

Benefits and Challenges of International Financial Reporting Standards Adoption in Ghana: Accounts and Business Managers' Perspective

Richmell Baaba Amanamah

Department of Accounting Studies Education, College of Technology Education

University of Education, Winneba, P. O. Box 3059, Kumasi, Ghana

Tel: 233-20-665-8380 E-mail: richaman2@gmail.com

Received: October 23, 2017 Accepted: November 24, 2017 Published: December 8, 2017

doi:10.5296/ijaf.v7i2.12040

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijaf.v7i2.12040>

Abstract

The objective of the study was to identify benefits and challenges associated with the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRSs) in Ghana from account and business managers' perspective. The study used purposive sampling to collect data from 187 accounting professionals and managers in all business sectors of Ghana. Data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. A Kruskal-Wallis H non-parametric tests (KW) was conducted to determine whether there are statistically significant differences of perception among five groups of the level of professional affiliation and six groups of role and position. The results revealed that the adoption of the IFRSs has among other benefits, increase the quality of accounting information, increased investors' confidence, increase comparability of financial statement among companies both nationally and internationally, reduced the cost of equity capital, made the preparation and auditing of financial statement very transparent and easier. The findings also revealed that though the cost of implementation was very high and accounts and business managers' faced some challenges in the implementation of the standards, the benefit derived from its implementation outweighed the challenges. Respondents perceived that IFRSs is too complicated for adoption by SMEs. They recommend that more training is needed to equip professionals in the effective implementation of IFRSs.

The paper recommends that ICAG should conduct regular training for their members, other implementers as well as owners and operators of SMEs on the IFRSs especially on the emerging standards.

Keywords: IFRS, Ghana, professionals, accounting

1. Introduction

Studies into the perception of different categories of accounting professionals and managers on the benefits and challenges of IFRSs after 10 years of its adoption in Ghana is timely and useful for investors, companies, accounting professions and the Ghana accounting standard Board. It is of the view that the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) increase the quality of financial statement (Lenormand & Touchais, 2009, and Barth et al. 2008). Research conducted in countries like Great Britain, Italy and Germany, by Iatridis (2010); Paglietti (2009); Pannanen and Lin (2009) revealed that, the implementation of IFRS has improved the quality of accounting information. Few studies have been done in emerging countries like Ghana. After 10 years of adopting IFRSs, there is the need to study the challenges and benefit accounting professionals encounter in implementing the IFRS in Ghana. Many researchers including Gyasi (2010), Laga (2012), Kholeif (2008), Braun and Rodriguez (2014) have indicated that, there is a need to conduct more research to assess the challenges of the implementation of IFRS in developing nations. Irvine and Lucas (2006) also indicated that there is the need to examine challenges encountered in actually implementing IFRS in developing economies. This study therefore seeks to identify benefits and challenges associated with the adoption of IFRS using accounts and business managers from the various sectors in the Ghanaian economy.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Brief Background of IFRSs

One of the aims of IASB is to ensure that financial information is relevant, reliable and understandable to enable users make an informed decision. This they hope to achieve through the elimination of differences in accounting policies and principles between countries. IFRS are accounting principles issued by International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) which is anticipated to result in the harmonisation of the preparation of financial statement between countries. According to Quigley (2007) for there to be capital market globalization, accounting information should be harmonized. Researchers such as (Zeghal and Mhedhbi, 2006; Hassan et al., 2009; Gyasi, 2010) assert that harmonization of accounting information across the globe will benefit developing countries because it provides them with a clear accounting framework and principles. IFRS adoption is believed to enhance greater transparency and disclosures in financial statements (Epstein, 2009, Adam, 2009). This will eventually lead to the harmonisation of financial statement across borders. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) replaced International Accounting Standard (IAS) which was issued since 1973 – 2000 by the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), when International Accounting Standard Board (IASB) took over that responsibility in April 1, 2001. (IFRS Foundation, 2010). IFRSs are more objective and principled based. IFRSs was intended to meet the fundamental objective of financial reporting, which is to measure economic activity. IFRS was developed from a balance sheet-perspective so it begins with the definition of assets and liabilities adopting a fair value measurement approach. According to Carson and Dowling (2010), financial information prepared and audited according to a national accounting standards may not be useful to users due to the high level

of globalisation of businesses and financial markets. IFRS leads to high-quality, transparent, and comparable financial information. This is useful for International organisations, as it helps investors, creditors, financial analysts, and other users of financial statements thoroughly assess the performance of their investment. (Carson and Dowling, 2010; Latifah et al., 2012). According to Scott (2012) investors expect financial statements to provide them with useful information to enable them make an informed investment decision.

