

The Effect of Competency, Accounting Information System, and Internal Control on Financial Reporting Information Quality (Study on The Central Sulawesi Government)

by . .

Submission date: 17-Nov-2020 04:20PM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1448819544

File name: AKRUAL_journal_template_2019.docx (99.21K)

Word count: 3355

Character count: 19211

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**The Effect of Competency,
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on Financial Reporting Information Quality**
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Abstract

A particular form of information used as user requirements for the process of decision-making. A qualified information is important for interested party who used that information to reduce uncertainty and knowledge upgrade on the specific concern areas. By considering information is a wishful move for doing an activity. The information quality of financial statements that the government publishes in public has to meet standards to be trusted and used by people so people could rely on for making a decision. The objective to do this research is to verify relationship between human resources competency, accounting information system, and internal control on accounting information quality of government financial statements. The paradigm of this research is quantitative research. The sampling method used is a nonprobability sampling (saturated sampling) with quota. The research was conducted by distributing questionnaires to 43 respondents who are SIMDA operator on the government work unit of Central Sulawesi Provincial Government. Multiple linear regression analysis used to analyze data. The results showed that human resources competency, accounting information system, and internal control have a positive effect on the quality of financial reporting information in Central Sulawesi Provincial Government.

Keywords: *human resources competency, accounting information system, internal control, accounting information quality*

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Article History: Received: xxxxx Decided to resubmit (Round 1): xxxxx Revised (Round 1): xxxxx
Approved with minor revision: xxxxx Accepted: xxxxx Published: xxxxx
How to cite: Jatmiko B, et al. The Manuscript Template of Akruar: Jurnal Akuntansi. *Akruar: Jurnal Akuntansi (JA)*. 2019; 9(1): 1-5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26740/jaj>.

INTRODUCTION

The financial statement is a structured summary of the financial condition and history of transactions carried out by an entity. The objective of reporting financial is to provide decision-makers with useful information and management accountability of resources that are already entrusted (International Federation of Accountants, 2005). Moreover, in the scope of public sector. When relevance, reliability, completeness, time accuracy, purposes, and verifiability could be felt by users, then information could be said as useful information (Fitriati and Mulyani, 2015). A particular form of information is used as user requirements for the process of decision-making. Qualified information is essential for the interested party who used that information to reduce uncertainty and knowledge upgrade on the specific concern areas (Ulric J. Gelinas, Steve G. Sutton, and James E. Hunton, 2005). To measure accounting information quality, assessing relevance, reliability, understandability, and comparability of information is needed (International Federation of Accountants, 2000).

The information quality of financial statements that the government publishes in public has to meet standards to be trusted and used by people. This information is one that

people could rely on for making a decision (Suwardjono, 2011). Information becomes an essential consideration for a manager to determine a way to develop operations activity and avoid risks that could make a company suffer a loss (Romney & Steinbart, 2014). Information may benefit from a compiled strategy to minimize unpredictable events, improve decisions, and improve the ability to arrange and schedule organization activities. Consider the information that is a wishful move for doing an activity (Stair & Reynold, 2001).

Government Regulation Number 65 in 2010 concerning the Regional Financial Information System explains that every development process activity on government has to not across from good governance principles. Good governance itself is the principle of maintaining constructive and comprehensive interactions between society, private sector, and state domain (Sedarmayanti, 2012). One of the principles of good governance that must be adhered to is accountability. The organization's ability to explain the situation, including the decisions taken and the activities undertaken. Government accountability must be maintained through the provision of quality information to the interested party.

