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**ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF TAX  
PRACTITIONERS, FORENSIC ACCOUNTANTS AND  
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION  
AT CURBING CORRUPTION IN OSUN STATE,  
NIGERIA**

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**Preliminary communication**

**Abstract**

*This study sought to assess the activities of Tax Practitioners, Forensic Accountants and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission at curbing corruption in Osun State Nigeria. Survey research design was adopted. The population of this study consists of two hundred (200) members of staff (management, senior and junior) of the Office of the Accountant General, Osun State Ministry of Finance, Osun State Internal Revenue Service and other relevant Agencies in Osun State. Stratified and simple random sampling methods were adopted while Taro Yamane was used to determine the sample size of 133 and out this, one hundred and twenty-five (125) respondents filled and returned the questionnaire. Primary data were gathered via administration of questionnaire to respondents. Both descriptive and Correlation analysis were presented in the study. The findings revealed that there is a positive relationship between the activities of Forensic Accountants and activities of Tax Practitioners at curbing corruption in Osun State. It was also found out that proper financial management will help to reduce financial crime rate in Osun State, Nigeria. The study came to the conclusion that the abilities of accountants and the work of tax practitioners significantly contribute to identifying and minimizing fraud in Osun State, Nigeria. Finally, the study made the suggestion that forensic accounting courses be offered in Nigerian universities*

*in order to improve the caliber of accounting graduates from these institutions, among other things.*

**Keywords:** *Tax Practitioners, Forensic Accountants, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Corruption,*

**JEL:** M41, K22

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is said to be rife in Nigerian society, which has dogged the country and stymied all initiatives to improve the lives of its citizens. According to Nwachukwu, corruption is not just common in Nigeria, but its scope and prevalence are notable and call for attention (Ibidunni et al, 2018). The 2017 Corruption Perception Index published by Transparency International ranks Nigeria as the 32nd most corrupt country in the world. In the report, Nigeria is ranked 148th out of 180 nations (Transparency International, 2017).

Countries are evaluated on a scale of 0 (highly perceived corruption) to 100 based on the Corruption Perception Index (perceived to be very clean). Unfortunately, more than two-thirds of the 180 countries examined including Nigeria which received scores below 50%. Transparency International (TI) classifies a country as “extremely corrupt” if its index score is below 50%. Nigeria scored a 27% overall score, which means it is “extremely corrupt.” Public sector corruption is more prevalent in the Nigerian civil service

Due to the widespread corruption in contemporary organizations, traditional audits and investigations are ineffective and inefficient at identifying and preventing the various forms of corruption that affect enterprises all over the world. Despite the fact that emerging economies and their multiple governments suffer the most, no nation is immune to fraud. Due to the increasing sophistication of financial fraud, forensic accounting must be added to the toolkit in order to successfully investigate and prosecute individuals involved in illegal behaviour.

This is because fraud has ruined Nigerian society on a grand scale, causing numerous businesses to lose their clientele. Important entities, such as the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independence Corrupt Practices Commission, were founded to combat corruption (ICPC). It was difficult for all of these to work successfully because of the Nigerian constitution’s

Section 308 on constitutional immunity, politics and blackmail, public apathy and sceptical attitudes about anti-corruption initiatives, and the slow speed of justice.

Investigation, dispute resolution, and litigation support are the three basic components of forensic accounting. In the context of the issue of financial crimes mentioned above, this study aims to investigate the problems and potential solutions of forensic accounting and financial fraud in Nigeria.

In the Nigerian political system, financial crimes, bad financial management, and theft of public funds have all progressively escalated. Right now, the administration's major priority is the fight against corruption. Despite the fact that there have been many arrests, the number of prosecutions cannot be seen in the same way. This can be attributed to the fact that forensic accounting information is not utilized during the investigation process and that there is little understanding of its application and usage in court. Government and citizens are more concerned than ever about the limited resources at their disposal due to the nation's obvious socio-infrastructureal flaws and the prevalence of widespread fraud and corruption in the public sector, especially in light of the recent global economic downturn's early effects on world economies (including Nigeria's) and other current difficult economic conditions. However, dishonest and corrupt behavior have long existed in Nigeria's political and economic environment; systemic corruption, which leads to a lack of transparency and accountability by public officials, has been identified as the primary factor in development failure (National Planning Commission, 2005).

