

**IMPACT OF ACCOUNTING TECHNIQUES ON FRAUD EXAMINATION AND
PREVENTION IN THE NIGERIAN BANKING SECTOR**

Ebere Udumaga OKOLO (PhD)
Department of Accountancy/Education
Institute of Ecumenical Education, Thinkers Corner,
Emene
Enugu Phone no.-08037794806. E-mail:
ebereudumaga@gmail.com)

Ifeoma Mary OKWO (PhD)
Department of Accountancy,
Enugu State University of Science and Technology
Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria
E-mail: mary.okwo@esut.ed.ng

Jude Ikechukwu ANI
Economics Department,
Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu
(Phone no-08036704881 E-mail: ikeanijia@gmail.com)

Gibson Chinedu NOKE
Department of Accountancy/Education
Institute of Ecumenical Education, Thinkers Corner,
Emene
Enugu (Phone no.-08066702728 E-mail: Nokegibson@gmail.com)

Abstract

This study examined the impact of accounting techniques on fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks of Nigeria. Survey research design was utilized. Area of the study was twenty-four (24) commercial banks in Nigeria as at the period of study. Frequency, percentages were utilized in analyzing data. Combat alpha which performed very well with a value of 0.876 which indicate a high measure of internal consistency and single factor ANOVA were the statistical tools utilized to test hypotheses. Among the findings were that the use of GAAP/Accounting technique does significantly aid in fraud examination which consequently reduce the occurrence of fraud cases in the banking industry.

Key words: Accounting technique, Forensic Accounting, Fraud, Fraud Examination/Prevention, Banking sector, Nigeria.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Forensic accounting tools include Accounting technique, Research technique, Law (Litigation), Quantitative Methods and Finance, Auditing, Law enforcement officer insights and Investigative Skill (Dahili, 2007) Standard accounting principles/techniques are collectively known as Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); therefore, GAAP provides the framework foundation of accounting standards, concepts, objectives and conventions for banks, serving as a guide of how to prepare, present and examine financial statements (Dibetoot Dictionary 2020). Accounting Concepts and Principles/techniques are a set of broad conventions that have been devised to provide a basic framework for financial accounting reporting.

This growing level of fraudulent activities and the negative image on the banking sector is a cause of concern for necessary mechanism or controls that will address this fraudulent act in the sector. According to Okolo, Iduma and Ani, (2018) banks are now open to numerous of fraud cases as a result of advancement in modern day technology; these portrayed the duties of Forensic accountant to the banking sector of the nation. Therefore, the importance and popularity of forensic accounting has being on the increase especially with resent increase in fraud cases. Stressing that banking sector plays a very significant role in the development of a nation and are the principal depositories of the public's monetary savings, the nerve centre of the payment system, the vessel endowed with the ability of money creation and allocation of financial resources and conduit through which monetary and credit policies are implemented.

Consequently, the success of monetary policy, to a large extent, depends on the health of the banking institutions through which the policies are implemented. As a result, problems which militate against the proper functioning of the banking sectors will inevitably have adverse effects on the other sectors of the economy. Hence, there is urgency for researchers to address such issues which may hamper the smooth functioning of the banking sector. Furthermore, Fraud has been observed as a main threat to the growth and development of the banking sector globally, more importantly in Nigeria. Stressing that the management of banks experience fraud cases, with the sum of funds perpetrated by ten banks involving N168.84 billion, also, in the year 2008, 2007 fraud cases, with collective sum of frauds of N53.52 billion were perpetrated. Consequently, these banks resources (N168.84 billion and N3.52 billion) would have been used for economic growth and development. This then attracts researcher's attention Okolo, Iduma and Ani, (2018). Organization of the Accounting Cycle around the Chart of Accounts and the Accounting Period define the accounting cycle with steps: Financial transactions,