In reality, Indonesia still lacks quality financial reports that could be considered material for an interested party (Setiyawati & Doktoralina, 2019). There are still a lot of inconsistent data presented and many irregularities that the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) has been able to find in conducting audits of government financial reports. There is a 2,887 audit issue of revenue and expenditure budget control, then there is 1,252 IC structures issue (BPK, 2018). The Central Sulawesi Provincial Government as one of the accounting entities, is required to prepare local government financial reports as a form of accountability for the use of public funds. The BPK audits the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government's Financial Statements. From 2014 to 2018, the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government received an Unqualified BPK opinion and received an award from the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

The earlier study found several factors that could affect accounting information quality. The factors that often being examined last decade include competency (Aier, Comprix, Gunlock, & Lee, 2005; Cohen, Krishnamoorthy, & Wright, 2004; Demerjian, Lev, Lewis, & McVay, 2013; Indriasih, 2014; Mulyani & Arum, 2016; Siahaan, Gultom, & Lumbanraja, 2016; Tee, Bowen, Doyle, & Rohde, 2007), Accounting Information System (AIS) (Fitriati, Mulyani, & Street, 2015; Ives, Olson, & Baroudi, 1983; Mulyani, 2008; Nicolaou, 2000; Sajady, Dastgir, & Hashem Nejad, 2008; Susanto, 2016a; Wisna, 2016), and Internal Control (IC) (Bédard, 2011; Brink, 2011; Mulyani & Arum, 2016; Tee et al., 2007; Zinkin, 2013).

Competence is an individual characteristic that is related to criterion effective work and excellent performance in doing a job. Competency has seven components: individual, mental, interpersonal, organizational, executive, specialized, and environmental (Rahimian, Arash, Abbaspour, & Delavar, 2016). Furthermore, it is completed by communication, personnel, logic, business and leadership indicators (Chianchana & Wichian, 2016). In the governance environment, competence is about an ability possessed civil servants with knowledge, skills, and attitudes of behavior to do duties (Government Regulation No 101 of 2000). Adequate competence of civil servants' apparatus on accounting will drive their work more effectively and efficiently to produce high-quality financial reports. Organizational performance could improve significantly if the organization always improves its competency (Siahaan et al., 2016). The government apparatus accounting competence has an effect on financial statements quality information (Indriasih, 2014). Earlier studies show human resources competency (COMP) has contributed to affect accounting information quality (Aier et al., 2005; Demerjian et al., 2013; Indriasih, 2014; Mulyani & Arum, 2016).

Accounting information comes from the integrated AIS of the organization. AIS is a integrated mechanism in a system that collects, records, stores, and processes data to make an useful information for decision-makers (Romney and Steinbart, 2014). AIS is an set of resources that include people and equipment that designed for transform financial and other

data into set of integrated information (O'Brien, 1995). AIS built up for process data of accounting from all over sources into various accounting information needed by users to reduce risk while decisions is made (Susanto, 2016b). Six constructs that build AIS successfulness are system quality, service quality, net benefits, user satisfaction, system use, and information quality (DeLone and McLean, 2003). The experts proposed the terms of effectiveness, quality, and success rate of the AIS (Susanto, 2016b). An information system's effectiveness is determined by the user's perception of how the system provides information needed (Ives et al., 1983). A perception of user satisfaction depends on information generates from the system (Nicolaou, 2000). AIS caused the improvement of managers' decision-making process by increasing the financial reports qualities and facilitate of company's transactions (Sajady et al., 2008). AIS's success has implications benefit for accounting information quality (Fitriati & Mulyani, 2015). One that influences accounting information quality is AIS quality (Fitriati & Mulyani, 2015; Sajady et al., 2008; Susanto, 2016b; Wisna, 2016).

IC is designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving performance with the entity's objectives in the operations, compliance and reporting activities of the board of directors, management, other personnel in the entity (Coso, 2013). IC provides reasonable assurance to ensure operations, financial reporting, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations (Zinkin, 2013). In this study, the COSO framework being used and this framework identify five components of useful IC, namely: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring of activities. Based on Government Regulation Number 60 of 2008, IC has matched all tasks and functions already organization do with the measurements determined effectively and efficiently for the leadership's interests in achieving good governance. Reliable and accurate accounting information is the output that the IC provides over prepare financial reporting (Brink, 2011). Bédard (2011) suggests that IC effectiveness will drive accounting information quality into a higher degree (Bédard, 2011; Doyle, Ge, & McVay, 2007; Mulyani & Arum, 2016).