Numerous detrimental effects of this terrible scenario have been observed on Nigeria's social, political, and economic development. According to Achebe (1983) and Chukwuemeka et al. (2012), up to 60% of Nigeria's income is frequently lost to corruption.

Transparency International conducted detailed research that found that between 1960 and 2009, corruption cost the Nigerian government's coffers more than \$500 billion. Since it diverts funds away from programs that are crucial for eradicating poverty and fostering economic and sustainable development in Nigeria, corruption constitutes a substantial barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation. This has caused a significant drop in the quality and quantity of goods and services offered to the general populace, as seen by poor infrastructure, inadequate health facilities, low educational standards, a high cost of living, and increased social instability.

According to Joseph et al. (2016,) fraud has grown to be one of the major threats to the world economy. Fraud has stifled economic and societal advancement, corrupted national norms and values, and fostered an environment of illegality

and impunity in the public sphere. According to Joseph et al. (2016), corruption has a number of detrimental effects on society, such as the following: it obstructs progress and development, feeds political unrest, ruins the social and economic fabric of the nation, raises questions about the legitimacy of the government, makes fiscal planning nearly impossible, concentrates the country's wealth in the wrong hands, and leads to an unequal distribution of material comforts. Based on the aforementioned, one can be assured those significant quantities of money that, if correctly utilized, would have fostered a significant construction boom and great economic growth have, to date, found their way into the hands of con artists posing as government officials; the influence of this on our country's economy cannot totally be avoided.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptual Review**

Due to corruption, fraud, and other financial and economic crimes, it has become harder for Nigerians to ensure the wellbeing of the public. These transgressions have reached hazardous proportions, and the public sector has fallen victim to pervasive resource mismanagement. According to Amake and Ikhatua (2016), both the risk of corporate fraud and the severity and prevalence of financial crime have increased. Financial abuse was widespread, which made it difficult to enforce the law, hampered tax collection, and discouraged foreign investment. Standard auditing and investigation techniques are useless and ineffective at spotting fraud since it is so common in the public sector.

Fraud has received a lot of attention both internationally and within Nigeria. According to Karwai (2002), the public sector in Nigeria is suffering greatly due to the rising flood of fraud. This is because every aspect of Nigeria's public sector has been impacted by fraud. Okunbor and Obaretin (2010) claimed that the recent wave of business failures has increased the duties and responsibilities of accountants, including the need to develop the ability to spot and react to warning signals of weak corporate governance, mismanagement, fraud, and misconduct.

Because auditors have failed to prevent corruption, it is now necessary to introduce and put into practice forensic accounting, one of the approaches that can be used for the preventing and detecting in the public sector, as external auditors might not have the knowledge necessary to be able to detect, prevent, or reduce fraud in Nigeria's public sector.

A corrupt practice viewed by (Romanus, 2014), as any unethical, illegal, or immoral action, which includes lying, cheating, and other types of fraud. The misuse of power for one's own benefit is another definition of corruption. Corruption includes bribes, favoritism, nepotism, political donations, kickbacks, false pricing, and all forms of fraud. Furthermore, three forms of fraud have been established: asset theft, corruption, and false statements. They include asset theft or misuse, improper use of influence in a transaction, and falsifying financial statements (Romanus, 2014).

The following fraud schemes such computer-related fraud, cybercrime, hacking into unauthorized sources of information, ATM theft, asset misstatement, hidden liabilities and expenses, improper revenue recognition, inadequate disclosures, insider trading, diverting sales, false invoices can easily be executed against companies and government institutions. Due to his understanding of uncommon situations, how transactions should be handled, and other considerations, the forensic accountant will be able to identify frauds with ease.

