

Assessment of E-Payment System Adoption in Southwestern Universities in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the level of compliance with the e-payment system among universities in Southwestern Nigeria and determined the degree of adoption of the e-payment system within accounting systems in Southwestern universities. These were intended to inform policy formulation. Data were collected through questionnaire administration among 269 staff members of the selected universities in Southwestern Nigeria. The results reveal that many respondents were unaware of the e-payment policy compared with other policies, while those who were aware reported a high level of compliance. This also implies that the Internal Control Policies for the e-payment system have overshadowed all others, as they are the most accessible to users of the e-payment system. This can also be interpreted to mean that the Internal Control Policies statement encompasses Federal Government directives, the Central Bank of Nigeria Cashless Policies, and the organizations' internal policies on e-payment. While the degree of adoption showed that Electronic Transfer is the most accessible to users in their day-to-day operations. The study concluded that compliance with internal control policies for e-payments takes precedence. Also, with respect to the degree of adoption of the e-payment accounting system, the Electronic Transfer system ranked first among the channels, and its adoption was moderate, indicating that it has not been fully adopted by our universities. Recommendations include circularizing all policy documents on e-payment, prioritizing staff training and development on the use of e-payment channels, and subscribing to a safe and secure e-payment platform in order to minimize internet fraud to the barest minimum. It is also important to ensure a stable power supply and a stable political and economic environment, which will, in turn, attract good internet investors to our country, improve internet access, and minimize internet access interruptions.

Keywords: E-payment, Accounting System, Adoption, University.

Introduction

The Central Bank of Nigeria introduced a new policy on cash-based transactions which stipulates a 'cash handling charge' on daily cash withdrawals that exceed N500,000 for Individuals and N3,000,000 for Corporate bodies (CBN, 2011). The new policy on cash-based transactions (withdrawals) in banks, aims at reducing (not eliminating) the amount of physical cash (coins and

notes) circulating in the economy, and encouraging more electronic-based transactions (payments for goods, services and transfers (CBN, 2024). The South Western Universities in Nigeria are part of government/corporate bodies affected by this policy. So the application of E payment has become a subject of fundamental importance and concerns to all educational institutions operating in Nigeria.

In line with the CBN policy, the Federal Government of Nigeria also issued directives through its treasury circular ref No: TRY/A8 and B8 of 22nd October 2008 which directed that payments from all funds of the Federal Government of Nigeria be made electronically as from 1st January, 2009 in order to eliminate the unacceptable delay in the payment of government contractors who have been certified. It was also aimed to be adopted by the government to ease and facilitate payment and preparation of government accounting.

Government Accounting is one of the three areas of accounting method that the recent development in accounting brought about. Its focus is probity in the use of resources (Hassan, 2010). Government Accounting is the process of recognizing and reflecting in the appropriate books of accounts and records government generated revenue and disbursed expenditure in such a way as to extract with ease financial information that are vital for appropriate decision making from time to time, and in compliance with the laws regulating government finance (Hassan, 2010; Nur, et. al., 2024). It is also applicable to all the financial document and records of public institutions that relates to collection of tax payer's money and the analysis control of expenditure, administration of trust funds, management of government stores, and all the financial responsibilities and duties of relevant organs. Government Accounting System can further be expressed as a way of accounting through which the established institutions of the public render stewardship on the revenue of the organ and how it has been disbursed (Adams, 2004; Setiawan, et. al., 2025).

The recent development in Central Bank of Nigeria that calls for cashless economy has drawn the attention of many tertiary educational institutions to application of various technological devices in promoting services delivery that guarantee prompt and timely collections of tuition fees and other revenue that accrues to the institutes (Anyawu, 2022). However, the rapid growth in technology has increased the pressure on Nigerian Universities in respect of mode of collection of tuition fees and other income as well as disbursement of payments. The new age of technology allows students to conclude payment of tuition fees and the likes in their private room within a twinkle of an eye with the use of their ATM (Automated Teller Machine) Card and their internet ready computer system while student's tuition might be paid directly by their parent even in the comfort of their home (Moertim, Athuri, Kenmit, and Sapuldro, 2011). Technological innovation has changed the horizon of payment systems, drifting towards e-world (Oginni, 2013; Garaga, 2025). Precisely, modern technology has changed conventional payment system into a more efficient and effective system, devoid of "cash and carry" syndrome (Ayo, 2010;

Suryanarayana,2024). The easiness of transacting economic substances as well as a safer and quicker access to funds, among other factors, has placed E-payment system on a more glorified pace than cash based system (Oginni, 2013; Mandhare, et. al., 2024).

