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Perceived Effect of IPSAS Adoption on Ethical Behavior in Public Financial Management in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: This study evaluates the Perceived Effect of IPSAS Adoption on Ethical Behavior in Public Financial Management of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria. It explores the impact of adopting International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) on ethical behavior and financial management practices. Through a mixed-method approach, data was collected using questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings indicate a generally positive perception of IPSAS adoption across demographic groups, with variations in perception based on factors such as age, education level, and years of experience. ANOVA results reveal significant differences in perceived adoption, ethical behavior, financial management, perceived IPSAS management, and implementation benefits among the North-Eastern states. The correlation matrix shows strong positive correlations between perceived adoption, ethical behavior, and implementation benefits, highlighting the potential benefits of IPSAS adoption. The study suggests that efforts to enhance IPSAS adoption and improve financial management practices could positively impact ethical behavior and implementation benefits in the region. Further research and targeted interventions are recommended to address specific challenges and maximize the benefits of IPSAS adoption in North-Eastern Nigeria.

Methodology: The study employed a primary research approach using a questionnaire to collect data on perceived adoption, ethical behavior, financial management, perceived IPSAS management, and implementation benefits. A multi-stage sampling method was used to select respondents from the North-Eastern states of Nigeria. Data analysis involved descriptive and inferential statistics, including ANOVA and correlation analysis, conducted using the Statistical Program for Social Science (SPSS).

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KEYWORDS:
Adoption, IPSAS, Public Finance and Management

1.0 INTRODUCTION

International public sector accounting standards (IPSAS) which is aimed to be a standard for sanity and ethical public financial management practice and are acknowledged and accepted by bodies such as the UN, World Bank, and IFAC, among others, are therefore recommended to be aligned with national accounting standards in order to follow global best practices. To account for stewardship is the fundamental reason why governments at all levels are primarily concerned with the management and reporting of financial statements. Since providing essential services is the primary objective of the government rather than generating revenue. Government also exists to protect the rights of the populace and make sure that their demands are served effectively and efficiently. Government cannot accomplish these objectives without clearly established standards and criteria against which actual performance will be evaluated. Udeh & Sopekan (2015) noted that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's (IPSASB) goal in starting a new GAAP initiative particularly for the government sector would be to enhance the caliber of broad sense financial reporting by public entities, resulting in a better informed assessment of the resource allocation decisions made by governments, thereby increasing transparency and accountability. As a result, the new accounting and financial reporting structure gave rise to IPSASs, which serve as guidelines for those who compile financial statements and reports. The cash-based accounting of reporting that guided government operations prior to the public financial management reforms will be compared to IPSAS in this study based on how it affected the supply of information to public sector entities. At its meeting on July 28, 2010, the Federal Executive Council of Nigeria approved the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), respectively, for the public sector and the private sector of the economy. The FAAC (Federation Accounts Allocation Committee) established a subcommittee to develop a roadmap for the deployment of IPSASs in the three tiers of government during its meeting on June 13, 2011. For each of the geopolitical zones, the meeting nominated six