## **Forensic Accounting**

Since the term "forensic" indicates that it should be acceptable in a court of law, forensic accountants usually have to adhere to that standard and potential outcome. Some experts claim that litigation services and investigative accounting are the two main subspecialties of forensic accounting. Forensic accounting employs its own models and procedures to carry out investigations that seek out assurance, attestation, and advisory opinions in order to produce legal evidence. The practical areas of compliance, due diligence, financial statement fraud detection, forensic auditing, and accounting fraud are all discussed, as well as the evidentiary nature of accounting data (Oseni, 2017). A number of business failures, according to Okunbor and Obaretin (2017) have raised the demand for accountants who are knowledgeable and skilled in spotting and responding to indicators of weak corporate governance, mismanagement, frauds, and other wrongdoings. Accountants at all levels now need to possess the knowledge and skills required to spot abnormalities and fraud of any kind, find the evidence, and protect it. Therefore, a more thorough methodology is needed for fraud, from prevention through detection. One of the modern techniques that can be used for both prevention and detection is forensic accounting.

According to (Oseni, 2017), forensic accounting is the application of investigative and analytical skills with the goal of resolving financial issues in a manner that complies with legal standards. Financial crimes, according to Ehioghiren and Atu (2016), can be articulated but are not well characterized, according to Curtis (2008 Financial Frauds). No one description is sufficient. His list of financial

crimes includes frauds of all stripes, including bribery, political donations, cronyism, and nepotism. The term “fraud” is defined by (Oseni, 2017) as “a pre-determined and planned deceptive process or device, typically used by a group of people or an individual with the express purpose of defrauding another person or organization in order to gain an unfair advantage that would never have arisen in the absence of such misleading procedure.”

## **Fraud and Forensic Accounting**

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of forensic accounting in identifying fraud, particularly in the Nigerian public sector where the management of the majority of organizations is mired in one financial crisis or another. People’s desire to become affluent quickly leads to fraud (Joseph et al, 2016). The Nigerian system has been so severely corrupted by fraud that it has become commonplace there. Fraud is defined by the Institute of Turkish History as “a deceitful trick, scam, game, artifice, cabal which is performed to defraud, mislead someone” and “contributing anything unneeded to something in order to gain advantage” (Institute of Turkish History 1998 ).

To “create or sustain an existing misjudgement to entice someone to enter into a contract” is another definition of fraud (Joseph et al 2016)

The word “fraud” has no precise definition. Fraud is described as the intentional act of one person deceiving another in order to take their property, whether financial or not, for their own gain. Forensic accounting is described by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) as “the application of professional accounting skills in matters concerning potential or actual civil or criminal litigation, including, but not restricted to, the application of generally accepted auditing and accounting principles; the assessment of internal controls; the determination of lost profits, income, assets, or damage of property; fraud; and any other matter incorporating accounting expertise in the legal system.”

So, fundamentally, forensic accounting is the body of knowledge that combines the fields of accounting, auditing, investigation, law, psychology, computer science, and criminology to produce the evidence required for a court proceeding.

## **The Roles of Forensic Accountants**

As an expert witness, a forensic accountant’s primary duty is to analyze, assess, compile, and explain complex business and financial operations in a logical, fact-based manner. Therefore, in order to do his job effectively, the forensic accountant

must meet the following requirements: Deliver results in the form of a report and supplemental documents; assist with any legal proceedings; help get the proof needed to support or refute a claim; evaluate the relevant documentation to establish a preliminary assessment of the situation and identify areas of loss;

take part in and help with the discovery examination, particularly by developing the inquiries to be made on the financial evidence; review of the opposing expert's damages assessment and reporting on the benefits and drawbacks of the arguments; Participate in talks and negotiations about a settlement; Attend the trial to participate in the cross-examination and to hear the expert witness testimony from the other side.