Historically, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) introduced payment system which facilitated e-payment in 2002 (Oyewole, El-maude, Gambo, Abba and Onuh, 2013). During this period, Nigeria Automated Clearing System (NACS) was introduced as a veritable platform for development of electronic payment and to reduce clearing of cheques period. In addition, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) was introduced by InterSwitch in 2003 followed by the implementation of Real Time Gross Settlement in 2006 migration to new uniform accounting system (NUBAN) in 2010. Subsequently, in the early 2011, Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System announced instant payment services and the first set of cash deposit ATMs were launched (Oyewole *et al*, 2013). The next age of payment system that followed paper instruction is electronic payment, some payments are now being automated and absolute volumes of cash transactions have declined as a result of the adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to the payment system especially in developed countries (David, 1982).

The use of non-cash payment is increasing on a daily basis as a result of advancement in Information and Communication Technology which have helped in streamlining the process of lodgment and withdrawal of cash locally and internationally. David (1982) confirms that there has been a very modest move away from cash. According to Steve (1996) electronic payment is a system that is automated through the use of information technology where bank transactions are done within and without banking hall and not necessarily the customer's branch. Stan (1997) also defined electronic payment as a system of payment whereby transaction takes place electronically without the use of cash. Information Technology is the major driver that helps in enhancement of the E payment system as a mode of collection of tuition fees and other dues or levy to the University account. The focus of this paper is to examine the level of compliance of universities with e-payment system in Southwestern Nigeria.

2.0 Statement of the Problem

The introduction of the cashless policy aims at driving the development and modernization of Nigeria's payment system in line with Nigeria's vision 2020 goal of being among the top 20 economies by the year 2020 (CBN 2012). It is a truism that an efficient and modern payment system is a key enabler for economic growth and must positively correlate with economic development (Beck, et. al., 2018; Abdul Azeez et. al., 2022). Another key reason for this policy adoption is basically to reduce the cost of banking services (including cost of credit) and drive financial inclusion by providing more efficient transaction options and greater reach and to improve the effectiveness of monetary policy in managing inflation and driving economic growth (Princewell and Anuforo, 2013).

Despite numerous benefits associated with cashless policy in Nigeria, the following challenges are identified with specific focus on Nigeria; behavioural constraints, Bank

conservative attitudes, Lack of confidence, Low level of internet penetration and poorly developed telecommunication impede smooth development and improvement in e-payment and e-commerce, lack of suitable legal and regulatory framework for e-payment: inadequate banking system, Political and economic instabilities in neighbouring countries, High rates of illiteracy, High cost of Internet, Frequent power interruption, Resistance to changes in technology among customers and staff due to lack of awareness on the benefits of new technologies, fear of risk, lack of trained personnel in key organisations, tendency to be content with the existing structures, resistant to new payment mechanism (Yaqub, Bello, Adenuga & Ogundeji 2013).

Zulu,2006; Osabutey and Jackson 2024 identified the challenges of E-payment in Africa as inadequate telecommunication infrastructure which include: connectivity failure in telephone lines; low internet bandwidth; high internet cost, unavailable of dedicated data service networks and close financial networks as well as frequent power interruption. Similarly, he identified lack of proper legal and regulatory framework and low level of credit access as the other challenges; but his study was limited to challenges of E-payment in Africa countries.