2.2 Benefits of IFRS Adoption

It was believed that, the adoption of IFRS will lead to true and fair presentation, transparency, and comparability of financial statements. (DeFond et al. 2011; Lee & Fargher 2010). This will intend increase the confidence of investors hence lower cost of capital. For developing countries such as Ghana, it will increase the credibility of its domestic markets to foreign capital providers and potential investors. Faraj and Akbar (2010). Gordon (2008) listed the benefits from adaptation of IFRS over the world to include: better financial information for shareholders and regulators, enhanced comparability, improved transparency of results, increased ability to secure cross-border listing, better management of global operations and decreased cost of capital. Studies conducted from 21 countries by Barth et al. (2008) revealed that adoption of IFRS had reduced the level of manipulation of income and expenses to meet financial expectations. Because IFRS demands higher disclosure levels, quality measurement and recognition rules, financial statements are more transparent and reflects the economic position, information asymmetries between firms and their shareholder is also reduced (Ding et al. 2007; De Franco, Kothari & Verdi 2010). Mihai et al. (2012) and Ionaşcu et al. (2010) indicated that following the implementation of IFRSs, the cost of capital of listed companies on the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) decreased. A study conducted on Turkish companies, after the implementation of IFRS, revealed that the quality of accounting information increased Kargın (2013). Armstrong et al. (2010); Lenormand & Touchakis (2009) recorded an improvement in the quality of accounting information after the adoption while Paananen & Lin (2009) are of the view that the adoption of IFRS has led to a reduction in the quality of the accounting information.

2.3 Challenges of IFRS Adoption

Michas (2010) Alp and Ustuntage (2009) and Zhang et al. (2007) are of the view that, the implementation of IFRSs by developing countries comes with a lot of challenges. Some of the challenges includes the complexity of the standards, fair value issues, cost, regulation, lack of technical skills and knowledge in standards, inadequate education and training of accountants (Schachler et al., 2012; Laga, 2012; Masoud, 2014). According to Obazee (2007), challenges are cultural issues, mental models, legal impediments, educational needs and political influences. Adopting IFRSs requires a country to blend its culture to the West and reforms its regulatory, legal and economic structures. Investors, accountants, auditors, preparers and users of financial reports must be trained and educated. Hoogendoorn (2010), is of the view that the application of IFRSs is very complex and there are no sufficient guidelines. As for the quantity of disclosure a survey conducted by KPMG (2007) including 18 of the largest European banks reporting under IFRSs concluded that the size of the annual

reports under IFRSs has increased significantly compared to annual reports under local GAAP. Dunne et al. (2008) investigated IFRS implementation in UK, Ireland and Italy and pointed that an important issue identified in all three countries was related to staff training and adapting to rapid changes. Certain standards were considered very technical and required the assimilation of specific skills (such as IAS 39, IAS 19 and IAS 36). A study by Ionaşcu et al (2011) revealed that lack of active markets needed for fair values determination may reduce the quality of accounting information presented in financial statements prepared in accordance with the IFRSs. Another challenge identified was that because IFRSs is principle-based, it may create avenue for earning management (Hong 2008; Chand, Patel & Patel 2005; Jeanjean & Stolowy 2008). According to Rong- Ruey Duh (2006), the challenges of IFRS adoption includes the ability of accountants to interpret standards, and the knowledge level of financial statement users, preparers, auditors and regulators in accounting information.

3. Methodology

A purposive sampling procedure was used to select 187 accounts and business managers from various sectors of the Ghanaian economy. Data was collected from respondents using a well-structured questionnaire containing both closed and opened ended questions.

The questionnaire was developed to solicit data and information from the respondents on benefits and challenges associated with the implementation of IFRSs in Ghana. The questionnaire comprises both open and close ended questions. In addition, a 5-point Likert-scale ranging from Strongly Disagree (SD) to Strongly Agree (SA) was utilised. The questionnaire was pre- tested, refined to suit the research context and finally administered to the target sample through personal contact by the researcher. The data analysis made use of both descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS.

