EFFECT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARACTERISTICS ON CORPORATE FINANCIAL REPORTING QUALITY IN NIGERIAN CONSUMER GOODS SECTORS

BY

BASSEY-JOHN UTIBEMFON DEBORAH

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A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES MOUNTAIN TOP UNIVERSITY, PRAYER CITY, IBAFO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

SUPERVISOR; Dr. TALEATU AKINWUMI

AUGUST,2022

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project report written under the supervision of Dr. Taleatu Akinwumi, is a product of my own research work. Information derived from various sources have been duly acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. This research project report has not been previously presented anywhere for the award of any degree or certificate.

BASSEY-JOHN UTIBEMFON DEBORAH DATE

CERTIFICATION

I certify that this work was carried out by Bassey-John Utibemfon Deborah at the Department of Accounting and Finance, Mountain Top University, Ogun State, Nigeria under my supervision.

(Signature and Date)

Dr. Taleatu Akinwumi

Supervisor

(Signature and Date)

Dr. Joshua O. Omokehinde

Head of Department

gn

DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to Almighty God for given me life, time, opportunities and sustaining me throughout the period of my studies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For him alone deserves to be praised for the gift of life and for how far He has brought me, am really grateful to God Almighty, without whose grace and mercy has been sufficient for me. This research work would not have been completed without the support of others, I wish to show gratitude to those whose efforts and constructive criticisms have enriched the work in many ways. I owe a special debt to my supervisor, Dr Taleatu Akinwumi whose excellent guidance has enabled me produce this work. May the good Lord bless you abundantly for the excellent counsel you accorded me in the course of this research.

To my parents and siblings for the support both financially and morally, your efforts and inputs though unquantifiable, I will forever be indebted to your mentorship, understanding, courage, motivation and guidance and love.

I want to say a very thanks to the Head of Accounting Department Dr. Omokehinde, J.O and other lecturers in Accounting & Finance Department for their constructive criticisms and work. I want to appreciate all my classmates who at one time or the other helped who has helped me to put this work together appropriately.

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ABSTRACT

The effect of audit committee characteristics on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector was investigated in this study. This study aims to assess whether the published annual financial statements of companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector pass the required quality as to guide users in their decision making. For the purpose of this study, secondary data were explored, while the source of the data include the financial statements (statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and non-financial information) of the sampled companies in the consumer goods sector in Nigeria for the period 2013 to 2020. This study adopts ex-post facto research design to investigate the relationship as well as the effects of the audit committee characteristics on the financial reporting quality of companies in the consumer goods sector in Nigeria. The findings from this study reveals that audit committee size has a positive and significant effect on quality of financial reporting among listed companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sector. Further result from this study indicate that audit committee independence, gender and meeting have no significant impact on quality of financial reporting among listed companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sector. Hence, the study concluded that audit committee size has a positive significant effect on quality of financial reporting among listed Nigerian companies in the consumer goods sector. The study recommended that more non-executive directors should be included in the audit committee to improve the independence of the committee. The study also recommends further that more females should be included in the audit committee to improve the audit gender diversity of the committee. The study also recommends that the committee should meet more frequently during the year.

Keywords: Audit committee size, Audit committee independence, Audit committee gender, Audit committee meeting, financial reporting quality.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

This study Investigates the concept of corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector. The financial report is prepared primarily for decision-making. It plays a dominant role in setting the framework of managerial decisions. Financial reporting quality is used universally. This concept refers to the accuracy with which financial reports of a firm reflects its operating performance and how useful they are in forecasting future cash flows. However, reliability and validity of the main objective of financial reporting is being questioned as a result of possible effect of earnings manipulations on the contents of information from such prepared statements. It is in view of the importance of the quality of financial reporting that the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and its audit arm International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), stated that audit services is an assurances service that the financial statements prepared by the managers is true and fair, and free from intentional and unintentional errors and misstatements, and conform to the relevant rules and regulations guiding the preparation and presentation of accounting information (IAASB, 2013). According to

IAASB, global financial stability is supported through high quality reporting, which could be achieved through high quality audits that can help foster trust in the quality of reporting. It also highlights the importance of audit quality and its relevance to all stakeholders in the financial reporting supply chain. The issue of quality financial reports is of tremendous concerns not only for the final users, but the entire economy as it affects economic decisions which may have significant impact. However, managerial opportunistic behaviors as well as unethical accounting practices are identified as major challenge to the quality of accounting earnings and financial reporting quality (Shen & Hsiang-Lin, 2007). According to their study, earnings manipulation and artificial transaction are responsible for the scandal and the collapse of many entities such as, Enron, WorldCom and Parmalat. Moreover, most of the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and Managers of the collapsed entities are found to be involved in earnings management through structuring and artificial transactions with related parties which affected earnings and financial reporting adversely (Shen and Hsiang-lin, 2007). Earnings management as a prime factor that impairs quality of earnings is regarded as unethical and includes using managerial judgments and dearth in regulation (Bello, 2010). In a study of financial reporting quality, Shehu (2012) opined that quality financial reporting could be achieved by full disclosure and higher level of transparency; and regarded corporate transparency as the widespread availability of relevant and reliable information about the periodic performance that is free from errors and misstatements. Therefore, the quality of financial reporting is to promote transparency and deliver high quality annual report through comprehensive disclosure (Shehu, 2012). As such regulators and financial statements analysts as well as auditors should ensure that financial statements information is true, fair and free from opportunistic and unethical judgments, which destroy the quality of financial reporting.

Financial reporting quality created a serious issue of major concern in the minds of many users of financial reports; thus, threatening the credibility as well as the quality of such financial reports. The Nigerian corporate environment has experienced many issues with regards to financial reporting credibility and quality which has resulted into accounting scandals and corporate failures. For examples the cases of Oceanic bank, Diamond bank, bank PHB, Cadbury Nigeria Plc., Intercontinental bank and African Petroleum readily comes to mind. These failures are mostly attributed to inadequate disclosure and transparency about financial reporting process of firms and manipulative accounting (Bhasin, 2016; Adeyemi &Amsalu, 2013). The major motivation for this study is the tendency for unethical and opportunistic behavior's due to the flexibilities within the accounting standards for preparers of accounting information to choose accounting methods, policies and estimates of their choice to reflect future anticipation of firms. However, they sometimes use this flexibility to distort financial information for self-serving purposes that do not show the firm's economic reality (Farouk, 2018). The outcome of the failure of these corporate bodies affects the stakeholder's negativity, most especially the shareholders.

One of the critical roles of auditors is that, they assure confidence to financial statements users about the reported information. Audit services have been critical to financial reporting quality since industrial revolution (that is, separation of ownership from management). However, the ability of auditors or audit firm to provide high audit quality capable of producing high financial reporting quality is attributed to some certain features of the audit committee characteristics which are, audit committee independence, audit committee size, audit committee expertise and audit committee meeting.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Financial reports are supposed to provide relevant information to the external parties of an organization. It is thus important that financial reports provide truthful and accurate financial information to enable shareholders and other interested parties to make decision wisely. The research problem statement identifies lack of accurate financial reporting quality in consumer goods sector. Lack of accuracy in financial reporting will lead shareholders and prospective investors to make wrong judgment about the organization. Incidentally, the heavy reliance placed on accounting numbers (as it measures the direction of business entity as well as decision base by different users of accounting information, Kothari, 2000; and Bello, 2010) has provided an incentive for managers to manipulate earnings to their own advantage. This manipulation that is not supposed to go unchecked by auditors has often led to the eventual collapse of firms of various sizes and even called to questions the integrity of auditors and characteristics of audit firms. Few studies as Sylvester and Famous (2016), Musa, Idris&Kwakipi (2019) and Godwin, Innocent and Shehu (2019) used data from emerging goods sector in Nigeria. There have not been a lot of studies on the impact of audit committee characteristics on financial reporting quality among listed consumer sectors in Nigeria. Ghazaleh and Garkaz (2015) The different between this study and the present study is geographical gap, this study was done using Tehran stock exchange while the current was carried out using Nigerian stock exchange. Hence gap like geographical gap, methodological gap (research design, sample size, sampling technique, method of statistics analysis and sector) and variable exclusion gap (dependent and independent variable) are to be filled in the literature because most of the studies in this area focused on usually few aspects of audit committee characteristics and will be useful to other researcher and audit practitioner.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to investigate the effect of audit committee characteristics on corporate financial reporting in Nigeria consumer goods sectors. However, the specific objectives are;

1. To determine the effect of audit committee size on financial reporting quality in Nigeria consumer goods sector.
2. To examine the impact between audit committee independence and corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector.
3. To evaluate the influence of audit committee gender on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector.
4. To investigate the link between audit committee meeting affects and corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sectors.

1.4 Research Questions

In order to achieve the above objectives, it is essential to formulate the following research question for the study:

1. What is the effect of audit committee size on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sectors?
2. Of what significance is the impact between audit committee independence financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector?
3. How does audit committee gender influence the corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector?

4. What links exists between audit committee meeting and corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

In line with the objectives of the study, the following hypotheses are formulated in null form;

$H0_1$: Audit committee size has no significant effect on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

$H0_2$: Audit committee independence has no significant impact on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigeria consumer goods sector.

$H0_3$: Audit committee gender has no significant influence on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

$H0_4$: Audit committee meeting has no significant link with corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the effects of audit committee characteristics on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Financial reporting quality is absolute discretionary accruals of the listed companies in the consumer goods sector in Nigeria during the period covered by the study. However, audit firm characteristics in the study are restricted to audit committee independence, audit committee size, audit committee gender, audit committee meeting. Only secondary data is used in the study.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

This study only considers four audit committee characteristics, out of the numerous audit committee characteristics. This research is restricted to only secondary data, gotten from internet and journal. Only consumer goods sector is considered in this study, and out of the 35 listed companies in the consumer goods sector only few to nothing have financial report from 2012 in the Nigerian stock exchange (NSE) websites. That were in existence over the selected sample periods and whose published yearly reports and financial reports and other necessary information were available and accessible over the time frame of the study.

1.8 Significances of the Study

The study is significant as it focused on issues related to corporate financial reporting quality that are threatening the survival of audit firms of all sizes, on one hand and the going concern of corporate entities on the other hand. Therefore, the study is of importance in ensuring the credibility of financial statement information not only for the purpose of pointing the tendencies of corporate scandals, but most importantly the survival of the accounting and audit profession and the development of healthy financial and capital market. The study is therefore of immense value to auditors, regulators, managers, professional accounting bodies, existing and potential shareholders and researchers.

Specifically, this study is also of utmost consideration to government, shareholders, creditors, employees, management, and general public. on the hand, Shareholders(owners) are concerned in the profitability, strength and financial position of the company while the workers are interested in their employment security through the continued and success of their employers.

Government needs accounting information to enable it formulated fiscal policies.

Management are those people who people who manage the affairs of the business for the owners.

Creditors are those who want to know the ability of the business to pay for the goods supplied to the business.

General public are people who are interested in the financial statement or report of the companies to know which company is more suitable to invest in and aids in researches.

The findings from the study could educate both existing and potential shareholders of companies in consumer goods sector in Nigeria on the audit committed characteristics that improve the quality of financial reporting. The study is also of great importance to researchers, as it provides empirical evidence on the relationships between audit committee characteristics and the financial reporting quality from listed companies in the consumer goods sectors in Nigeria.

1.9 Definition of Terms

Audit committee characteristics: These are the features of the audit committee that may exert significance effect on the quality of financial reports. They include audit committee independence, audit committee meeting, audit committee size and audit committee expertise.

Audit committee gender: Audit committee gender refers to the presence of female members to male members in the audit committee.

Audit committee independence: This consist of the total number of nonexecutive director member on the committee.

Audit committee meeting: Audit committee meeting is intended to ensure that the performance of the audit committee meets the desired goal.

Audit committee size: It is defined as the magnitude of the committee which is the sum of memberships of the group chosen by the governing bodies.