### **Challenges of Forensic Accounting Practice in Nigeria**

Modugu and Anyaduba (2013) claimed that using forensic accounting presents the following challenges:

- ◆ Gathering information that can be used as evidence in court,
- ◆ The admissibility of evidence that complies with the rules of evidence is essential to the outcome of both criminal and civil trials,
- ◆ The globalization of the economy and the fact that a fraudster can be based anywhere in the world have made the inter-jurisdictional problem worse,
- ◆ The laws frequently do not take the most recent technical advancements into account,
- ◆ It is a relatively new trend, particularly in poorer countries.

### **Approaches to Curbing Corruption in Tax Administration in Nigeria**

Numerous tactics are employed to increase the capacity and effectiveness of tax administrations, including those to: (i) simplify the tax code and restrict tax officials' discretionary authority; (ii) increase tax administration autonomy, lowering the possibility of political interference; (iii) increase tax administration capacity; (iv) enhance tax services; and (v) strengthen tax enforcement. Two further crucial initiatives are establishing a Code of Conduct for Tax Officials and strengthening internal investigations.

## **Factors that Constrain the Effectiveness of the EFCC in Nigeria**

- ◆ Political Interference of the EFCC
- ◆ Organizational Deficiencies of the EFCC
- ◆ Conditions favourable to Corrupt Practices in Nigeria

## **Theoretical Framework**

This study is supported by the Theory of Fraud Triangle because it connects forensic accountants to criminal minds. Dada (2014) claims that forensic accounting employs the Fraud Triangle to identify inconsistencies in corporate policies and identify prospective suspects in frauds investigations. Three essential concepts—*incentive, opportunity, and rationalization*—combine to create a setting that is vulnerable to deception. He highlighted that someone must have the desire, the resources, and the capacity to commit financial fraud.

For instance, a person won't be able to change the numbers if they don't know how to enter transactions in a diary or ledger, regardless of the motivation or opportunity. Anyone might theoretically commit financial reporting fraud; in fact, some fraudsters have a reputation for having high integrity. The "fraud triangle," as described by Crumbley (2003), is a collection of three factors that, when taken together, usually drive people to engage in fraud: pressure or an incentive to do so; a perceived opportunity; and the ability to rationalize fraudulent behaviour. The idea is separated into opportunities for fraud and pressure to commit fraud.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

Because it makes it possible to gather information with the aim of determining the correlations or interactions among variables, the study employed a survey research strategy. The Office of the Accountant General of Osun State's management, senior personnel, and junior staff make up the study's targeted population of (55), Osun State Ministry of Finance (35), Osun State Internal Revenue Service (OSIRS) (25), EFCC (30), ICPC (22) and CCB (28). The total population of management, senior and junior members of staff the agencies is two hundred (200). The study considered these categories because of their knowledge and understanding about the implications of the activities of Tax Practitioners, Forensic Accountants and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission at curbing corruption in Osun State, Nigeria. Stratified sampling Technique was used to select the respondents while Taro Yamane was used to determine the sample of 133 out of which 125 filled and returned the questionnaire respectively. The evaluation

process was done through the use of well-structured questionnaire containing Likert-type questions. Cronbach Alpha Coefficient method was used to validate the reliability of questionnaire. Both descriptive and correlation analysis were applied in the study. Therefore, the following research questions and objectives are provided below:

## Research Questions

Hence, this study provides answer to the following questions.

- ◆ How to assess the activities of Tax Practitioners towards the corrective measures in areas of corruption and financial crimes eradication in Nigeria?
- ◆ What is the level of awareness of the use of Forensic Accounting for fraud detection and prevention among professional Accountants in Nigeria?
- ◆ To what extent does Economic and Financial Crimes Commission curb corruption in Osun State, Nigeria?

## Objectives of the Study

- ◆ assess the activities of Tax Practitioners towards the corrective measures in areas of corruption and financial crimes eradication in Nigeria,
- ◆ ascertain the level of awareness of the use of Forensic Accounting for fraud detection and prevention among professional Accountants in Nigeria,
- ◆ examine the extent to which Economic and Financial Crimes Commission at curbing corruption in Osun State, Nigeria.