Financial reporting information becomes an essential matter for who has an interest as a basis to take action. Lack of information quality of financial reporting could drive them into wrong decisions. Because Indonesia's financial statement's information quality is still in a poor position, this issue needs to be cautious. Central Sulawesi Governance became a province that BPK give an unqualified opinion in continuous years from 2014, this place could be an example in making quality financial reports for another government organization. This situation could be the best place to be examined factors that makes this place always obtain an unqualified opinion financial statements from BPK. Based on the background mentioned before, this study aims to develop a model earlier research with analysis influences COMP, AIS, and IC on the financial reporting quality information. Based on the research background that already explained, the conceptual framework is shown in the figure below:

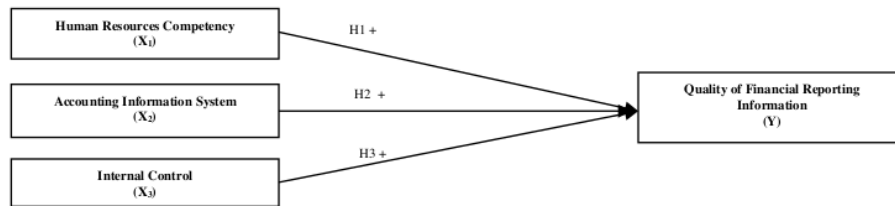


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

RESEARCH METHOD

This research applies a quantitative descriptive approach as a basis of work. The quantitative approach starts from correlating issues with theory, build hypotheses, subject selections, gather data, and then process data so the data could be analyzed and drawn from conclusions (Bryman and Bell, 2017). Meanwhile, with describing the data, it will explain more specific characteristics of each variable.

The object of this study

This research examines COMP, AIS, and IC. Indicators used in COMP adopted and developed from Cohen et al. (2004), Siahaan et al. (2016), and Tee et al. (2007). Indicators used in AIS adopted and developed from Ives et al. (1983), Nicolaou (2000), Mulyani (2008), Romney and Steinbart (2014). Meanwhile, IC adopted and developed from Brink (2011), Coso (2013), Zinkin (2013). Indicators of Quality of financial reporting information adopted and developed from Romney and Steinbart (2014) and Ulric J. Gelinas et al. (2005). This study takes place in Central Sulawesi Government as a representative image of Central Sulawesi Province that received an Unqualified BPK opinion and received an award from the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

Population, Sample, and Data Collection technique

This study uses primary data collected by distributing questionnaires to each respondent in all local government units in the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government. The population in this study consists of all government work units in the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government. Observation units are the SIMDA operator responsible for the implementation of accounting. Samples were taken with census sampling techniques.

Data Analysis Technique

The Data obtained were then tested for validity and reliability so that the data is valid for processing. The data will be analyzed using Multiple Linear Analysis. T statistic was used to test the significance of each independent variable's effect on the dependent variable. From the test results, then we compare the t- value with the table value of t- at 95% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.05$) with the decision criteria: If $t \leq t$ table: H_0 accepts and H_a os reject, and if t -count $>$ t-table: H_0 is rejected and the H_a is accepted. Each hypothesis will be tested through a statistical t-test: H_0 is rejected if $t >$ t-critical, $\alpha = 0.05$ level. Thus, to test the effect of COMP, AIS, and IC toward Quality of Financial Reporting Information in Central Sulawesi Provincial Government, the models applied were:

$$AIC = \alpha + \beta_1HRC + \beta_2AIS + \beta_3IC + e$$

Notes

AIC : Quality of Financial Reporting Information in Central Sulawesi Provincial Government

HRC : Human Resources Competency
 AIS : Accounting Information System
 IC : Internal Control

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The respondent's profile

The response rate from all distributing questionnaires was 100% (43 of 43). Approximately half of the respondents (55,81%) were between 30-40 years old, followed by 22,26% were <30 years old, and 20,93% who >40 years old. The Majority of the respondents (67,44%) undergraduate certificate, 23,26% having diploma certificate and 9,30% having Highschool certificate. The Users' background range from accounting 48,84%, Social/Politic 20,93%, Teknik 11,63% and other 18,60%.

