Journal of Finance and Accounting

ISSN Online: 2616-4965

Leverage and Quality of Voluntary Disclosure among Commercial Banks in Kenya

Kimaru Thairu, Ambrose Jagongo & Lucy Wamugo

ISSN: 2616-4965

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

Stratford
Peer Reviewed Journal & book Publishing

Leverage and Quality of Voluntary Disclosure among Commercial Banks in Kenya

Kimaru Thairu, Ambrose Jagongo & Lucy Wamugo

[1]Ph.D Candidate, Kenyatta University

[2,3]Department of Finance and Accounting, School of Business, Economics & Tourism, Kenyatta University

***How to cite this article*: Thairu K., Jagongo A., & Wamugo L. (2023). Leverage and Quality of Voluntary Disclosure among Commercial Banks in Kenya. *Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting. Vol* 7(11) pp. 106-117 https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t2276**

Abstract

Different results have been reported by the existing studies with regards to leverage and quality of voluntary disclosure. Therefore, this research sought to establish the effect of firm leverage on the quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya. The study was guided by signalling theory. This study adopted positivistic philosophy and explanatory research design. The study period was between the years 2013- 2020 and 38 out of 41 commercial banks in Kenya licensed by the Central Bank of Kenya as at 2020 were selected as the sample using purposive sampling method. The data was extracted and compiled for evaluation from the financial statements using the document review guide. Descriptive and inferential statistics evaluated the data. Pearson correlation analysis was done to show correlation between variables. A panel regression model was used. The study found that leverage has a negative significant influence on quality of voluntary disclosure of commercial banks. The study recommends that banks manage their debt levels carefully to enhance transparency and the quality of their voluntary disclosures. Given that debt holders often access information through alternative channels such as credit ratings, banks should diversify their communication strategies beyond annual reports to include more frequent and detailed disclosures.

Keywords: *Leverage, Quality of Voluntary Disclosure & Commercial Banks*

1.1 Introduction

The information asymmetry can be lowered by voluntary disclosure where greater organizational accountability is greatly achieved due to recording of data as indicated by Chung, Hrazdil and Trottier (2015). In decreasing the agency conflicts and gaps in information key among firm features the family control, firm size, quality of auditing, age of the firm, leverage, and asset structure, are very important (Adeyemi & Faybemi, 2010). Theoretically, the internal structures and firm characteristics causes feeble and poor disclosure among firms (Karami & Akhgar, 2014). The way these leverage influences the quality of financial disclosure is contestable (Ikpor & Agha, 2016).

Any stakeholder within any business environment has information as the most powerful tool in his hands (Oyerogba, 2014). Stakeholders make prudent, efficient and informed decisions from the most relevant and reliable information and helps reap huge benefits from it. However, timely, relevant and reliable information as to cause any benefit seems great illusion majorly due to the conflicts between agents and information asymmetry in the business (Nyambuti, 2016). The benefit of making information available on broad range of activities among them financial and non-financial wellbeing have become relevant to business organizations (Akisik & Gal, 2011). The additional information required by users and understood to be way above the required information refers to voluntary disclosure (Alqatameen Alkhalaileh & Dabaghia, 2020). To reduce uncertainty, various stakeholders including the creditors, state regulators, suppliers, banks, and others requires meaningful information and help them make decisions economically and financially (Alqatameen, Palaniappan & Almsafir, 2014).

When given information is not provided or scantly provided, confusion arises thus rendering decisions risky for decision-makers (Kangarlouei, Birjandi & Motavassel, 2013). Higher costs of capital and increased risks result from information deficiencies if standards and practices are violated causing lack of consistency, low transparency, incomparability, and lack of trustworthiness in the provided information (Aljifri, Alzarouni, Ng & Tahir, 2014). Market transparency is enhanced through full disclosure of adequate and timely information to decision makers (Dahiyat, 2020).

