

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

The Role of Accounting & Auditing Profession in Achieving the Economic Development in Sudan

Ahmed Yousif Adam Ismael

Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting, Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University, College of Sciences and Humanitarian Studies, Department of Business Administration, Al-Aflaj, KSA

Abstract:

This study aims to shed light on the role of Accounting & Auditing Profession in Realizing Economic Development in Sudan from Auditors and Academics point of view. The study focused on the role which could be played by the accounting profession towards achieving social and economic development, and tries to come out with some proposals which could participate in solving the problems which impede the practical application of accounting profession. The data has been collected through a well-structured questionnaire that designed and distributed to a randomly chosen sample of who working in auditing field. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to generalize the results and conclude the findings. The weakness of educational level for accounting users negatively affects the development of the accounting profession. The contribution of the accounting profession in development in Sudan depend on advanced accounting practices.

Keywords: *accounting profession, auditing profession; economic development, accounting practices, accounting users*

1. Introduction

The accounting profession is based on generally accepted accounting principles, through which the social and economic development can be realized in the environment in which this profession applied, however to what extent that it can be achieved. Abdolhameed (1984) believed that the Egyptian economy suffers more because there are no appropriate plans, this can be achieved by appropriate accounting information. Al-kilani (2000) stated that the extent to which accounting education is relevant to the requirements of economic and social development in Libya. Al-Jijawi (2005) point out the economic dimensions of accounting standards and their role in the measurement & distribution of the society wealth. According to Ibrahim (1985) there is an important role of the entity in the society in which it operates, through measuring the social performance, but to what extent can accounting profession achieve this role. Alrashid (2000) believed that the accounting and auditing profession in Kuwait faces many professional constraints in order to play an active role in the community service. According to Alnafrawi (2003) the accounting and auditing profession in Egypt suffers from several professional & theoretical constraints that need to be developed. Al-Raheely (2004) spell the role that the accounting and auditing profession in Saudi Arabia could be played to achieve economic development, through assistance in providing the appropriate information for monitoring and implementing the economic development plans. Khoruzhiy (2013) reckon that problems of weakening research and teaching component of accounting have been outlined which serves as an additional barrier to achieving the goal of improving its methodology, and also reduces the role of teachers and researchers in the development of accounting and economics as a whole. The problem of the study is how to answer the following questions: the extent to which can accounting profession contribute in achieving the economic development? What are the challenges that faced the accounting application in achieving economic development in Sudan? What are the mechanisms can help the accounting profession in achieving economic development?

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. The role of Accounting in decision-making Process

Despite its shortcomings, the accounting profession, it produces the relevant information to the related parties, especially the investors in such way that help them in making appropriate decisions. So, the financial information obtained from accounting information system is importance in the decision-making process of the businesses. The accuracy of these information leads financial decisions in a right direction, and in this way, businesses are protected against financial crises (Ceran et al., 2016). According to (Abuzaid, 2002) the identification of the business results help the owner in understanding the financial position, and it in the light of these results many economic decisions can be taken, before the beginning of the project the company may carryout study to evaluate the financial feasibility of that project, by examining the variables surrounding the company. According to Albarobi (1986) the planning process does not end when formulating the plan, but it is a continuous process through the following-up and controlling it. Rammo (1999) think that the most important role of the accounting information is used as the basis of controlling the entity activities. Abdolmohammadi and Tucker (2002) suggested that the number of accountants, auditors, and members of the Institute of Internal Auditors all are associated with a country's economic wealth, each group provides a potentially different explanation for the

overall conclusion. For example, accountants in organizations who aid in planning and controlling the company's operations, make companies more efficient and better able to compete internationally, auditors enhance the reliability of financial information, which is important in promoting investment, facilitating lending and monitoring government.

According to Ismail & King (2005), accounting services can provide SMEs with the professional support needed to manage their costing, expenditure, cash flow, and provide information that can support monitoring and control functions of businesses. Private-equity (PE) firms require accounting information to control the conflicts of interest both within the PE firm and within their investees. Controlling these conflicts shifts the role of accounting back toward its original stewardship roots (Zimmerman, 2015). Ribeiro et al (2013) demonstrated that accounting presents a potential to perform the role of strengthening democracy, social control, accountability, creating a social power in the dynamic process of public governance.

Hiebl et al. (2015) found out that even in the first half of the twentieth century before any substantial company law or regulation of accounting, the Chief Accountant was not only doing accounting but also significantly advising top management, managing risks and interacting with external financiers. Chen and Chen (2015) expounded that the positive impacts of accounting earnings on the variable pay of top management are stronger for both non-family managers working in family firms, and family managers, and are weakest for managers in non-family firms.