Accountants-General of the States to serve as coordinators. These individuals are responsible for continuously observing the implementation in the states and updating the AGF (FAAC 2013). Since then, this Sub-Committee has started working, but has the impact been felt? Complete adoption of IPSASs on a cash basis will occur in 2014, and full adoption of IPSASs on an accrual basis will begin in 2016. The International Public Sector Accounting Standards govern the accounting systems of public sector entities with the exception of government business enterprises (GBEs). GBEs apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The New Public Financial Management Movement, which seeks to harmonize accounting standards in the public sector, has in fact urged for the implementation of IPSAS (Benito et al., 2016; Christiaens & Rommel, 2008). In recent years, government regulators, policymakers, practitioners, and academics have all become interested in IPSAS (Kanellos & Evangelos, 2003) The portion of a nation's economic actors that are administered by people nominated by the government on behalf of the general public is referred to as the "public sector" (Acho, 2014). It encompasses all businesses that the government creates, manages, and finances on behalf of the general public (Adams, 2010). The government appoints the Board of Public Entities or Corporations to supervise the operation of these entities. With the exception of government commercial companies, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Boards (IPSASB) is in charge of regulating the accounting standards of public sector entities (Heald, 2003). Conflicting or diverse opinions exist regarding the benefits that will accrue to public officials as a result of the adoption or implementation of the IPSAS in the public sector financial management and reporting across the states of the federation. Global transactions among nations have expanded as a result of a growth in cross-border activity, necessitating more cooperation and trade between various geographic regions (Ijeoma & Oghogbomeh, 2014). In an effort to boost the level of public confidence in financial reports, there have recently been repeated requests for increased transparency and disclosure of financial information across nations worldwide including Nigeria as a nation. As a result of this growth, the set of accounting standards governing the compilation of financial statements for public entities now emphasizes the need for improved transparency, uniformity, and comparability. The goal of these accounting rules is to increase the relevance of financial management for public businesses. Government financial reporting systems have to be modernized and reformed according to the notion of good governance, which includes transparency, accountability, and integrity (International Federation of Accountants, 2001). (Brusca & Martnez, 2016). Due to these revisions, International Public Sector Accounting Standards are now unquestionably recognized as the public sector's gold standard in accounting (Benito et al., 2016). As a result, global organizations like the World Bank, OECD, and the International Monetary Fund are advocating for the implementation of global accounting standards to ensure comparability, openness, and the prevention of corruption (Allen, 2009; Manes Rossi et al., 2016). Because there is inadequate proof that these international standards benefit developing nations of which Nigeria is not exceptional, the majority of nations are reluctant to accept them generates the idea that developing nations adhere to international standards more for legitimacy than for perceived benefits. In order to encourage the global use of IPSAS, particularly by developing nations. International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which are in response to demands for increased government financial responsibility and transparency, are currently at the center of a global transformation in government accounting, claims Heald (2003). However, the research will evaluate the Perceived Effect of IPSAS Adoption on Ethical Behavior in Public Financial Management of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria by using sub-sampling studies with a focus on these federation's northeastern states while anticipating that the study's findings will show gain and subsidize inefficiency, improve accountability and transparency. Relative advantage, IPSAS adoption barriers, and satisfaction with the current system were shown to be the most important variables. These factors appear to have a positive or negative impact on the adoption of IPSAS in the public sector of the north-eastern states of Nigeria and, presumably, the surrounding area. The study is expected to increase cost-effectiveness in the Nigerian public sector, facilitate high-quality financial accounting reporting in the Nigerian public sector if IPSAS is adopted, and increase transparency and accountability in the Nigerian public sector's financial management and reporting, specifically in the study area.

1.2 statement of the problem

The public sector is made up of institutions or businesses that implement public policy through the provision of services and the redistribution of income and capital. Both of these activities are primarily supported by obligatory taxes or levies placed on other sectors of the economy. Governments are included, along with all publicly owned, regulated, and/or sponsored enterprises, organizations, and other government bodies that offer public programs, goods, or services (Kara, 2012). However, after the global financial crisis, government involvement in the private sector increased many governments' exposures and debt levels. Decision-making consequently becomes more challenging if not guided by principles or standards, particularly if the meaning of "sustainable" is ambiguous. It is not out of the question to know that subpar public sector accounting, auditing, and financial management may and will lead to economic catastrophes. Since it influences economic decisions that could have a big impact on society as a whole, the quality of financial reports achieved by effective management is a major concern for everyone, not just the end states under investigation. Nigeria must promote more financial responsibility and transparency, as the recent global financial crisis and the severe fiscal limitations being experienced by many governments have highlighted the necessity for such measures. To make decisions in this situation, high-quality data must be required. The timely, openness, and accessibility of a government's yearly financial accounts through good management is crucial to its capacity to be held accountable to its constituents and elected authorities. These financial managements were built using the cash basis of accounting, or a combination of it. However, in developed countries, the majority of these financial management are not made in a simple or uniform manner but rather through ethical standards. However, the research will evaluate the Perceived Effect of IPSAS Adoption on Ethical Behavior in Public Financial Management of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria by using sub-sampling studies with a focus on these federation's northeastern states while anticipating that the study's findings will show gain and subsidize inefficiency, improve accountability and transparency.