A firm utilizes debts, which is a fixed income security among the capital structure calculated as total assets over the total debts. Leverage is important as it describes the arrangement of capital in the firm and in the long term it also reveals the equilibrium finance sources (Andrew, 2015). Managerial disclosure decisions induce incentives and reduces it, either way. In high leveraged companies' agency conflict is likely to arise (Tsuji, 2011) while managers can be disciplined by the same leverage (Brown, Falaschetti & Orlando, 2010). Some research indicated a positive connection between leverage and voluntary disclosure (Kolsi, 2012; Hajji & Ghazali, 2013) while others like Allegrini and Greco (2011); Bhayani (2012) reported that leverage and voluntary disclosure level were negatively related. However, Jeewantha, Bandara and Ajward (2015); Hieu and Lan (2015) disclosed no association between the two.

Kenya Companies Act (2012) Cap 486 governs corporate disclosure of companies. General outline, the needed requirements of the financial accounting and reporting the registered companies is provided by the Kenyan Companies Act (2012). Disclosure of issues concerning annual returns, registers, general meetings, accounts and audits and inspections and Board of Directors is addressed by the Act

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Different results have been reported by the existing studies with regards to leverage and quality of voluntary disclosure thus various gaps are presented; Thinh (2021) study on how top 50 Vietnam listed companies (2015 – 2019) voluntary disclosure was impacted by firm characteristics conceptualized the variables differently and the context was only non-financial firms. Using Turkish firms, Uyar and Kilic (2012) studied how financial ratios' voluntary disclosure in yearly reports was influenced by firm characteristics and variables were conceptualized differently and the study methodology used varied with the current study. Further, the study presented contextual gaps, as the study population was industrial Turkish firms different from the Kenyan commercial banks. In Kuwait, Alfraih and Almutawa (2014) study on Corporate Financial Disclosure and Firm-Specific Characteristics was conceptualized differently as the variables under study differed significantly and the context differed.

Studies in Kenya that explored the company specific characteristics regarding voluntary disclosure quality, presented different gaps that this research sought to close. Kemei (2017) study on how voluntary disclosures affects the financial reports' quality for six large banks in Kenya presents contextual and conceptual gaps since the research did not establish how the variables related, the variables were different and the scope involved only a limited number of banks in Kenya. Mutiva, Ahmed and Ndirangu (2015) studied how voluntary disclosures affected monetary execution of listed firms in Nairobi Stock Exchange" and conceptualized different variables and the context was on all listed firms which differs with commercial banks. Mugo (2015) on "impact of voluntary disclosure on the Kenyan commercial banks' financial performance" conceptualized voluntary disclosures variables differently with the current research. Based on the presented gaps, there has not been an adequate investigation on quality of voluntary disclosure especially for Kenyan commercial banks. Thus, this research sought to establish the effect of firm leverage on the quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya.

1.2 Research Objective

To investigate the effect of leverage on quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya

1.3 Research Hypotheses

H_{O1}: Leverage does not have a significant effect on quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya.

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

2.1 Theoretical Review

Agency Theory

Jensen and Meckling (1976) founded this theory and argues for agents and principals' clear responsibility separation. An inherent moral hazard is posited by the theory in principal-agent associations resulting to agency costs. Methods and procedures giving accounting outcomes that are favorable and which may lead to maximization of their wealth under reward and compensation schemes can be adopted by agents. The theory states that, "corporate disclosure is one mechanism of reducing information asymmetry between managers and stakeholders, mitigate agency problems, narrow the information gap, and improve the stewardship function" (Moumen, Othman & Hussainey, 2015).

Firm characteristics as acknowledged by Adeyemi and Faybemi (2010) play a role in decreasing agency informational gap and conflicts includes asset structure, quality of auditing, family control, leverage, age of the firm and firm size. To opportunistically maximize their interests on compensations earnings, managers' report poorly on the financials causing misalignment of information thus reducing the confidence to the shareholders in this disclosed information (Bigus & Häfele, 2018; Cai, Li & Tang., 2020).