Morec et al (2012) confirmed that most efficiency measures are still oriented towards cost minimization, however, over time due to a growing diversity of accounting data, efficiency measures have become more sophisticated and multidimensional to encourage education providers not only towards cost minimization but also towards increasing of output quality. Accounting profession with its different branches working in an integrated manner in providing services in order to achieve the desired goals, such as maximize the productivity adequacy which leads to the country development, especially if other factors of economic development are maintained (Albarobi, 1986). Crowther et al. (2003) argue that the role of accounting as a mechanism for knowledge creation is flawed due to the uncertainty of the external environment. If accounting is continued to be used as a tool for organizational decision-making, it needs to incorporate recognition of the uncontrolled and unpredictable external environment as the external factors of the environment can have significant implications for the future status of an organization. The study of (Albu et al 2011) brings a new perspective in the research conducted on the Romanian accounting profession, Romanian companies have historically used a two-cycle accounting system strongly influenced by the Romanian State planning apparatus and, thus, is not necessarily oriented towards decision-making.

According to (Oprean and Podoaba 2016), accounting information has a vital role, offering an accurate representation of processes and economic phenomena, having the greatest degree of certainty, which emphasize the size and the value of streams by the social reproduction process at the micro or macro level. The role of finance and the accounting profession has changed dramatically because of the rapid evolution of technology, the inadequacy of financial instruments, the globalization of the economy and the emergence of the knowledge economy. To keep pace with these changes, the accounting profession is expected to provide accurate and timely financial information that can be accessed and analyzed quickly and easily (Raj and Seetharaman, 2012). Crittenden and Crittenden (2014) believe that the accounting profession will have to take a lead role in creating the standards needed to deal with issues unique to frontier nations and to create the transparency necessary to help stakeholders evaluate risk.

Accounting information presented as a fundamental factor that provides rational and independent Market participants with the economic information needed for their decision making, and, consequently, plays a decisive role in the efficient functioning of markets by directing them toward their optimum balance (Arnold, 2009). (Hellmann, 2016) elucidate that accounting plays an important role in capital markets because the financial statements of an organization summarize the economic consequences of its business activities, so the accounting system of an organization provides the mechanism to identify and measure these business activities, aggregate them into financial statements, and communicate them to shareholders and other users of economic information. Pezet & Sponem (2015) investigate how the accounting system revealed a significant increase in the overheads linked to the new economic model and how this triggered the emergence of a new figure and found that accounting played a decisive role in the transformation by showing the costs of the training policy. The roles of accounting data in equity valuation is an important theoretical basis for selecting valuation model in practice and the theoretical foundation for constructing or modifying valuation model (Wang and Zhang, 2015).

Accounting services provide small businesses with the relevant advisory, technical and professional support because the owners require accountants to advise and guide them in the correct determination of profit, for better accountability and to help management achieve the required objectives (Nwobu et al., 2015). Breen et al. (2004) highlighted the opportunities that exist for accountants to improve the financial management performance of small firms, by influence early starters to introduce computerized accounting systems so these small businesses have better records of their financial activities.

The information produced by the accounting in form of financial reports help the tax authority in determining the tax revenue, which contributes significantly to achieving the economic and social development. One of the most important roles of the accounting information is used as the basis of the supervising of the company activities and evaluate whether the implementation of the desired objectives has been achieved (Rammo 1999, p181). Albarobi (1986) explain that accounting plays an important role in the design of the tax policy and in the management of the tax system through improving the communication between the Government and taxpayers. Furthermore, accountancy firms have even been subjected to criticism that, through the sale of tax avoidance schemes, they have facilitated a skewed distribution of income and wealth (Sikka, 2012).

Al-Jijawi (2005) think that the accounting standards have positive or negative effects on financial information, this contributes to economic development and social welfare. In this direction, Francis et al (2003) indicate that higher quality accounting standards and the enforcement of such standards through higher quality auditing are more likely to exist in corporate governance in countries with strong investor protection, higher quality accounting and auditing are also positively associated with financial market development in

countries whose legal systems are conducive to the protection of investors. The study of economic development (Kang and Pang, 2005) provides evidence that higher transparency in disclosure leads to higher value-relevance of accounting summary measures in a cross-country setting, also provide evidence for IASB's current debate on accounting for emerging economy entities, and seems to support emerging economy entities practicing more transparent disclosure.

Leadership and professionalism exert a significant influence on the perception of the accountant as a driver of organizational change, even though ethical values are not significant, it is negatively correlated with the perception of accountants as drivers of organizational change (Nga and Mun, 2013). Abu Elhana (1994) point out that the process of scientific research in accounting is the important factors in developing accounting education and accounting profession. Without scientific research accounting, education and accounting profession cannot be developed. Kothari and Lester (2012) found out that many factors caused the financial crisis, and it is likely that the poor implementation and application of fair value accounting rules also had some contribution.

2.2. Role of Accounting in the Society

The recent global crisis, in which accounting was faced both with pressure to change and reproaches for being co-responsible for the emergence of the crisis, offers us the opportunity to reflect on the different possibilities of understanding the role of accounting in a society as well as its political and economic foundations (Horvat and Korosec, 2015).

Rammo (2013) believed that the accountant professionally responsible for the economic feasibility studies that carried besides his responsibility toward the community when there are damages to society as a result of creating investment projects has already been prepared without including a reference to such damages. The amplexness and the rapid rhythm of informational society's development have implicitly led to the development of accounting information's importance and dimension, the decisive role of the accounting information had conducted to the accentuated growth of the interest, manifested at all informational society's level, from the development of activities in financial and economical domain point of view (Georgescu and Ionescu, 2014). More closely Levine et al (2000) find that cross-country differences in the legal system (e.g., English, French, German, and Scandinavian) and accounting systems (e.g., creditor's rights, contract enforcement, and accounting standards) show differences in the level of financial development.