The validity and Reliability Result

Based on the result of data processing by using the SPSS approach, it is known that the model has met the validity and reliability of the instrument. The result of the validity test and reliability test are presented in Table 1 and Table 2. It was then followed by testing the goodness of fit of the model.

Table 1. Validity Result

No	COMP	AIS	IC	Accounting Information Quality	Status
1	0,774	0,776	0,633	0,754	Valid
2	0,855	0,859	0,740	0,743	Valid
3	0,836	0,848	0,815	0,669	Valid
4	0,702	0,839	0,708	0,603	Valid
5	0,811	0,880	0,575	0,783	Valid
6	0,814	0,753	0,732	0,843	Valid
7	-	0,777	0,800	0,761	Valid
8	-	-	0,738	0,733	Valid
9	-	-	0,706	0,649	Valid
10	-	-	0,699	-	Valid

Table 2. Reliability Result

No	Variable	Question's Quantity	Alpha	Status
1	Human Resources Competency (X1)	6	0,887	Reliable
2	Accounting Information System (X2)	7	0,915	Reliable
3	Internal Control (X3)	10	0,894	Reliable
4	Accounting Information Quality (Y)	9	0,887	Reliable

Based on the validity test results for the variables X1, X2, X3 and Y as shown in Table 1, the value of r all statements greater than 0.300. Therefore it can be concluded that all questioner statements instrument of this research variable is valid. According to Table 2 the SPSS output display shows that the Cronbach Alpha value > 0.60, which means reliable, so it can be inferred that all statement items of variables X1, X2, X3 and Y can be used as statistical measures. The the ANOVA test show F value is 42.196 with a significance level

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 smaller than the distrust level ($0,000 < 0,05$). Thus it can be concluded that the regression model in this study can be used for prediction.

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Table 3. Multi Linear Regression

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0,874 ^a	0,764	0,746	2.00893

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3,275	3,266		1,003	0,322
	Variable X1	0,375	0,112	0,333	3,342	0,002
	Variable X2	0,419	0,121	0,320	3,472	0,001
	Variable X3	0,353	0,095	0,403	3,719	0,001

Alpha= 0,05 Sig = 0,000^a

Multiple linear regression analysis determines the effect of independent variables with the dependent variable to test the research hypothesis. Based on table 3, the multiple linear regression equation of this study can be formulated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AIC} &= \alpha + \beta_1\text{HRC} + \beta_2\text{AIS} + \beta_3\text{IC} + e \\ \text{AIC} &= 3,275 + 0,375\text{HRC} + 0,419\text{AIS} + 0,353\text{IC} + e \end{aligned}$$

The multiple linear regression equation above shows that the independent variable consisting of Human Resource Competency(X1), AIS (X2), and IC (X3) has a positive effect toward the dependent variable, Quality of Financial Reporting Information in Central Sulawesi Provincial Government (Y). Thus it can be concluded that all of the hypotheses are accepted. R Square value 0,764 (76,4%) shows the magnitude of the influence of independent variables (X1, X2, X3) simultaneously equal to 76.4% to Quality of Financial Reporting Information in Central Sulawesi Provincial Government (Y) while the rest of 23.6% is another variable that not tested in this study. Based on Table 3, the value of the correlation coefficient (R) is 0.874 or equal to 87.4% means close to 1. If R approaches 1 then the regression model obtained is considered very strong. Furthermore, if getting closer to 0 then multiple linear regression model is considered weak. This indicates that the overall independent variables are closely related to the Quality of Financial Reporting Information in the Central Sulawesi Provincial Government.