The agency problem and information misalignment arising between the management and the other users calls for more disclosure in the financial reports (Jiang, Habib, & Baiding, 2011). Previous researches (Bhuyan, 2018; Thomas & Ahmed, 2018; Alfraih & Almutawa, 2017 and Lan et al. 2013) in the annual financial statements, voluntary disclosure level depends on many factors relating to agency theory (size, assets in place and leverage). Hence, according to previous related researches and the theory as theoretical base, size, assets in place and leverage may influence voluntary disclosure.

Porter (1985) as Ongore (2008) observed that the theory envisaged that as the firm characteristics, the conflict between the agents and principals has a tendency of reducing considerably. Larger enterprises have stronger motivations to disclose more information (Khlif and Souissi, 2010). One potential way to minimize organization expenses is to disclose information regarding the business economic realities and the management activities (Boshnak, 2017). Within this theory, disclosure quality is perceived to be among the forms investors use as a monitoring mechanism; it has the capability of reducing information asymmetry gap between the managers and an agent and therefore may be efficient in lessening agency cost (Huang & Zhang, 2008). These arguments of the theory aided in expounding on the study on how quality of voluntary disclosure among Kenyan commercial banks and leverage is associated.

2.2 Empirical review

In a comprehensive study conducted by Adeniyi and Adebayo (2018), the primary objective was to investigate the intricate dynamics between financial leverage and voluntary corporate social disclosure within the context of Nigerian Stock Exchange-listed manufacturing companies.

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

Employing an ex-post facto study technique, the research meticulously examined the impact of financial leverage on various dimensions of voluntary disclosure, including economic and environmental aspects. Surprisingly, the findings of this rigorous study revealed that while financial leverage did not exert a significant influence on voluntary economic and environmental disclosure, it did exhibit a discernible effect on voluntary social disclosure. This nuanced differentiation highlights the multifaceted nature of corporate disclosure practices, indicating that the impact of financial leverage may vary across different facets of voluntary disclosure. Notably, the current study under consideration takes a divergent approach. Employing a descriptive research design, it sets out to measure the overarching quality of voluntary disclosure within the unique landscape of Kenyan commercial banks. Unlike the prior investigation that specifically honed in on social disclosure, this study encompasses a broader spectrum of disclosure activities, providing a more comprehensive assessment of the disclosure practices in this particular context.

In a parallel exploration of financial factors and corporate disclosure, Fitriasuri, Didik, Inten, and Luluk (2018) embarked on an empirical journey to unravel the interplay between return on equity, leverage, and the presence of independent commissioners on discretionary declarations. Their research, situated within the context of manufacturing firms listed on the Indonesian Stock Exchange, unearthed a noteworthy revelation. Among the variables scrutinized, only leverage emerged as a significant determinant significantly influencing the discretionary declarations made by the companies under study. The Indonesian manufacturing sector, with its distinct characteristics and operational dynamics, presents a stark contrast to the Kenyan commercial banking industry. Commercial banks and manufacturing firms diverge substantially in terms of their core activities, financial structures, and regulatory environments. Consequently, the findings from the Indonesian study, while insightful within their domain, may not necessarily extrapolate seamlessly to the Kenyan banking landscape, emphasizing the necessity of context-specific research.

Further contributing to the discourse on financial factors and corporate disclosure, Mishari and Abdullah (2014) embarked on a comprehensive study focusing on Corporate Financial Disclosure and Firm-Specific Characteristics. Their ambitious research encompassed an extensive dataset comprising 204 enterprises listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. The study uncovered a notable positive correlation between financial disclosure levels and various firm-specific characteristics, including firm size, profitability, age, and leverage. These findings, grounded in regression analysis, provided valuable insights into the nuanced relationship between financial attributes and disclosure practices. Building upon this foundational research, the current study extends the scope of inquiry. Rather than exploring mandatory disclosures, which formed the core of the Kuwaiti investigation, the current research endeavors to delve into the intricate dimensions of voluntary disclosure among Kenyan commercial banks. The focus here is to unravel the impact of firm-specific characteristics and liquidity on the quality of voluntary disclosure within the Kenyan banking sector. It is a distinct exploration that seeks to contribute valuable knowledge to the realm

https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t2276

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

of voluntary disclosure practices, further enriching the academic and practical understanding of this critical facet of corporate transparency and communication.

