



Influence of Management Input on Effectiveness of Sacco's Internal Audit in Western Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Examination of management input on effectiveness of Saccos internal audit in Western Kenya.

Methodology/Approach: Employing causal design for cause and effect association, a target of 129 staffs in 15 DT-SACCOS was identified of which stratified sampling led to 97. Researcher designed structured questions in questionnaire that formed basis for data gathering.

Findings: Results indicated that management input had a significant effect on effectiveness of Saccos internal audit in Western Kenya as indicated by p value and t values.

Implications: The study recommended that the management should enhance their input by availing finances on time. This basically improves performance of Saccos.



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Introduction

Management input attributes to the extent to which the leadership and management of these SACCOS actively endorse, facilitate, and participate in internal audit processes to enhance overall organizational performance and governance. Assessing and enhancing the efficacy of a company's leadership, risk assessment, and control procedures is the primary responsibility of the functionality of the internal audit (Mpakanaye (2022)). Internal audits aim to offer assurance and insights across a wider range of an organization's operations, in contrast to external audits that concentrate on internal audit independence. This includes assessing the efficiency of internal processes, identifying areas of potential risk with policies and regulations and assessing the reliability of financial information (Anh, Thi, Quang & Thi, 2020).

According to Afzal (2023), firm executives are highly concerned about internal audit

effectiveness in enhancing governance processes. In the United States, the internal audit function is increasingly recognized as basic element of corporate leadership. Regulators have heightened value of internal audit, and organizations are investing more resources in this function. The dynamic nature of the U.S. business environment necessitates a comprehensive and agile approach to risk management, and functionality of internal audit as instrumental in ensuring that organizations can adapt to emerging risks effectively. In United States internal audit are often involved in assessing ease of internal controls, management of risks and ethical practices for organizations by providing independent and subjective evaluations on internal auditing functions (Al-Kake & Ahmed, 2019).

Regarding internal auditing in Ghana, Alhassan, Erasmus, and Fred (2018) examined how respondents saw the influence of characteristics such as competency, size, relationships, necessary input from management for internal auditing functions, and the performance of independent internal auditors. Findings indicate that the efficiency of internal audits is mostly linked to the level of assistance provided by management. The internal audit effectiveness relies on several factors, including the scale of the department, the expertise of auditors, the autonomy of the audit members and the collaboration.

In Kenya, there has been considerable apprehension regarding the efficiency of internal auditing. The skill of internal audit groups in Kenyan government ministries had a substantial boost. The functionality of internal audits in Kenyan government agencies has been greatly affected (Maina, 2018). The individual conducted a study on the influence of input of management on the quality of audits, examined the effect of manager efficiency on audit efficiency and evaluated the impact of audit on firm effectiveness. Nevertheless, the research concluded that the primary factor of utmost significance was the staff's capability and leadership, closely followed by a inputive management.

Prior research has investigated antecedents of internal audits. According to Huy and Hung (2022) and Mwanza (2022), internal audit effectiveness is a contingent upon firm performance. The key function of an auditing internally is to enable consulting and auditing service that is impartial and unbiased, with the intention of ensuring the completion of organizational tasks and generating additional value.

It is imperative to fortify internal auditing, risk management, and other controls of organizations (Faiteh & Aasri, 2022). The identification of potential hazards and the development of control and governance procedures are both facilitated by the practice of risk management, which is essential for the efficient conduct of internal auditing. In order to accomplish this, it is essential to have a team of experienced professionals, independence, and input from management (Choudhary & Trivedi, 2023).

Statement of the Problem

Failure of SACCOs in Nairobi County is concerning (Gatimu, 2022). The primary causes of this include fraud, mismanagement, and unlawful activities, which have brought attention to concerns about the quality of audits by regulatory agencies (Serem, Fwamba, & Benedict, 2020). Within the local context, the SACCOs Subsector has had controversies arising from financial audits. According to Yegon (2021), SASRA revoked a total of 7 operating licenses of SACCOS between 2014 and 2017. The regulatory authority has declined the yearly financial reports for some saccos. The primary basis for this rejection is the SACCOs' failure to adhere to International Financial Regulation Standards (IFRS).

While there has been some progress in financial state of deposit accepting SACCOs in Nairobi County, there is a lack of study on the efficiency of internal audits, which is not widely discussed.