Journal entries, Posting to the Ledger, Trial Balance Period, and Reporting Period with Financial Reporting and Auditing (Investopedia, 2020). Generally Accepted Accounting Principles includes the following: Principle of Regularity, Principle of Consistency, Principle of Sincerity, Principle of Permanence of Methods, Principle of Non-Compensation, Principle of Prudence, Principle of Continuity, Principle of Periodicity and many more. Against this backdrop is the introduction of accounting techniques of forensic accounting in examining and preventing fraudulent practices and easy recognition of violation in the Nigerian banks.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Accounting techniques are not applied in the day-to-day running of the business of the bank rather the banks only ensure their books are balanced at the end of the month instead of balancing their books on a daily basis with respect to the GAAP. That is, adhering strictly to the rules and regulation of the accounting concepts and conventions, this invariably strengthens the internal control functions. However, when these records are not balanced till end of month, it gives room for fraudulent practices. Following the above, the basic problem banking sector face is to sort solution to the irregularity that have become order of the day in preparation and presentation of financial statements so as to satisfy one of the stakeholders at the expense of majority of other stakeholder, presenting financial statement that does not present true and fair view of the position of the banks business for the period under review.

As the fraudsters have over time developed and are continuously developing skills to outwit both internal and external auditors and management who are expected to superintend over the bank businesses, there is an urgent need to put in place mechanism as recommended by GAAP to address this fraud cases. Therefore there arises the need to develop and gradually utilize accounting techniques to examine/prevent these fraudulent practices. In fact most of these frauds are perpetuated due to the application techniques the banks are adopting. Could the ineffectiveness in tackling this fraud acts therefore are as a result of the lack of application of accounting techniques in banks' operations in Nigeria? It is in the light of the above that this study set out to evaluate the extent to which Accounting techniques of the forensic accounting help in the examination and detection of fraudulent activities in the banking sector in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the effect of forensic accounting techniques on fraud examination and detection in the banking sector in Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- i. Ascertain the effect of application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis on fraud examination and prevention commercial banks in Nigeria.
- ii. Determine the effect of the application of accounting concept technique in fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.
- iii. Investigate how GAAP technique aids in examining and detecting fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria.

1.4. Research Questions

The research questions for the study is to examine the extent accounting techniques of forensic accounting examine/prevent fraudulent activities in the Nigerian banks.

- i. To what extent does the application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis aid fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria?
- ii. To what extent does the application of accounting concept technique help in fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.
- iii. How does the application of GAAP technique aid in examining/ detection of fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The research hypotheses are:

- H₀₁: The application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis does not significantly aid fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.
- ii. The application of accounting concept technique does not significantly help in fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.

iii. The application of GAAP technique does not significantly aid in examining/ prevention of fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Conceptual Review

Nor, et.al. (2013) maintain that Forensic Accountants have two basic areas as follows: investigative accounting and Litigation support. This invariably put a hut in the growth of the economy. Thus, in the author's opinion these incessant fraud cases has placed greater expectation on the accountants to get acquainted with special skills to identify and act upon indicators of fraudulent acts and even on any red flag. Maintaining that Forensic Accounting uses investigative, computer, litigation and expert witness techniques in confirming fraud cases for prevention purposes. Thus, the authors examined the role of forensic accounting in fraud detection / prevention for economic growth with keen interest in the Nigerian banking industry.

Modugu and Anyaduba, (2013) opined that Forensic accounting emerged to put a hurt to certain fraud cases that cause bank failures, loss of customer's confidence and economic unrest. Hence, Forensic Accounting is knowledge that involves the use of accounting, auditing, investigation, legal, and computer in providing the required evidence in a litigation process.

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2.2 Theoretical Frame work

This work is based on Fraud Triangle theory. According to Eko, Adebisi, and Moses, (2020) the fraud triangle theory was propounded by Cressy [1953] in an attempt to understand what precipitates, inspires or motivates people to commit fraud or crime. Through extensive interview of fraudsters in prisons, he postulated that every fraud has three things in common – motivation or pressure, rationalization and opportunity to commit the crime. Fraud or crime will occur only when there is pressure of motivating factor on the fraudster. These factors may be extreme financial need, organizational action, entailed organizational rewards or punishment for individuals not meeting set targets. Notwithstanding the desire to commit fraud, without the second leg of the triangle – existence of opportunity, the fraud will not occur. There must therefore be a distinctive avenue or situation for the fraudster to gain access or control over the

resources to be defrauded. These opportunity ranges from weak internal controls in the organization, absence of proper accountability and dis-proportionality between the perceived benefits of the fraud and the perceived costs of being detected and punished. According to the theory, although there may be pressure and opportunity to commit fraud, without rationalization fraud will not occur. Rationalization thus completes the precipitating factors that must be present for fraud to occur. Rationalization is self-justification for deviant act which involves justifying the crime under the circumstance by giving excuses why the action is necessary as perpetrators need a way to justify their actions as being acceptable or normal.