In the international landscape of corporate disclosure practices, Turkey emerged as a focal point of inquiry for Demir and Bahadir (2014). Their meticulous study aimed to assess the extent of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) among firms listed in the Turkish market. Within this intriguing exploration, the research uncovered several noteworthy findings. Notably, the level of compliance with IFRS standards exhibited a negative association with leverage levels, implying that highly leveraged firms were less inclined to adhere rigorously to international reporting standards. On the other hand, the presence of Big 4 auditing firms was found to exert a positive influence on compliance, indicating the role of audit quality in fostering adherence to international standards. Moreover, the study highlighted that factors such as age, organization size, and profitability did not exhibit statistically significant effects on compliance with IFRS standards. This extensive examination of Turkish firms provided valuable insights into the dynamics of adherence to international reporting norms. Drawing from this international context, the current study embarks on a unique trajectory. Instead of focusing on compliance with IFRS standards, it scrutinizes the impact of firm-specific characteristics on the quality of voluntary disclosure within the distinct milieu of Kenyan commercial banks. The study postulates a positive correlation between the quality of voluntary disclosure and leverage, offering a nuanced perspective on the determinants of voluntary disclosure practices in this particular setting.

In summary, the extensive body of research conducted by Adeniyi and Adebayo (2018), Fitriasuri, Didik, Inten, and Luluk (2018), Mishari and Abdullah (2014), and Demir and Bahadir (2014) collectively provides a comprehensive backdrop against which to contextualize the current study's investigation into the quality of voluntary disclosure among Kenyan commercial banks. Each of these prior studies contributes a unique facet to the broader discourse on corporate disclosure practices, shedding light on the intricate relationships between financial factors, firm-specific characteristics, and disclosure behaviors within various international contexts. The present research endeavors to build upon this rich foundation, offering a focused exploration of the Kenyan banking landscape and its specific determinants of voluntary disclosure quality. It is within this nuanced and distinct context that the study seeks to unravel the impact of firm-specific characteristics, with a particular emphasis on leverage, contributing to the ever-evolving body of knowledge in the field of corporate transparency and disclosure practices.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Kothari (2011) describes it as a diagrammatical representation of the connection between study variables. The framework diagrammatically and graphically presents the variables’ correlation. Figures 1 demonstrates how firm leverage on quality of voluntary disclosure for commercial banks.

https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t2276

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

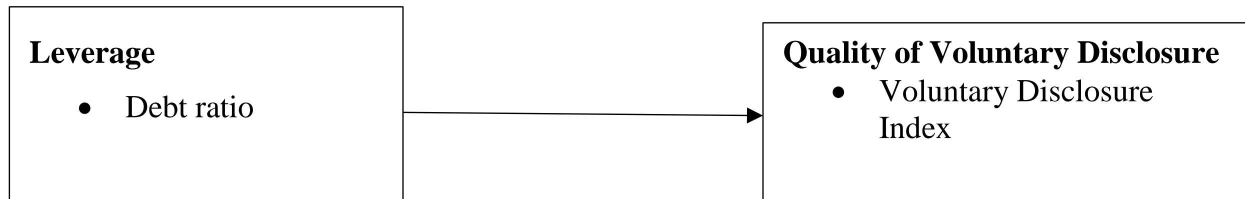

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3.1 Research Methodology

This study adopted positivistic philosophy and explanatory research design. The study period was between the years 2013- 2020 and 38 out of 41 commercial banks in Kenya licensed by the Central Bank of Kenya as at 2020 were selected as the sample using purposive sampling method. The needed data was extracted and compiled for evaluation from the financial statements using the document review guide. Descriptive and inferential statistics evaluated the data. Descriptive analysis was performed and displayed through the mean, mode, median, standard deviation as well as ratios. Pearson correlation analysis was done to show correlation between variables. In investigating how the variable relate, panel regression model was used. Diagnostics test conducted included heteroscedasticity, multicollinearity, normality test, panel unit root, autocorrelation, and test for fixed or random effects and they all met the threshold.