Financial reporting quality: This is depicted by firm years absolute discretionary accruals.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Preamble

This chapter covers conceptual, theoretical and empirical reviews. Concepts underpinning the study were critically examined to arrive at suitable variables for the study.

Contending theories were also reviewed to provide a suitable theoretical framework for the study. Previous empirical studies were also reviewed to arrive at gaps in literature and provide basis for discussing the outcome of this study.

2.1 Conceptual Review

Concepts reviewed includes financial reporting quality, audit committee independence, audit committee size, audit committee expertise and audit committee meeting.

2.1.1 Financial Reporting Quality

Financial reporting quality is defined as the faithfulness of the information conveyed by the financial reporting process (Martinez Ferrero, 2015). The word faithfulness is characterized by relevance, reliability, transparency and clarity (Jonas & Blanchet, 2000). Relevant information means that the financial statement should contain enough information useful to different users of the financial statements in assisting their decision-making process and that the information is provided in a timely fashion when they are still “news”. Reliability is what assures that the information is reasonably free from error or bias and that it truly represents what it is intended to represent. Information in a financial report will be reliable to the extent that users can depend on it to judge the economic conditions or events that it purports to represent (Shehu, 2013). Transparency means that the figures truly reflect the economic activities of the enterprise during the period. Clarity is focused on how the figures are presented. The format and language of presentation is also very important. Financial reporting should therefore provide information to help investors, creditors, and other users to project the amounts and timing of future cash flows to the enterprise (Waweru & Riro, 2013).

2.1.2 Audit Committee

Smii (2016) describes audit committee as one of the controllable mechanisms put in place to ensure the relevance and consistency of the accounting policies adopted for the preparation of the financial statements for the organizations. The researcher adds that the presence of audit committee within the firm will help improve the transparency of the information disclosure and limit the degree of the manager’s involvement in the process of the management result. Ancella (2011) sees audit committee as a committee established by the board of commissioners in order to assist the board of commissioners in carrying out their duties and functions. The researcher adds that the objective of the audit committee formation in the corporate governance structure is to increase the company’s accountability and transparency to its stakeholders by providing a more relevant and reliable financial information. Ilaboya (2012) defines audit committee as the governance body that is charge with oversight of the organization’s audit and control function. The researcher adds that it is a committee of the board of directors whose sole aim typically focuses on aspects of financial reporting on the entity’s processes to manage business and financial risk, and for compliance with significant applicable legal, ethical and regulatory requirements.

2.1.3 Audit Committee Characteristics

Committees such as the Audit committee are set up to achieve quality financial reporting by enriching financial practices within the company thereby increase earnings (Moses, Ofurum & Egbe, 2016; Ramsay, 2001). Audit committee is a statutorily corporate governance mechanism introduced to curb financial reporting manipulation therefore enhanced the quality of financial reports. However, the effectiveness of the audit committee is dependent on its attributes (Ormin, Tuta &Shadrach, 2015). The effectiveness of audit committees in overseeing the financial reporting process is found to be largely determined by several audit committee characteristics, including audit committee independence, financial and accounting expertise (Klein 2002; Bronson 2009; Carcello & Neal 2003; Abbott, Parker and Peters 2004; Feng 2014). Audit committee as a committee of the board of directors which assumes some of the board's responsibilities is a statutory committee vested with the responsibility of performing oversight function on the financial reporting process of companies with a view to ensure financial reporting quality. (Menon & Williams, 1996; Ormin, Tuta & Shadrach, 2015) (Ormin, Tuta & Shadrach, 2015) state that "Audit committee" activity level also known as audit committee diligence has two components namely audit committee meeting frequency and attendance at meetings. Audit committee meeting frequency is concern with the number of meetings held by the committee during the year. Audit committee performance is associated with its meeting frequency. These were measures used to determine Audit committee characteristics. Previous works done by Xie, Davidson & Dadalt (2003) and Vefeas (2005) as cited by Ormin, Tuta & Shadrach, (2015) show that audit committees which meet more frequently are associated with not only lower discretionary accruals but there is also a likelihood of reporting smaller earnings increase by the firms. In the case of financial reporting restatements reporting restatements, Abbott et al. (2004) found that higher levels of audit committee activity proxy by the committee holding a minimum of four meetings in a year is positively and significantly associated with lower incidence (Ormin, Tuta & Shadrach, 2015).

2.1.4 Audit Committee Independence

Audit committee independence is the composition of more non-executive directors than executive directors in the audit committee. Existence of the audit committee independence is the true and fair picture of the firm's commitment for better corporate governance practices. The notion that audits committee independence is important for its effectiveness draws from the widely accepted notion that independent directors are more likely to be effective monitors of management actions. According to Mangena and Pike (2015), independent audit committees are more likely to be free from management influence. Hence, they will ensure the quality and credibility of the reporting process, thus reducing information asymmetry. The UK Code (2010) recommends that an audit committee should be comprised of at least three (or in the case of smaller companies, two) members, who should all be independent non-executive directors. The Bouton report (2002) recommends that the committee should be composed of independent directors (two-thirds of the audit committee consist of independent members who can understand the operations and financial statements of the firm). Enofe, Mgbame, Okunrobo and Izon (2012) describe auditor's independence as a metal state of objectivity and lack of bias. The researchers also state that public faith in the reliability of a corporation's financial statements is dependent on the public perception of the outside auditor as an independent professional. Thus, the level of auditor's independence is joint outcome of the policies and procedures implemented by the audit firm and the state of mind of the individuals involved in the particular audit assignment (Tepalagul & Lin, 2014). Harrison (2015) defines audit independence as the independence of the auditor in executing his duties. It is characterized by integrity and an objective approach to the audit process. The concept requires the auditor to carry out his or her work freely and in an objective manner. Okolie and Izedonmi (2014) see audit Independence as an auditor's unbiased mental attitude in making decisions throughout the audit and financial reporting. They describe independence as the quality of being free from influence, persuasion or bias because in the absence of independence, the value of the audit service will be greatly impaired. If an auditor lacks independence, it will increase the possibility of being perceived as not being objective in his opinion or report. This means that the auditor will not likely report a discovered breach.

2.1.5 Audit Committee Size

In order to perform their role effectively, audit committees should have adequate resources and authority to discharge their increasing responsibilities. Bédard, Chtourou and Courteau (2014) argue that the larger the audit committee, the more likely it is to uncover and resolve potential problems in the financial reporting process, because it is likely to provide the necessary strength and diversity of views and expertise to ensure effective monitoring. This suggests that audit committee size is an integral factor for firms in delivering meaningful corporate reporting (Amahalu, Okeke & Obi, 2017). In addition, larger audit committees are also likely to suffer from process losses and diffusion of responsibility (Karamanou & Vafeas, 2015). The Smith Report (2003) recommends a minimum of three non-executive directors. According to SEC Code of Corporate Governance (2011), the audit committee should consist of not less than three directors of which independent directors should Shave the majority, and the committee is chaired by independent non-executive director.

2.1.6 Audit Committee Meetings:

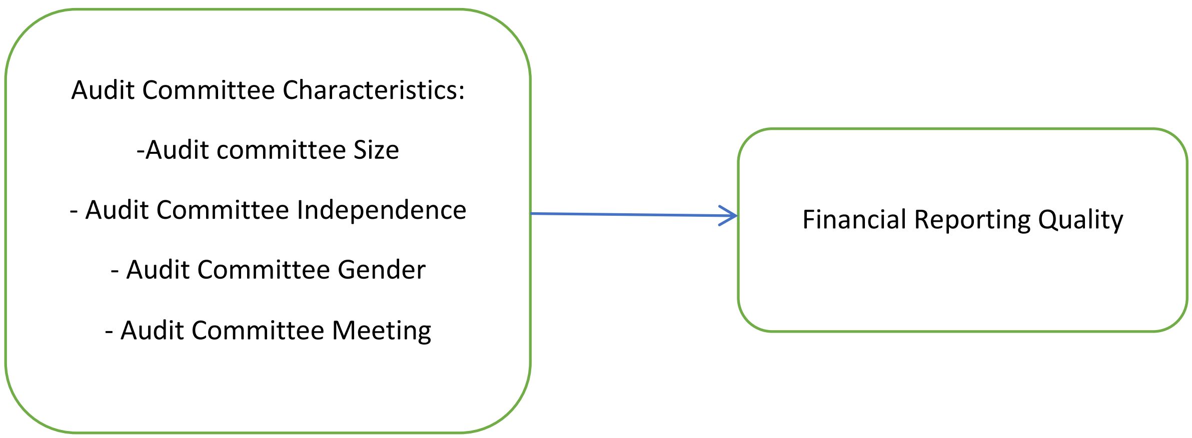
The meetings of the audit committee for a public and private organization are generally timed to match the regulatory reporting and audit cycle. Typically, audit committees have met three or four times a year (Wei Huang, Thiruvadi 2010; & Matawee, 2013). However, there is a view emerging that the number of meetings and their duration should vary depending on the range and complexity of the committee's responsibilities. For audit committees to undertake their activities properly, it is suggested that the committee may need to meet at least eight times a year to ensure adequate oversight of the organization's assurance processes (Hamdan, Mushtaha & Al-Sartaw, 2013). The audit committee meeting provides an avenue for the committee members and auditor to discuss issues pertaining to the financial statements. The auditor would not only evaluate the compliance of the financial statements with the accounting standards but also express judgement about the firm's accounting choice of principles, disclosures and estimates. This discussion would make directors more aware of issues that might require special attentions and eventually improve the quality of the financial reports (Salleh, Stewart, Mason, 2006).

2.1.7 Audit committee gender

Sudarman and Hidayat (2019) examined the impact of audit committee gender on the earnings management of manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesian Stock Exchange from 2013-2017. The study found among other things that audit committee gender has a negative significant impact on earnings management of manufacturing firms listed on the Indonesian Stock Exchange. The study clarifies that women in the audit committee are extra cautious and let for discretion in terms of financial reporting. The study concluded that females in the audit committee alleviate earnings management. However, the study was conducted outside Nigeria, had it been the study was conducted in Nigeria the outcome might differ.

However, the conceptual framework for this study is presented in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework Linking Audit Committee Characteristics with Financial Reporting Quality



Source: Researcher's Design (2022)

2.2 Theoretical Review

Four theories were reviewed for this study. They are agency theory, policeman theory, the lending credibility theory and stewardship theory.

2.2.1. Agency theory

Agency theory is credited to Jensen & Meckling (1976) this theory stipulates that separating ownership and control can make information asymmetry. Hence, the directors and managers of the companies can use the opportunity to exploit the shareholders and cause delay in financial reporting useful for shareholders' assessment of managerial performance who may delay the report for their own economic benefits There should be lack of delay or shorter timing of audit report released. Scott (1997) illustrated the existence of an agency relationship as a relationship arising from a contract established between the principal who use agents to perform services of interest to the principal in the event of separation of ownership and control of the company. Between the internal and external parties there are differences that can lead to abuse of the financial statements (Jensen & Meckling, 1976). In the model agency designed a system that involves both parties that the relationship management (agents) and owners (principal). Agency Theory assumptions support the timelines of audited financial reports and importance of timeliness of financial reporting to public and users of financial statements. Agency theory explain the relationship that exist between shareholders(owners) and Board of Directors who run the company affairs on behalf of owners (shareholders) and the importance of the timelines of audited financial reports for purpose of audit standards compliance and regulatory adherence. The agency relationship is seen as a contract under which one or to reinforce the trust. The agency theory is a useful economic theory of accountability which helps to explain the development of audit quality in general.