4. Empirical Results

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of the respondents

Variable	Sub level	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	148	80.0%
	Female	37	20.0%
Age	Below 20 years	5	2.7%
	20-30 years	62	33.2%
	31-40 years	49	26.2%
	41-50 years	52	27.8%
	51-60 years	14	7.5%
	Over 60 years	5	2.7%
Level of education	SHS/O-level/A-level	0	0.0%
	HND	16	8.6%
	Bachelor's Degree	60	32.4%

	Masters	90	48.6%
	Doctorate	15	8.1%
	Other	4	2.2%
Professional affiliation	Member ICAG	106	57.9%
	Member ACCA	13	7.1%
	Student member ICAG	26	14.2%
	Student member ACCA	28	15.3%
	Other	3	1.6%
	None	7	3.8%

Description for the above table.

Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the background information of participants such as gender, age, level of educational, professional affiliation, years of experience and the business sectors of respondents. Data was collected from 187 accountants and managers from all the business sectors of Ghana. Table 1 shows that, the survey had a male response rate of 80 percent and 20% female response. Majority of the respondents representing 54% of the total respondents were between the ages of 31-50, 33% were between the ages of 20-30 years of age, while 10% were above 50 and 60 years of age.

The table also reveals that, 49% of the respondents hold master's degree, 32% holds bachelor's degree, 8% holds doctorate degree, 9% were Higher National Diploma degree holders. This shows that respondents are highly educated and so will give an informed opinion. The researcher tried to ascertain the number of respondents who are members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana (ICAG) as they are responsible for regulating the accountancy profession in Ghana. Table 1, shows that, 65% of the respondents are chartered accountants with 58% being members of Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana (ICAG) and 7% being members of the Association of Certified Chartered accountants (ACCA). 14% are students' members of ICAG, and 15% students' member of ACCA. 4% does not belong to any professional body and the rest representing 2% are members of CIMA, CISA, CIT and SM CTG. This analysis is very important because it shows the level of knowledge of respondent in financial reporting.

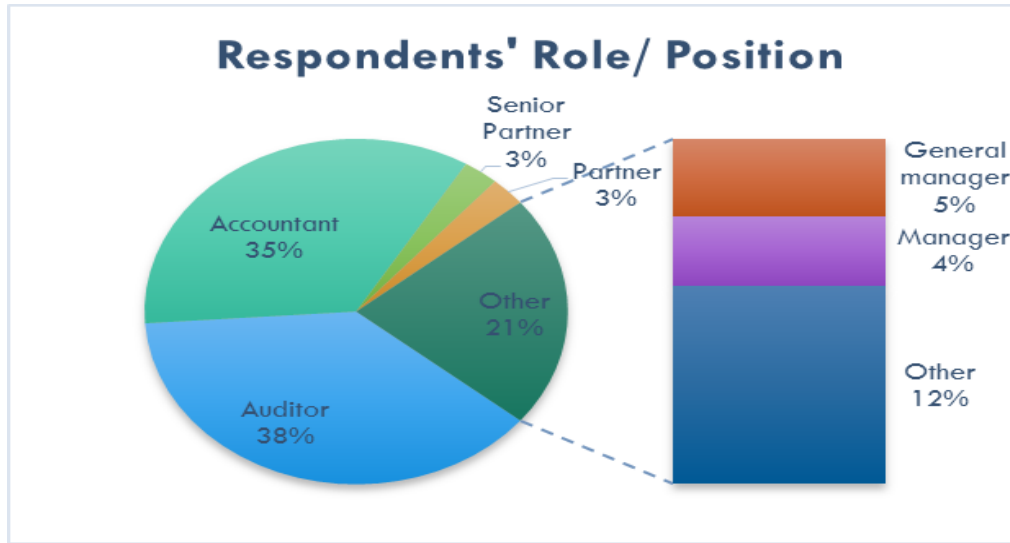


Figure 1. Respondents' role/position

Description for above figure.

Figure 1 shows that, 35% of respondents were accountants, 38% were auditors, 6% are senior partners and partners of auditing firms and the rest are general managers, managers, bankers and tax mangers.

Table 2. Business sector

Business Sector	Frequency	Percentage
Private Company	132	70.6
Public Organization	37	19.8
Non-Profit	2	1.1
Other	12	6.4
Total	183	97.9

Description for the table above

Table 2 reveals that over 72% of respondents were from the private sector as opposed to 20% from the Public sector, with the remaining fractions being Non-Governmental Agencies and other institutions.