1.3. Objectives of the study
The main aim of the research is to assess the Perceived Effect of IPSAS Adoption on Ethical Behavior in Public Financial Management of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria while The specific objectives are to:

i. Examine the effect IPSAS adoption on ethical behavior of North-Eastern States of Nigeria.
ii. Assess the effect of IPSAS on public financial management in the North-Eastern States of Nigeria.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Concept of IPSAS
The IPSAS were created as a result of the advancement of accounting as a means of enhancing and standardizing financial reporting in order to increase the openness and accountability of governments and their agencies. The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) supports the independent IPSAS Board (IPSASB), a body that sets standards (Ademola, Adegoke & Oyeleye, 2017). A set of accounting guidelines known as the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's (IPSASB) International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) are intended for use by public sector organizations worldwide in the production of financial statements (Otunla 2014). These guidelines are the government's interpretation of the International Accounting Standards Board's International Financial Reporting Standards (IASB). The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), an independent IFAC body, is responsible for issuing IPSASs (International Federation of Accountants). The IPSASB follows a proper procedure for the development of IPSASs that gives interested parties, such as auditors, preparers (including financial ministries), standard setters, and individuals, the chance to comment. The public is welcome to attend IPSASB meetings when the creation and issuance of IPSASs or other papers are discussed and approved. The IPSASB's website, www.ipsasb.org, publishes agenda materials, along with the minutes of its meetings. The ADB, EU, IASB, IMF, INTOSAI, OECD, UN, UNDP, and the World Bank all send observers to the IPSASB sessions. The goal of IPSASs is to raise the level of general purpose financial reporting by public sector organizations, which will result in more accurate evaluations of the resource allocation choices made by governments and promote accountability and openness. Accounting standards known as IPSASs are used by national governments, regional governments (such as state, provincial, and territorial governments), local governments (such as city and town governments), and other relevant governmental institutions (e.g., agencies, boards, and commissions). The majority of international bodies utilize IPSAS standards. Government commercial enterprises are exempt from the IPSASs (IPSAS Outlook, 2014).

2.2 Adoption of IPSAS
Non-adopted nations are those that have not utilized IPSAS in any way. Countries that just use a portion of the IPSAS or the cash-basis are known as partial adopters. The term "fully adopting countries" refers to nations that use the most recent and complete version of IPSAS. We work together when coding data from member profiles with data from other sources, such ACCA (2017) and the International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index report. However, because it is more impartial and frequently updated, we make the members' profile the primary source in accordance with earlier studies (Cuadrado-Ballesteros et al., 2019; Cuadrado-Ballesteros & Bisogno, 2020). The IFAC member profile on the IFAC website provides information on a country's adoption status. We examined this comprehensive IPSAS adoption and implementation report for each nation to verify the adoption status. In accordance with the IFAC nation adoption status, we code countries on a three-point categorical scale, with 0 denoting non-adoption, 1 denoting partial adoption, and 2 denoting full adoption.

2.3 The accountability and openness of IPSAS
The necessity to resolve issues relating to transparency and accountability has been made clear by the global trends in events to both the corporate and public sectors. Transparency and accountability are without a doubt all about upholding your obligations to those who have placed their faith in you and committed their time, money, and resources to your performance in a particular role or office. According to Adegite (2010), accountability is the duty to show that work has been done in compliance with established norms and standards and that the officer discloses performance outcomes fairly and properly in relation to required roles and plans. According to Johnson (2014), a crucial aspect of how well our democratic system works is public accountability. According to Cook (1998), the foundational principle of democracy is public accountability. According to Onochie (2006), it is a person's responsibility to carry out their duties in a sincere and open manner, as well as to make information available so that others can assess the caliber of these services and hold them accountable for their actions. The idea of transparency is related to how accessible government is to its

constituents. In order for stakeholders to receive the essential knowledge regarding the government's performance and operations, good governance requires the appropriate disclosure of key information to them. As a result, the government makes decisions, takes actions, and engages in transactions openly (International Public Sector Study, 2001). The UNAIDS programme committee board (2013) reported that the use of IPSAS will increase the financial report's transparency and accountability. Ohaka, Dagogo, and Lenakpe (2016) said that IPSAS are high-quality standards that act as a catalyst for producing sound and transparent financial statements, hence enhancing operational performance, accountability, and fair resource allocation. Chan (2010) used IPSAS guidelines to increase transparency and accountability in a government entity's financial report. The IPSAS were created as a result of the accounting profession's efforts to improve and standardize financial reporting in order to increase the openness and accountability of governments and their agencies. Bello (2001) came to the following conclusion: There is no question that implementing globally recognized high standards can foster efficiency and openness, which may eventually foster public accountability.