2.2.2 Stewardship Theory

Stewardship theory has its roots from psychology and sociology and it stresses on the role of top management being as stewards, integrating their goals as part of the organization as opposed to the agency theory perspective (Argyris & Schon, 1974). The stewardship perspective suggests that stewards are satisfied and motivated when organizational success is attained. It is based on a model of man where a steward perceives greater utility in cooperative, pro-organizational behavior than in self-serving behavior; the theory assumes a strong relationship between organizational success and a principal's satisfaction. Hence, a steward overcomes the trade-off by believing that working towards organizational, collective ends meet personal needs as well (Penman, 2007). The theory recognizes the importance of structures that empower the steward and offers maximum autonomy built on trust (Donaldson & Davis, 1991). Stewardship theory postulates that a steward protects and maximizes shareholder wealth through firm performance because by doing so, the steward's utility functions are maximized. The steward derives greater utility from satisfying organizational goals than through self-serving behavior. The theory recognizes the essentials of structures that empower the steward, offering maximizing autonomy built upon trust. The Minimizes the cost of mechanisms aimed at monitoring and controlling behaviors. In order to protect their reputations as decision makers in organizations, executives and directors are inclined to operate the firm to maximize financial performance as well as shareholders‟ profits. In this sense, it is believed that the firm's performance can directly impact perceptions of their individual performance. Abdullah and Valentine (2009) contend that executives and directors are also managing their careers in order to be seen as effective stewards of their organization. The theory also holds that managers do have similar interests to the corporation, in that the careers of each are linked to the attainment of organizational objectives, and their reputations are interwoven with the firm's performance and shareholder returns (Mattor & Cheng, 2015). Tricker (1984) described accountability in stewardship theory as the means by which those who manage and oversee the affairs of the company are held to account for their stewardship of corporate assets. The International Accounting and Standards Board (IASB) and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) are currently developing a common conceptual framework which reflects financial statements as a sign of stewardship of the agents to the principals. The previous IASB Framework issued in 1989 referred to stewardship as follows: Financial statements, in addition to providing information that is useful in making economic decisions, show the results of the stewardship of management, or the accountability of management for the resources entrusted to it. Those users who wish to assess the stewardship or accountability of management do so in order that they make economic decisions; these decisions may include, for example, whether to hold or sell their investment in the entity or whether to reappoint or replace the management (IASB, 1989). Accountability refers directly to the fact that, not only do management have the responsibility to use the assets entrusted to them for the benefit of shareholders, they also have the overriding obligation to provide those shareholders with an account of what it has done with those assets. This means that management are accountable to the entity's capital providers for the custody and safekeeping of the entity's economic resources and for their efficient and profitable use, including protecting them from unfavorable economic effects such as inflation and technological changes. Management are also responsible for ensuring compliance with laws, regulations and contractual provisions. Financial statements therefore provide a key condition for the existence of a stewardship objective. Shareholders look to financial reporting to access information relating to management's stewardship of the business. Perhaps it is for this reason that stewardship is characterized as a demand for information on management's safe custody of the assets, and compliance with laws and regulations. The stress is on whether management have behaved properly and not for example, unjustly enriched themselves at the company's expense. The audit committee is therefore at the center of ensuring that proper financial policies and controls are put in place to ensure the stewards achieve both owner's objectives and their stewardship objective as well. The committee must have the ability to oversee management behavior to ensure that it is aligned to the owners‟ objectives, management are devising strategies aimed at making the best use of assets and no misappropriation of the company assets takes place. This is however confirmed by the independent report of the external audit as detailed in his opinion on financial statements. Stewardship theory holds that certain managers possess innate goodness, pursuing the maximal benefit to shareholders as a primary objective and valuing their commitments toward the organization (Chiang, Li-Jen & Shiao, 2015). In organizations, these managers play the roles of stewards, safeguarding the benefits of the corporation. Manager behavior is driven by social perceptions and self-achievement. Thus, the self-interests of managers and benefits to the company and all company personnel are mutually linked, and no conflicts arise (Al Mamun, Yasser & Rahman, 2013). The perspectives of these scholars are biased toward stewardship theory, maintaining that managers are influenced by self-actualization and morals, often electing to do things that benefit the company and avoiding poor social behaviors, even if doing so reduces the short-term benefits to corporate stakeholders. Thus, managers are not affected by self-interests when they promote corporate policies. According to this theoretical perspective, managers avoid behaviors that harm the company, demonstrating self-restraint and not using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to conceal earnings manipulations. This reduces the degree of earnings management by managers, resulting in high-quality financial reports (Chiang, Li-Jen & Shiao, 2015). Lennard (2007) noted that stewardship contributes an important dimension to financial reporting, which should be reflected by specific acknowledgement in the objectives of financial reporting. Moreover, stewardship should not be characterized simply as information to assist an assessment of the competence and integrity of „stewards‟ (i.e., management, directors) but as the provision of information that provides a foundation for a constructive dialogue between management and shareholders. Europe (2007) focused on stewardship/accountability as an objective of financial reporting. The findings revealed that stewardship/accountability has implications for financial reporting. The author further suggested that shareholders look to financial reporting to access information relating to management's stewardship of the business. Chiang, Li-Jen and Shiao (2015) adopted the stewardship theory in explaining the relationship between financial reports quality and corporate social responsibility.

O'Connell (2007) also analyzed the reflections on stewardship reporting. Few studies have used theme stewardship theory in analyzing the effects of audit committee characteristics on the quality of financial reporting hence this study seek to address this theoretical research gaps. This theory is relevant to the study since the audit committee ensures that proper financial policies and controls are put in place to ensure the stewards achieve both owner's objectives and their stewardship objective as well. The committee must have the ability to oversee management behavior to ensure that it is aligned to the owners‟ objectives, management are devising strategies aimed at making the best use of assets and no misreporting of financial transactions takes place. Therefore, the theory helps in explaining the relationship between audit committees and quality of financial reporting in that if the audit committee fails to put the steward (management) at check, self-interests will overrun organization interests hence fraudulent financial reporting.

2.2.3 The Policeman Theory

The policeman theory claims that the audit and process is responsible for searching, discovering and preventing fraud. This was the case in the early 20th century. However, more recently the main focus of this process has been to provide reasonable assurance and verify the truth and fairness of the financial statements. The detection of fraud is, however, still a hot topic in the debate on the auditor's responsibilities, and typically after events where financial statement frauds have been revealed, the pressure increases on increasing the responsibilities of auditors in detecting fraud and manipulation of financial information. This was the most widely held theory on auditing until the 1940s (Hayes, Schilder, Dassen & Wallage, 1999). Up until the 1940s it was widely held that an auditor's job was to focus on arithmetical accuracy and on prevention and detection of fraud. However, from the 1940s until the turn of the century there was a shift of auditing to mean verification of truth and fairness of the financial statements. Recent financial statement frauds such as those at Societe Generale, Satyam, Ahold, Enron have resulted in careful reconsideration of this theory. There now is an ongoing public debate on the auditor's responsibility for detection and disclosure of fraud returning us to the basic public perceptions on which this theory derives. According to this theory, the audit committees should put in place mechanisms to detect fraud before it happens just like a policeman tries to prevent crime from happening. In terms of quality of financial reporting, audit committee is viewed to perform the duty synonymous to that performed by the policemen such as to check and detect any instances of frauds in the organizations. Therefore, audit committee that are independent, diversified, financially competent and have quality meetings is perceived to exercise their mandate more effectively. For instance, Elder (2009) stated that the most common way for users to obtain reliable information (reducing the information risk) is to have an independent audit committee. Similarly, DeZoort, Hermanson, Archambeult& Reed (2002) asserted that an effective audit committee could protect stakeholders‟ interests by ensuring reliable financial reporting, effective internal control, and high-quality risk management. Turley and Zaman (2004) also pointed out that understanding the impact of audit committees as policemen could assist in formulating appropriate expectations about the audit committee function, based on which the effectiveness of audit committees could then be assessed. Salehi, Rostami and Mogadam (2010) also adopted policeman theory in explaining the usefulness of accounting information system in emerging economy. This study will adopt the policemen theory in assessing the role of audit committees on quality of financial reporting among industrial goods sectors in Nigeria. As mentioned earlier policeman theory claims that the audit and assurance process is responsible for searching, discovering and preventing fraud, therefore audit committees acting as organization policeman go a long way in ensuring quality financial reporting.

2.2.4 Lending Credibility Theory

The lending credibility theory suggests that the primary function of the audit process is to add credibility to the financial statements. Audited financial statements are seen to have elements that increase the financial statement users‟ confidence in the figures presented by the management. The users‟ are perceived to gain benefits from the increased credibility and these benefits are typically considered to be that the quality of investment decisions improve when they are based on quality and reliable information (Hayes et al., 1999). Audited financial statements are used by management to enhance the stakeholders‟ faith in management's stewardship. If stakeholders such as stockholders, government, or creditors have to make their judgments based on the information they receive, they must have faith that this is a fair representation of the economic value and performances of the organization. The audit process reduces information asymmetry whereby management knows more than the stakeholders. However, Porter (1990) concludes, that

"Audited information does not form the primary basis for investors" investment decisions". On the other hand, it is often asserted that financial statements have a function of confirming a message that was previously issued (Hayes et al., 1999). From the assertions of this theory, it is the duty of the audit committee to ensure that the final product of the financial reporting cycle will be beneficial in terms of quality to interested parties that may use them for decision making. As much as possible, the committee must ensure that their efforts are geared towards lending credibility to the financial statements. High-quality financial reporting by firms is important for both internal and external evaluation of credibility of the business performance (Bushman & Smith, 2001). For internal decision-making, prior research shows that high-quality financial information helps business managers identify good projects and increase investment efficiency (Chen, Hope, Li, & Wang, 2011). For external purposes, disclosure of financial information allows providers of financial resources to better assess the firm's investment opportunities and monitor managerial actions (McNichols & Stubben, 2008). In other words, high-quality financial reporting should ease external financing constraints by reducing the adverse selection or moral hazard costs associated with information asymmetry. The proponents of lending credibility theory therefore argue that the need for credibility in the financial reporting should act as a motivating factor for any organization an effective audit committee. Independent, diversified and competent audit committee will ensure quality is upheld in financial reporting of non-commercial state corporations in Kenya. Kabiru and Rufai (2014) found that audit quality is often related to the competence and independence of audit committees as being able to detect material misstatements and being prepared to issue appropriate audit reports to reflect their findings. The theory fits in the study by ensuring that financial reporting under the audit committees' scrutiny is as accurate as possible and this adds credence to the financial statements. This gives confidence to all the stakeholders on the performance of the organization as represented in the financial reports.

2.3 Empirical Review

Umobong and Ibanichuka (2017) examined the extent of relationship between audit committee size and financial reporting quality. The study period is 2011 to 2014. The sample size is fifty (50) percent of the size of food and beverage firms in Nigeria Stock Exchange. The study used modified Jones model (1991) to test level of financial reporting quality and OLS was used to analyses the data. Finding shows that audit committee size has a negative but statistically significant effect on financial reporting quality. Further finding suggests that increase in the variable (size) exert a declining influence on financial reporting quality. However, the timing differences between these studies is a fundamental one since the outcome of the studies in 2017 cannot be said to be valid in the current period given changes in the economy. Also, the present study examines a segment of listed companies in consumer goods sector. The gap in this study is methodological gap, OLS was used to analyze the data while in the present study descriptive statistics (mean & standard deviation) while inferential statistics include correlations and logistics analyze. Another gap in this study is variable exclusion gap, that is the gap in the independent variables which are firm size, number of attendances at meetings, audit committee tenure, audit committee size and firm age while the variables in the current study are audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting.Also, Ame and Onu (2018) evaluated audit committee characteristics and reporting quality in food and beverage firms in Nigeria. The study adopts experimental research design. The population of the study is seventeen (17) listed firms in food and beverage firms. Eight (8) firms were selected as the sample size and the study period is 2012 to 2017. The study used discretionary accruals model by Kothari et al. (2005) to measure the level of earnings quality and result was further regress using fixed effect regression model. The result of the study shows that audit committee frequency of meeting has an insignificant and negative relationship on earnings quality. This is considered robust and done within the boundaries of the current study in terms of the sector and economy. However, the present study differs with respect to variable exclusion gaps. Furthermore, the work of Musa, Oluntoba and Awolabi (2014) examined audit committee financial expertise on the quality of financial reporting in Nigerian banks. The study has seven (7) banks in Nigeria as it sampled size. It deploys multivariate regression analysis. The study finds audit committee financial expertise to have a positive and significant effect on the quality of financial reporting. This study was done in banks in the year 2014 while the current investigation will be done on consumer goods companies to the period 2019 which gives rise to the methodological gap which is sectorial peculiarities and timing differences. In addition, Salawu, Okpanachi, Yayaha and Dikki (2017) examined audit committee independence on financial reporting quality of listed consumer goods in Nigeria from 2006 to

2016. The study uses longitudinal panel research design and the population of the study is twenty-three (23) firms under consumer goods. The study employs census sampling technique since the population is not much Secondary sources of data collection were employed from the annual reports of the sampled firms. The study uses multiple regressions. The result of finding shows that audit committee independence has insignificant effect on audit quality of the sampled firms. This study is a good one, it did an in-depth statistical analysis but fail to carry out the Breusch and pagan lagrangian multiplier tests as the Hausman specification test shows p –value to be insignificant at which means random effect model is preferred, it is expected from the analysis that the researchers do a comparison test between random effect model and the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) model.