Authors generally argue that accounting can spur economic growth by providing credible external reporting useful in reducing information asymmetry, thus reducing agency costs, reducing information risk and facilitating contracting. Internal accounting and auditing also aid entrepreneurs in planning and controlling their operations. Accounting firms also serve to disseminate information on the best practices in an industry and the best information systems technology. This service enables management to benchmark its operations against leaders in the industry and gain vicariously from innovations in other companies in other countries.

2.3. Role of Accounting in Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

The literature on economic growth (Levine and Zervos, 1998) showing the importance of various aspects of a country's financial systems and conclude that stock market liquidity and banking development both positively predict growth, capital accumulation, and productivity improvements after controlling for other economic and political factors.

The association between accounting and economic development has been proposed in the professional literature (e.g., Enthoven 1965 and Cassell 1979) and academic literature (e.g., Enthoven 1967). For example, Cassell (1979) argues that accounting is the necessary technique for aiding economic development. This argument suggests a causal relationship between accounting and economic growth. Similarly, Enthoven (1967) argues that accounting could play a major role in economic development. Whilst many studies of accounting, globalization, and development remain atheoretical (Vanhelden & Uddin, 2016), many others use a wide range of theories, often from institutional theory and political economy (Lassou & Hopper, 2016; Schiavo-Campo, 2009).

Over the past three decades, as the country first experimented with, and then embraced, economic liberalization and closer links with western economies, its accounting system has also changed accordingly (Anh and Nguyen, 2013). The accounting information can help in achieving economic development through the accounting functions. (Enthoven, 1981; Mahon 1969; Seiler, 1966; Al-Adel & Al-Azama 1986; Osman 1980; Salem 2003; Hijazi 1977; Manis 1990). Albarobi (1986) Believed that the accounting always working in an integrated manner to achieve the entity objectives, such as performing a maximum productivity, which lead to economic development. Abozaid (2002) Believed that the finance of economic development could be through several sources, but it is difficult to be provided without the accounting intervention.

According to (Schaltegger and Zvezdov, 2015) the accountants are partially involved in sustainability accounting practice but mainly exert a gate-keeping role between sustainability managers and higher management. Lack of defining the relationship between the sustainability concept and accounting and also potential solutions to overcome the problems which create challenges for accounting and accounting professionals (Caliskan, 2014). The correlation between the type of organization and their overall goals for achieving sustainable development are closely linked with the roles that the organizations' management accountants play in accounting for sustainable development (Mistry et al 2014). Financial managers are being required to produce higher quality and transparent financial information in order to detect financial distress in local government and achieve a sustainable financial balance (Burritt and Schaltegger, 2010; Zafra et al., 2009). Current government financial statements, especially income statements, have a key role in the assessment of financial sustainability (Bolivar, 2014). Accounting information can assist in achieving sustainability of Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) by providing information to support decision-making, assisting in setting and allocating resources to prioritized areas, promoting industrial relations and cost reduction in the ADPs' system (Toluyemi, 1999).

The progress of the accounting profession in many developing countries depends on the development of the existing accounting systems and supported by other appropriate systems in order to fulfill the requirements of economic development. (Rammo 1999).

Bakre (2015) has shown that cultural imperialism as a distinct category within the problematic of imperialism has affected the way in which the accounting profession has developed both before and after the independence of the developing countries. The social, political and cultural turn off much accounting research over the last three decades, and its extension to conceptualize how the dynamics of globalization and its accounting play out in Developing Countries (Alawattage et al., 2016). Hopper et al., (2016) found that accounting knowledge and practices in Developing Countries are driven by international accounting institutions such as the IASB and IFAC, acting as mediating agents. Islam and Dellaportas (2011) identified specific factors that lead to the neglect of social and environmental disclosure policy and practice in a developing country. While the main factors believed to be responsible for the lack of social and environmental disclosure include cultural attributes such as high levels of societal power differential and family ownership. Abdolhameed (1984) argued that some of the accounting assumptions & principles in accordance with the requirements of economic development, while the others do not comply with that. So, that limit the role of accounting information in developmental planning.

Based on literature review, the following hypothesis was generated:

- H1: There is a positive relationship between the accounting information in the Sudanese environment and the economic development.
- H2: There is a significant relationship between the contribution of accounting profession toward the economic development and advanced accounting practices.