## Research Hypotheses

$H_{01}$ : Activities of Tax Practitioners do not influence the corrective measures in areas of corruption and financial crimes eradication in Nigeria.

$H_{02}$ : Forensic Accounting has no significant relationship with professional accountant for eradication of crimes and corruption in Nigeria.

$H_{03}$  Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) do serve as preventive agency in curbing corruption in Nigeria.

What is the level of awareness of uses of Forensic Accounting for fraud detection and prevention among professional Accountants in Nigeria

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Demographic Information

Demographic Information's are presented below in the Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Demographic Background

Characteristic		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	54	43.2
	Female	71	56.8
	Total	125	100.0
Age	Below 25	29	23.2
	25-35	52	41.6
	36-40	24	19.2
	Above 40	20	16.0
	Total	125	100.0
Highest Qualifications	ND/NCE	6	4.8
	HND/BSC	95	76.0
	Masters	16	12.8
	Professional cert.	8	6.4
	Total	125	100.0
Years of working experience	1- 10 years	26	20.8
	11-20 years	36	28.8
	21-30 years	33	26.4
	31 years & above	30	24.0
	Total	125	100.0
Category of Respondents Management		18	14.4
	Senior	58	46.4
	Junior	49	39.2
	Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

According to Table 1, women made up 56.8% of the respondents, while men made up the remaining 43.2%. This suggests that the more than half of workers in regulatory organizations are women.

Table 1 further revealed that 23.2% of the respondents were below 25 years, 41.6% of aged 25-35 years, and 19.2% of aged 36-40years years while 16.0% were 40 years above. This depicts that majority of the regulatory bodies' employees were aged between 25-35 years as shown by a total of 41.6% within the categories. Table 1 also shows that 6 (4.80%) of the respondents have Diploma/NCE qualifications, 95(76.0%) have B.Sc/HND, while 16(12.8%) of them have Master and 8 (6.40%) were with professional qualifications. This implies that majority of most of the respondents were graduate

Table 1 demonstrates the position of the respondents or that 18 (14.4%) are of the management staff, 58 (46.4%) are senior officers and 49 (39.2%) are junior staff. It can be concluded based on the above analysis that more of the respondents are senior members of staff. The Table presented that 26 (20.8%) of the respondents of have spent 0 – 2 years in government service, 36(28.8%) indicated 2-5 years, 33 (26.4%) indicated 6– 9 years and 30 (24.0%) indicated above 10 years. This implies that majority of most of the respondents have 2-5 years working experience.

Table 2. Respondent’s perceptions on Activities of Tax practitioner

Items	Statement		SA	A	D	SD
1	Inadequate use of Tax Instruments Lead to corruption in Nigeria	Freq %	69 55.2	51 40.8	3 2.40	2 1.6
2	High Tax Rate Results in Crimes and Corruption	Freq %	36 28.8	62 49.6	21 16.8	6 4.8
3	Good Tax Personnel can help Curbing Corruption	Freq %	55 44.0	50 40.0	17 13.6	3 2.4
4	Reduction in Corruption can be Achieved through Coercion of Tax Payers to Pay Tax	Freq %	25 20.0	47 37.6	45 36.0	8 6.4
5	Corruption reduces tax revenue and the effectiveness of various financial assistance programmes	Freq %	47 37.6	43 34.4	30 24.0	5 4.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 2 reveals that out of 125 respondents, 69 (55.2%) strongly agree and 51 (40.8%) agree that corruption in Nigeria is a result of improper tax instrument use. The fact that there is an unsuitable use of tax tools is what causes corruption

in Nigeria. **In item 2 of** Table 2 shows 36 (28.8%) and 62 (49.6%) of respondents agree that high Tax rate results in crimes and corruption. This implies that high Tax rate results in crimes and corruption. Item 3 shows, 55 (44.0%) and 50 (40.0%) of respondents agree that a good Tax personnel can help in curbing corruption while item 4 reveals 25 (20.0%) strongly agree and 47(37.6%) of respondents agree that reduction in corruption can be achieved through coercion of tax payers to pay tax. The result further shows that 47 (37.6%) of respondents strongly agree and 43(34.4%) admit that corruption reduces tax revenues and the effectiveness of financial aid programs.