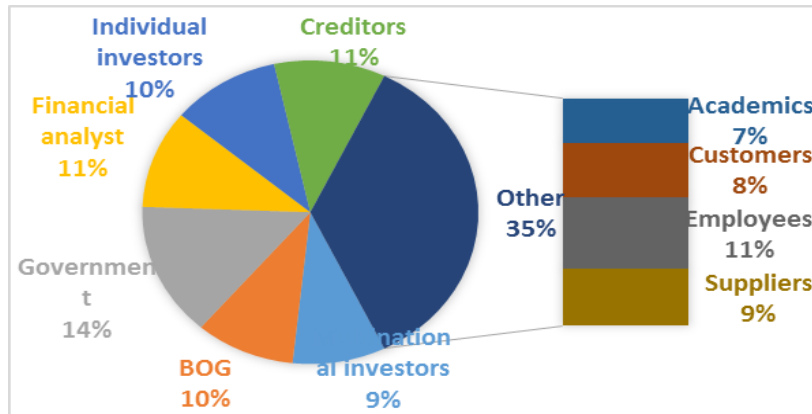


Figure 2. Users of financial statement

Description for the figure above.

Figure 2, gives the users of the financial statement in Ghana and it can be seen that from the perspective of accounts and business managers, individual investors, international investors, financial analyst, creditors, government, the central bank of Ghana are the main users of financial statement in Ghana.

Table 3. Reliability statistics (Cronbach's alpha test)

Item	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Benefits	0.711	0.855	16
Cost and Challenges	0.794	0.804	21

Description for the table above.

Cronbach's Alpha was used to measure the internal consistency and reliability for all items on the scale. Benefit had 16 standardised items and cost and challenges had 21 standardised items. Table 3 revealed that the Cronbach's Alfa based on standardized items was 0.855 and 0.804 respectively. This is acceptable in social science research (Field, 2009). The Inter-Item Consistency Reliability (ICR) of the measures used in this study is therefore highly acceptable (Pallant 2011).

Table 4. Computed variables

Items	Mean	Std. Error	Std. Deviation	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis
Benefits	3.68	0.074	1.005	1.015	-0.793	0.597
Challenges	2.74	0.079	1.147	1.345	0.495	-0.699

Description for the above table.

Table 4 shows the computed variables of means, standard deviation, variance, skewness and kurtosis. The benefit shows a mean of 3.68 whereas cost and challenges gave a mean of 2.74 thus from the perspective of our respondents, the benefit of the adoption of IFRSs in Ghana outweighs the cost and challenges of its implementation.

Table 5. Benefits after the implementation of IFRSs in Ghana

Statements	\bar{x}	S_D	1_SD	%	2_D	%	3_N	%	4_A	%	5_SA	%	T
1. Financial statement meet the needs of users	3.94	1.003	9	4.9	7	3.8	24	13.0	92	49.7	53	28.6	185
2. Financial statement provide a full disclosure of relevant information	3.95	.954	5	2.7	10	5.4	28	15.2	87	47.3	54	29.3	184
3. Financial statement has increased investors' confidence	3.81	.924	4	2.2	8	4.4	49	27.1	77	42.5	43	23.8	181
4. Financial statement provides better information for managers in decision-making	3.99	.896	5	2.7	5	2.7	29	15.8	92	50.0	53	28.8	184
5. Financial statement has increased transparency	3.86	.991	6	3.3	13	7.1	29	15.8	88	47.8	48	26.1	184
6. Financial statement has increased comparability of financial information													
7. Financial statement has made it easy in raising capital on international market	4.05	1.002	8	4.4	5	2.7	24	13.1	79	43.2	67	36.6	183
8. Financial statement has bridged the gap between the local and international market	3.58	1.016	7	3.8	17	9.2	57	31.0	69	37.5	34	18.5	184
9. Financial statement has lowered the cost of equity capital													
10. Financial													

statement are easier to audit	3.82	1.065	10	5.4	10	5.4	34	18.5	80	43.5	50	27.2	184
11. Financial													
statement has reduced the cost of audit													
12. IFRS has													
preparation of Financial statement easier	3.05	1.055	18	9.9	32	17.6	64	35.2	58	31.9	10	5.5	182
13. IFRS has increased													
the quality of accounting practice on the whole	3.62	1.154	13	7.1	20	11.0	31	17.0	78	42.9	40	22.0	182
14. IFRS has increased													
the quality of accounting in Ghana	2.96	1.116	19	10.6	43	24.0	59	33.0	43	24.0	15	8.4	179
15. IFRS standards are													
better than rules-based standards of Ghana GAAP	3.77	4.184	6	3.3	33	18.0	44	24.0	67	36.6	33	18.0	183
16. IFRS has played a													
significant role in the Ghanaian Economic Growth	3.80	.957	7	3.9	10	5.5	32	17.7	95	52.5	37	20.4	181
	3.77	.991	6	3.3	12	6.6	44	24.0	78	42.6	43	23.5	183
	3.63	1.034	9	4.9	16	8.7	42	23.0	83	45.4	33	18.0	183
	3.38	9.22	6	3.3	19	10.6	74	41.1	63	35.0	18	10.0	180

Description for the table above.