Empirical journals investigating auditing in businesses have yielded varied results, with less or no major research available to definitively input the role of internal audits. In their study, Saputra, Winarningsih, and Puspitasari (2020) investigated and quantified the extent of influence exerted by several factors on the efficacy of public sector internal audit in Indonesia. Nevertheless, the backing of top leadership does not immediately exert success of internal audit. Abdullah and Mustafa (2020) discovered a lack of substantial independence of internal audit efficiency.

Nyaga, Kiragu, and Riro (2018) recommend conducting additional studies that specifically investigate various variables that impact the performance of internal audits. Hence, the research investigated the impact of management input on effectiveness of Saccos internal audit in Western Kenya.

Objectives of the Study

To determine management input influence on internal audit effectiveness of Saccos in Western Kenya

Research Hypothesis

H₀₁: Management input has no significant influence on internal audit effectiveness of Saccos in Western Kenya.

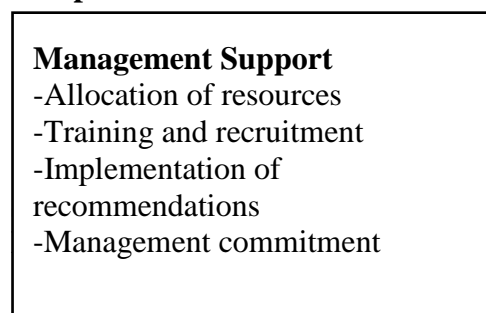
Theoretical Approach

RBV hypothesis can be attributed to Birger Wernerfelt, who authored an essay titled "A Resource-Based View of the Firm" in 1984 (Dionysus & Arifin, 2020). These authors emphasized the significance of firm resources and their impact on firm performance (Chatterjee, Chaudhuri, Vrontis & Thrassou, 2023). The RBV theory posits that firms should prioritize the maximization of their internal resources to generate and dominate future possibilities, rather than focusing on achieving strategic fit with the external environment (Lubis, 2022). The core proposition of the theory is that for a corporation to consistently outperform its competitors, it must obtain and resources (Nagano, 2019).

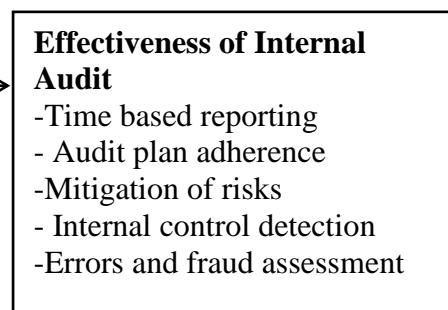
Opponents of this theory state that the resource-based strategy's efficacy is highly dependent on the external circumstances of the firm, and that the strategy yields better results in less predictable external environments (Gibson, Gibson & Webster, 2021). Some have said that being valuable, rare, unique, and non-substitutable the four pillars of the theory isn't enough to keep a business ahead of the competition for the long haul (Beamish & Chakravarty, 2021). Business risk management, regulatory compliance and overall governance are three areas where an organization's performance may be greatly improved by a skilled internal audit staff items that reduce the general income, though important they reduce growth pertain of a firm.

Conceptual Review

Independent variables



Dependent variable



Empirical Review

Singh, Ravindran, Ganesan, and Haron (2021) examined the factors associated with the effectiveness of internal audits. This paper investigates the relationship between the efficacy and caliber of internal audits of multinational firms in Malaysia. The data was analyzed using Smart PLS Software 3.0 via the technique of structural equation modeling. The findings suggest that the efficacy of internal audits is correlated with criteria such as managerial endorsement, interdepartmental collaboration, and the input and acceptance of the auditees.

Sarhan, Ntim, and Al-Najjar (2019) examined audit report governance and found there exists a notable association between the level of governance quality at the national level and the choice to engage a Big 4 auditor, as well as the provision of elevated audit fees. Our research findings indicate that the quality of external audits in Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) nations is directly affected by the quality of governance at both the business and country level. Therefore, it can be inferred that the quality of governance and the quality of external audits collaborate to protect the interests of stakeholders by guaranteeing a better level of audit quality. The robustness of our findings persists even after considering various measures and endogeneities.