Asaolu, Ayoola & Akinkoye (2011) states that the introduction of E-payment in Nigeria was done initially to eliminate the unacceptable delay in the payment of government contractors by minimizing interaction between contractors and government officials who have role to play in the payment system but was later extended to cover all payments from government fund effective 1st January, 2009. They also observed that E payment system is better than the old system of cash and cheques while maintaining that payment by government agencies is largely being done through bank draft. Emphasis was laid on the fact that E payment system of government is not linked with the bank payment platform while concluding that e-payment system has not achieved its stated objectives.

Several studies have been carried out on the extent of how e-payment and its adoption have improved the effectiveness of developing economies like Nigeria. Despite government directive on the use of the e-payment by parastatals and agencies and the benefits associated with its adoption, its acceptance in Nigeria tertiary institutions is characterised by lack of suitable legal and regulatory framework for e-payment and this has been affecting accounting system.

Literature Review

Internet usage in Nigeria is still relatively low compared to developed countries and e-payment is still in an elementary stage, notwithstanding there is growing awareness in the benefits and opportunities offered by e-payment among Nigerians (Clarke, 2009; Okofu et. al., 2025).

Until 2008, Nigeria had only a few dial-up e-mail providers and a few internet service providers (ISPs) operating on slow links in the country. Present ISPs provide online advertising opportunities, internet banking security and VSAT (very small aperture terminal) services. The Economist intelligence unit estimates that the number of internet users per 100 persons grew from 1.25 in 2010 to 1.82 in 2005. There is progress in the sector, as illustrated by cybercafes springing up even in some of the more remote parts of the country. Lagos alone has more than 1,000 cybercafés. Businesses appreciation of the value of online communication is growing rapidly. But

with low household disposable income and a restrictive infrastructure, it will still be a while before internet penetration in homes reaches a significant level (Chan and Al-Hawamdeh, 2012).

Moreover, with the reduction in tariffs and further cuts, expected telecommunication services will become more affordable and essential to many Nigerians. The recent advances in the telecoms market and the explosion in the number of subscribers demonstrate the potential market for information and communication technology services generally in Nigeria, given Nigeria's sizeable population; it is a potentially lucrative market for e-payment services (Fred, 2012; Oyelami et. al., 2020; Adesina et. al., 2025). On March 3rd, 2010, the federal government launched a joint initiative between private sector operators, which operate under national e-Government Strategies Ltd (NeGst) and the National Information Technology development agency (NITDA), an agency of the federal Ministry of Science and Technology. The project aims to improve Organizational performance, safe service delivery and the participation of ordinary citizens in the day-to-day activities of government with information and communication technologies (Economic Intelligence Unit, 2006; Setiawan, et. al., 2025).

Online banking is a growing part of e-payment which provides interactive services such as accessing account summary information, paying bills and accessing other banking products and services (Kellart – Courtney, 2005). October 18, 2005, security first network bank opened to the public as world's first internet bank (Cronin, 2008). Banking executives needed to find more cost effective delivery channels to overcome limitations of labour intensive, high cost branch banking models. The World Wide Web with its ubiquitous browser based access offered a completely different delivery model for banking, one in which customers could tap into their accounts to conduct transactions at any hour (Cronin, 2008). Online banking provides the opportunity for bank customers to find out information or make a payment when a visit to a branch is not convenient (Mackey, 2011).

For the bank, it reduces the cost of processing each transaction and has the potential to enable the bank to reduce the overhead of the branch network. While online banking can provide considerable convenience for users who require out of branch banking facilities, the user is also vulnerable to potential holes of virus attacks, unauthorized access, fraudulent transactions and identity theft (Kellart-Courtney, 2005). Few managers have a clear vision of tomorrow's banking environment. Few institutions have strategic plans in place today that anticipate the future of online banking.

The challenge for the banking industry lies in creating the right incentives for customers to use PCs regularly for banking (Cronin, 2008). Financial institutions today have reason to worry that they do not offer online banking services; affluent customers will look to competitors. In addition to wanting to protect their existing franchise, financial institutions can look to online and related services to expand their product offerings and win new business (Cronin, 2008).