2.3 EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

Eko, Adebisi, and Moses, (2020) evaluated the application of forensic accounting techniques in preventing/detecting fraudulent practices in commercial banks in Nigeria by specifically assessing the impact of commercial data mining, ratio analysis and trend analysis techniques in fraud detection/prevention. With the aid of descriptive statistics and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) model, the result revealed the application of forensic accounting techniques significantly enhanced detection/ prevention of fraud in the banking system. The study further revealed the importance of ratio analysis as well as trend analysis techniques in fraud detection/prevention. Also the study revealed the importance of commercial data mining software in fraud detection/prevention and the lack of capacity and awareness of most staff of the workings of data mining technology as well as the use of trend analysis technique in detecting/preventing fraud in the banks. Recommendation was that commercial banks should mandatorily be required to acquire robust data mining software facilities as well as enhanced training on the application of data mining and its usefulness in the banking sector. Also, use of anonymous response hotlines be encouraged as well as extensive awareness put in place for the attention of the public as well as quick responses from the banks to queries.

Okoye and Gbegi, (2013) investigated the application of forensic accounting as a technique for fraud control in the Public Sector Organizations in Kogi State. Primary Sources of data were adopted through the use of questionnaire and three hundred and seventy (370) questionnaires were given to employee of five (5) selected ministries. Data

was analyzed using tables and simple percentages and analysis of variance (ANOVA) was utilized as the statistical tool employed to test the hypothesis. The authors found out that the use of forensic accounting in the public sector organizations of Kogi and detecting and preventing of fraud cases. Recommendation was that forensic accountants should replace external auditors

Okolo, Iduma and Ani, 2018 investigated the emergence of information technology and its resultant effect as utilized by fraudsters causing increase in fraud cases in banking sector of Nigeria. This was caused by advent of information technology in Nigerian banking industry. Their objective was to determine the levels at which computer technique of forensic accounting help in frauds detect in Nigerian banking Sector. Survey research design was utilized. Frequency and percentages were used in analyzing data while, single factor ANOVA conducted at 0.05 was the statistical tool used to test hypotheses to compare the difference between variables of computer forensic Accounting technique to fraud detection. Findings were that the use of computer forensic investigation technique and experience does significantly detect fraud cases in the banking sector. Conclusion was that use of Computer technique of Forensic Accounting help in fraud cases detection in the Nigerian banking sector and recommendation was that since computer technique of forensic accounting help in fraud detection; banks should continue the utilization of it to detect fraud. Also, Okoye and Gbegi, (2013) assert that forensic accountant should possess good education and training, in-depth experiences and in addition is closer to being investigators, economist who do economic and market estimation and appraisers, especially trained in finance and/or valuation theory in business.

Oyedokun, Enyi, and Dada, (2018) examined the relevance of forensic accounting techniques in ensuring the integrity of the financial statements. Stakeholders who were members of recognized professional accountancy bodies in Nigeria were the despondent. The authors adopt survey research method with the use of primary data and purposive random sampling techniques. The sample size was calculated with the formula by Krejcie and Morgan (1970). 350 copies of questionnaires were administered, and 321

questionnaires were returned, representing 92% of the entire questionnaire. Nominal scale method was used in the demographic section while Likert scale was used in other sections of the questionnaire. Hypotheses were formulated, tested, and analyzed using multiple regression analysis. It was found that forensic accounting techniques “FAT” (FPDDS, FAIS, LMAS, and CARDR) have positive influence on the integrity of financial statements (IFS) of business organizations, as evidenced from the individual level of significance of 0.006, 0.045, 0.000, and 0.047 which are less than the 5% acceptable level of significance and the coefficient of determination of the main model of 0.23 meaning that about 23% variation of the IFS is attributable to FAT while the remaining 77% change in the IFS can be attributed to other factors not covered in the model. It was also found that the inclusion of forensic accounting techniques will strengthen the activities of internal control functions. This is also evidenced by the sign and size of the coefficients, that is $\beta_4 - 7$ are +0.203, +0.256, +0.270, and +0.134 respectively > 0 . They conclude, that forensic accounting techniques are; fraud prevention, detection and deterrence skills, forensic audit, forensic investigation, and forensic interviewing skills, litigation, mediation and arbitration skills, and computer-assisted reviews and document reviews. The study recommended that banks should consider setting up forensic accounting unit within an organization to lend credence to the integrity of financial statement of business organizations.