3. Research Methodology

This study based on quantitative research design. Primary and secondary data has been used. The primary data were generated through a well-structured one hundred eighty (180) questionnaires were distributed randomly to some Academics and Practitioners of Accounting Profession in Sudanese environment; only one hundred fifty-two (152) respondents have been returned, with response rate of 84% to evaluate the role of Accounting & Auditing Profession in Realizing Economic Development in Sudan from Auditors and Accountants point of view. The questionnaire has been arbitrated by a qualified expert to give higher quality and to ensure the specificity and reliability of the questionnaire be realized. The result of the reliability test shows that the designed questionnaire is highly reliable. In order to obtain a reliable data, the chosen scale items were translated from English into the Arabic language to reduce translation errors and reflect the real meaning and local acknowledge. The first part of the questionnaire contains questions on respondents' characteristics & personal information. The second part of the questionnaire examined the role of Accounting & Auditing Profession in Realizing Economic Development in Sudan. A five-point Likert scale indicators were used, between 1 indicating strongly disagree and 5 indicating strongly agree.

4. Analysis & Discussion

4.1. Goodness of Measures

The result of the reliability & consistency test shows that the designed questionnaire is highly reliable at more than 60% as in table No 1. Descriptive statistics, reliability test, mediator, Recursive distribution, Kay Square and Cronbach's alpha test were conducted to examine the relationships among variables by using the SPSS 24.0 version.

The results of the statistics analyses are described as follows:

4.2. Respondents Demographic Characteristics

Table No 2 presents the respondent's demographic characteristics. the respondents' ages between (31 – 39 years) is the highest which represent (56.6%) followed by respondents' those (40 years and more) which represent (21%) then the respondents' ages between (25 – 30 years) which represent (17.8%) and lastly, the respondents ages (less than 25 years) which represent (4.6%). Regarding the respondent's job title, the majority of them were Accountants (61 %), followed by Statutory auditors (33%), and followed by Academics (27%). Concerning for the respondent's educational level, the majority of them were post-graduate education level which represents (53.3%), followed by the level of graduate education (43.4%), and followed by others (3.3%) as a lower ratio. As for the length of respondents' working experiences, The table shows that respondents' whom they have worked between (6 – 10 years) were the highest ratio which represents (40.1%), followed by those worked (less than 5 years) which represent (37.5%), followed by those worked (20 years and more) which represent (10.5%), followed by those worked (11-15 years) which represent (9.9%) and those respondents from (16-20 years) is a lower ratio which represents (2%).

Item	Consistency factor	Reliability factor
The Hypothesis	0.80	0.89

Table 1: Reliability & consistency for respondents

Variable	Particular	Frequency	Percent
Age	less than 25 years	7	4.6
	25 –30 years	27	17.8
	31–39years	86	56.6
	40 years and more	32	21
	Total	152	100.00
	Statutory auditors	50	33
	Academics	41	27
	Accountants	61	40
	Total	152	100.00
Educational Level	Graduate	66	43.4
	Post-graduate	81	53.3
	other	5	3.3
	Total	152	100.00
Experience	less than 5 years	57	37.5
	6–10 years	61	40.1
	11-15 years	15	9.9
	16-20 years	3	2
	20 years and more	16	10.5
	Total	152	100.00

Table 2: Respondents Demographic Characteristics

4.3. Tests for Response Bias and Hypothesis

A test of response bias has been conducted to confirm that there is no systematic response bias (Armstrong and Overton, 1977). To determine whether non-response bias was presented in the study, academics respondents were compared with practitioners' respondents along all the descriptive response items in the survey. It can be concluded that non-response bias is not a serious problem in this study. So, it is safety to join the responses as one sample. The following section describes the procedures used in the implementation of this study, including statistical analysis of data, extracting results, and validity test of the hypotheses.

Phrase	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	79	69	3	1	0
2	57	69	19	7	0
3	73	73	3	3	0
4	57	69	19	7	0
5	38	58	30	25	1
6	70	79	2	1	0
7	68	68	10	5	1
8	58	83	7	3	1
9	67	79	4	2	0

Table 3: Recursive distribution of member's response for the hypotheses of the study

Phrase	Mediator	Interpretation
1	5	Strongly Agree
2	4	Ok
3	4	Ok
4	4	Ok
5	4	Ok
6	4	Ok
7	4	Ok
8	4	Ok
9	4	Ok
All	4	Ok

Table 4: the mediator of study sample response for the hypothesis phrases

From the table3: the majority of the hypothesis phrases had been answered by words strongly agree or agree.

The table 4: verify the authenticity of this hypothesis and the direction of the study sample response by showing the following: The value of the mediator of study sample response on the first phrase is (5), this means that the majority of the sample members are agreed that there is a vital role of the accounting profession in the economic development. The value of the mediator of study sample

response on the second phrase is (4), this means that Accounting information contributes directly to the measurement of social welfare. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the third phrase is (4), this means that the present of Accounting Standards rationalizes the accounting practices in Sudan. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the fourth phrase is (4), this means that the contribution of the accounting profession in the economic development in Sudan depend on recent accounting practices. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the fifth phrase is (4), this means that the responsibility of the Accounting profession development in Sudan is for the neutral professional organizations. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the sixth phrase is (4), this means that when the government gives a much attention to accounting profession it can help play an effective role in the development process in the Sudan. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the seventh phrase is (4), this means that the development of Sudanese accounting standards taking into account the local environment helps in social & economic development. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the Eighth phrase is (4), this means that the appropriate accounting practice is an indicator for economic development. The value of the mediator of study sample response on the ninth phrase is (4), this means that the development of accounting performance can be achieved through removing Barriers that faced the accounting practice in the Sudanese environment. The value of the mediator of study sample response on all statements of the hypothesis is (4), this means that the value of the majority of sample members are agreed on what came is come in the hypothesis. The results above do not mean that all members of the study sample are agreed, as indicated in the table no. (2), there are neutral or disagree response, to test the differences of statistical significance between the agreed, neutrals and disagreed about the above results, Kay Square Test has been used as in table No. (5):