Table 3. Respondent’s perceptions on Forensic Accountant

Items	Statements		SA	A	D	SD
1	Forensic Accountants’ Activities Aid Curbing of Corruption	Freq %	55 44.0	63 50.4	7 5.6	00 00
2	Rate of financial crime in Nigeria will be reduced by the efficient employment of forensic accountants.	Freq %	48 38.4	66 52.8	11 8.8	00 00
3	Forensic accountants assist in the identification and prevention of fraud.	Freq %	52 41.6	70 56.6	3 2.4	00 00
4	Uses of forensic accountants’ services to reduce financial crimes and socioeconomic problems.	Freq %	28 22.4	88 70.4	9 7.2	00 00
5	Qualified Accountants and Auditors are of great help in Eradication of Corruption	Freq %	60 48.0	55 44.0	10 8.0	00 00

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 3 reveals that out of 125 respondents, 55 (44.0%) strongly agree and 63 (50.4%) agree that Forensic Accountants activities aid curbing of corruption. Table 3 further reveals that 48 (38.4%) of respondents strongly agree and 66 (52.8%) agree that effective use of Forensic Accountants will reduce the rate of financial crimes in Nigeria

Table also reveals 52 (41.6%) of respondents strongly agree and 70 (56.0%) agree that Forensic Accountant in the public sector are helpful in identifying and combating fraud. This study implies that forensic accountants aid in the identification and prevention of fraud in the public sector. Item 4 reveals, 28 (22.4%) of respondents strongly agree and 88 (70.4%) agree that services of Forensic Accountants are preferable in curbing socio - economic evils and financial crimes. Table also reveals that out of 125 respondents, 60 (48.0%) strongly agree and 55 (44.0%) agree that qualified Accountants and Auditors are great help in eradication of corruption.

Table 4. Respondent's perceptions on EFCC

Items	Statements		SA	A	D	SD
1	Adequate funding by the Federal Government Provide for Effective Operation of Anti-Graft Agencies in Nigeria	Freq %	40 32.0	74 59.2	10 8.0	1 0.8
2	EFCC are Best Suited to Address Problem of Corruption in Nigeria	Freq %	45 36	54 43.2	20 16	6 4.8
3	Proper Financial Management helps to Reduce Financial Crime Rate	Freq %	61 48.8	60 48.0	3 2.4	1 0.8
4	Litigation support service helps in improving eradication of mismanagement of public funds	Freq %	42 33.6	79 63.2	4 3.2	00 00

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4 reveals that out of 125 respondents, 40 (32.0%) strongly agree and 74 (59.2%) agree that adequate funding by the federal government provide for effective operation of anti-graft agencies in Nigeria. This means that adequate funding of government provides for effective operation of anti-graft agencies in Nigeria. Table further reveals that 45 (36.0%) of respondents strongly agree and 54 (43.2%) agree that EFCC are best suited to address problem of corruption in Nigeria. Table reveals 61(48.8%) of respondents strongly agree and 60 (48.0%) agree that proper financial management will help to reduce crime rate. Table 4. reveals that out of 125 respondents, 42(33.6%) strongly agree and 79(63.2%) agree that litigation support service helps in improving eradication of mismanagement of public funds. This means that litigation support service helps in improving eradication of mismanagement of public funds.

## Test of Hypotheses

### Hypothesis One

$H_{01}$ : Activities of Tax Practitioners do not influence the corrective measures in areas of corruption and financial crimes eradication in Nigeria.