Ghazaleh and Garkaz (2015) examined the relationship between the presence of women on the boards of directors of listed companies in Tehran Stock Exchange using and earnings management with discretionary accruals index. The required information was extracted from 90 accepted firms in Tehran Stock Exchange using Cochran sampling method for 7-years period (2006-2012). The findings of the study indicated that the presence of female directors in board is significantly and negatively associated with earnings management. It was made clear that firms with women on their boards have less use of discretionary accruals for earning management. Srinidhi, Gul and Tsui (2011) conducted a study on US firms over the years 2001-2007 and use accruals quality (extended Dechow & Dichev model as proposed by McNichols (2002) and target beating as proxies for reporting quality. All the results showed that female presence on the board is associated with both higher accruals quality and less propensity to manage earnings to beat benchmarks. They concluded that firms with women on the board have higher earnings quality. The different between this study and the present study is geographical gap, this study was done using Tehran stock exchange while the current was carried out using Nigerian stock exchange.

Iliya, Salisu and Abbah (2020) conducted a study with the objective of examining the effect of audit committee characteristics on audit quality of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The data for this study were obtained from audited annual reports and accounts of sampled manufacturing firms for the period of 2009- 2018. The population of the study is the twenty-two (22) listed manufacturing firms on the floor of the stock exchange. Binary logistics regression was used to analyzed the data using stat 14.0. The study found out that audit committee accounting expertise, firm size and firm leverage have no significant on audit quality. The study concluded and recommended thar accounting experts should be considered necessary in the committee in order to ensure the committee have carried out their duties. The different between this study and the current study is methodological gap which include sample size which is from 2009-2018,for 22 companies in manufacturing goods sector or firms and variable exclusion gap different in dependent variable, the dependent variable for this study is audit quality and different in independent variable which is audit committee accounting expertise while the present study sample size is from 2012 -2019 for 13 companies in consumer goods sector and the dependent variable in the current study is financial reporting quality and the independent variables are: audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender, audit committee meeting.

Ogoun, Edoumiekumo and Nkak (2020). This study investigated the ex-post facto design in which secondary data were collected from the NSE factbook and financial reports published by selected quoted companies covering eight (8) years from (2012- 2019). Descriptive statistics, Ordinary Least Square (OLS), and Hausman test were adopted for the data analysis. From the analytical output, it was observed that audit committee taken as a whole, does not necessarily facilitate speed in the release of audit certified annual financials of firms in this sector. However, decomposing the analysis via a variable silos model reveals that the number of financial experts on the committee and non-executive directors contributes considerably to ensuring the timeliness of audit certified annual financial returns. Therefore, it can be inferred that the compositional characteristics of the audit committee has a bearing on ARL. Following, it is recommended that all members of the audit committee, should be non-executive directors with financial expertise. Furthermore, the framers of the Nigerian Corporate Governance Code should modify the compositional requirements of audit committee to allow for only non-executive directors, knowledgeable in accounting. By virtue of listed firms being public entities, regulators should be allowed via enabling legislation to second or appoint experts to boards whose membership lacks the financial expertise to meet the modified audit committee compositional template. The different between this study and the previous study is variable exclusion gap this study dependent variable is audit report lag while the current study dependent is financial reporting quality and the independent variables in the current study is audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting.

Susan, Winrose and Joel (2017) The study was guided by the agency theory. Explanatory research design was used. A survey of all firms was done and only 46 firms were extracted because they were operating in NSE at the year 2014. This study utilized secondary data which was collected by use of a document analysis guide. Data collected was analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. The findings indicated that audit committee size has a positive and significant effect on the quality of financial reporting. However, findings showed that audit committee independence had a negative and significant effect on the quality of financial reporting. The findings indicated that increase in audit committee size increases quality of financial reporting. This implies that an increase in the audit committee size enables the members to distribute the workload and dedicate more time and resources in monitoring.

Aminal, Niki, Djoko&Erna (2018) This study examined the effect of board characteristics on earnings quality moderated by audit quality on companies with concentrated ownership. Board, in this study, referred to an audit committee that assists the board of commissioners to monitor the earnings report. Moderating regression analysis was used in this study to examine the impact of ownership concentration on the earnings quality monitoring model. The examination was conducted on sub-samples based on the level of ownership concentrations, i.e., 10, 20, 50, 80, 90 %. This study found four characteristics of the audit committee that influence the earnings quality. Three of them (independence, expertise and size) had positive effects; the other one (meeting) gave negative effect on earnings quality. Audit quality moderates the effect of audit committee characteristics on earnings quality, except for expertise (accounting and finance). The impact of the ownership concentration level increases as the concentration escalated from 10 to 80 %, but then weakened at 90 % level. The study revealed the debilitating limits of the concentration monitoring. The different between this study and the current study is Variable exclusion in dependent and independent variables. The dependent variable of this study is earning quality while the current study dependent variable is financial reporting quality and the independent variable of this study is audit committee (size, expertise, meeting and independence) while for the current study the independent variables are audit committee(size, meeting, independence, gender, meeting) the different in the independent variable is audit committee expertise from this study while audit committee gender is for this current study.

Munir, Umar&isah (2020) his paper examines the effect of monitoring characteristics on earnings quality of listed conglomerate firms in Nigeria for the period of ten years from 2010-2019. As at 31st December, 2019, there were six (6) listed conglomerate firms in Nigeria and all were selected to serve as the sample using census approach. Three variables independent directors, audit committee and institutional ownership were used to represent monitoring characteristics. The Francis et al (2005) model was used as measure of earnings quality. Multiple panel regression was used to test the model of the study using Ordinary Least Square OLS regression and data was collected from the annual reports and accounts of the sampled firms. The findings of the paper revealed that two of the monitoring characteristics variables (IND and INST) positively and significantly affect earnings quality while AC has a significant but negative effect on earnings quality of listed conglomerate firms in Nigeria. It is therefore recommended that, board of directors of listed conglomerate firms should compose more of independent directors as it was found to have a significant positive influence on earnings quality, also their ownership structure should comprise more institutional shareholders as it has been found to improve earnings quality positively. The different between this study and the present study are the methodology gap and variable exclusion gap. Methodology gap include different in method of analyses which is Francis model and sector which is listed conglomerate firms in Nigeria while the Variable exclusion is a gap in the dependent variable this study used earning quality while in the current study method used discretionary accrual (DACC) using modified jones model and the independent variable in the current study is the financial reporting quality.

Ohaka, J&Tony-Oblosa, R.T(2020) This study examined the effect of audit diversity earnings neutrality of financial reporting of quoted consumer goods manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Thirteen consumer goods manufacturing firms were selected from the population since they met the requirements for being chosen. Multi-method quantitative research design was used. Panel data were collected from financial reports of the firms. Earnings neutrality was used as dependent variable while gender diversity, age diversity, board experience diversity and professional membership diversity was used as independent variables. The study employed both descriptive and inferential statistics in executing univariate, bivariate and multivariate analyses. Findings of the study shows that gender diversity is negatively related to discretionary accruals but positively relating with earnings neutrality, age diversity has negative relationship with earnings neutrality. Board experience diversity versus earnings neutrality yielded negative and significant relationship under multivariate analysis but bivariate analysis of the same test produced insignificant negative relationship. Professional membership diversity is positively but insignificantly related with earnings neutrality. The study concludes that gender diversity and board experience diversity are significant determinants of earnings neutrality among listed consumer-goods manufacturing firms in Nigeria. We recommend that board recruiters and strategists should compose audit committees that seek to possess professional opinions on matters relating to their oversight duty, rather than composing one that should seek to outsource professional opinions to consultants by pursuing a composition policy based on professional membership diversity and audit committees of listed firms should be composed by those saddled with the duty by appointing board-experienced members with caution when the quality of their financial reports is of utmost importance.

This study differs in respect to variable exclusion gap which include gender diversity, board experience diversity and professional member diversity and sector gap

Muhammad, Suleiman and Sani (2017) This study examined the effect of audit Committees' Quality (audit committee members, audit committee meetings and audit committee financial expertise) on financial performance with a focus on the Nigerian food and beverages sector. The population of the study comprises of food and Beverages companies that are listed in the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The study samples were selected using purposive sampling method. Data were collected from the Annual report and accounts of the selected companies for a period of ten years (2007- 2016). The study also employed correlation and structural equation modelling for analyzing the data. The results revealed a significant positive effect between audit committee meetings, audit committee financial expertise and financial performance. The result of the study also shows an insignificant negative effect between audit committee members and financial performance of the Nigerian food and beverages sector. This study therefore, recommends that the efforts to improve audit committee's quality performance should focus on the meeting and audit financial expertise of audit committee members and also the audit committee should be made more effective and efficient by ensuring that more members with financial expertise especially accounting expertise be drafted into the audit committee which would enhance financial performance of the firms. While this study shows the effect of audit committee's quality on the financial performance of food and beverage industry in Nigeria while my topic investigating at the effect of audit committee characteristics on corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian in consumer goods sector. In this study is investigating for 10 years (2007-2016) in the food and beverage in Nigeria while this study investigates the effect of audit committee characteristics on corporate financial quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector for 9 years (2012-2019). The differs between current study and this study is variable exclusion gap, differs in independent this study are audit committee member, audit committee meeting and audit committee financial expertise while in the current study are audit committee size, audit committee meeting, audit committee independence and audit committee gender. Each study has similar independent variable which is audit committee meeting. Dependent variable exclusion gaps this study is financial performance while the current study is financial reporting quality.

Amahalu and Obi (2020): This study ascertained the effect of audit quality on the financial performance of quoted conglomerates in Nigeria from 2010-2019. Specifically, this study determined the effect of audit committee size, audit committee independence, and audit committee financial expertise on return on assets. Panel data were used in this study, which was obtained from the annual reports and accounts of six (6) sampled quoted conglomerates for the periods 2010-2019. Ex-Post Facto research design was employed. Inferential statistics using the Pearson correlation coefficient and Panel least square regression analysis were applied to test the hypotheses of the study. The results showed that audit committee size, audit committee independence, and audit committee financial expertise have a significant positive effect on return on assets at 5% level of significance respectively. The study recommended amongst others that conglomerates in Nigeria should ensure strict compliance with the provisions of Companies and Allied Matters act (CAMA) of having six members of equal representation; three shareholders and three directors. However, the present study differs with respect to different methodological gap which is the different in sector, this study focuses on conglomerates which the current study focuses on consumer goods sector and variable exclusion gap in both the dependent and independent variables. The independent variable in this study is audit committee financial (financial expertise) while the variables in the present study are audit committee (gender, meeting) Each study has similar independence variables which are audit committee size and independence. The dependent variable in this study is financial performance while in the current study it is financial reporting quality.

