

Chief Executive Officers' Attributes, Firm Characteristics and Accounting Conservatism Among Listed Non-Financial Companies in Nigeria

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Abstract

The study “Chief Executive Officers’ Attributes, Firm Characteristics and Accounting Conservatism among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria” aims to investigate the extent of accounting conservatism among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria as well as the joint effect of CEO attributes and firm characteristics on accounting conservatism among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria spanning from 2012 to 2022. This study adopts an ex-post facto research design based on a population of 113 listed non-financial companies on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX), with a sample of 76 companies selected using purposive sampling techniques. The key findings indicate that accounting conservatism (mean=4.562, std. dev.=83.055) reveal that practices varied across companies, with some adopting higher levels of conservatism in reporting their financials, while others were more aggressive in their practices. Furthermore, descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum) and dynamic panel Generalized Method of Moment (GMM) estimator were used as technique analysis to highlights the joint effect of CEO attributes and firm characteristics on accounting conservatism. These findings conclude that CEO attributes and firm characteristics jointly contributed to accounting conservatism within Nigerian non-financial companies. These offer important insights that can be useful to CEOs, policymakers, financial regulators and researchers.

Keywords: chief executive officers (CEOs), CEO attributes, firm characteristics, accounting conservatism, GMM