Table 5 illustrate the perception of respondents on the benefit of IFRS after the adoption of IFRS. Most of the respondents are of the perception that the adoption of the IFRSs in Ghana has increased the quality of financial information in that it has led to full disclosure of relevant information, has increased transparency in the preparation of financial statements

hence user's needs are met and investors' confidence in financial statement has increased. This support the assertion by Lenormand and Touchais (2009); Barth et al. (2008); Epstein, (2009) and Adam, (2009) that adoption of IFRS leads to transparency and increase the quality of accounting information. Respondent belief that IFRS adaptation has provided a better information for managers in decision making. Again respondent sare strongly of the perspective that the adoption of IFRSs in Ghana has increase the comparability of financial statements among companies within the country and across borders and has bridged the gap between local and international market. This coupled with the confidence investors now have in the financial statement has made it easy to raise funds on the international market and has reduced the cost of equity. This support the assertion by Faraj and Akbar (2010), that the adoption of IFRS in developing countries will help them access the capital markets internationally. Respondents were also of the view that IFRSs has made the preparation and auditing of financial statement easier. Again they are of the view that IFRSs has increased the quality of accounting information in Ghana and their better than principle-based standards of Ghana GAAP however no without cost and challenges.

Table 6. Challenges after the implementation of IFRS in Ghana

Statements	\bar{x}	S_D	1_SD	%	2_D	%	3_N	%	4_A	%	5_SA	%	T
1. Lack requisite skills and knowledge in IFRS Standards	2.13	1.066	55	30.2	74	40.7	22	12.1	24	13.2	7	3.8	182
2. Standards are too complicated and difficult to understand	2.49	1.109	33	18.1	71	39.0	32	17.6	41	22.5	5	2.7	182
3. Not enough professional specialists	2.77	1.138	23	12.7	63	34.8	33	18.2	55	30.4	7	3.9	181
4. Fair value issues are a big challenge	3.15	1.088	13	7.2	46	25.4	49	27.1	57	31.5	16	8.8	181
5. High cost incurred in installing computer software to meet IFRS	2.89	1.077	19	10.5	46	25.4	58	32.0	49	27.1	9	5.0	181
6. Management are unwilling to make certain disclosures	2.98	1.043	17	9.4	43	23.8	56	30.9	56	30.9	9	5.0	181
7. Ghana Accounting Standards was more easy, practical and suitable than IFRS	2.62	1.114	33	18.3	46	25.6	45	25.0	47	26.1	9	5.0	180
8. Ghana Accounting Standards is easy, practical and suitable in the	2.69	1.153	33	18.3	46	25.6	45	25.0	47	26.1	9	5.0	180

Ghanaian economy than													
IFRS													
9. Lots of money spent in the training of accounting staff	3.28	1.070	10	5.6	38	21.3	39	21.9	75	42.1	16	9.0	178
10. High fees spent on external consultants familiar with IFRS	2.77	1.166	24	13.4	55	30.7	42	23.5	45	25.1	13	7.3	179
11. High additional fees to auditors due to adoption of IFRS	2.63	1.066	24	13.6	59	33.3	49	27.7	40	22.6	5	2.8	177
12. Employment of additional staff for the reporting activity	2.54	1.051	28	15.9	63	35.8	41	23.3	41	23.3	3	1.7	176
13. IFRS is complicated for SMEs	3.30	1.102	13	7.3	33	18.4	43	24.0	70	39.1	20	11.2	179
14. Using IFRS in preparation of financial statement is time consuming	2.94	1.130	17	9.5	53	29.6	42	23.5	55	30.7	12	6.7	179
15. IFRS is too subjective													
16. IFRS lacks details													
17. IFRS is too subjective and has increased the level of Fraud risk	2.67	.955	13	7.3	69	38.5	61	34.1	27	15.1	9	5.0	179
18. Professional training not enough, training in IFRS is needed	2.25	.985	38	21.1	79	43.9	34	18.9	23	12.8	6	3.3	180
19. IFRS have not made any positive difference to organization	2.61	1.836	34	19.2	60	33.9	43	24.3	30	16.9	10	5.6	177
20. Not important at all my employer adopted IFRS	3.27	1.202	21	11.9	31	17.5	37	20.9	64	36.2	24	13.6	177
21. IFRS appropriate for developed countries not a developing country like Ghana	2.46	1.081	31	17.3	71	39.7	35	20.9	33	18.4	9	5.0	179
21. IFRS appropriate for developed countries not a developing country like	2.21	1.033	44	24.6	79	44.1	28	15.6	21	11.7	7	3.9	179
21. IFRS appropriate for developed countries not a developing country like	2.28	1.202	50	28.4	65	36.9	18	10.2	31	17.6	12	6.8	176

Description for the table above.