Onuorah and lmene (2016) This paper evaluated the level of performance of some selected companies ranging from commodities, brewery, banking, oil and gas and beverages in terms of corporate governance measure indictors on the firm quality of financial reporting in Nigeria. The data were collected from 2006 to 2015. Econometric analysis was conducted and the result suggests that the correlation among corporate governance indicators of board structure (size-BRDSZ and independence-BRDID), audit quality (audit committee size (ADCMZ), the quality of external audit (EADTQ) as measured by the presence of an auditor among the big-4), board experience (i.e., experience-BRDEX) and financial reporting quality is 93.47%. The independent variables can explain the variation in the FRQDA by 54.29%. There is overall significance among the parameters measuring financial reporting quality as discretionary accruals of firm (FRQDA). Board structure (size-BRDSZ), board experience (experience-BRDEX) and the quality of external audit (EADTQ) have positive impact on the financial reporting quality measured by the discretionary accruals of firm (FRQDA) by 16.01, 0.05 and 2.75. However, independent directors on the board of firm (independence-BRDID) and audit quality (audit committee size (ADCMZ) negatively affect financial reporting quality measured by the discretionary accruals of firm (FRQDA) as much as 0.99 and 20.01. Guarantee Trust Bank Plc. among the five selected companies of study in Nigeria has better performance of financial reporting based on board structure (size-BRDSZ) and audit committee size (ADCMZ). This revealed that there is short run relationship among Audit quality (audit committee size (ADCMZ), and the quality of external audit (EADTQ) as measured by the presence of an auditor among the big-4) and board experience (i.e., experience-BRDEX) have not granger cause FRQDA. It further recommended that greater focus on corporate governance indicators so as to bring about global standard financial reporting in the Nigerian emerging market for investment opportunity. The different both study is the methodological gap. This study examines some of the listed companies from sectors like, brewery, banking, oil and gas and beverage study for sector in the Nigeria stock exchange for the period of nine (9) years 2006-2015 while the current study focuses on the consumer goods sector for the period of nine (9) years 2012-2019.

Siyanbola, Ogdebor, Okeke and Okunude (2019) This study examined the effect of Corporate Governance on Reported Earnings Quality in Nigerian deposit money banks. Cross sectional data were obtained from Ten (10) listed deposit money banks in Nigerian Stock Exchange for over a period of ten years (2008-2017). The data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Earnings predictability was adopted as a proxy for reported earnings quality, while board size, board independence, foreign directorship and firm size were used as proxies for corporate governance. The study found board size having a positive and insignificant relationship with earnings quality; a negative and insignificant relationship between board independence and earnings quality; a positive and significant relationship between foreign directors on board and earnings quality; and also, a negative and insignificant relationship between firm size and earnings quality. It was therefore recommended that deposit money banks should increase both their board size and number of foreign directors on board as these will enhance their reported earnings quality. However, the present study differs with respect to the methodological gap which are the sample size, sector covered and variable exclusion gap. This study is different from the current study in terms of sample size which is for the period of ten years (2008-2017) for 10 listed deposit money banks with 100 observations while the current study is for the period of 9 years (2012-2019) for 13 consumer goods sectors with 104 observations. This study covers deposit money banks in Nigeria while the current study covers Nigerian consumer goods sector. This study is different both in independent and dependent variables, independent variable this study focuses on corporate governance while the current study focuses on a segment in corporate governance which is audit committee characteristics. The dependent variable in the study focuses on earnings quality while the current study focuses on financial reporting quality.

Anthony (2018) The purpose of this study was to establish the effect of audit committee characteristics on quality of financial reporting in non-commercial state corporations in Kenya. Specifically, the study established the effect of audit committee independence, diversity, financial competence and meetings on quality of financial reporting. All the non-commercial state corporations were studied. The study was founded on agency theory, stewardship theory, the policeman theory, lending credibility theory, theory of inspired confidence and stakeholder theory. Empirical evidence on influence of audit committees on quality of financial reporting was reviewed analyzed and research gaps identified. The study adopted descriptive research design and the target population of the study was the seventy-two noncommercial state corporations that existed subsequent to the introduction of Treasury guidelines in 2005 on formation and operationalization of audit committees in the public sector. The study used census on all 72 state corporations. The study employed purposive sampling to select the respondents from the target population. The study used primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained from administration of the questionnaires and the secondary data obtained from the Kenya National Audit Office annual reports, Audited Financial statements of state corporations and Finance Bills of the respective financial years. Descriptive statistics used were frequencies, mean and standard deviation, while inferential statistics used are correlation and regression analysis. Regression analysis was employed to measure relationships between dependent and independent variables. The findings from both correlation and regression analysis revealed that audit committee independence, audit committee diversity, audit committee financial competence and audit committee meetings had statistically significant relationship with the quality of financial reporting. The results revealed that audit committee independence, audit committee diversity, audit committee financial competence and audit committee meetings reduced the ratio of queried transactions to annual budget of noncommercial state corporations in Kenya. From the findings, the study concluded that audit committees of non-commercial state corporations must have high level of independence, diversity, financial competence and hold quality meetings in order to enhance the quality of their financial reporting. However, the present differs with respect to geo-graphical gap, the study was done in Kenya while the present study is done in Nigeria.

Anis and Indira (2019) This study aims to investigate the effect of audit committee characteristics (audit committee expertise, frequency of audit committee meetings, and audit committee independence) on integrated reporting. Data for this study were gathered from integrated reports of manufacturing companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchanges. Total samples of 58 companies were selected using purposive sampling method. A multiple regression model was then employed to analyze data. The findings showed that the level of integrated reports of the companies met 70% of all required items. In addition, the audit committee expertise and frequency of audit committee meetings positively influenced the level of integrated reports. However, this study did not support the association of independent audit committees and the companies' reports. The study differs in respects to geo-graphical; this study was done in Johannesburg while the present study id done in Nigeria and variable exclusion gap in dependent variables this study focuses on the integrated reporting while the current study deals with financial reporting quality

Oyedokun, Ojo and Fodio (2020) This study examines the association between audit committee characteristics and financial reporting quality of listed consumer goods firms in Nigeria. This study adopts correlational research design. The population of the study is all the twenty-one (21) consumer goods companies listed on the floor of the Nigerian Stock exchange. Data utilized for the study are collected from the annual reports of companies from 2013 to 2018. The study employs multiple regression techniques for the purpose of data analysis and the result show that audit committee expertise and frequency of meeting have positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality while audit committee size and audit committee gender have no significant relationship on the financial reporting quality. The study concludes that audit committee is a veritable tool for improving financial reporting quality of companies. Based on the findings the study recommends that more accounting and finance experts should be appointed to audit committees of consumer goods companies in Nigeria. However, the present study differs with respect to the period covered. This study examines 21 companies in the consumer goods sector

Alallah. A.M.S, and Chandan B. (2020) The aim of the paper is to present a critical literature review of the impact of audit committee characteristics (ACCs) on audit quality and to identify any research gaps in the field of audit quality. The aim is also to establish, if any, research gaps in the area of audit quality and to recommend any for potential research. The methodology of this study is a review of literature on audit committee characteristics and audit quality. A number of research articles were analyzed. The results of this review of literature revealed that audit committee size, audit committee meeting, and audit committee financial expertise have main effects on the audit quality in the public and private sectors. This review article gives an opportunity to auditors, management of audit offices and other stakeholders to better understand the pillars of audit quality, factors, and framework to reinforce the quality of the financial statements. This literature review contributes to better understanding of the role of the audit committee in financial statements. It provides researchers in the field with insights and new perspectives. The paper identifies certain gaps and highlights the effect of effective audit committee on regulating and improving the finance department of any institution. The study also contributes to the operating organization of knowledge on the audit quality, dimensions of audit quality, and governing frameworks. It emphasizes the audit committee’s effectiveness and also presents an opportunity to both researchers and the finance sector for potential future research. The present study differs in terms of variable exclusion gap.

Ogaluzor.O. I &John. O. (2019) The purpose of this study is to determine whether the quality of financial reporting in consumer goods manufacturing companies quoted in the Nigerian stock exchange is affected by the Characteristics of Audit Committee. Specifically, the study considered the relationship between effect of Audit Committee's independence on value relevance of accounting information and on earnings management. It also considered the effect of audit size on value relevance of accounting information and on earnings management. Data was collected from 15 listed consumer goods manufacturing companies. Secondary data was extracted over eleven year-period covering from 2006 to 2016. A balanced panel data analytical approach was used since the data points consists of equal time series for each of the cross-section of the sampled firms. Results from the analysis shows that: there is a negative but insignificant relationship between board independence and value relevance of earnings, there is a significant positive relationship between audit committee size and accounting value relevance of earnings, there is a significant positive relationship between board independence and earnings management and , audit committee size is observed to have a negative relationship with earnings management, implying that larger audit committee size constrains earning management. The study therefore, concludes that there is a significant relationship between audit committee characteristics and quality of financial reporting of listed consumer goods manufacturing companies. We recommend that there is need for Audit Committee to be highly independent.

Udisifan&Akeem (2019) The study investigates the impact of audit committee on financial reporting quality of some selected listed firms in the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) during the period 2009–2018. The study uses the ex-post facto research design and the census sampling technique to arrive at the samples that comprises three (3) conglomerate firms and nine (9) oil and gas firms. The study uses the Modified Jones model of discretionary accrual to represent the financial reporting quality while audit committee size, audit committee busyness and audit committee gender diversity proxy audit committee attributes. The study uses secondary data obtained from the financial reports of sampled firms and uses multiple regression for data analysis. The findings reveal that the audit committee busyness and audit committee size have positive and negative significant effect on financial reporting quality respectively. This suggests that audit committee members should be encouraged to occupy directorship position in other firms since it enhances their ability to improve the financial report quality. The different between both studies are the methodological gap and variable exclusion gap. Under methodological gap is sector, this study used both conglomerate firms and oil & gas sector while the current study used only consumer goods sector. Under variable exclusion this study is in the independent variable which is audit committee busyness, audit committee size and audit committee gender diversity while the current study independent variables are audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting.

Table 2:3: Summary of empirical Review

S/N	Authors& year	Topic	Findings	Gaps/Critique
1	Ghazaleh & Garkaz (2015)	The association between presence of female members on the board of directors and earning management with discretionary accruals index on the listed companies in Tehran stock	The findings of the study indicated that the presence of female directors in board is significantly and negatively associated with earnings management. It was made clear that firms with women on their boards have less use of discretionary accruals for earning management. Srinidhi, Gul and Tsui (2011) conducted a study on US firms over the years 2001-2007 and use accruals quality (extended Dechow & Dichev model as proposed by McNichols (2002) and target beating as proxies for	Geographical gap

		exchange.	reporting quality. All the results showed that female presence on the board is associated with both higher accruals quality and less propensity to manage earnings to beat benchmarks. They concluded that firms with women on the board have higher earnings quality.	
2.	Ogaluzor.O. I and John, O. (2019)	Effect of audit committee characteristics on financial reporting quality	There is a negative but insignificant relationship between board independence and value relevance of earnings, there is a significant positive relationship between audit committee size and accounting value relevance of earnings, there is a significant positive relationship between board independence and earnings management and, audit committee size is observed to have a negative relationship with earnings management, implying that larger audit committee size constrains earning management. The study therefore, concludes that there is a significant relationship between audit committee	Variables exclusion, Manufacturing sector gap

			characteristics and quality of financial reporting of listed consumer goods manufacturing companies.	
3.	Muhammad, S, N; Suleiman Y, U and Sani Salisu (2017)	The effect of audit committee quality on the financial performance of food and beverages industry in Nigeria	The results revealed a significant positive effect between audit committee meetings, audit committee financial expertise and financial performance. The result of the study also shows an insignificant negative effect between audit committee members and financial performance of the Nigerian food and beverages sector.	Variable exclusion gap

Source: Researcher's Design (2022)

2.4 Gaps in the Literature

The gaps in this literature includes geographical gaps, methodological gaps include Research design, sample size, sampling techniques, method of statistics and sector and Variable exclusion includes the different in the dependent and independent variables of previous work done.

CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.0 Preamble

This section deals with the procedures used in data collection in line with the objectives of the study. It shows the research design adopted for the study as well as the population, sampling technique and sample size, method of data collection, research instrument and method of data analysis, model specification and measurement of variables.