Table 5. Correlations

		Inappropriate use of Tax instruments lead to corruption in Nigeria.	Reductions in corruption can be achieved through coercion of Taxation on the whole.
Inappropriate use of Tax instruments lead to corruption in Nigeria.	Pearson Correlation	1	.256*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.012
	N	96	96
Reductions in corruption can be achieved through coercion of Tax payers on the whole.	Pearson Correlation	.256*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.012	
	N	96	96

Source: SPSS Computation, Version 20.0,2022.

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 5 represent the result of the Pearson Correlation for this study. The data provided that there is a positive relationship between the existence of inappropriate use of tax instruments which lead to corruption in Nigeria and reduction in corruption can be achieved through coercion of tax payers at 0.256 coefficient. The probability value of 0.012 is less than 0.05, which suggests that activities of Tax Practitioners influence corrective measure in areas of corruption and crimes eradication in Nigeria

### Hypothesis Two

H<sub>02</sub>: Forensic Accounting has no significant relationship with professional accountant for eradication of crimes and corruption in Nigeria.

Table 6. Correlations

		Forensic Accounting activities aids at curbing corruption.	Proper financial management will help to reduce crime rate.
Forensic Accounting activities aids at curbing corruption.	Pearson Correlation	1	.064
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.537
	N	96	96
Proper financial management will help to reduce crime rate.	Pearson Correlation	.064	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.537	
	N	96	96

Source: SSPS Computation, Version 20.0,2022.

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The result of the second hypothesis proposed for this study’s Pearson Correlation is shown in Table 6. The findings show a 0.064 coefficient relationship between forensic accounting initiatives that fight corruption and sound financial management, which reduces crime rates. The probability value of 0.537 is greater than 0.05 which suggests that there is no significant relationship between the variables. This suggests that because forensic accountants have not yet received legal recognition in Nigeria, their efforts to reduce financial crime and corruption there are not entirely successful.

### Hypothesis Three

H<sub>03</sub> Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) do serve as preventive agency in curbing corruption in Nigeria.

Table 7. Correlations

		EFCC are best suited to addressing corruption in Nigeria.	There will be growth in Nigeria economy if corruption reduces.
EFCC are best suited to addressing corruption in Nigeria.	Pearson Correlation	1	.260*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.011
There will be growth in Nigeria economy if corruption reduces.	N	96	96
	Pearson Correlation	.260*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.011	
	N	96	96

Source: SSPS Computation, Version 20.0,2022

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 7 above represents the results of the Pearson Correlation of hypothesis three formulated for this study. The data provided that there is positive relationship between EFCC as best suited to address corruption problem in Nigeria and there will be growth in Nigerian economy if corruption is eradicated 0.260 coefficients. The probability value of 0.011 is less than 0.05, which suggests that there is a significant relationship between the variables. This states that Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) serve as a preventive agency in curbing corruption in Nigeria.

## Discussion of Findings

The objective one's findings demonstrated a substantial correlation between the presence of corrupt tax procedures in Nigeria and the feasibility of reducing corruption using broad-based tax coercion given the estimated (coeff. 0.012, P-val <0.05). Tax administration is crucial to ensuring that the right amount of tax is collected at the right time and for the least amount of money possible, as well as to decrease the burden on the government and tax-payers (USAID 2013). As a result, tax officials are in charge of overseeing tax collection and enforcement, which includes the identification of tax liabilities, the filing, payment, and processing

of tax dues, the registration of taxpayers and their removal from the national registry, as well as the investigation and prosecution of alleged tax offenses (Mara, 2009). Additionally, since they may come across corruption and other wrongdoings while executing their jobs, tax officers are essential in the battle against corruption (OECD 2014). Competent, effective, and trained tax authorities that adhere to the highest ethical standards are necessary to mobilize and manage domestic fiscal resources, which enables countries to provide fundamental services (Mara, 2009). Evidence of cooperation between tax authorities and taxpayers in order to consistently evade taxes points to more organized corruption in the tax administration (Kabera, 2008). The findings objective two indicate that there is insufficient proof that forensic accounting practices reduce crime and corruption. The results of this experiment also suggest that forensic accounting efforts aid in the suppression of corruption given estimated (coeff. 0.5370,  $p < 0.05$ ). Forensic accounting includes both litigation support and investigative accounting. As part of litigation support, assistance of every type is provided in matters involving ongoing or upcoming litigation. Even though it involves looking into criminal cases, investigative accounting mainly addresses issues with how to calculate economic damages (Romanus 2014).