Mpakaniye and Delphine (2022) analyzed antecedent of internal audit on effectiveness of public firms in Rwanda. They specifically conducted a case study on RSSB. The study sample comprised 305 employees of RSSB. In their 2020 study, Abdullah and Mustafa sought to identify the elements influencing the efficacy of internal audits (IAE) in Iraq's Kurdistan region. Fifteen college directors and fifteen internal audit managers from the University of Duhok were surveyed to gather data. There are three main components that have been examined in relation to IAE using multiple regression analysis. Both college directors and internal auditors saw that management input affected how efficient they thought internal auditing was inside the IAE framework. The availability of knowledgeable and skilled workers, in addition to an adequate distribution of resources, are essential for effective management assistance.

Nugroho Uzliawati and Taqi (2021) considered management input as a moderating factor and set out to investigate the effects of audit quality, auditor skill, and the scale of internal audits on the effectiveness of these processes. Institutional theory conform to and be in harmony with the pre-existing cultural norms and practices. Internal auditors employed by SOEs in the financial and insurance industries were the focus of the research. The data used were 62 participants' main records gathered using the snowball sampling technique. Findings point to a correlation between auditor skill and audit quality. Furthermore, the amount of assistance given by management affects how effective internal audits are, which in turn affects audit quality.

Yanti, Sari, Ghazali, and Astrina (2022) investigated the impact of managerial input, competency, organizational culture, and professional ethics on the efficacy of internal audits in State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) situated in Palembang City. Associative research is the research methodology employed. All of the data utilized are original, primary sources. A total of 32 individuals from Palembang City's State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) internal audit department participated in the study. Questionnaires and interviews are the main tools for gathering information. In order to decipher the data, the study employed a quantitative analytic methodology. This study's findings indicate that organizational culture, auditor competency, management buy-in, and professional ethics have a significant role in determining internal audit effectiveness. Ratmono and Darsono (2022) examined Indonesian local government entities to find out what makes their internal audit function work or not. A total of one hundred thirty-seven people were considered for the study. According to the statistical tests, the internal audit function is more effective when auditors are independent, competent, and have the backing of upper management. Knowledge and managerial input still matter much when it comes to internal auditing efficacy, even in this cooperative partnership.

Joshi (2020) sought to determine the factors that impact of auditing in Indian publicly traded corporations. There was a random selection of 300 publicly traded companies. All organizations' heads of accounts, as well as their chief audit department officers, internal audit managers, and auditors, were sent questionnaires by regular mail. A total of 28.3% of people were able to react. Using the multiple regression method, we were able to collect the data and show that all three factors had a substantial impact. Planning based on risk, using big data and analytics, and how often the internal auditor (IA) meets with the audit committee (AC) are the three components in question. An evaluation of IA's efficacy accounts for 42.8% of its variation. An internal auditor's proficiency in risk assessment and Big Data/Analytics should be prioritized, according to the research. Their ability to provide outstanding service to the AC members, the board of directors, and auditors would be greatly enhanced by this.

Methodology

Research Design: This research used a causal design in conjunction with a descriptive survey methodology. The primary goal of a descriptive survey is to characterize a population in regard to relevant factors, with the secondary objective of determining the nature of the relationships between these variables (Essendi, 2013).

Population: Fifteen SACCOs in Kenya that accept deposits made up the study's population (SASRA, 2020) hence targets 129.

Sampling: The goal of sampling is to obtain a statistically valid representation of a population's features by picking a subset of that population's members or items at random (Fancera, 2023). Krejcie and Morgan formulae. Stratified random sampling was used to select 97 from 129.

Data collection: A standardized questionnaire administered. Research greatly benefits from the utilization of questionnaires.

Data Analysis: Analyzed at a significance level of 0.05 the descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages and averages) as well as inferential statistics (correlation and regressions) were applied. The results were put out as tables and models

Discussions

A sum of 97 tools administered and 74 were successfully thus a response rate of 76.3%. According to Richard (2005), a minimum of 70% was considered both desirable and doable.

Table 1: Management input and Internal audit effectiveness

No	Management input	S Agree	Agree	F Agree	Disagree	S Disagree	Mean	S.D
1	Leaders empower others for commitments.	37.8 (28)	41.9 (31)	14.9 (11)	1.4 (1)	4.1 (3)	4.08	0.98
2	The management promptly implements remedial measures in response to suggestions made by internal audits.	40.5 (30)	29.7 (22)	9.5 (7)	16.2 (12)	4.1 (3)	3.86	1.23
3	Senior management has responded to internal audit reports in a reasonable manner.	36.5 (27)	35.1 (26)	12.2 (9)	10.8 (8)	5.4 (4)	3.86	1.19
4	In order to help IA become more proficient and up to speed with the profession, management offers training.	35.1 (26)	37.8 (28)	13.5 (10)	9.5 (7)	4.1 (3)	3.91	1.11
5	Management acts quickly in corrections depending on recommendations from internal audits.	32.4 (24)	48.6 (36)	8.1 (6)	6.8 (5)	4.1 (3)	3.99	1.03
6	Senior management knows the requirements and fundamental resources of internal audits.	37.8 (28)	37.8 (28)	8.1 (6)	12.2 (9)	4.1 (3)	3.93	1.15