4.1 Results and Findings

4.2 Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics: mean, standard deviation, maximum and minimum were established. Gravetter, Wallnau & Forzano (2016) notes that, the preferred central tendency measure was the mean as it is related closely to standard deviation and variance (most common variability measure), utilizes all score in the distribution and is more representative. Sharma (2018) cites that in comparison to measures of variation, standard deviation was preferred as it can compare skewness and correlation and is less affected if the sample size fluctuates. Table 1 displays the results.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Quality of Voluntary Disclosure	304	0.650	0.117	0.410	0.920
Leverage	304	1.106	0.652	0.501	2.422

Table 1 shows that quality of voluntary disclosure proxied by voluntary disclosure index has a mean value of 0.650 with a 0.117 std. dev., it indicates a high variation degree with 0.920 maximum value against 0.410 minimum value as evidence. This indicates that quality of voluntary disclosure had lot of fluctuation over the period under study as evidenced by the 0.117 std. dev. and 0.650 mean. Leverage as proxied by debt ratio has 1.106 mean and a 0.652 std. dev. with a 0.501 minimum value and a 2.422 maximum value.

https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t2276

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

4.3 Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis was carried out to detect the association between the independent and the dependent variables. The mean score for each of the independent variables was calculated and the Pearson's correlation. When the p-value is less than or equal to 0.05 the correlation is statistically significant. However, if the p-value is greater than 0.05 or the significant level then correlation is not statistically significant (Statistics Solution, 2018). Positive correlation implies that as one variable increases the other variable has a tendency to also increase. Negative correlation implies that as one variable increases the other variable has a tendency to decrease. The results for correlation are as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Correlation Outputs

	Quality of Voluntary Disclosure	Leverage
Quality of Voluntary Disclosure	1.000	
Leverage	-0.756	1.000
	0.000	

Leverage was negatively and significantly connected to quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya (r=-0.756, p=0.000<0.05). Implying that leverage had a negative association to quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya.

4.4 Hypothesis Testing

The hypothesis testing section covers the tests of the hypotheses emanating from the research of objectives of the study. Test of hypotheses was based on the firm specific attributes on voluntary disclosure quality. The hypothesis was tested using a regression model. Coefficients and their P values were estimated and interpreted at 5 percent significance level (0.05). The results are as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Regression Outputs

Voluntary Disclosure Quality	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>|z|
Leverage	-0.3240	0.0276	-11.720	0.001
cons	0.4239	0.0275	15.430	0.000
Wald chi2(1)	905.95			
Prob > chi2	0.000			
R-squared	0.765			

Based on the results, the determination coefficient R Square is 0.765. The research objective was to investigate the effect of leverage on quality of voluntary disclosure among Kenyan commercial

https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t2276

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

banks. Consequently, the null hypothesis that leverage does not have a significant effect on quality of voluntary disclosure among commercial banks in Kenya was formulated to address this objective at 95 percent confidence level. Table 3 indicates that leverage had a coefficient of -0.3240 with a 0.001 P value, which was < 0.05 leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This also led to finding that leverage significantly and negatively affect quality of voluntary disclosure at 5 percent significance level implying that increasing debts signify strained performance and this leads to decreased quality of voluntary disclosure.

The results are in line with the findimgs made by Fitriasuri, Didik, Inten, and Luluk (2018), who similarly recognized the significant impact of leverage variables on a company's discretionary disclosure practices. This alignment in findings underscores the central role of leverage in shaping the disclosure behaviors of corporate entities. Additionally, the comprehensive research conducted by Adeniyi and Adebayo (2018), utilizing an ex-post facto research design, complements your findings by shedding light on the nuanced influence of financial leverage on various facets of voluntary disclosure. While they found that voluntary economic and environmental disclosures appeared relatively insulated from financial leverage, they astutely observed a substantial impact on voluntary social disclosure. This nuanced perspective adds depth and granularity to our understanding of how leverage can differentially affect specific disclosure domains within corporate entities. However, it is essential to acknowledge the discernible disparities evident in the study by Mishari and Abdullah (2014), which firmly established a positive linkage between the level of financial disclosures and leverage. These discrepancies underscore the intricate nature of the relationship between leverage and disclosure practices, prompting a more nuanced examination of contextual variables that may elucidate these variations.