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts ex-post facto research design to investigate the effect of the audit committee characteristics on financial reporting quality among listed companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sectors. This design is chosen because of its effectiveness in assessing the relationships and the effects of two or more variables the independent variable on the dependent variable. Thus, the design is consistent with the goal of this research.

3.2 Population and Sample

The population of the research include 34 listed companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sector as at the 2013 to 2020. The sample sizes that would be used for the research is 13 companies out of the 34 companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sector. However, so as to acquire sufficient panel data for logistic regression analysis,13 companies were selected by simple sampling techniques for this study.

3.3 Data collection

Secondary data was explored in this study. The sources of the data include the financial statements (statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and non-financial information) of the sampled listed companies in the Nigerian industrial goods sectors from 2013-2020. The data was collected for the 13 listed companies for 8 years. This gives 104 firm year observations which are sufficient for data analysis.

3.4 Model Specification

The hierarchical logistic regression models of this study were adapted from the study of. The models are shown below:

MODEL 1

FRQ=$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 ACSIZE + \varepsilon$ (1)

Where FRQ= Financial reporting quality, Xo= constant, X1 = Regression coefficient E=Error Term, ACSIZE= Audit committee size.

MODEL 2

FRQ=$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 ACSIZE + \alpha_2 ACIND + \varepsilon$ (2)

Where FRQ= Financial reporting quality, Xo= constant, X1-X4 = Regression coefficients E=Error Term, ACIND= Audit committee independence and ACSIZE= Audit committee size.

MODEL 3

FRQ=$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 ACSIZE + \alpha_2 ACIND + \alpha_3 ACGEN + \varepsilon$

Where FRQ= Financial reporting quality, Xo= constant, X1-X4 = Regression coefficients E=Error Term, ACIND= Audit committee independence, ACGEN= Audit committee gender, ACSIZE= Audit committee size.

MODEL 4

FRQ=$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 ACIND + \alpha_2 ACSIZE + \alpha_3 ACGEN + \alpha_4 ACMEET + \varepsilon$

Where FRQ= Financial reporting quality, Xo= constant, X1-X4 = Regression coefficients

E=Error Term, ACIND= Audit committee independence, ACMEET= Audit committee meeting, ACSIZE= Audit committee size, ACGEN= Audit committee gender

3.5 Measurement of Variables

The dependent variable, financial reporting quality (FRQ), was measured with discretionary accrual (DACC). The independent variables, audit committee characteristics, consist of audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting.

3.5.1 Measurement of Audit Committee Characteristics

The independent variables were measured as reflected in the table below.

S/N	Variables	Notation	measurement
	Dependent variable		
1	Financial reporting quality	FRQ	Absolute discretionary accrual using modified jones model. (Sylvester & Famous, 2016)
	Independent Variables		
2.	Audit committee independence	ACIND	Number of non-executive directors (outside directors) in the audit committee. (Peter& Eyesan, 2015)
3	Audit committee size	ACSIZE	Number of individuals on audit committee. (Sylvester &

			Famous,2016)
4	Audit committee gender	ACGEN	Measured as the ratio of females in the firms of audit committee members (Abdullahi & Yunusa, 2016)
5	Audit committee meeting	ACMEET	Number of audit committee members in attendance and Number of times the audit committee meets in a year. (Sylvester & Famous,2016)

Source: Researcher's Design (2022)

3.5.2 Measurement of Financial Reporting Quality

The proxy for financial reporting quality, the discretionary accrual was estimated using the following modified jones model in steps:

Total accrual (T_A) will be estimated using the following model:

$TA_{it} = \Delta CA_{it} - \Delta Cash_{it} - \Delta CL_{it} + \Delta STD_{it} - \Delta AE_{it}$------------------(2)

Where:

$TA_{it} = Total\ accrual\ \ in\ year\ t\ for\ firm\ i$

$\Delta CA_{it} = current\ asset\ in\ year\ t\ less\ current\ assets\ in\ year\ t-1\ for\ firm\ i$

$\Delta Cash_{it} = cashin\ year\ t\ less\ cash\ in\ year\ t-1\ for\ firm\ i$

$\Delta CL_{it} = current\ liabilities\ in\ year\ t\ less\ curent\ liabilities\ in\ year\ t-1\ for\ firm\ i$

$$DAE_{it} = deperciation\ and\ amortization\ expense\ in\ year\ t\ for\ firm\ i$$

ΔSTD_{it}
$= debt\ included\ in\ current\ liabilities\ in\ year\ t\ less\ debt\ included\ in\ current\ liabilities\ in\ year\ t$
$- 1\ for\ firm\ i$

The next step is to estimate the normal; accruals for each company annually. The following regression model will be employed to determine the regression coefficient.

$$(\frac{TA_{it}}{A_{it-1}})=\alpha_0 + \alpha_1\left(\frac{1}{A_{it-1}}\right) + \alpha_2\left(\frac{\Delta R_{it}}{A_{it-1}}\right) + \alpha_3\left(\frac{PPE_{it}}{A_{it-1}}\right) + \varepsilon_{it} - - - - - - - - (3)$$

Where:

$$TA_{it} = total\ accruals\ in\ year\ t\ for\ firm\ i$$

$$\Delta R_{it} = revenues\ in\ year\ t\ less\ in\ year\ t-1\ for\ firm\ i$$

$$PPE_{it} = gross\ fixed\ assets, plant, and\ equipment\ in\ year\ t\ for\ firm\ i$$

$$A_{it} - 1 = total\ assets\ in\ year\ t-1\ for\ the\ firm\ i$$

$$\varepsilon_{it} = error\ term\ in\ year\ t\ for\ firm\ i$$

Note that all variables are based on the variable TA_{it}. This is because this treatment avoids the presence of heteroskedasticity in the distribution, because it is expected, from the variable TA_{it}, tohave a theoretical association with the variance of the error term(jones,1991). The next step is to apply the command to generate TA_{it}

The regression coefficients

$(\alpha_{0,}\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \&\alpha_3\ will\ be\ substituted\ into\ eqn(3) to\ obtain\ the\ residuals(\varepsilon_{it})$

Normal accrual $(NA_{it})\ will\ be\ estimated\ using\ the\ model\ below$:

$$NA_{it} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1\left(\frac{1}{A_{t-1}}\right) + \alpha_2\left(\frac{\Delta R_{it} - \Delta AR_{it}}{A_{t-1}}\right) + \ \alpha_3\left(\frac{PPE_{it}}{A_{t-1}}\right)\ +\ \varepsilon_{it}\ \text{-------------(4)}$$

$where$:

$The\ discretionary\ accruals\ were\ estimated\ using\ the\ following\ equation$:

$$\Delta A_{it} = \frac{TA_{it}}{A_{it}} - NA_{it}\ \text{-----------------------------(5)}$$

$$where$$

$$TA_{it} = total\ accruals\ in\ year\ t\ for\ firm\ i$$

$$A_{it} = total\ assets\ in\ year\ for\ the\ firm\ i$$

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The data was evaluated using descriptive and inferential statistics which includes mean and correlation. In accordance with the research paradigm underpinning this study, correlation and logistic regression techniques of data analysis were employed to provide answers for the research questions and for testing the research hypotheses respectively.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Preamble

Chapter four covers presentation of results and data analysis. The data collected were subjected to descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Means and standard deviations were computed for all the variables of the study. The results of this study consist of descriptive statistics, correlation analysis results and logistic regression results.

4.1 Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics of the variables of the study are presented in Table 4.1 below. The minimum audit committee size is 4 members while the maximum audit committee size is 9 members. The mean score for audit committee size is 6 members. This figure is in line with the requirement of the Security and Exchange Commission’s Code of Corporate Governance in Nigeria that recommends a minimum of 6 audit committee members. The minimum audit committee independence is 25% (0.25) while the maximum audit committee independence is 63% (0.63). The mean score for audit committee independence is 48.35% (0.4835). This value is below average and it can be deduced that audit committee independence in the companies sampled is low.

Moreover, Table 4.1 shows further that the minimum audit committee gender balance is 0% (0.00) while the maximum audit committee gender balance is 57% (0.57). The mean score for audit committee gender balance is 13.33% (0.1333). This value is far below average and it can be deduced that there is audit committee gender imbalance among the companies sampled. The minimum audit committee meeting’s frequency is 1 while the maximum audit committee meeting is 5. The mean score for audit committee gender balance is approximately 4. This figure is also in line with the requirement of the Security and Exchange Commission’s Code of Corporate Governance in Nigeria that recommends a minimum of 4 meetings per year for the audit committee of listed companies in Nigeria.

Table 4.1 reveals further that the mean of the absolute values of non-discretionary discretionary accruals (NDACC), the measure of financial reporting quality, is -0.0645 (Min = -0.6400, Max = 0.7600, SD = 0.11878). This mean score was used as the cut-off point to determine whether the financial report is of high or low quality. Thus, the discretionary accrual values were partitioned into two. Any value below the mean score was described as "high financial reporting quality" and was rated "1" while any value above the mean score was described as "low financial reporting quality" and was rated "0". The mean score was then estimated for the dichotomous data obtained for financial reporting quality (FRQ). It appears that the financial reporting quality of the sampled companies is low because the mean score obtained is low (Mean = 0.49, Min = 0.00, Max = 1.00, SD = 0.50233).

Table 4.1: Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
ACSIZE	104	4.00	9.00	6.1250	1.02102
ACIND	104	.25	.63	.4835	.06678
ACGEN	104	.00	.57	.1333	.13868
ACMEET	104	1.00	5.00	3.9519	.65921
FRQ	104	.00	1.00	.4904	.50233
NDACC	104	-.6400	.7600	-.0645	.11878

Research Computation (2022)

4.2 Research Questions

This study addressed four research questions. Since, the study is interested in establishing the association between financial reporting quality and four other independent variables (audit committee characteristics, correlation analysis was considered suitable for answering the research questions raised in this study.

4.2.1 Research Question One

Research question one attempted to investigate the effect of audit committee size on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.2 contains the correlation results relating to the research question one. The correlation results show that a significant positive relationship exists between audit committee size and financial reporting quality (r = 0.277, Sig. =0.04). This result suggests that audit committee size may have significant effect on financial reporting quality among the sampled listed companies in consumer goods sector of the Nigerian economy.

Table 4.2: Correlation Results (Research Question One)

		ACSIZE	FRQ
ACSIZE	Pearson Correlation	1	.277**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.004
	N	104	104
NDACC	Pearson Correlation	.277**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	
	N	104	104

Research Computation (2022)

4.2.2 Research Question Two

Research question two looked at the significance of the relationship between audit committee independence and financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.3 contains the correlation results relating to the research question two. The correlation results reveals that a significant positive relationship exists between audit committee independence and financial reporting quality (r = 0.212, Sig. =0.032). This result signifies that audit committee independence may have significant effect on financial reporting quality among the sampled listed companies in consumer goods sector of the Nigerian economy.

Table 4.3: Correlation Results (Research Question Two)

		ACIND	FRQ
ACIND	Pearson Correlation	1	.212*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.032
	N	104	104
NDACC	Pearson Correlation	.212*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.032	

	N	104	104

Research Computation (2022)

4.2.3 Research Question Three

Research question three examined the influence of audit committee gender on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.4 contains the correlation results relating to the research question three. The correlation results indicate that a non-significant negative relationship exists between audit committee gender and financial reporting quality (r = -0.052, Sig. =0.599). This result suggests that audit committee gender may not have significant effect on financial reporting quality among the sampled listed companies in consumer goods sector of the Nigerian economy.

Table 4.4: Correlation Results (Research Question Three)

		ACGEN	FRQ
ACGEN	Pearson Correlation	1	-.052
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.599
	N	104	104
NDACC	Pearson Correlation	-.052	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.599	
	N	104	104

Research Computation (2022)

4.2.2 Research Question Four

Research question four beamed a searchlight on the link between audit committee meeting and financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.5 contains the correlation results relating to the research question four. The correlation results suggest that a significant positive relationship exists between audit committee meeting and financial reporting quality (r = 0.218, Sig. =0.026). This result suggests that audit committee meeting may have significant effect on financial reporting quality among the sampled listed companies in consumer goods sector of the Nigerian economy.