Gbenji and Adebisi, (2014) examine Forensic Accounting Skills and Techniques in fraud investigation in the Nigerian public sector. The population comprised of 129 senior staff of the three Anti-Corruption Agencies in Nigeria (EFCC, ICPC, and CCB). Methodology includes both primary and secondary sources of data collection; questionnaire was used in collecting primary data while secondary data were obtained from EFCC, ICPC and CCB. Data generated for this study were used for the testing of hypotheses using Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and time series analysis with the aid of SPSS version 17.0. Findings show that, first, forensic accounting skills and techniques have significant effect on uncovering and reducing fraud in the Nigerian public sector. Recommendation was that, first, anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria should establish forensic units and forensic laboratories to allow room for more effective and efficient investigation of suspected and confirmed fraud cases. Second, the public sector

(government) should develop interest in forensic accounting by making sure that forensic accounting is institutionalized in all ministries, extra-ministerial departments and parastatals to build up effective internal control system that will enhance more effective performance in the Nigerian public sector.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study utilized survey research design. The topic fraud is seen as sensitive area by banks and as such they are very reluctant in disclosing records in that regard. Therefore, survey research is best suit for this study. Tables, simple percentages and ANOVA were adapted in analyzing data

3.2. Area of the Study

The study area is commercial banks (money deposit banks) of Nigeria. Commercial banks were chosen because of its sensitive nature to fraud.

3.3. Population of the Study

The population of this study comprised of two forensic accountants and at least one auditor from all head offices of twenty four (24) commercial banks in their Internal Auditing department at their head offices giving a total of seventy-two (72) accountants..

3.4 Determination of Sample Size

The sample size is seventy-two (72), this is due to its small size therefore the researcher decided to study all the population as sample.

3.5. Method of Data Collection

This study used primary source of data collection. Data was generated through information obtained from forensic accountants/auditors of the twenty-four (24) Banks. Questionnaire was developed and structured in a four (4) point rating Scale of strongly agree, Agree, strongly disagree, and Disagree; administered to staff of the internal audit department.

3.6. Method of Data Analysis

Tables and percentages were used to analyze the data extracted from respondents. The Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test remained the statistical tool used in testing the research hypotheses. Data collected was statistically analyzed with Simple percentage (%) and frequency distribution to compare the difference between variables of accounting technique application in the banks to fraud examination

and prevention in banking sector of Nigeria. The choice of ANOVA for this study is justified by the fact that it reveals the extent of variation in dependent variables that are caused by independent variables. It is also used in comparing the variation in excess of two independent variables, taken just once from population with exact variance.

3.7. Model Specification

$$SSB = r \sum (X_{iL} - \bar{x})^2, \quad SSW = \sum \sum (X_{iL} - \bar{x})^2,$$

Where SSB = between sum of square,

SSW = within treat sum of the square,

X_{iL} = individual observation around their columns mean,

\bar{x} = grand mean column,

Df = degree of freedom ($c - 1$) (in 1), C = number of column,

R = number of row,

\sum = Summation, Level of significant (0.05)

The Model adopted for this study is $SSB = r \sum (X_{iL} - \bar{x})^2, SSW = \sum \sum (X_{iL} - \bar{x})^2,$

IL= Variables of forensic accounting

Where i = Accounting technique

Data Presentation

Questionnaire response Rate

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS

Table: Response rate

Questionnaire	Number	Percentage%
Questionnaire administered	72	100
Questionnaire returned	70	92.2

Field Survey, 2020

Table above shows that 72 copies of questionnaire were administered on respondents. The seventy (70) questionnaire were returned (response rate of 70 copies were 92.2%. Therefore 70 questionnaires were used for the analysis.