According to the third hypothesis's findings, there is a strong correlation between the EFCC's ability to fight corruption in Nigeria and the possibility that the economy will grow if corruption is reduced. In summary, the study showed a connection between Nigeria's economic growth and the EFCC's capacity to fight corruption. This is so because the P-value is lower than the alpha value, which is ( $p\text{-val.} < 0.05$ ). Forensic accounting includes both litigation support and investigative accounting. Dada (2014) who claims that cases involving economic and financial crimes are typically complex, involve paperwork and technological challenges, and also necessitate an educated investigator to find them. Forensic accounting is a financial stage in managing and resolving economic and financial crimes in Nigeria's economy.

## 5. CONCLUSION

According to the study's findings, tax professionals' efforts and accountants' skills both play a key role in discovering and minimizing fraud in Osun State, Nigeria. Here are some ideas to help the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, forensic accountants, and tax experts in their fight against corruption in Osun State, Nigeria. Based on the findings, some suggestions have been made:

Anti-graft groups should consider recruiting forensic accountants to help them in court cases involving economic or financial crimes.

The formalization and specialization of forensic accounting should be encouraged by the National Universities Commission, Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

The curricula of all postsecondary institutions in Nigeria that provide accounting programs ought to incorporate forensic accounting. Professional accounting organisations should also incorporate the topic into their curricula.

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## **PROCJENA AKTIVNOSTI POREZNIH STRUČNJAKA, RAČUNOVODSTVENIH FORENZIČARA I POVJERENSTVA ZA GOSPODARSKI I FINANCIJSKI KRIMINAL PRI SUZBIJANJU KORUPCIJE U DRŽAVI OSUN, NIGERIJA**

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### **Prethodno priopćenje**

#### **Sažetak**

*Ovaj rad nastoji procijeniti aktivnosti poreznih stručnjaka, forenzičkih računovođa i Povjerenstva za ekonomski i financijski kriminal u suzbijanju korupcije u državi Osun, Nigerija. Prihvaćena je forma anketnog istraživanja. Populaciju ovog istraživanja čini dvjesto (200) članova osoblja (rukovodstvo, viši i mlađi), Ureda glavnog računovođe, Ministarstva financija države Osun, Državne porezne uprave Osuna i drugih relevantnih agencija u državi Osun. U analizi će biti korištene stratificirane i jednostavne metode nasumičnog uzorkovanja, dok je Taro Yamane korišten za određivanje veličine uzorka od 133, a od navednih 125 ispitanika je ispunilo i vratilo upitnik. Primarni podaci prikupljeni su primjenom upitnika ispitanicima. U radu su prikazane deskriptivne i korelacijske analize. Rezultati istraživanju su otkrili kako postoji pozitivna veza između aktivnosti forenzičkih računovođa i aktivnosti poreznih stručnjaka u suzbijanju korupcije u državi Osun. Također se nalazi kako će pravilno financijsko upravljanje pomoći u smanjenju stope financijskog kriminala u državi Osun, Nigerija. Istraživanjem se došlo do zaključka kako sposobnosti računovođa i rad poreznih stručnjaka značajno doprinose identificiranju i minimiziranju prijevара u državi Osun, Nigerija. Konačno, na temelju istraživanja u radu se predlažu tečajevi forenzičkog*

*računovodstva na nigerijskim sveučilištima kako bi se, između ostalog, poboljšale kvalifikacije diplomiranih računovođa iz tih institucija.*

**Keywords:** *porezni stručnjaci, forenzički računovođa, Poyjerenstvo za gospodarski i finansijski kriminal, korupcija,*

**JEL:** M41, K22