Table 4.5: Correlation Results (Research Question Four)

		ACMEET	FRQ
ACMEET	Pearson Correlation	1	.218*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.026
	N	104	104
NDACC	Pearson Correlation	.218*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.026	
	N	104	104

Research Computation (2022)

4.3 Hypotheses Testing

Four hypotheses were formulated for this study. Since the dependent variable, financial reporting quality, has been treated as a dichotomous variable taking the values of "0" and "1", Logistic Regression analysis was explored to test the hypothesis of the study. The four hierarchical models were subjected to logistic regression analyses and the outcomes were presented in the following sub-sections.

4.3.1 Hypothesis One

Hypothesis one states that audit committee size has no significant effect on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.6 shows the iteration history. Audit committee size was first introduced into the logistic regression model and was run against financial reporting quality. Four iterations were run and the Log likelihood value of 135.631 was finally obtained.

Table 4.6: Iteration History (Model 1)

Iteration		-2 Log likelihood	Coefficients	
			Constant	ACSIZE
Step 1	1	135.746	-3.375	.545
	2	135.631	-3.840	.620

3	135.631	-3.860	.624
4	135.631	-3.860	.624

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.7 contains the results of correlation analysis. There is only one independent variable in the model, so there is no need for testing for multicollinearity problem.

Table 4.7: Correlation Matrix

		Constant	ACSIZE
Step 1	Constant	1.000	-.990
	ACSIZE	-.990	1.000

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.8 presents the model summary. The Log likelihood is 135.631, Cox & Snell R Square is 0.079 and Nagelkerke R Square is 0.105. These outcomes suggest that the model can predict the link between the dependent and independent variable accurately.

Table 4.8: Model Summary (Model 1)

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	135.631	.079	.105

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.9 contains the omnibus test of model. The Chi-Square value is significant at 5% significant level (Chi-Square = 8.505, sig = 0.04). Therefore, it can be inferred that Model 1 is a good fit for the data.

Table 4.9: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients (Model 1)

		Chi-square	Df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	8.505	1	.004
	Block	8.505	1	.004
	Model	8.505	1	.004

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.10 contains the classification table. The sensitivity of the model is 86.8%. That is, the model accurately predicted 86.8% of the companies with low financial reporting quality. The specificity is 31.4%. That is, the model accurately predicted 31.4% of the companies with high financial reporting quality. The overall percentage accuracy of the model is 59.6%.

Table 4.10: Classification Table (Model 1)

	Observed		Predicted		
			FRQ		Percentage Correct
			.00	1.00	
Step 1	FRQ	.00	46	7	86.8
		1.00	35	16	31.4
	Overall Percentage				59.6

a. The cut value is .500

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.11 contains the regression coefficient and the results of the Wald Test on the variables in the equation. The result of the Wald Test is significant (W= 6.944, Sig = 0.008). The exponential of the regression coefficient, Exp (B) is greater than 1 [Exp (B) = 1.866]. This outcome implies that as the audit committee size increases, the possibility of recording high financial reporting quality also increases. This finding reveals that audit committee size has significant positive effect on financial reporting quality. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and it could be concluded that audit committee size has significant effect on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

Table 4.11: Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1[a]	ACSIZE	.624	.237	6.944	1	.008	1.866
	Constant	-3.860	1.465	6.946	1	.008	.021

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: ACSIZE.

Research Computation (2022)

4.3.2 Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two posits that audit committee independence has no significant impact on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.12

contains the iteration history. Audit committee size and audit committee independence were introduced into the logistic regression model and was run against financial reporting quality. Four iterations were run and the Log likelihood value of 133.946 was finally obtained.

Table 4.12: Iteration History (Model 2)

Iteration		-2 Log likelihood	Coefficients		
			Constant	ACSIZE	ACIND
Step 1	1	134.112	-4.823	.550	.030
	2	133.946	-5.559	.636	.034
	3	133.946	-5.597	.640	.034
	4	133.946	-5.597	.640	.034

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.13 contains the results of correlation analysis. There are two independent variables in the model, so there is a need for testing for multicollinearity problem. The correlation results showed that there were no multicollinearity problems between the two independent variables (r < 0.5).

Table 4.13: Correlation Matrix (Model 2)

		Constant	ACSIZE	ACIND
Step 1	Constant	1.000	-.763	-.702
	ACSIZE	-.763	1.000	.086
	ACIND	-.702	.086	1.000

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.14 presents the model summary. The Log likelihood is 133.964, Cox & Snell R Square is 0.093 and Nagelkerke R Square is 0.124. These outcomes suggest that the model can predict the link between the dependent and independent variables more accurately.

Table 4.14: Model Summary (Model 2)

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	133.946	.093	.124

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.15 contains the omnibus test of model. The Chi-Square value is significant at 5% significant level (Chi-Square = 10.190, sig = 0.006). Therefore, it can be inferred that Model 2 is a good fit for the data.

Table 4.15: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients (Model 2)

		Chi-square	Df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	1.685	1	.194
	Block	1.685	1	.194
	Model	10.190	2	.006

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.16 contains the classification table. The sensitivity of the model is 90.6%. That is, the model accurately predicted 90.6% of the companies with low financial reporting quality. The specificity is 31.4%. That is, the model accurately predicted 31.4% of the companies with high financial reporting quality. The overall percentage accuracy of the model is 61.5%. These results imply that the model has a good predictive power.

Table 4.16: Classification Table (Model 2)

	Observed		Predicted		
			FRQ		Percentage Correct
			.00	1.00	
Step 1	FRQ	.00	48	5	90.6
		1.00	35	16	31.4
	Overall Percentage				61.5

a. The cut value is .500

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.17 contains the regression coefficient and the results of the Wald Test on the variables in the equation. For the impact of audit committee independence on financial reporting quality, the result of the Wald Test obtained is non-significant (W= 1.526, Sig = 0.217). The exponential of the regression coefficient, Exp (B) is marginally greater than 1 [Exp (B) = 1.035]. This outcome implies that as the audit committee independence increases, the possibility of recording high financial reporting quality is also expected to increase. But since the result of the Wald Test obtained is non-significant, it can be suggested that audit committee independence may not significantly impact on financial reporting quality. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted and it could be concluded that audit committee independence does not have significant impact on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

Table 4.17: Variables in the Equation (Model 2)

	B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)

Step 1	ACSIZE	.640	.240	7.142	1	.008	1.897
	ACIND	.034	.028	1.526	1	.217	1.035
	Constant	-5.597	2.070	7.314	1	.007	.004

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: ACIND.

Research Computation (2022)

4.3.3 Hypothesis Three

Hypothesis three suggests that audit committee gender has no significant influence on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.18 shows the iteration history. Audit committee size, audit committee independence and audit committee gender were introduced into the logistic regression model and were run against financial reporting quality. Four iterations were run and the Log likelihood value of 132.904 was finally obtained.

Table 4.18: Iteration History (Model 3)

Iteration		-2 Log likelihood	Coefficients			
			Constant	ACSIZE	ACIND	ACGEN
Step 1	1	133.136	-4.897	.564	.033	-.013
	2	132.905	-5.782	.662	.040	-.015
	3	132.904	-5.839	.668	.040	-.015
	4	132.904	-5.839	.669	.040	-.015

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.19 contains the results of correlation analysis. There are three independent variables in the model, so there is a need for testing for multicollinearity problem. All the correlation coefficients among the independent variables are very low ($r < 0.5$). These outcomes suggest that there is no multicollinearity problem among the independent variables.

Table 4.19: Correlation Matrix (Model 3)

		Constant	ACSIZE	ACIND	ACGEN
Step 1	Constant	1.000	-.767	-.719	.136
	ACSIZE	-.767	1.000	.126	-.136
	ACIND	-.719	.126	1.000	-.213
	ACGEN	.136	-.136	-.213	1.000

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.20 presents the model summary. The Log likelihood is 132.904, Cox & Snell R Square is 0.102 and Nagelkerke R Square is 0.137. These outcomes suggest that the model can predict the link between the dependent and independent variable accurately.

Table 4.20: Model Summary (Model 3)

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	132.904	.102	.137

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.21 contains the omnibus test of model. The Chi-Square value is significant at 5% significant level (Chi-Square = 11.232, sig = 0.011). Therefore, it can be inferred that Model 3 is a good fit for the data.

Table 4.21: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients (Model 3)

		Chi-square	Df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	1.041	1	.307
	Block	1.041	1	.307
	Model	11.232	3	.011

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.22 contains the classification table. The sensitivity of the model is 81.1%. That is, the model accurately predicted 81.1% of the companies with low financial reporting quality. The specificity is 56.9%. That is, the model accurately predicted 31.9% of the companies with high financial reporting quality. The overall percentage accuracy of the model is 69.2%. These outcomes suggest that the model has a good predictive ability.

Table 4.22: Classification Table (Model 3)

	Observed		Predicted		
			FRQ		Percentage Correct
			.00	1.00	
Step 1	FRQ	.00	43	10	81.1

	1.00	22	29	56.9
	Overall Percentage			69.2

a. The cut value is .500

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.23 contains the regression coefficient and the results of the Wald Test on the variables in the equation. For the effect of the audit committee gender on financial reporting quality, the result of the Wald Test obtained is non-significant (W= 1.026, Sig = 0.311). The exponential of the regression coefficient, Exp (B) is less than 1 [Exp (B) = 0.985]. This outcome implies that as the audit committee gender representation increases, the possibility of recording high financial reporting quality decreases. However, since the result of the Wald Test obtained is non-significant, it can be assumed that audit committee gender has no significant effect on financial reporting quality. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted and it could be concluded that audit committee gender has no significant influence on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

Table 4.23: Variables in the Equation (Model 3)

		B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1[a]	ACSIZE	.669	.244	7.502	1	.006	1.951
	ACIND	.040	.029	1.907	1	.167	1.041
	ACGEN	-.015	.015	1.026	1	.311	.985
	Constant	-5.839	2.133	7.492	1	.006	.003

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: ACGEN.

Research Computation (2022)

4.3.4 Hypothesis Four

Hypothesis four assumes that audit committee meeting has no significant link with financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Table 4.24 shows the iteration history. Audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting were introduced into the logistic regression model and was run against financial reporting quality. Four iterations were run and the Log likelihood value of 129.533 was finally obtained.

Table 4.24: Iteration History (Model 4)

Iteration		-2 Log likelihood	Coefficients				
			Constant	ACSIZE	ACIND	ACGEN	ACMEET
Step 1	1	129.832	-6.645	.530	.028	-.009	.541
	2	129.554	-7.780	.622	.033	-.010	.625
	3	129.553	-7.847	.628	.034	-.010	.629
	4	129.553	-7.848	.628	.034	-.010	.629

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.25 contains the results of correlation analysis. There are four independent variables in the model, so there is a need for testing for multicollinearity problem. All the correlation coefficients among the independent variables are very low (r < 0.5). These outcomes suggest that there is no multicollinearity problem among the independent variables.

Table 4.25: Correlation Matrix (Model 4)

		Constant	ACSIZE	ACIND	ACGEN	ACMEET
Step 1	Constant	1.000	-.621	-.560	.020	-.510
	ACSIZE	-.621	1.000	.122	-.131	-.069
	ACIND	-.560	.122	1.000	-.199	-.100
	ACGEN	.020	-.131	-.199	1.000	.144
	ACMEET	-.510	-.069	-.100	.144	1.000

Table 4.26 presents the model summary. The Log likelihood is 129.553, Cox & Snell R Square is 0.131 and Nagelkerke R Square is 0.174. These outcomes suggest that the model can predict the link between the dependent and independent variables accurately.

Table 4.26: Model Summary (Model 4)

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	129.553	.131	.174

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.27 contains the omnibus test of model. The Chi-Square value is significant at 5% significant level (Chi-Square = 14.583, sig = 0.006). Therefore, it can be inferred that Model 4 is a good fit for the data.