Nigeria's slow adoption of e-payment practice is rapidly changing for the better. Awareness of electronic payments in Nigeria is increasing and it accounted for N360 billion worth of transaction in 2008. Findings have shown that with improved technological development and

provision of basic infrastructure there will be improved e-Commerce and e-Payment services with overall reduction in the amount of currency in circulation (Aguila-Obra, 2006).

Revolution started in Nigeria banking system in 2003 with the introduction of Guideline of E-payment by the Central Banking of Nigeria. This was accompanied by bank reformation exercise in June 2004. The reformation exercise left Nigeria with 25 strong and reliable banks against 89 banks previously in existence. The surviving banks of the recapitalization exercise have enormously engaged the use of ICT as a platform for effective and efficient delivery of banking services (Aguila-Obra, 2006).

The banks' huge investment in telecommunication networks and various e-payment services delivery could be seen as an effort towards measuring up with global standard. This is among other reasons such as increased customer demand, increased competition among banks; derive minimized cost, new entrants, and better service delivery (Akbulut, 2012).

While e-payment services are numerous in number, there is not enough evidence of consumer acceptance and their stance towards the use of the services. For us to accept that e-payment has fully gained prominence in Nigeria, customer's acceptance, attitude and confidence in the system need to be validated. Akbulut (2012) indicated that half of the people that have tried e-payment services will not become active users of the system. Findings have also shown that insecurity; inadequate operational facilities like telecommunication and electric supply are among hindrances to online banking in Nigeria (Dewan, 2008).

Growth in e-payment is slow but steady. The vast improvement in telecommunications services in the country, as illustrated by the explosion of subscribers and users of GSM (global system for mobile communications), is further underscore by a surge in private telecom operators (PTOs) offering "fixed wireless services" which offers data and wire transfer. Hence, this supports internet use in even in some of the rural parts of the country. This phenomenon not only let Nigerians communicate with the rest of the country and the world from areas that had been completely cut-off, but they are also getting used to the phenomenon of modern communications including GSM, short message service (SMS) and e-mail. According to the Economist Intelligent Unit, the stock of personal computers (PCs) per 1,000 persons grew from 10.66m in 2004 to 11.09m in 2005. The biggest impediment to the growth of e-payment is low PC penetration. But cheap Asian technologies and falling microchip prices have fueled a market in clones as well as branded PCs (Akbulut, 2012)

Based on performance evaluation of Electronic payments, CBN (2013) reported that the value of electronic payment rose by 25.6 per cent to N1,416.1 billion in the first half of 2013 over the level in the second half of 2012, while the volume declined by 27.2 per cent to 146,961,511 from 201,793,172 in the preceding period. A breakdown of the e-payment channels for the review period indicated that ATM remained the most patronized, accounting for 93.0 per cents, followed by mobile payments and PoS terminal, with 4.1 and 2.1 per cent, respectively, the web (internet) was the least patronised accounting for 0.8 per cent of the total. In terms of value, ATM accounted for 90.8 per cent; PoS, 4.0 per cent; the web (Internet), 1.5 per cent; and mobile payments accounted for 3.7 per cent.

The introduction of e-payment services was hampered by lack of public awareness on how to use the technologies. GSM phone technology (introduced in August, 2009), however is gradually drawing consumers, and there has been a rapid growth in electronic-cash-transfer services such as western union, MoneyGram and Travelex in recent years (The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited, 2009; Harold-Juwah,2022; Ehiedu, 2023).

According to data from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS, 2021). After a massive drop during the COVID-19-induced lockdown, the volume and value of online transactions in Nigeria hit new heights in Q3 2020, pointing to improved economic activities following the relaxation of the lockdown. Despite an increase in online activity during Nigeria's lockdown in April 2020, there wasn't a commensurate increase in financial transactions online. While Internet users increased by 2.5 million and Instagram Live became the new television for most Nigerians, online transactions dropped by \$10 billion (₦3.83 trillion), and Jumia's Q2 2020 report showed reduced gross merchandise value (GMV). However, these figures began to improve as economic activities resumed in May. And this cut across all NIBSS Instant Payments (NIP) channels like point of sale (POS), USSD, Internet banking, mobile apps, etc. online transactions hit 569 million by the end of Q3 2020, up 41% from 403 million in Q2 2020. The value of these transactions increased by 50% from 29.6 trillion (\$77 billion) to ₦44.3 trillion (\$116 billion). Apparently, Nigerians posted major high-value transactions as the average transaction value for this period was ~₦78 billion (\$203 million) compared to ₦73 billion (\$189.5 million) in Q2 2020. As more merchants embraced contactless payments, the volume and value of POS transactions increased; POS usage went from 138 million in Q2 2020 to 162 million. The value of these transactions was ₦1.2 trillion compared to ₦995 billion in the preceding quarter. Compared to Q3 2019, the country's NIP transaction numbers seem quite impressive.