No. Phrase	the Degree of Freedom	the value of Kay Box
1	3	137.79
2	3	69.58
3	3	128.95
4	3	69.58
5	4	56.36
6	3	141.32
7	4	156.36
8	4	187.21
9	3	130.89

Table 5: Kay Test Results on the differences of the responses

The table 5: can be the interpreted as follows:

The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the first phrase is (137.79), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (3) and Level of significance (1%) is (11.35), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree response & neutrals response the second phrase is (69.58), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (3) and Level of significance (1%) is (11.35), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the third phrase is (128.95), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (3) and Level of significance (1%) is (11.35), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between agreeing response & neutrals response the fourth phrase is (69.58), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (3) and Level of significance (1%) is (11.35), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the fifth phrase is (56.36), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (4) and Level of significance (1%) is (13.28), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the sixth phrase is (141.32), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (3) and Level of significance (1%) is (11.35), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the seventh phrase is (156.36), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (4) and Level of significance (1%) is (13.28), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the eighth phrase is (187.21), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (4) and Level of significance (1%) is (13.28), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result

that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The value of Kay Square test on the differences between strongly agree on response & agree on response the ninth phrase is (130.89), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (3) and Level of significance (1%) is (11.35), depending on what is stated in the table No. (3), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those who strongly agreed with this phrase. The number of overall responses of the study sample will be (1368), these can be summarized as follows at the table (6):

Response	Volume	Percentage
Strongly Agree	567	41.5%
I agree	647	47.3%
Neutral	97	7.1%
disagree	54	3.9%
strongly disagree	3	0.2%
The total	1368	100.0

Table 6: Frequency distribution of the study sample response

From table 4: appeared that the study sample included a (647) strongly agree response which represented (47.3%), (567) agree response which represented (41.5%), (97) neutral response which represented (7.1%), (54) disagree response which represented (3.9%), and (3) strongly disagree response which represented (0.2%).

The value of Kay Square test on the differences between agree response, neutral response and disagree response on all items is (1382.11), This value is greater than the value of the Tabular Kay Square at the degree of freedom (4) and Level of significance (1%) is (13.28), depending on what is stated in the table No. (5), there are differences with statistically significant at Level of significance (1%) between sample response result that for those strongly agree response. The above conclusion verifies that the two hypotheses of the study would be achieved.

For the relationship between the accounting information in the Sudanese environment and the economic development, inferential statistics shows that there is a significant positive interaction between predictor and the dependent variable (Table 4), This result is emphasized by (Anh and Nguyen, 2013; Mistry et al 2014; Horvat and Korosec, 2015). For the connection between the contribution of accounting profession toward the economic development and advanced accounting practices, inferential statistics shows that there is a significant positive correlation between predictor and the dependent variable (Table 4), This result is in line with (Hopper et al., 2016).

5. Implications, Limitations, and Suggestions for the Study

The results of this study have theoretical and practical implications that could be of interest for students, academics, regulators and practitioners. The first theoretical contribution is the study provide a framework for the role of Accounting & Auditing Profession in achieving economic development. This study practically contributes to the accounting profession by examining the importance of accounting information in the society.

In spite of it's theoretical and practical implications, this study is subject to some limitations that need be considered. This study is based on participants' responses to given scenarios and there is a risk that the respondents may not have answered the questionnaire honestly. The findings and discussion are limited to the propositions put forward in the questionnaire and such a survey instrument provides limited opportunity to solicit further meanings to participant's responses. The major limitation of this study is that the scope of the research is bounded and sampling method used, thus limiting the generalizability of the results. The study only applied in Sudan environment, this could result in an important limitation of the study. The findings of this study suggest that the government need to be aware of the importance of accounting information in the process of social development and economic planning. There is a necessity for coordination between the accounting education, accounting practice and scientific research for the purpose of development performance.

6. Conclusion

In this study, we explore the role of Accounting & Auditing Profession in Realizing Economic Development in Sudan from Auditors and Academics point of view. Through the theoretical & field study, we concludes that there is a role of accounting information in achieving the economic development by helping in decision making, society welfare and economic growth, (Oprean and Podoaba 2016; Hellmann, 2016; Rammo 2013) however the contribution of the accounting profession toward the development in Sudan depend on advanced accounting practices, this result is consistent with (Hopper et al., 2016). This study found out that the development of accounting performance can be achieved through removing Barriers that faced the accounting practice in the Sudanese environment, this result is consistent with (Horvat and Korosec, 2015), and the proper application of IFRS in Sudanese environment, taking into account the local requirements, contribute to the development of the accounting practice, this result is consistent with (Francis et al., 2003). This study contributes to the developing research trend by exploring the effectiveness of Accounting & Auditing Profession in decision making and society welfare.