Table: Cronbach alpha reliability of data

Cronbach Reliability and Correlation Test

Cronbach Alpha Number of Items .876 15

Cronbach's Alpha			
0.87615			
Cronbach's Alpha with missing item			
SD	D	SA	A
-0.70995	-2.06201	0.366482	0.898158
Split-half			
Halves	0.894323		
OddEven	-0.71227		

Source: Microsoft excel toolkit 2007.

Source: SPSS 20.0 the table above examines the properties of measurement scales and the items that compose the scales. Ideally, the cronbach alpha coefficient should be about 0.7 (Pallant, 2001). The cronbach coefficient for the study performs very well with a value of .876 and this indicates that the scales and the items of the research instrument show a high measure of internal consistency (data is reliable).

Table below: Objective one:

Question One: To ascertain the extent to which application of banks balancing (reconciliation) their books/records on daily basis on fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Question 1: Your bank practicing application of banks balancing their books/records on daily basis affect fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	5	7.14%
Agree	5	7.14%
Disagree	10	14.29%
Strongly disagree	50	71.43%
Total	70	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

From table above, 5 respondents representing 7.14% of the total population strongly agree that their bank practices bank balancing their records/books processes of accounting technique of forensic accounting, and that it significantly to fraud examination/prevention. 5 respondent representing 7.14% agree, 10 respondents representing 14.29% disagree while 50 respondents representing 71.43% of the population strongly disagree. From the scores, the researcher deduced that bank do not adhere to balancing their records method of accounting technique to fraud prevention in banking sector of Nigeria given the number of respondents that stood for it. Objective two: To determine the extent to which the application of accounting concept technique effect fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Question two: Your bank applies accounting concept technique in their day to day operation and it affects fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Responses		Frequency	Percentage
A	Strongly Agree	16	22.9%
B	Agree	14	20%
C	Disagree	16	22.9 %
D	Strongly disagree	24	34.2%
Total		70	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

The table above shows that 16 respondents representing 22.9% of the population strongly disagree while 14 respondents representing 20% disagree; 16 respondents representing 22.9% agree, while 24 respondents representing 34.2% strongly agree. From the scores above, the researcher deduced that bank does not apply accounting concept technique in their day to day operation and it affects fraud examination and prevention affects commercial banks in Nigeria negatively.

Objective 3: How does the application of GAAP technique aid in examining/ prevents fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Question 3: Application of GAAP technique do aid in examination/ prevention of fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Responses		Frequency	Percentage
A	Strongly Agree	40	57.14%
B	Agree	10	14.28%
C	Disagree	10	14.29%
D	Strongly disagree	10	14.29%
Total		70	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

From table above, 40 respondents representing 57.14% of the total population strongly agrees that their bank practices GAAP processes of accounting technique of forensic accounting, and that it significantly affect fraud examination/prevention. 10 respondent representing 14.28% agree, 10 respondents representing 14.29% disagree while 10 respondents representing 14.29% of the population strongly disagree. From the scores, the researcher deduced that bank adhere to GAAP method of accounting technique to fraud examination/prevention in the banking sector of Nigeria given the number of respondents that stood for it.

Question 4: Three quarter of staff working in your bank are accountants, who understand the accounting concepts/conventions or the GAAP and utilize it in their day to day operation

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	5	7.14%
Agree	10	14.29%
Disagree	15	21.43%
Strongly disagree	40	57.14%
Total	70	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

From table above, 5 respondents representing 7.14% of the total population strongly agrees that their bank staff understand accounting concepts/convention and practices GAAP processes of accounting technique of forensic accounting, and that it significantly affect fraud examination/detection. 10 respondent representing 14.29% agree, 15 respondents representing 21.43% disagree while 40 respondents representing 57.14% of the population strongly disagree. From the scores, the researcher deduced that three quarter of staff working in your bank are not accountants, who understand the accounting concepts/conventions or the GAAP and utilize it in

their day to day operation especially to fraud examination/prevention in the banking sector of Nigeria given the number of respondents that stood for it.

Test of hypothesis one

To what extent does the application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis aid fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria?