5.1 Conclusion

The study concluded that leverage has a negative significant influence on quality of voluntary disclosure of commercial banks. Other than through yearly reports, debt holders receive information using other means like credit rating. Other channels are used by companies in supplying information to debt holders. Signaling Theory and Agency Theory cancel one another hence the effect is invisible. Signaling Theory cites that favorable financial situation are signaled by companies with less debt and therefore more is disclosed and Agency Theory states that more is disclosed by organizations with high leverage level for reduction of agency costs.

6.1 Recommendations

In light of the conclusion that leverage has a significantly negative impact on the quality of voluntary disclosure in commercial banks, it is recommended that banks manage their debt levels carefully to enhance transparency and the quality of their voluntary disclosures. Given that debt holders often access information through alternative channels such as credit ratings, banks should diversify their communication strategies beyond annual reports to include more frequent and detailed disclosures, especially in areas critical to credit assessments. Furthermore, banks should recognize the conflicting implications of Signaling Theory and Agency Theory; while the former

suggests that lower debt levels are indicative of a favorable financial situation, leading to more voluntary disclosure, the latter argues for increased disclosure at higher leverage levels to mitigate agency costs. To balance these theories, banks should adopt a nuanced approach to disclosure based on their leverage situation. For those with higher leverage, increased transparency can help reduce agency costs, while banks with lower leverage might use their favorable financial position as an opportunity to provide more comprehensive disclosures to reinforce stakeholder confidence.

References

Adeniyi, S.I. & Adebayo, H.O. (2018). Effect of Financial Leverage on Voluntary Corporate Social Disclosure among Listed Firms on Nigerian Stock Exchange: A Study of Selected Manufacturing Firms. *Academic Journal of Economic Studies*, 4 (3), 18–24.

Adeyemi, S. B., & Fagbemi, T. O. (2010). Audit quality, corporate governance and firm characteristics in Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Management*, 5, 169–179.

Akisik, O. & Gal, G. (2011). Sustainability in businesses, corporate social responsibility, and accounting standards: an empirical study", *International Journal of Accounting and Information Management*, Vol. 19 No. 3, 304-324.

Aljifri, K., Alzarouni, A., Ng, C., & Tahir, M. I. (2014) The Association between Firm Characteristics and Corporate Financial Disclosures: Evidence from UAE Companies", *The International Journal of Business and Finance Research*, Vol. 8 No.2, pp.101-123.

Alqatameen, D. E., Alkhalaileh, M. A. A., & Dabaghia, M. N. (2020). Ownership Structure, Board Composition and Voluntary Disclosure by Non-financial firms listed In (ASE). *International Business Research*, 13(7), 93-107.

Andrew, K. K. (2015). Effect Of Corporate Attributes On International Financial Reporting Standards Disclosure Level. Evidence from Kenya Listed Firms. *Research Journal of Finance and Accounting Vol*, *6*, 2222-1697.

Bhayani, S. (2012). Association between firm-specific characteristics and corporate disclosure: The case of India. *International Conference on Business, Economics, Management and Behavioral Science*, Dubai 7-8, 2012.

Bhuyan, M.S.S. (2018). Determinants and effects of voluntary disclosure with a focus on corporate governance and firm performance: Evidence from Bangladesh. Retrieved from https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi? Article/1367& context/theses.

Brown, J., Falaschetti, D. & Orlando, M (2010). Auditor Independence and Earnings Quality: Evidence for Market Discipline Vs Sarbanes-Oxley Proscriptions. *American Law and Economics Review*, 12 (1): 39-68.

Cai, G., Li, W. & Tang, Z. (2020). Religion and the method of earnings management: evidence from China". *Journal of Business Ethics*, 161(1), 71-90

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

Chung, D.Y., Hrazdil, K. & Trottier, K. (2015). On the efficiency of intra-industry information transfers: The dilution of the overreaction anomaly. *Journal of Banking & Finance,* 60, 153-167.