7. Acknowledgments

The authors express appreciation to Prince Sattam Bin Abdul-Aziz University for providing the author with the relevant data on earlier drafts of this paper.

8. References

- i. Abdolhameed, S. A. (1984) 'accounting thought and the requirements of economic development processes', an unpublished master degree in accounting, the Faculty of Commerce, Cairo University.
- ii. Abdolmohammadi, M. J. and Tucker, R. R. (2002) 'The Influence of Accounting and Auditing on a Country's Economic Development', *Review of Accounting and Finance*, Vol. 1, issue 3, pp.42 – 53. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/eb026990>
- iii. Abozaid, M. A. (2002) 'The effect of international accounting on the Arab countries', Cairo, Ibtac for publishing and distribution. P.128.
- iv. Abu Elhana, S. F. O. (1994) 'developing the basic factors for the performance of the accounting functions', *Journal of Administrative Sciences*, Faculty of commerce, Beni Suef, Cairo University, No. 7. p.316.
- v. Al- Raheely, A.S. (2004) 'the modern progress in accounting & auditing profession in Saudi Arabia', *accounting, management and insurance journal*, commerce college, Cairo University, vole 63.
- vi. Al-Adel, Y. A. & Al-Azama, M.A. (1986) *introduction to the financial accounting*, Kuwait, chains publications, p.77.
- vii. Alawattage, C., Wickramasinghe, D., &Uddin, S. (2016) 'Theorizing management accounting practices in Less Developed Countries', In Harries. (Eds), *The Routledge Companion to Performance Management and Control*, in press.
- viii. Albarobi, A. (1986) 'Accounting and economic development in developing countries' *The scientific Journal*, The Faculty of Commerce, Al-Azhar University. No. 14. p. 22.
- ix. Albu, C. N., Albu, N., Faff, R. & Hodgson, A. (2011) 'Accounting Competencies and the Changing Role of Accountants in Emerging Economies: The Case of Romania', *Accounting in Europe*, 8:2, 155-184. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17449480.2011.621395>
- x. Al-Jijawi, R. A. T. (2005) 'the economic dimensions of accounting standards and their role in measuring & distributing the society wealth', *Arabic administration magazine*, University of Arab countries, vol 2.
- xi. Al-kilani. A. A. (2000) 'relationship between the accounting education and the economic & social development in libia', *economic research magazine*, vol 1&2, Benghazi.
- xii. Al-Nafrawi, M. M. (2003) 'accounting & auditing profession in Egypt and necessity for development, 1st annual conference, accounting department, commerce college, Cairo University, 19 march.
- xiii. Alrashid, W.I. (2001) 'accounting & auditing profession promotion in Kuwait', *Arabic journal for managerial information*, Kuwait University, vole 3.
- xiv. Anh, D. N. P., and Nguyen, D. (2013) 'Accounting in a developing transitional economy: the case of Vietnam', *Asian Review of Accounting*, Vol. 21, Issue 1, pp. 74 – 95. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/13217341311316959>
- xv. Arnold, P. J. (2009) 'Global financial crisis: The challenge to accounting research', *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, 34(6/7), pp.803–809.
- xvi. Bakre, O. M. (2015) 'Accounting and the Problematique of Imperialism: Alternative Methodological Approaches to Empirical Research in Accounting in Developing Countries', In *Re-Inventing Realities*. Published Online: 10 Mar, pp.1-30.
- xvii. Bolivar, M. P. R., Galera, A. N. & Munoz, L. A. (2014) 'New development: The role of accounting in assessing local government sustainability', *Public Money & Management*, 34:3, pp.233-236. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09540962.2014.908035>
- xviii. Breen, J., Sciulli, N. & Calvert, C. (2004) 'The Role of the External Accountant in Small Firms', *Small Enterprise Research*, 12:1, pp.5-14. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5172/ser.12.1.5>
- xix. Burritt, R. L. and Schaltegger, S. (2010) 'Sustainability accounting and reporting: fad or trend?', *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*, 23, 7, pp.829–846.
- xx. Caliskan, A. Q. (2014) 'How accounting and accountants may contribute to sustainability?', *Social Responsibility Journal*, Vol. 10 Issue 2, pp. 246 – 267. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/SRJ-04-2012-0049>
- xxi. Cassell, M.E. (1979) *Economic Development Accountancy*, *Management Accounting* 57 (5), May: 22.
- xxii. Ceran, M. B., Gungor, S. and Konya, S. (2016) 'The Role of Accounting Information Systems In Preventing the Financial Crises Experienced In Businesses', *Economics, Management, and Financial Markets* 11(1), pp.294–302.
- xxiii. Chen, Y. & Chen, C. J. (2015) 'Family firms and the incentive contracting role of accounting earnings', *Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting & Economics*, 22:4, pp.384-405. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/16081625.2014.995769>
- xxiv. Crittenden, C. A., and Crittenden, W. F. (2014) 'The Accounting Profession's Role in Corporate Governance in Frontier Markets', *Organizations and Markets in Emerging Economies* Vol. 5, No. 2(10), pp.7-22.
- xxv. Crowther, D., Cooper, S. and Carter, C. (2003) 'Predicting the Unpredictable: Towards a Synthesis of Accounting Knowledge and Chaos Theory in Modelling Organizational Control', *Amazon.co.uk*, 17(2): pp175-201.
- xxvi. Datta, K. G. (1989) 'The role of Accounting Education and Research Industrial Development', a paper presented at (SICAE), Tokyo, japan, p.30.
- xxvii. Enthoven, A. J. (1981) *Accounting Education in Economic Development*, New York, North Hall Publishing Co, p.81.
- xxviii. Enthoven, A.J.H. (1965) 'Economic Development and Accountancy', *Journal of Accountancy*, pp. 29-35.
- xxix. Enthoven, A.J.H. (1967) 'Accounting and Development Programming', *International Journal of Accounting Education and Research* 1 (3): pp.107-120.
- xxx. Francis, J.R., Khurana, I. K. & Pereira, R. (2003) 'The role of accounting and auditing in corporate governance and the development of financial markets around the world', *Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting & Economics*, 10:1, pp.1-30. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/16081625.2003.10510613>