Discussion

Based on results and analysis before, COMP affects the quality of financial statements that the Central Sulawesi Government makes. This study support earlier research that mentions COMP has essential relation with quality of government financial statement ((Aier et al., 2005; Demerjian et al., 2013; Indriasih, 2014; Mulyani & Arum, 2016). Organizational performance could improve significantly if the organization always improves its employee competency (Siahaan et al., 2016). Adequate accounting skill competence of the civil servants' apparatus of Central Sulawesi Government could drive their work more effectively and efficiently. Of course, of course, this will make financial reports better in information quality.

AIS, as an integrated system to gather information, also proved could affect government financial statements' quality information. This found supports an earlier study that mentions AIS has a great potential effect on financial statements' quality information (Fitriati & Mulyani, 2015; Sajady et al., 2008; Susanto, 2016b; Wisna, 2016). AIS process accounting and other data that come from all over sources into integrated accounting information that is needed by users that have the interest to minimize risk and probability decisions will be made (Susanto, 2016b). Implementation of AIS that already effective on that Central Sulawesi Government makes it easy to obtain information provided by the system. AIS makes managers improve the decision-making process by increase financial reports quality and facilitating organization transactions process (Sajady et al., 2008). AIS's success has implications benefit for accounting information quality (Fitriati & Mulyani, 2015).

Meanwhile result of IC toward quality information of financial statements also shows a significant effect. This result supports another earlier study that mentions IC could

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affect the information quality of government financial statements (Bédard, 2011; Mulyani & Arum, 2016; Tee et al., 2007). Central Sulawesi Government shows great IC when implement in preparing financial statement, each of civil servant members must not defect any of the rules that already apply. The strict control makes the IC of this area great. IC provides reasonable assurance of an organization's ability to manage operations, make financial statements, and comply with overall laws and regulations that relevant (Zinkin, 2013). Bédard (2011) suggests that IC effectiveness drive accounting information quality into a better one.

The results already discuss each variable, this conceptual study construct found a powerful combination of variables. The thing that allowed the Central Sulawesi government to maintain the unqualified status of the BPK from 2014 was that they paid attention to three factors, including competence, AIS, and IC in preparing financial reports. To fulfill one mandate accountability principle in good governance, Central Sulawesi Government must keep quality information of financial statements.

CONCLUSION

Results and decisions in this study confirm and briefly explain that COMP, AIS, and IC have a positive effect on the financial reporting information quality in Central Sulawesi Provincial Government. Moreover, this combination of variables shows a very strong effect on the research.

The competency of a civil servant of the SIMDA operator is essential to produce good and qualified accounting information. By improve the accounting competence of each employee, in this case SIMDA operator, the quality of accounting information of financial statements would increase. Knowledge and skills suitable for the work field are needed to improve the government's human resources competency. Quality of AIS will also enhance accounting information quality: relevance, reliability, understanding, and comparability. Then IC is an essential matter for an organization such as a governmental entity to enhance the accounting information quality by increasing the control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring activities. An effective IC system will be required.

This study only examines the influence of COMP, AIS, and IC effectiveness in exploring accounting information quality. This research was conducted in Central Sulawesi that already obtain an unqualified opinion from BPK since 2014 consecutively, so generalize this research into a different place without considering it is not recommended. Therefore, further research is expected to examine other variables that can affect accounting information quality, such as good governance mechanisms. Further research is also expected to expand the research area and use qualitative methods to discover other factors that affect accounting information quality.

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AKRUAL: Jurnal Akuntansi
p-ISSN: 2085-9643
e-ISSN: 2502-6380

Vol xxx, issue xxx, xxxx 2020
DOI: 10.26740/jaj
<https://journal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/aj>

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