Table 4.27: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients (Model 4)

		Chi-square	Df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	3.352	1	.067
	Block	3.352	1	.067
	Model	14.583	4	.006

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.28 contains the classification table. The sensitivity of the model is 73.6%. That is, the model accurately predicted 73.6% of the companies with low financial reporting quality. The specificity is 64.7%. That is, the model accurately predicted 64.7% of the companies with high financial reporting quality. The overall percentage accuracy of the model is 69.2%. These outcomes suggest that the model has a good predictive ability.

Table 4.28: Classification Table (Model 4)

	Observed		Predicted		
			FRQ		Percentage Correct
			.00	1.00	
Step 1	FRQ	.00	39	14	73.6
		1.00	18	33	64.7
	Overall Percentage				69.2

a. The cut value is .500

Research Computation (2022)

Table 4.29 contains the regression coefficient and the results of the Wald Test on the variables in the equation. The result of the Wald Test is non-significant (W= 2.932, Sig = 0.087). The exponential of the regression coefficient, Exp (B) is greater than 1 [Exp (B) = 1.875]. This outcome implies that as the frequency of audit committee meeting increases, the possibility of recording high financial reporting quality also increases. However, since the result of the Wald Test is non-significant, it can be deduced that audit committee meeting may not have a significant link with financial reporting quality. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted and it could be concluded that audit committee meeting does not have significant link with financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector.

Table 4.29: Variables in the Equation (Model 4)

		B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1	ACSIZE	.628	.243	6.666	1	.010	1.875
	ACIND	.034	.029	1.370	1	.242	1.034
	ACGEN	-.010	.016	.445	1	.505	.990
	ACMEET	.629	.367	2.932	1	.087	1.875
	Constant	-7.848	2.454	10.228	1	.001	.000

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: ACMEET.

Research Computation (2022)

4.4 Discussion of Results

Taking hypothesis one into consideration, it was found that audit committee size had significant effect on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. The outcomes of this study derived support from the study of Winrose and Joel (2017) which indicated that audit committee size had a positive and significant effect on the quality of financial reporting. Further support was derived from the study of Aminal et al. (2018) which found that audit committee size had positive effect on earnings quality. However, the study of Umobong and Ibanichuka (2017), which shows that audit committee size has a negative but statistically significant effect on financial reporting quality, did not support the results of this study.

Findings from hypothesis two reveal that audit committee independence does not have significant impact on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. This result derived support from the study of Salawu et ali (2017) which showed that audit committee independence has insignificant effect on audit quality of the sampled firms. However, the study of Ogoun et al (2020), which revealed that the number of non-executive directors contributes considerably to ensuring the timeliness of audit certified annual financial returns, did not support the outcome of this study. Also, the study of Susan, Winrose and Joel (2017), which showed that audit committee independence had a negative and significant effect on the quality of financial reporting, did not align with the outcome of this study. The outcome of the study of Aminal et al (2018) which found that audit committee independence had positive effect on earnings quality was contrary to the result of this study. Moreover, the study of Munir et al (2020) which revealed that board independence had a significant positive influence on earnings quality did not agree with the finding of this study.

The outcomes of hypothesis three revealed that audit committee gender had no significant influence on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. The result from the study of Ghazaleh and Garkaz (2015), which indicated that the presence of female directors in board is significantly and negatively associated with earnings management, did not support the outcome of this study. The study of Srinidhi, Gul and Tsui (2011) which showed that female presence on the board is associated with both higher accruals quality and fewer propensities to manage earnings to beat benchmarks was contrary to the finding of this study. The study of Ohaka and Tony-Oblosa (2020) which showed that gender diversity is negatively related to discretionary accruals but positively relating with earnings neutrality did not align with the current study.

The results of hypothesis four indicate that audit committee meeting does not have significant link with financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector. This outcome was supported by the study of Ame and Onu (2018) which showed that the frequency of audit committee meeting had a negative but insignificant relationship with earnings quality. The study of Aminal, Niki, Djoko & Erna (2018) which found that audit committee meeting had negative effect on earnings quality did not support this outcome. Similarly, the study of Munir, Umar & Isah (2020) which revealed that audit committee meeting had a significant negative effect on earnings quality of listed conglomerate firms in Nigeria was contrary to the outcome of this study.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Preamble

This chapter consist of the summary of the work done and summary of findings, conclusion from the findings of the study, recommendations that follows from the conclusion as well as suggestions for further studies.

5.1 Summary of the Work Done and Summary of Findings

This study centered on the relationship between audit committee characteristics and corporate financial reporting quality in Nigerian consumer goods sector. Chapter one consists of background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, Research questions, research hypotheses, Scope of the study and definition of terms**.** Chapter two focused conceptual, theoretical and empirical reviews.

Variable examined in the study include audit committee independence, audit committee gender, audit committee meeting, audit committee size and financial reporting quality. From the empirical review, gap in literature were identified. These gaps include geographical gap, methodological gap (research design, sample size, sampling techniques, method of statistics analyses and sector) and variable exclusion (audit committee gender which is not well researched) and a new proxy for financial reporting quality, faithful representation of financial statement operationalized by Nice, (2009) which this study proceeded to fill.

Chapter three focused on research design, population of the study, sampling techniques and data collection. To obtain sufficient panel data for regression analysis, 13 companies from the consumer goods sector were selected from the various consumer goods sector as at 31st December, 2020 by sample random sampling techniques. Secondary data were collected from the annual reports of the sampled companies in the consumer goods sector from 2013 to 2020.

In chapter four, the secondary data obtained from annual reports were subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics includes means and standard deviation while the inferential statistics include correlation and logistic regression analyses.

The current chapter comprised summary of work done and summary of findings, conclusion, recommendations and suggestions for further studies. Major findings were outlined while policy implications of these findings were also highlighted. Summary of findings in this study,

The influence of audit characteristics on financial reporting quality of companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector was investigated in this study. This research work shows that audit committee size has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors Further findings shows that audit committee independence has no significant impact on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors. Another result of this work shows that audit committee gender has no significant influence on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors. The last result shows that audit committee meeting has no significant link with financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors. It can therefore be concluded that the audit committee size of the listed companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sector have important impact on the quality of the reporting of among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector sampled for this research, whereas the audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting does not.

5.2 Conclusion

The influence of audit committee characteristics on financial reporting quality of companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector was investigated in this study. This research work shows that audit committee size has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors Further findings shows that audit committee independence has no significant impact on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors. Another result of this work shows that audit committee gender has no significant influence on financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors. The last result shows that audit committee meeting has no significant link with financial reporting quality among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sectors. It can therefore be concluded that the audit committee size of the listed companies in the Nigerian consumer goods sector have important impact on the quality of the reporting of among listed companies in Nigerian consumer goods sector sampled for this research, whereas the audit committee independence, audit committee gender and audit committee meeting does not.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were drawn:

The study recommended that more non-executive directors should be included in the audit committee to improve the independence of the committee. The study also recommends that more females should be included in the audit committee to improve the audit gender diversity of the committee. The study also recommends that the committee should meet more during the year.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Studies

Limitations of the study include limited data source and manageable size of variables. This study concentrated on consumer goods sector. Other sectors like Agriculture, conglomerates, financial services, health care, ICT, natural resource, oil and gas and service sectors were excluded. Further studies may focus on other sector like Agriculture, conglomerates, financial services, health care, ICT, natural resource, oil and gas and service sectors of the economy. The variables explored to represent audit committee characteristics in this research work were limited to audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee gender, audit committee meeting. Audit committee is part of corporate governance other variable in corporate governance are board committee characteristics, the finance, Audit & risk management committee characteristics and Remuneration/governance committee characteristics may be considered in further studies.

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Appendix 1: List of all Companies in the Consumer Goods Sector Sampled

1. Cadbury Nigeria plc
2. Champions Breweries plc
3. Dangote Salt plc
4. Dangote Sugar plc
5. Flour Mills of Nigeria plc
6. Friesland Campina WAMCO plc
7. Guinness Nigeria plc
8. Honeywell Nigeria plc
9. Nestle Nigeria plc
10. Nigerian Breweries plc
11. PZ Cussons plc
12. Unilever Nigeria plc
13. Vita foam Nigeria plc

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APPENDIX 2

ACSIZE	ACIND	ACGEN	ACMEET	NDACC	FRQ
6	0.5	0.333333333	3	-0.0463921	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	4	-0.0460123	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	4	-0.0261869	0
7	0.4	0.428571429	4	-0.0533672	0
7	0.57	0.571428571	4	-0.0717625	1
6	0.5	0.5	4	-0.0749756	1
6	0.5	0.5	4	-0.0767323	1
6	0.5	0.5	4	-0.0718252	1
4	0.5	0	4	-0.0134743	0
4	0.5	0	4	-0.1892433	1
4	0.5	0	4	-0.0617310	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	3	-0.0569496	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	3	-0.0001071	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.1277783	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.0183162	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.0597491	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.0215510	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	4	-0.0063800	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	1	-0.0208677	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	4	-0.0389032	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	3	-0.1306963	1
6	0.5	0.333333333	2	0.1430034	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	2	-0.0032734	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	3	-0.1538410	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.1792462	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.1013045	1

6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.0601852	0
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0202796	0
6	0.5	0	5	-0.0694279	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.1300725	1
7	0.428571	0	4	-0.0555545	0
7	0.428571	0	3	-0.0283994	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0591833	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0583986	0
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0594907	0
6	0.5	0	5	-0.0119236	0
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0362711	0
7	0.428571	0	4	-0.0748103	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0409072	0
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0801519	1
8	0.625	0.125	5	-0.1129579	1
8	0.375	0.125	5	-0.1072280	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.0814549	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	5	-0.1087049	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0630123	0
8	0.5	0.125	4	-0.1217803	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.1117105	1
7	0.571429	0.285714286	4	-0.0778359	1
9	0.555556	0.111111111	4	-0.1444243	1
7	0.571429	0.142857143	4	-0.1242933	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0951061	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0992943	1
7	0.571429	0.142857143	4	-0.1240585	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.1119544	1

6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0820430	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0622177	0
6	0.5	0	4	-0.1204297	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0954440	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.1023964	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0985820	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.0836025	1
9	0.555556	0	4	-0.0983416	1
7	0.571429	0.142857143	4	-0.0626682	0
7	0.571429	0.142857143	4	-0.0682466	1
6		0.166666667	4	-0.0679114	1
6	0.5	0.166666667	3	-0.0152332	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0551917	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0486275	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0615160	0
8	0.5	0.25	5	-0.0107945	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0660665	1
7	0.285714	0.142857143	4	-0.0249221	0
6	0.333333	0	4	-0.0640451	0
6	0.333333	0	4	-0.0969022	1
6	0.333333	0	4	-0.0556027	0
6	0.333333	0	4	-0.0844287	1
9	0.444444	0.111111111	4	-0.0820556	1
8	0.25	0.125	4	-0.0692163	1
7	0.285714	0.142857143	4	-0.0390426	0
6	0.5	0.333333333	4	0.0005830	0
6	0.333333	0	3	0.0017832	0
6	0.5	0	4	0.0141858	0

6	0.333333	0	5	0.0161815	0
6	0.333333	0	2	0.0246138	0
6	0.333333	0	3	0.0293570	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	3	-0.0479208	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0139025	0
6	0.5	0.166666667	4	-0.0338486	0
6	0.5	0	4	-0.2209691	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.3724683	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.1173165	1
7	0.571429	0	4	-0.0992574	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.1151811	1
6	0.5	0	4	-0.1903870	1
7	0.571429	0	4	-0.1462395	
8	0.5	0	4	-0.1271835	
4	0.5	0.25	4	0.0565495	
4	0.5	0.25	4	-0.0703820	
4	0.5	0.25	4	0.0782502	
4	0.5	0	4	-0.6408683	
4	0.5	0	4	0.7565542	
4	0.5	0	4	-0.0625763	
4	0.5	0	4	-0.0781382	
4	0.5	0	4	0.1460625	