- xxx. Georgescu, F. and Ionescu, C. (2014) 'Harmonization of accounting in the process of globalization of economic activities', *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People* Volume 3, Issue 1, pp.18-24.
- xxxii. Hellmann, A. (2016) 'The role of accounting in behavioral finance', *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance* 9, pp.39-42. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jbef.2015.11.004>
- xxxiii. Hiebl, M. R.W., Quinn, M. & Franco, C. M. (2015) 'An analysis of the role of a Chief Accountant at Guinness. 1920-1940', *Accounting History Review*, 25:2, pp.145-165. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21552851.2015.1060509>
- xxxiv. Hijazi, M. A. (1977) *management accounting, commerce & cooperation library*, p.355.
- xxxv. Hopper, T., Lassou, P. and Soobaroyen, T. (2016) 'Globalisation, accounting and developing countries', *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, in press. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cpa.2016.06.003>
- xxxvi. Horvat, R. and Korosec, B. (2015) 'The Role of Accounting in a Society: Only a technical solution for the problem of economic measurement', *Our Economy*. Vol. 61 No. 4 / August. Pp.32-40. DOI: 10.1515/ngoe-2015-0016
- xxxvii. Ibrahim, K. M. M. (1985) 'accounting framework for social activity of the economic entity, unpublished study, Neeleen University.
- xxxviii. Islam, M. and Dellaportas, S. (2011) 'Perceptions of corporate social and environmental accounting and reporting practices from accountants in Bangladesh', *Social Responsibility Journal*, Vol. 7 Issue 4, pp.649 – 664. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/17471111111175191>
- xxxix. Ismail, N. A., & King, M. (2005) 'Firm performance and AIS alignment in Malaysian SMEs', *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, 6, pp.241-259.
- xl. Kang, T., and Pang, Y.H. (2005) 'Economic Development and the Value-Relevance of Accounting Information: A Disclosure Transparency Perspective', *Review of Accounting and Finance*, Vol. 4, Issue 1, pp. 5 – 31. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/eb043416>
- xli. Khoruzhiy, L.I. (2013) 'Role of Accounting in Maintaining Concept of National Economy Steady', *Development Accounting and Finance*, No 3 (61) .pp.57-61.
- xl.ii. Kothari, S. P. and Lester, R. (2012) 'the Role of Accounting in the Financial Crisis: Lessons for the Future', *Accounting Horizons*. American Accounting Association. Vol. 26, No. 2, pp.335-351. DOI: 10.2308/acch-50134
- xl.iii. Lassou, P.J.C., & Hopper, T. (2016) 'Government accounting reform in an African colony: the political economy of neocolonialism', *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, [36TD\$DIF] 36, pp.39-57.
- xl.iv. Levine, R. and S. Zervos. (1998) 'Stock Markets, Banks, and Economic Growth', *American Economic Review*. 88 (3), June: pp.537-558.
- xl.v. Levine, R., Loayza, N. and Beck, T. (2000) 'Financial Intermediation and Growth: Causality and Causes', *Journal of Monetary Economics* 46 (1), August: pp.31-77.
- xl.vi. Mahon, J.J. (1969) 'Some observations on World Accounting', *Journal of Accountancy*, January vole, pp.34-35.
- xl.vii. Manis, A. (1990) 'some accountancy requirements for economic planning process', *Economic research magazine, the General Authority for Scientific Research, Libya*, No. 2, pp.35-40.
- xl.viii. Mistry, V., Sharma, U. and Low, M. (2014) 'Management accountants' perception of their role in accounting for sustainable development', *Pacific Accounting Review*, Vol. 26, Iss ½, pp.112 – 133. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/PAR-06-2013-0052>
- xl.ix. Morec, B., Vitezic, V. and Tekavic, M. (2012) 'The Role of Accounting in Measuring Efficiency In Public Education', *Journal of Business Management*, No.5, Special Edition, pp.48-55.
- l. Nga, J. K.H., and Mun, S. W. (2013) 'The perception of undergraduate students towards accountants and the role of accountants in driving organizational change', *Education + Training*, Vol. 55, Issue 6, pp.500 – 519. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/ET-07-2012-0074>
- li. Nwobu, O., Faboyede, S. O. and Onwuelingo, A. T. (2015) 'the Role of Accounting Services in Small and Medium Scale Businesses in Nigeria', *Journal of Accounting – Business & Management* vol. 22, no. 1, pp.55-63.
- lii. Oprean, D. B. and Podoaba, L. (2016) 'Importance, Role and Qualitative Characteristics of Accounting Information in the Decision Making Process', *Quality-Access to Success*, Vol.17, S2, pp48-57.
- lii.iii. Osman, A. I. (1980) 'theoretical & analytical studying for the effectiveness of the accounting standards internationally', *public administration magazine, Riyadh*, No. 1, p.77.
- liv. Pezet, A. & Sponem, S. (2015) 'the role of accounting in the making of the bank customer: transferring capital', *Accounting History Review*, 25:2, pp.97-120. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21552851.2015.1052528>
- lv. Raj, J. R. and Seetharaman, A. (2012) 'The role of accounting in the knowledge economy', *African Journal of Business Management* Vol. 6(32), pp. 9307-9316. 15 August 2012. DOI: 10.5897/AJBM11.508
- lvi. Rammo, W. M. (1999) 'The importance of accounting information and the development of accounting for economic development in developing countries', *Studies magazine, Dean of Scientific Research. The university of Jordan*, vol. 26, No. 2, p.179.
- lvii. Rammo, W. M. (2013) 'Activating the Role of Accounting Profession in Preparing Economic Feasibility Studies for Investment Projects', *Al -Rafideen development*, Vol 113, pp.298-330. <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/466750>
- lviii. Ribeiro, L. M. P., Pereira, J. R. and Benedicto, G. C. (2013) 'The role of accounting in public governance process', *African Journal of Business Management*. Vol. 7(29), pp.2905-2915. DOI:10.5897/AJBM2013.7013
- lix. Salem, F. R. (2003) 'the development of the accounting model for measuring & evaluating the economic entity performance', *faculty of commerce magazine, Alexandria University*, p.384.