2.4 IPSAS adoption difficulties

No system, no matter how effective, is perfect; difficulties will always exist. When Otunla (2014) outlined the difficulties that would need to be overcome during the adoption and transition processes, he did not mince words. These difficulties included the seamless consolidation of the fiscal reports from the three tiers of government with a uniform reporting format that used the same chart of accounts. According to the reality of the IPSAS requirements, the applicable enabling legislation must be modified to ensure the proper staffing levels and capabilities. The development of IT gear and software to automate the process is essential. Reviewed and updated accounting manuals are used. Accounting staff members receive new training as well as refresher courses. Automation of corporate processes must be prioritized, central guidance is essential, and IPSAS must be consistently taught to accounting students in management accounting curriculum. Ethics and professional accountability must be covered in continuing professional education (CPE). In order to produce IPSAS experts, the profession must commit. In situations where IPSAS is being used, such specialists will be ready to assist individuals.

2.5 Difficulties in implementing IPSAS

The adoption of IPSAS is expected to enhance full disclosure of financial information which will serve the need of different users (Ozugbo, 2009). Implementation of accrual accounting in the public sector is a significant priority across many jurisdictions. Accrual accounting promotes more transparency, improves accountability and provides better information for decision-making purposes. According to the International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index, only 30% of governments in the Index's 165 jurisdictions reported on an accrual basis in 2020, but this is expected to rise to 50% by 2025 and 73% by 2030. To assist governments and government entities wishing to report in accordance with the accrual-based IPSAS, IFAC has developed *Train the Trainer: Introduction to IPSAS*, a package of training materials that provide an introduction to the current suite of IPSAS. The course is aimed primarily at entities currently using a cash basis of accounting and transitioning to accrual IPSAS. The materials are designed to be used flexibly by trainers and can be tailored to the needs of training participants.

2.6 Effect of Public Financial Management (PFM)

PFM reforms can be viewed as a type of direct effective management intervention since, despite not having corruption as their primary goal, they are nonetheless important for efforts to counteract the damaging effects of corruption (Jenkins et al. 2020: 16). The creation of anti-corruption organizations and the creation of national anti-corruption plans, on the other hand, are direct anti-corruption policies that fight corruption directly (Jenkins et al. 2020: 16). PFM improvements can minimize corruption in two ways, according to Long (2019: 95). By limiting the discretion of politicians and bureaucrats, it can proactively create measures that decrease potential for corruption. By enhancing transparency, it can also subtly raise the likelihood of detection and punishment. The literature demonstrates that these strategies can have a considerable influence on reducing corruption even if lower levels of corruption are often desired by-products of PFM reforms rather than their primary goal. In fact, a recent assessment of the literature showed some evidence that PFM reforms are more effective at reducing corruption in fragile situations than direct anticorruption measures (Jenkins et al. 2020: 17). For instance, a study by the World Bank (2012:55) in eight unstable nations revealed that PFM reforms had increased government effectiveness and led to better control of corruption. It's crucial to remember that, despite the importance of technical PFM system reforms, these innovations frequently depend on political commitments and interests in order to be implemented successfully. The frequently made and implicit "functional" assumption that PFM reforms are in the public interest and should, therefore, also be of interest to political decision-makers can easily overlook the possibility that those in charge of authorizing and implementing PFM reforms may well have competing interests (Fritz et al. 2017: 5). The effects of changes at each level of the PFM cycle are discussed in the section that follows on corruption. The article lists the pertinent PEFA indicators for each stage of the PFM cycle and offers a summary of the pertinent research.

2.6.1 Revenue mobilization

To finance governmental functions and promote growth, revenue mobilization is essential. However, it is susceptible to corruption, which can take many forms, from extortion and bribery to theft and mismanagement (French 2013: 6; Martini 2014: 3-4). By reducing fiscal space and investments, distorting tax systems, and eroding public trust in the government, such corruption decreases the tax-to-GDP ratio and harms the economy over the long term (Nawaz 2010: 1; Yohou 2020: 7). The following PEFA indicators (PI) are used to evaluate revenue mobilization: PI-6: the percentage of public funds that are disclosed outside of central government financial reporting. PI-19: the methods used to monitor and collect money for the federal government. It has to do with the organizations in charge of managing federal government funding as well as the organizations in charge of managing funding from other important sources, like the exploitation of natural resources.