Tables 6 analysed the perception of respondents on the challenges after the adoption of IFRS. The analysis revealed that, 71% of the respondents were of the view that, the accountants and staff who are implementing the IFRS have the requisite skills and knowledge in the standards but professional training are not enough, so more training in IFRS is needed. This support the findings of Dunne et al. (2008). Over 50% of the respondents were of the opinion that, the standards are not complicated and it is actually not difficult to understand. Respondents also

disagree that IFRS lacks details, is too subjective and has increased the level of Fraud risk. Rather respondents are of the view that the adoption of IFRS has made a positive impact on organization as the benefits in Table 8 asserts to. This perception actually contradicts with the view of Hoogendoorn (2006), that the application of IFRS is very complex and there are no sufficient guidelines. Respondent belief that using IFRS in preparation of financial statement is not time consuming. 65% of respondents also disagree that IFRS is appropriate for developed countries not a developing country like Ghana. However, respondents are of the opinion that fair value issues are a big challenge as majority of the assets do not have an active market and it is difficult to determine fair value for those assets. Respondent also agree that a lots of money was spent in the training of accounting staff for the implementation of the IFRS. That explain why now they have no issue with people with the requisite skill. This support the assertion by Gyasi (2010); Laga (2012) and Schachler et al. (2012) that the adoption of IFRS in developing countries will require more training for the accountants and the service of consultants will be utilised to ensure full compliance of the standards. Furthermore, respondents were of the view that IFRS is complicated for SMEs.

Non-Parametric Tests

Table 7. Kruskal Wallis H-test for Professional Affiliations

Items	Member ICAG		Member ACCA		Student Member ICAG		Student Member ACCA		Kruskal Wallis H-test (for all 4 groups)	
	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Chi-square	p value
Benefits	3.98	86.43	3.69	83.08	3.48	73.78	3.64	90.54	1.979	0.577
Challenges	2.66	80.5	2.5	76.33	2.68	84.52	2.85	93.06	1.808	0.613

Table 8. Kruskal Wallis H-test for role and position

Items	Auditors		Accountant		Senior Partners		Partners		General Managers		Managers		Kruskal Wallis H-test (for all 6 groups)	
	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Mean of Response	Mean Rank	Chi-square	p value
Benefits	3.35	70	3.73	82	4.2	104	4.6	125	4.33	111	3.5	66.81	16.034	0.007
Challenges	2.72	77.96	2.77	78.47	3	85.1	2.2	49.1	2.88	88.31	3	87.81	3.26	0.659

Description for the table above.

A Kruskal-Wallis H non-parametric tests (KW) was conducted to determine whether there are statistically significant differences of perception among four groups of the level of professional affiliation and six groups of role and position. The KW was conducted on mean values of the two variables (Benefit and Challenges) computed and the results are shown in

Table 7. The results of the KW test (Table 7) indicates that both members and students' members of ICAG and ACCA agreed on the benefit and challenges of the adoption of IFRSs. It can also be seen from table 8 that auditors, accountants, partners and managers also agree that there are not much challenges in the adoption of IFRS in Ghana. Opinion regarding the benefits of IFRS adoption are diverse between the respondents (since $p < 0.05$).

5. Summary and Conclusion

This study solicited the opinion of accounting professionals and managers after the implementation of IFRSs in Ghana, a developing country. The analysis of the responses suggests that, respondent most of whom are chartered accountants and affiliate of ICAG, are of the perspective that, the adoption of the IFRS has benefited both the preparers of the financial statements and the users of the financial statement. They are of the view that IFRS is important not only for developed nations but for developing countries as well. The study also revealed that contrary to the view of other authors, the benefits of adopting the IFRS outweighs the cost. More professional training in IFRS is needed. ICAG will have to put measures in place to increase their training in that direction especially with the new IFRSs. This paper has provided important insights from the Ghanaian accounting professionals and managers on the benefit and challenges of IFRS after ten years of its implementation. The results provided by this study are likely to be of interest to the ICAG and users of the financial statements. Further studies should be conducted to compare benefit after implementation across countries. Also the value relevance of accounting information before and after the implementation of IFRSs in Ghana should be examined.