In Q3 2019, 299 million online real-time transactions were recorded, but the numbers for the same quarter in 2020 (569 million) show a 90% increase in transaction volume in just one year. The value of these transactions (₦44.3 trillion or \$116 billion) also went up 70% from ₦26.18 trillion (\$68.3 billion). However, it would seem like people spent more with each transaction in Q3 2019 than they did in Q3 2020. The average transaction value stood at ₦87.5 billion (\$228 million) in Q2 2019, but it dropped to ~₦78 billion (\$203 million) in Q3 2020. Encouragingly, this suggests that Nigerians are gradually performing more high-volume, low-value transactions across major NIP channels, which according to some experts is a strong indicator that more people are embracing cashless payment.

4.0 Methodology

The study was carried out in six selected universities in southwestern Nigeria namely; Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), University of Ibadan (UI), Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Osun State University (UNIOSUN), Bowen University (BU) and Ajayi

Crowther University (ACU). The primary data were collected using one set of questionnaire. The population consisted of 27 universities in the region. Two universities were selected from the three categories of universities in the country viz: Federal University, State University and Private University. Primary and Secondary data were used for the study. The primary data were obtained through administration of questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: section “A” comprises of items on respondents’ socio-economic characteristics and general information on the university, section “B” comprises of information on relationship that exist between e-payments system and accounting. Data collected were analysed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics. The questionnaires were distributed to the targeted respondents. Secondary data were obtained through various text book, journal and periodic publications.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the basic characteristics of the respondents profiles. A total of 254 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 94.4% of the respondents while 5.6% (15/269) was not valid. The table shows that 29 respondents falls into the age categories of 21 – 30 years, 89 respondents falls into the age categories of 31 – 40 years, 88 respondents falls into the age categories of 41 – 50 years, while 48 respondents falls into the age categories of 51 and above years. This implies that the active age of the workforce ranges between 31 – 50 years because of their willingness and eagerness to provide useful information as regarded the questionnaires.

A total of 269 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 100% of the respondents in respect of the sex of the respondents. This shows that 57.2% (154/269) were male while 42.8% (115/269) were female. The Table shows that the male employees outnumbered the female employees. A total of 265 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 98.5% of the respondents while 1.5% (4/269) was not valid. This shows that 13% (35/269) were single while 85.5% (115/269) were married. This also shows that the population of the married respondents is more than that of the single respondents. This implies that the workforce constitutes more married respondents than single respondents as a result of the fact that many may have married before joining the workforce or after joining the workforce

A total of 267 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 99.2% of the respondents while 0.8% (2/269) was not valid. The table above shows that none of the respondents is employed based on primary school education, while 10 out of the respondents’ highest qualification is based on WAEC/GCE, 21 respondents possessed an Ordinary National Diploma (OND), 97 respondents possessed a Higher National Diploma (HND), 98 respondents possessed a first degree (BSc/B.Tech), 41 respondents possessed a second degree Certificate (MSc/M.Tech/MBA), while none possess a doctoral degree certificate. This implies that majority of the respondents possess a minimum qualification of HND or B.Sc/B.Tech being the most prevailing entry level for appointment of new staff and they constitute the most active working force.