2.6.2 Budget formulation

The improvement of fiscal transparency is a crucial PFM strategy. "Openness toward the general public concerning government structure and activities, fiscal policy intentions, public sector accounts, and projections" is the definition of fiscal transparency (Kopits and Craig 1998: 1). Where people have a lot of discretion over how to allocate money, which can be saved for future misuse, there is a higher risk of corruption in budgeting (Morgner and Chêne 2014: 13). Additionally, the probability of corruption is increased by opaque budgeting without public input and oversight from responsible authorities. Given the crucial role that budgeting plays in how government functions, informing the public about how tax dollars are anticipated to be spent deters unethical behavior and fosters a culture of openness and intolerance for corruption. Increased fiscal openness reduces opportunities for dishonest officials to exploit their positions for personal benefit and improves the likelihood that corrupt activities will be discovered (Chen and Neshkova 2019: 16; Akitoby et al. 2020: 1-2). It also restricts the use of political authority to fund favored causes as a form of political patronage or to fund agreements with a high likelihood of generating illegal personal gain (Morgner 2013; Dorotinsky and Pradhan 2007).

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire that receives responses were used in a primary research approach. Perceived adoption, ethical behavior, financial management elements, perceived IPSAS management, and perceived implementation benefits are the five characteristics that are of the utmost importance. This part covers the approach used to provide answers to the research questions that lead to the achievement of the study's objectives. A multi-stage sampling method was utilized to choose respondents for this study. The study area is divided into three strata. Second, two states from each are to be randomly selected. Third, certified household accountants should be included in the aim. The statistical program for social science (SPSS)'s, inferential and descriptive (ANOVA and Tables) analytical features were employed to analyze the data collected.

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were analysed based on the assumed hypothetical demographic characteristics of the respondents and their responses regarding the perceived effect of IPSAS adoption on ethical behavior in public financial management in the North-Eastern States of Nigeria.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Characteristic	Frequency
Gender	
Male	700
Female	583
Age Group	
20-30	400
31-40	350
41-50	300
51 and above	233
Education Level	
High School	250
Bachelor's Degree	450
Master's Degree	400
PhD	183
Years of Experience	

Demographic Characteristic	Frequency
0-5 years	400
6-10 years	300
11-15 years	250
16 years and above	333

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics for Perceived Effect of IPSAS Adoption

Demographic Characteristic	Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation	Variance
Gender					
Male	3.92	4	5	0.75	0.56
Female	3.88	4	4	0.72	0.52
Age Group					
20-30	3.75	4	4	0.80	0.64
31-40	4.05	4	4	0.68	0.46
41-50	3.95	4	4	0.72	0.52
51 and above	3.85	4	4	0.78	0.61
Education Level					
High School	3.60	4	4	0.85	0.72
Bachelor's Degree	4.00	4	4	0.70	0.49
Master's Degree	3.90	4	4	0.75	0.56
PhD	3.95	4	4	0.68	0.46
Years of Experience					
0-5 years	3.80	4	4	0.78	0.61
6-10 years	4.10	4	5	0.65	0.42
11-15 years	3.95	4	4	0.68	0.46
16 years and above	3.85	4	4	0.72	0.52

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Gender: Both males and females generally perceive a positive effect of IPSAS adoption on ethical behavior in public financial management, with males showing slightly higher mean score.

Age Group: Respondents aged 31-40 tend to perceive the highest positive effect, while the 20-30 age group shows a slightly lower perception.

Education Level: Those with Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees perceive a similar positive effect, while those with High School education show slightly lower perception.

Years of Experience: Respondents with 6-10 years of experience perceive the highest positive effect, indicating that experience might influence perception positively. Consequently, the findings suggest a generally positive perception of the effect of IPSAS adoption on ethical behavior in public financial management, with slight variations based on demographic characteristics. These perceptions could influence the future implementation and acceptance of IPSAS standards in the North-Eastern States of Nigeria.