7	The department of internal audits has enough personnel to effectively handle their duties.	41.9 (31)	29.7 (22)	13.5 (10)	10.8 (8)	4.1 (3)	3.95	1.17
8	The management is dedicated on fortifying the internal audit division.	35.1 (26)	44.6 (33)	10.8 (8)	5.4 (4)	4.1 (3)	4.01	1.027
9	Internal audit receives help from senior management to carry out its obligations.	36.5 (27)	40.5 (30)	13.5 (10)	4.1 (3)	5.4 (4)	3.99	1.079
10	When making decisions, management consults the internal auditor's advice, critiques	44.6 (33)	29.7 (22)	9.5 (7)	12.2 (9)	4.1 (3)	3.99	1.188

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Statement that leaders empowers others for commitments, the management promptly implements remedial measures in response to suggestions made by internal audits, senior management has responded to internal audit reports in a reasonable manner, in order to help IA become more proficient and up to speed with the profession, management offers training and whether management acts quickly in corrections depending on recommendations from internal audits were well agreed on. Furthermore senior management knows the requirements and fundamental resources of internal audits, the department of internal audits has enough personnel to effectively handle their duties, the management is dedicated on fortifying the internal audit division, internal audit receives help from senior management to carry out its obligations as well as when making decisions, management consults the internal auditor's advice, critiques were all agreed on. The study hence indicated that all statements on management support variables affect effectiveness of audit team reporting. The reflection of STD values at 1.0 and above is a reflection of management input on performance.

Table 3: Management input and Internal audit effectiveness

Model Summary						
Model	R	R ²	Adj R ²	Std. Err Est		
1	.554 ^a	.306	.297	.76140		
a. Management input						
ANOVA ^a						
Model	Sum ²	Df	Mean ²	F	Sign.	
Regression value	18.441	1	18.441	31.811	.000 ^b	
Residual value	41.740	72	.580			
Total	60.182	73				
a. Internal audit effectiveness						
b. Management input						
Coefficients ^a						
Model	Unstd Coeff	Stand Coef	t value	Sign.		
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1 (Constant)	1.937	.366		5.287	.000	
Management input	.507	.090	.554	5.640	.000	
a. Internal audit effectiveness						

Source: Primary Data (2024)

An R² of 0.306 show that the effectiveness of internal audits in Western Kenyan sacco is provide that management assistance is at 30.6% of 31.811, P<0.05. Deposit Taking Saccos in Western Kenya, managerial input is a useful predictor of the efficacy of internal audits.

$$Y=1.937+0.507 \text{ Management input.}$$

According to Suleiman, Hamad, and Yussuf (2021), the Ministry of Finance Zanzibar's internal

audit services are more effective when management is on board with them. This finding is in line with the outcomes. Abrar (2020) also found that management input, in the form of money, responses to audit findings, and staff training, is a critical factor influencing the efficacy of internal audits. According to Dyhati and Wahyudi (2022), the efficacy of internal audits is directly affected by management's input. Input from upper management has a negligible impact on the efficiency of internal audits, according to Mohammed & Mohammed (2021). The survey also found that internal auditors in Ghana are not being helped by the current regulatory environment. According to Saputra, Winarningsih, and Puspitasari (2020), there is no substantial influence of direct input from senior management.

Conclusion

Management assistance had a substantial influence on the performance of internal audits in Saccos located in Western Kenya. Enhanced managerial input would lead to a substantial improvement in the effectiveness of internal audits for Saccos in Western Kenya. The substantial impact of management input indicates that organizational leadership has a pivotal role in determining the efficacy of internal audit procedures. Therefore, it is crucial to cultivate a culture of input and collaboration between management and internal audit teams in order to maximize audit results.

Recommendations

A supportive management through financial rewards and constructive organizational support makes audit team sustainable. This could involve regular meetings between internal audit and management to discuss audit results and develop action plans for improvement through provision of need resources.

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