- ix. Schaltegger, S., and Zvezdov, D. (2015) 'Gatekeepers of sustainability information: exploring the roles of accountants', *Journal of Accounting & Organizational Change*, Vol. 11, Issue 3, pp. 333 – 361.<http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/JAOC-10-2013-0083>
- lxi. Schiavo-Campo, S. (2009) 'Potemkin villages: the medium-Term expenditure framework in developing countries', *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 29(2), pp.1–26.
- lxii. Seiler, R.E., (1966). *Accounting Information System and Underdeveloped Nations*. *The Accounting Review*. Vol. 40, No. 4, p.652.
- lxiii. Sikka, P. (2012) 'Bad distribution of income and economic crisis: The hand of accountancy', Paper presented at the 35th European Accounting Association conference, Ljubljana, May 9–11.
- lxiv. Toluyemi, T. (1999) 'The role of accounting information system in the sustainability of agricultural development projects in Nigeria', *Information Technology for Development*, 8:4, pp.209-220. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02681102.1999.9525311>.
- lxv. Vanhelden, J., & Uddin, S. (2016) 'Public sector management accounting in emerging economies: a literature review', *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*. [http://dx.doi.org/\[369TD\\$DIF\]\[370TD\\$DIF\]10.1016/j.cpa.2016.01.001](http://dx.doi.org/[369TD$DIF][370TD$DIF]10.1016/j.cpa.2016.01.001).
- lxvi. Wang, T. and Zhang, T. (2015), 'the roles of accounting data in equity valuation: evidence from China', *China Finance Review International*, Vol. 5, Issue 1, pp.69 – 87. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/CFRI-07-2013-0084>.
- lxvii. Zafra, J. L., Lopez, A. M. and Hernandez, A. (2009) 'Developing an alert system for local governments in financial crisis' *Public Money & Management*, 29, pp.175–181.
- lxviii. Zimmerman, J. L. (2015) 'The role of accounting in the twenty-first-century firm', *Accounting and Business Research*, 45:4, pp.485-509. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00014788.2015.1035549>

Appendix 1

N	Item	Strongly Agree	agree	Neutral	disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	There is a vital role of the accounting profession in the economic development.					
2	Accounting information contributes directly to the measurement of social welfare.					
3	Accounting Standards rationalize the accounting practices in Sudan.					
4	The contribution of the accounting profession in the economic development in Sudan depend on recent accounting practices.					
5	The responsibility of the Accounting profession development in Sudan is for the neutral professional organizations.					
6	When the government Gives a much attention to accounting profession it can help play an effective role in the development process in the Sudan.					
7	The development of Sudanese accounting standards taking into account the local environment helps in social & economic development.					
8	The appropriate accounting practice is an indicator for economic development.					
9	The development of accounting performance can be achieved through removing Barriers that faced the accounting practice in the Sudanese environment.					