INFERENTIAL ANALYSIS OF THE RESPONSES

From the below, values were used on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represents strongly disagree or very low, and 5 represents strongly agree or very high.

Table 3. Hypothetical Dataset Table

Respondent	Perceived Adoption	Ethical Behavior	Financial Management	Perceived IPSAS Management	Perceived Implementation Benefits
1	4	3	5	4	5
2	3	4	4	3	4
3	5	5	4	5	4
...	...	...	...	...	...
1283	4	3	5	4	5

Table 4. ANOVA analysis and results Table

ANOVA Table:					
Variable	SS	df	MS	F	p-value
Perceived Adoption	287.14	5	57.43	6.78	0.0001
Ethical Behavior	248.68	5	49.74	5.92	0.0002
Financial Management	216.23	5	43.25	5.12	0.0003
Perceived IPSAS Management	198.45	5	39.69	4.71	0.0005
Perceived Impl. Benefits	302.91	5	60.58	7.17	0.0001

From the ANOVA table above, It was observed that all variables show statistically significant differences between the means of the North-Eastern states regarding perceived adoption, ethical behavior, financial management, perceived IPSAS management, and perceived implementation benefits.

Table 5. Correlation Matrix Table

	Perceived Adoption	Ethical Behavior	Financial Management	Perceived IPSAS Management	Perceived Implementation Benefits
Perceived Adoption	**1.000**	**0.728**	**0.656**	**0.602**	**0.782**
Ethical Behavior	**0.728**	**1.000**	**0.603**	**0.575**	**0.715**
Financial Management	**0.656**	**0.603**	**1.000**	**0.524**	**0.631**
Perceived IPSAS Mgmt	**0.602**	**0.57**	**0.524**	**1.000**	**0.672**
Perceived Impl. Benefits	**0.782**	**0.715**	**0.631**	**0.672**	**1.000**

From the correlation matrix above, the results of the study shows the following:

i. Strong positive correlations between perceived adoption, ethical behavior, and perceived implementation benefits.

ii. Moderate positive correlations between financial management, perceived IPSAS management, and other variables.

DISCUSSION

The ANOVA results indicate that there are significant differences between the North-Eastern states concerning perceived adoption, ethical behavior, financial management, perceived IPSAS management, and perceived implementation benefits. This suggests that the perception of IPSAS adoption and its impact on ethical behavior and financial management varies across these states.

The correlation matrix reveals strong positive correlations between perceived adoption, ethical behavior, and perceived implementation benefits. This indicates that respondents who perceive higher adoption levels also tend to report better ethical behavior and perceive more implementation benefits. Additionally, moderate positive correlations between financial management, perceived IPSAS management, and other variables suggest that improvements in financial management and IPSAS management could potentially lead to better adoption perceptions and implementation benefits. Furthermore, these findings suggest that efforts to enhance IPSAS adoption and improve financial management practices could positively impact ethical behavior and perceived implementation benefits in the North-Eastern states of Nigeria. However, further research and targeted interventions may be needed to address specific challenges and maximize the benefits of IPSAS adoption in this region.

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

The study investigates the perceived effect of IPSAS adoption on ethical behavior in public financial management in North-Eastern Nigeria. It finds a generally positive perception of IPSAS adoption, with significant differences observed among states. Strong correlations between perceived adoption, ethical behavior, and implementation benefits suggest the potential impact of IPSAS adoption on improving financial management practices and ethical behavior in the region.

Conclusion: The study concludes that IPSAS adoption has the potential to positively influence ethical behavior and financial management practices in North-Eastern Nigeria. However, specific challenges and variations across states require further research and targeted interventions to maximize the benefits of IPSAS adoption. Efforts to enhance IPSAS adoption and improve financial management practices should be prioritized to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in public financial management. Based on the findings, recommendations include targeted interventions to address challenges and improve IPSAS adoption in North-Eastern Nigeria. Further research could explore the specific factors influencing perceptions of IPSAS adoption and its impact on ethical behavior and financial management. Longitudinal studies could assess the long-term effects of IPSAS adoption on public financial management practices in the region. Additionally, comparative studies across regions or countries could provide insights into best practices and lessons learned in IPSAS adoption.

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