References

- Adam, M. (2009). The Challenges of Adopting International Financial Reporting Standards. *Zenith Economic Quarterly*, 4(2), 102-116.
- Alp, A., & Ustuntag, S. (2009). Financial Reporting Transformation the Experience of Turkey. *Critical Perspective on Accounting*, 20, 680-699.
- Armstrong, C. S., Barth, M. E., Jagolinzer, A. D., & Riedl, E. J. (2010). Market Reaction to the Adoption of IFRS in Europe. *Accounting Review*, 85(1), 31-61.
- Barth, M. E., Landsman, W. R., & Lang, M. H. (2008). International Accounting Standards and Accounting Quality. *Journal of Accounting Research*, 46(3), 467-498.
- Braun, G., & Rodriguez, R. (2014). Using Gray's (1988) Accounting Values to Explain Differing Levels of Implementation of IFRS. *International Journal of Accounting and Financial Reporting*, 4(2), 104-136.
- Carson, E., & Dowling, C. (2010). The Production of Audit Services: The Relationship between Audit Support System Design and Audit Pricing by Global Audit Firm Networks. *Working paper*, The University of Melbourne.
- Chand, P., Patel, C., & Patel, A. (2005). Judgments of professional accountants in Fiji: implications for convergence of accounting standards. Paper presented at *Emerging issues in accounting, business and technologies conference* (2005), Niagra Falls, USA.

- DeFranco, G., Kothari, S.P., & Verdi, R.S. (2010). The Benefits of Financial Statement Comparability. *Working paper*, MIT Sloan School of Management.
- DeFond, M. Hu, X. Hung, M., & Li, S. (2011). The impact of mandatory IFRS adoption on foreign mutual fund ownership: The role of comparability. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 51(3), 240-258.
- Deloitte. (2008). IFRS Survey 2008: Where are we today? Retrieved from <https://www.iasplus.com/en/binary/dttpubs/2008ifrssurvey.pdf>
- Ding, Y. Hope, O.K., Jeanjean, T., & Stolowy, H. (2007). Differences between domestic accounting standards and IAS: Measurement, determinants and implications. *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, 26, 1-38.
- Dunne T., Fifield S., Finningham G., Fox A., Hannah G., Helliard C., Power D., & Veneziani M. (2008). The implementation of IFRS in the UK, Italy and Ireland, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.
- Esptein, B.J. (2009). The Economic Effect of IFRS Adoption. *CPA Journal*, 3, 26-31.
- Faraj, S., & Akbar, S. (2010). An Empirical Investigation of The Libyan Audit Market: Perceptions of Auditor's Independence. *Journal for Global Business Advancement*, 3(2), 133-154.
- Gordon, E., Jorgensen, B., & Linthicum, C. (2010). Could IFRS Replace US GAAP? A Comparison of Earnings Attributes and Informativeness in the US Market. *Working Paper*. Temple University, University of Colorado, and University of Texas – San Antonio.
- Hassan, O.A.G., Romilly, P., Giorgioni, G., & Power, D. (2009). The value relevance of disclosure: Evidence from the emerging capital market of Egypt. *The International Journal of Accounting*. 44, 79-102.
- Gyasi, A. (2010). Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards in Developing Countries - The Case of Ghana. *BSc Dissertation*, University of Applied Sciences.
- Hoogendoorn, M. (2010). International Accounting Regulation and IFRS Implementation in Europe and Beyond: Experiences with First-time Adoption in Europe. *Journal of Accounting*, 3, 23-26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09638180600920087>
- Ionașcu, I., Stere, M., & Ionașcu, M. (2010). The Impact of IFRS Adoption on the Cost of Equity Capital of Romanian Listed Companies. *Revista Audit Financiar*, 1, 32-36.
- Irvine, H., & Lucas, N. (2006). The Globalization of Accounting Standards: The case of the United Arab Emirates. *Working paper*, 3rd International Conference on Contemporary Business, Charles Sturt University, Australia.
- Jeanjean, T., & Stolowy, H. (2008). Do accounting standards matter? An exploratory analysis of earnings management before and after IFRS adoption. *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, 27(6), 480-494.
- Kholeif, A. (2008). A New Institutional Analysis of IFRS Adoption in Egypt: A Case Study of Loosely Coupled Rules and Routines. *Working paper*, School of Accounting, Finance and Management University of Essex, UK.