Table: ANOVA

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Variance</i>
SA	4	75	18.75	239.5833
A	4	35	8.75	6.25
SD	4	70	17.5	25
D	4	100	25	166.6667

ANOVA

<i>Source</i>	<i>of</i>					
<i>Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between						
Groups	537.5	3	179.1667	1.638095	0.232769	3.490295
Within Groups	1312.5	12	109.375			
Total	1850	15				

Decision Rule

Reject H_0 if F -calculated is greater than or equal to F - critical value. Since F – ratio Cal = 3.490295 while F – ratio Tab = 1.638095. From the ANOVA test statistics above F_{CAL} is lesser than F_{TAB} . That is $3.490295 < 1.638095$. We therefore accept the null hypothesis (H_0^1) at a 0.05 level of significance, meaning that the effect of application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis does not affect fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Test of Hypotheses Two

ANOVA Table

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Variance</i>
SA	4	75	18.75	239.5833
A	4	35	8.75	6.25
SD	4	70	17.5	25
D	4	100	25	166.6667

ANOVA

<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	537.5	3	179.1667	1.638095	0.232769	3.490295
Within Groups	1312.5	12	109.375			
Total	1850	15				

F – ratio Cal = 3.490295 while F – ratio Tab = 1.638095. From the ANOVA test statistics above F_{CAL} is lesser than F_{TAB} . That is $3.490295 < 1.638095$. We therefore accept the null hypothesis (H_0^1) at a 0.05 level of significance, meaning that the application of accounting concept technique significantly does not help in fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria.

Objective Three

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Variance</i>
SA	7	1810	258.5714	12847.62
A	7	440	62.85714	1323.81
SD	7	206	29.42857	1667.952
D	7	354	50.57143	8597.952

ANOVA

<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	237632.4	3	79210.81	12.96554	3.09E-05	3.008787

Within Groups 146624 24 6109.333

Total 384256.4 27

F – ratio Cal = 3.008787 while F – ratio Tab = 12.96554. From the ANOVA test statistics above F_{CAL} is lesser than F_{TAB} . That is $12.96554 < 3.008787$. We therefore reject the null hypothesis (H_0^1) at a 0.05 level of significance, meaning that the application of GAAP technique aid in examination/ prevention of fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria

Discussion of findings

Effects of the application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis aid fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria (H_{01}): the technique of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis aid fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria to prevent fraud activities early enough before its perpetration in banks. As revealed from the result that tested objective one, Hence, based on the result of the test, application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis does not affect fraud examination and prevention in commercial banks in Nigeria. The same goes with H_0^2 but in the H_0^3 from the scores, the researcher deduced that banks adhere to GAAP method of accounting technique to fraud examination/prevention in the banking sector of Nigeria given the number of respondents that stood for it. Also, from the ANOVA table F – ratio Cal = 3.008787 while F – ratio Tab = 12.96554. Thus, from the ANOVA test statistics above F_{CAL} is lesser than F_{TAB} . That is $12.96554 < 3.008787$. We therefore reject the null hypothesis (H_0^3) at a 0.05 level of significance, meaning that the application of GAAP technique aid in examination/ prevention of fraud in commercial banks in Nigeria. This is in line with Eko, Adebisi, and Moses, (2020) the application of forensic accounting techniques in examining/preventing fraudulent practices in commercial banks in Nigeria was assessed; the impact of commercial data mining, ratio analysis and trend analysis techniques in fraud examination/prevention with the aid of descriptive statistics and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) model, the result revealed the application of forensic accounting techniques significantly enhanced examination/ prevention of fraud in the banking system. The author further revealed the importance of ratio analysis as well as trend analysis techniques in fraud detection/prevention. Also the study revealed the

importance of commercial data mining software in fraud detection/prevention and the lack of capacity and awareness of most staff of the workings of data mining technology as well as the use of trend analysis technique in examining/preventing fraud in the banks.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We therefore conclude that, use of the application of GAAP principles/technique of Forensic Accounting, significantly and positively aid in fraud examination/prevention in Nigerian banking sector while the application of banks balancing (reconciling) their books/records on daily basis together with the application of accounting concept technique of forensic accounting does not help in the examination/prevention of fraud cases in banking sector of Nigeria.

Recommendation: The application of GAAP principles/technique of Forensic Accounting should be applied in banks to aid in fraud examination/prevention in Nigerian banking sector.

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