationship Between Computerized Accounting and Financial Performance sought to determine the effectiveness associated with this paper on financial performance. A correlation test was done between usage and presenting efficient report. Hence, from the discoveries, it will be seen that various authors have confirmed the positive relationship between computerized accounting and public sector financial performance.

5.3 Recommendations

The research by the conclusion proposes the following recommendations based on what was gathered during the exercise.

1. There should be made available the equipment and other peripherals to government agencies without any technological set-up to be able to be on board the global technology age. Organization-specific application systems should be designed to suit each entity's mission and forms of financial operation.
2. Educational institutions should incorporate into their curriculum this software to have some level of familiarity before they get into the world of work. This would make room for no excuse of having no knowledge on any software.
3. Additionally, the public sector should continuously and periodically organise in service training for account staff on modern trends of accounting, this should be geared toward some of these software so as to save the public purse.

5.4 Recommendations for Further Studies

1. It is recommended that further studies should be done on the types of computerized accounting systems and their impact on performance
2. Find out how computerized accounting system can be applied in audit procedures

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APPENDIX

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STAFF

This Is A Questionnaire Seeking to find out the effectiveness of Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting in the Public Sector. It is purposely for academic reason and your cooperation would be of immense help.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following by ticking the appropriate box on the five-point scale. You are to assess the following on the scale of strongly disagree to strongly agree where; **1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=No Opinion, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.** You are allowed to fill in your opinion where applicable.

SECTION A:

INSTRUCTION: Please tick [√] the correct answers from the options provided below.

1. Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]

2. Marital status: Single [ ] Married [ ] Divorced [ ] Widowed [ ]

3. Age: 24-29[ ] 30-35[ ] 36-41 [ ] 41 and above [ ]

4. How long have you been a staff of this sector?

Under 5 years [ ] 6 – 10 years [ ] 11 – 15 years [ ] above 15 years [ ]

5. What is your Educational background?

HND [ ] First Degree [ ] Chartered Accountant [ ]

6. I am aware there a number of accounting software used in many organizations.

Strongly Disagree [ ]

Disagree [ ]

No Opinion [ ]

Agree [ ]

Strongly Agree [ ]

SECTION B:

Types of computerized accounting and financial reporting that have been used in the public sector of Ghana	***1***	***2***	***3***	***4***	***5***
7. I know of Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS)					
8. I have heard of Electronic-transactional tool					
9. I know of Electronic-Payment Voucher (E-pv)					
10. I have knowledge of Electronic-payslip					
11. I am aware of Electronic Salary Payment Voucher (ESPV)					

12. Which of these software have you used for the last few years?

.....

.....

.....

SECTION C:

Strengths of the Computerized Accounting and Financial reporting system	***1***	***2***	***3***	***4***	***5***
13. computerized accounting does not facilitate **Better Record keeping and data Security**					
14. Does computerized accounting enhance **Time and Cost Saving** of an entity?					
15. **Accuracy** is associated with an entity when computerized accounting and financial reporting is used					
16. computerized accounting improves **operational efficiency**					

SECTION D:

Challenges faced in the Use of Computerized Accounting and Financial Reporting	***1***	***2***	***3***	***4***	***5***
17. **Installation and running costs** could be a major hindrance to implementing computerized accounting.					
18. **Power Failure** is another serious challenge to the implementation of computerized accounting.					
19. **Network challenges** affect the implementation of computerized accounting and financial reporting.					
20. **Viruses and data loss** mostly affects the smooth running of computerized accounting and financial reporting					
21. **System hacks** are considered as part of risks of using computerized accounting system					

SECTION E:

The Relationship between Computerized Accounting System and Financial Performance	1	2	3	4	5
22. Are you able to validate staff salary within ESPV **time** frame					
23. Do you think that ESPV has helped in addressing the issue of **reliability** of the payroll?					
24. Does GIFMIS provide **credible** and **transparent** information?					
25. Computerized accounting system produces **efficient** financial reporting information					

26. What rate do you agree that computerized accounting leads to improved performance in financial reporting?

a) 100 - 90% [ ]

b) 89% - 80% [ ]

c) 79% - 70% [ ]

d) 69% - 60% [ ]

e) 59% - 50% [ ]

f) below 49% [ ]

Thank you