A total of 168 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 62.5% of the respondents while 37.5% (101/269) was not valid, this may be as a result of the fact that they do not belong to any professional bodies. The table above shows that 93 of the respondents belongs the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, 26 of the respondents belongs to Association of National Accountants of Nigeria while others belongs to other professional groups that differs from Accounting Bodies. The general acceptability of ICAN professional qualification as well as the level of confidence attributed to ICAN by employers may account this.

A total of 268 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 99.6% of the respondents while 0.4% (1/269) was not valid. The table above shows that 211 of the respondents were working with the bursary department of the universities while 57 of the respondents were working with the Internal Audit department of the universities. This shows that the bursary department are more staffed than the Internal Audit department, which is 78.4% compared to 21.2%. This implies that most of the bursary staff are at the core front of implementing the policies driving/governing E-payment system in our universities.

A total of 246 respondents out of 269 respondents were valid response representing 91.4% of the respondents while 8.6% (23/269) was not valid. The table above shows that 40 of the respondents were junior staff, 199 of the respondents were senior staff while 7 of the respondents were principal staff. Based on the above table, the most well represented rank of staff is from the Senior Category providing 74% of the total respondents. This implies as a result of the basic entry qualification requirement and promotions over the years, we have more of senior staff as our respondents, which in turn are the main users of E-payment system in our universities.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age of Respondents		
21 – 30	29	10.8
31 – 40	89	33.1
41 – 50	88	32.7
51 and above	48	17.9
Undecided	15	5.5
Total	269	100
Sex of Respondents		
Male	154	57.2
Female	115	42.8
Total	269	100
Marital Status of Respondents		
Single	35	13
Married	230	85.5
Undecided	4	1.5
Total	269	100

Education Qualification		
Primary School Education	0	0
WAEC/GCE	10	3.7
OND	21	7.8
HND	97	36.1
B.Sc/B.Tech	98	36.4
MSc/MTech/MBA	41	15.2
PhD	0	0
Undecided	2	0.8
Total	269	100
Professional Body		
ICAN	93	34.6
ANAN	26	9.7
Others	49	18.2
Undecided	101	37.5
Total	269	100
Departments		
Bursary	211	78.4
Internal Audit	57	21.2
Undecided	1	0.4
Total	269	100
Rank		
Junior Staff	40	14.9
Senior Staff	199	74.0
Principal Staff	7	2.6
Undecided	23	8.6
Total	269	10

Relationship between E-payment System and Accounting System: Level of Compliance.

Table 2 shows the relationship between e-payment and Accounting system, it was observed that the Internal control policies governing E-payment in our institution of learning ranked first in level of compliance, that shows that the respondents were aware that the level of compliance of Internal Control Policies on E-payment system was high in their university based on a Weighted Mean Score (WMS) of 2.14. The Organisation Internal Policies on E-payment ranked second with a Weighted Mean Score of 2.11, this implies that major of the respondent agreed that after the Internal Control Policies on E-payment, the Organisation Internal Policies on E-payment comes with high level of compliance. Many of the respondents were aware of the Central Bank Cashless Policies as a major driving force of E-payment in their universities which comes with a high level of compliance based on a Weighted Mean Score of 2.08. The awareness of Federal Government directives through its treasury circular Ref No: TRY/A8 and B8 comes fourth with a Weighted

Mean Score of 2.05. This shows that many of the respondents were not aware of the policies in comparison with other policies, while those that were aware ascertained a high level of compliance. This also implies that the Internal Control Policies on E-payment system has overshadowed all others being the most accessible of all the policies to users of E-payment system. This can further be interpreted that the Internal Control Policies statement entails the Federal Government directives, Central Bank of Nigeria Cashless Policies as well as the organisation internal policies on E-payment.