- Karğın, S. (2013). The Impact of IFRS on the Value Relevance of Accounting Information: Evidence from Turkish Firms. *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, 5(4), 71-80.
- KPMG. (2007). Retrieved from www.in.kpmg.com/pdf/corptaxratesurvey2007.pdf
- Laga, M. (2012). Obstacles of Adopting and implementation of IFRS in Libya. *European Journal of Business and Economics*, 7, 1-3.
- Iatridis, G., & Rouvolis, S. (2010). The post-adoption effects of the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards in Greece. *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*, 19(1), 55-65.
- Latifah, I., Asfadillah, C., & Sukmana, R. (2012). History and Development of IFRS and AAOIFI and Their Future Challenge. *Working paper*, Cambridge Business and Economics Conference, Cambridge University, UK.
- Lee, G., & Fargher, N.L. (2010). Did the Adoption of IFRS Encourage Cross-Border Investment?. *SSRN eLibrary*.
- Fargher, N., Lee, H. Y., & Mande, V. (2008). The effect of audit partner tenure on client managers' accounting discretion. *Managerial Auditing Journal*, 23(2), 161-186.
- Lenormand, G., & Touchais, L. (2009). Do IFRS improve the quality of financial information? A value relevance approach. *Comptabilit é– Contr ôle. Audit*, 15(2), 145-164.
- Hong, Y. (2008). Do principles-based accounting standards matter? Evidence from the adoption of IFRS in China, 3321207 theses, Drexel University, United States -- Pennsylvania, p. 137.
- IASB. (2013). Retrieved from <https://www.iasplus.com/en/resources/ifrsf/governance/ifrsf>
- ICAEW. (2007). EU Implementation of IFRS and the fair value directive. Retrieved from ec.europa.eu/internal_market/accounting/docs/.../2007-eu_implementation_of_ifrs.pdf
- Ionascu, I., Ionascu, M., Olimid, L., & Calu, D.A.S. (2011). An Empirical Evaluation of the Costs of Harmonising Romanian Accounting with International Regulations (EU Directives and IAS/IFRS). *Accounting in Europe*, 4(2), 169-206.
- Michas, P. (2010). Auditing in Emerging Market Countries: Does it Matter?. *Working Paper*, University of Missouri.
- Mihai, S., Ionascu, M., & Ionascu, L. (2012). Economic benefits of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) adoption in Romania: Has the cost of equity capital decreased? *African Journal of Business Management*, 6(1), 200-205.
- Masoud, N. (2014). Libya's IAS/IFRS Adoption and Accounting Quality: What Lessons from the European Union Experience. *International Journal of Accounting and Financial Reporting*, 4(1), 118-141.
- Obazee, J. O. (2007). Current Convergence Efforts in Accounting Standard Setting and Financial Reporting: Lagos, Nigerian Accounting Standing Board. January 31.
- Paglietti, P. (2009). Earnings management, timely loss recognition and value relevance in Europe following mandatory adoption: evidence from Italian listed Companies. *Economia Aziendale*, 4, 97-117.

- Paanamen, M., & Lin, H. (2009). The Development of Accounting Quality of IAS and IFRS over Time: The case of Germany. *Journal of International Accounting Research*, 8(1), 31-55.
- Pallant, J. (2011). *SPSS Survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using SPSS for windows* (4th ed.). McGraw Hill: Open University Press.
- Rong-Ruey, D. (2006). Convergence of Taiwan's Financial Accounting Standards with International Financial Reporting Standards: Past, Present and Outlook, Accounting Research and Development Foundation, Taiwan.
- Quigley, J. (2007). Deloitte & Touche World Meeting, Berlin Germany SEC - IFRS - Global financial reporting standards. Retrieved from <http://www.deloitte.com>
- Schachler, M., Al-Abiyad, S., & Al-Hadad, A. (2012). Evaluation of the Suitability of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) for Application in Emerging North African Countries: A Literature Review and a Research Agenda. *Journal of Modern Accounting and Auditing*, 8(12), 1773-1779.
- Zeghal, D., & Mhedhbi, K. (2006). An analysis of the factors affecting the adoption of international accounting standards by developing countries. *The International Journal of Accounting*, 41, 373-386.
- Scott, William R. (2012). *Financial Accounting Theory* (6th ed.). Pearson Education Canada.
- Zhang, Y., Andrew, J., & Collier, H. (2007). The Convergence of IFRS in China: A view on the influence of political ideology on Chinese accounting profession. *Working paper*, ACE International Conference, Hong Kong, China.

Copyright Disclaimer

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)