Dahiyat, A.A (2020). Determinants of Voluntary Disclosure Quality in Jordan: Evidence from Manufacturing Companies listed in Amman stock exchange. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Journal*, 24, 1-11.

Fitriasuri, Didik S., Inten M. & Luluk F. (2018). The Effect of Independent Commissioner, Leverage, Return on Equity to Voluntary Disclosures with Mandatory Disclosures as Moderating Variable. *Advances in Economics, Business and Management Research, volume*, 3rd Global Conference on Business, Management, and Entrepreneurship (GCBME 2018), 135-141

Hieu, P.U & Lan, D.T.H (2015). Factors Influencing the Voluntary Disclosure of Vietnamese Listed Companies. *Journal of Modern Accounting and Auditing*, December 2015, Vol. 11, No. 12, 656-676.

Ikpor, M. & Agha N. (2016). Determinants of voluntary disclosure quality in emerging economies: evidence from firms listed in Nigeria stock exchange. *International Journal of Research in Engineering & Technology*, 4(6), 37-50.

Jeewantha, G., Bandara, D., & Ajward, R. (2015). Drivers of Corporate Voluntary Disclosures: Empirical Evidence from Sri Lankan Listed Companies. *Proceedings of 12th International Conference on Business Management,* 117-125.

Jensen, M. C. and Meckling, W. H. (1976) Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure, *Journal of Financial Economics*, 3(4), 305-360.

Jiang, H., Habib, A., & Baiding, H. (2011). Ownership concentration, voluntary disclosures and information asymmetry in New Zealand. *The British Accounting Review*, 43(1), 39–53.

Kangarlouei, S. J., Birjandi, H. A., & Motavassel, M. (2013). The Effect of Ownership Structure on Voluntary Discloser in Tehran Stock Exchange. *International Journal of Business Analytics and Intelligence*, 1(1), 23-31. http://www.publishingindia.com/ ijbai/54/

Karami A. & Akhgar M. (2014). Effect Of Company's Size and Leverage Features on the Quality of Financial Reporting of Firms Non-financial listed In Tehran Stock Exchange. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, 6 (5), 71-80.

Mishari M.A., & Abdullah M.A., (2014). Firm-Specific Characteristics and Corporate Financial Disclosure: Evidence from an Emerging Market. *International Journal of Accounting and Taxation*, Vol. 2 (3), 55-78.

Moumen, N., Othman, H.B. & Hussainey, K. (2015). "The value relevance of risk disclosure in annual reports: evidence from MENA emerging markets", *Research in International Business and Finance,* 34, 177-204.

Stratford Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Publishing
Journal of Journal of Finance and Accounting
Volume 7||Issue 11||Page 106-117 ||November||2023|
Email: info@stratfordjournals.org ISSN: 2616-4965

Mugo N. W. (2014). The effect of voluntary disclosure on the financial performance of commercial banks in Kenya. MBA project. University of Nairobi.

Oyerogba E. O. (2014). The Use of Voluntary Disclosure in Determining the Quality of Financial Statements: Evidence from the Nigeria Listed Companies. *Serbian Journal of Management* 9 (2), 263 – 280.

Thinh T.Q. (2021). The impact of firm characteristics on the voluntary disclosure – evidence on the top 50 listed firms of Forbes Vietnam. *Investment Management and Financial Innovations,* 18(1), 215-222.

Uyar, A. & Kiliç, M. (2012). The influence of firm characteristics on disclosure of financial ratios in annual reports of Turkish firms listed in the Istanbul Stock Exchange. *Int. J. Accounting, Auditing and Performance Evaluation*, 8(2), 137–156.

Uyar, A., Kilic, M. and Bayyurt, N. (2013). “Association between firm characteristics and corporate voluntary disclosure: evidence from Turkish listed companies”, *Intangible Capital*, Vol. 9 No. 4, pp. 1080-1112.