Table 2: The level of compliance with policies driving/governing E-payment system

Policies governing E-payment system	Very Often	Often	Rarely	Never	WMS	Rank
Federal Government directive through its treasury circular Ref No: TRY/A8 and B8	87(32.3)	134(49.8)	23(8.6)	25(9.3)	2.05	4 th
Central Bank of Nigeria Cashless Policies	94(34.9)	124(46.1)	29(10.8)	22(8.2)	2.08	3 rd
Organisation Internal Policies on E-payment	96(35.7)	125(46.5)	30(11.2)	18(6.7)	2.11	2 nd
Internal Control Policies on E-payment	97(36.1)	133(49.4)	25(9.3)	14(5.2)	2.14	1 st

5.0 Relationship between E-payment System and Accounting System: Degree of Adoption.

Based on the under listed ranking of the respondents' data collected, it was observed that the degree of adoption of Electronic Transfer ranked first, that shows that the respondents were aware that Electronic Transfer comes with the highest degree of adoption above other channels of E-payment in their university based on a Weighted Mean Score (WMS) of 2.29. The Web (Internet) Payment ranked second with a Weighted Mean Score of 2.02, this implies that the degree of adoption in our universities' based on our respondents' judgement positioned the Web (Internet) Payment next to Electronic Payment. Majority of the respondent agreed that after the Web (Internet) Payment, Automated Teller Machine (ATM) comes with the third degree of adoption. Hence the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) is having a Weighted Mean Score of 1.82. Mobile Payment and Point of Sales channel of E-payment comes below the table with a Weighted Mean Score of 1.53 and 1.23 respectively which positioned them with 4th and 5th ranking respectively. This implies that Electronic Transfer is the most accessible to the users in their day to day operations.

The overall degree of adoption as analysed in Table 3 above shows that the degree of adoption of various channels of E-payment systems in our universities are moderate with a medium percentage of 58.4. The degree of adoption is not high, which may be as a result of the challenges

facing the accounting system as a result of adoption of E-payment system as well as the level of compliance associated with the policies driving E-payment system in our institution.

Table 3: The degree of adoption of various E-payment systems

E-payment System	Very Often	Often	Rarely	Never	WMS	Rank
Web (Internet) Payment	115(42.8)	86(32.0)	26(9.7)	42(15.6)	2.02	2 nd
Mobile Payment	52(19.3)	94(34.9)	67(24.9)	56(20.8)	1.53	4 th
Automated Teller Machine (ATM)	73(27.1)	106(39.4)	58(21.6)	32(11.9)	1.82	3 rd
Point of Sales (POS)	29(10.8)	84(31.2)	76(28.3)	80(29.7)	1.23	5 th
Electronic Transfer	125(46.5)	109(40.5)	23(8.6)	12(4.5)	2.29	1 st
Overall degree of adoption of various E-payment systems						
Degree of Adoption	Frequency			Percentage		
High	70			26.0		
Medium	157			58.4		
Low	42			15.6		
Total	269			100.0		

CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper was to examine the level of compliance of universities with e-payment system in Southwestern Nigeria. The results showed that the Internal control policies governing E-payment, organisation internal policies on E-payment, Central Bank Cashless Policies and Federal Government directives were the identified policies guiding e-payment system of the selected universities. The studies showed that many of the respondents were not aware of the other policies in comparison with the Internal Control Policies, which implied that the Internal Control Policies on E-payment system has overshadowed all others being the most accessible of all the policies to users of E-payment system. This can further be interpreted that the Internal Control Policies statement entails all other policies on E-payment. While the results on the degree of adoption showed that Electronic Transfer is the most widely accepted means of payment in the selected universities. Further analysis showed that the degrees of adoption of various channels of E-payment systems in our universities can be describe as moderate.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the e-payment, the following recommendations are made to help the universities in ensuring the e-payment system impact positively on the accounting system

- i) All policies statements governing E-payment system must be well circularised among the employees.
- ii) Training and development of staff in respect of the usage of electronic channels must be given a high priority.
- iii) All channels of E-payment system viz Automated Teller Machine, Mobile Payment, Web (Internet) Payment, Point of Sales (POS) and Electronic Transfer must be fully utilized by our universities.
- iv) The government should ensure stable power supply, stable political and economic environment that will in turn encourage good Internet investors in our country which will in turn improve good access to Internet, minimal internet access interruption.
- v) Any universities that wish to upgrade to Electronic payment platform should ensure that safe and secured platform are subscribe to, in order to minimize internet fraud to the barest minimal.

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