INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS 1 (IAS 1) AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING OF LISTED COMPANIES ON THE GHANA STOCK EXCHANGE.

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

We have read the university regulations relating to plagiarism and certify that this report is all our own work and do not contain any unacknowledged work from any other source. We also declare that we have been under supervision for this report herein submitted.

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates the extent to which firms listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange are complying with IAS 1. The research examined key relationship between firm size, profitability, debt ratio, liquidity, audit firm size. The purpose was to determine how these firm characteristics affect or influence their level of disclosure in annual financial reporting. The objectives were to identify the extent of voluntary disclosure in financial statements of listed companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange, identify the relationship between firm characteristics- firm size, profitability, debt ratio, liquidity and audit firm size, and financial information disclosure and also to identify the extent to which the firm characteristics affect disclosure.

The research is an explanatory. Annual reports of the targeted population were used as secondary data for this research with the use of simple random sampling to sample 32 out of a population of 34 companies.

The results of the disclosure level showed a mean of 84.37% with standard deviation of 12.99%, reflecting that most of the firms listed on the Stock Exchange did not overwhelmingly comply with the IAS 1 requirement.

The results of the multiple regression analysis showed that all the factors are insignificant to prescribe the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange. This implies that non-of the factors under consideration is strictly a prevalent indicator to the determination of the firms' disclosure level.

DEDICATION

We dedicate this work to the good people of Christian Service University College, especially the students in the Business School and Business Community in Ghana.

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The successful completion of this work could not have been possible without the support of certain individuals both within and outside the realm of Christian Service University College (CSUC). We are greatly indebted to our supervisor, Mr. S.B Alewabah for his critical review of this work and the many useful advice and suggestions that have made this work possible. We also acknowledge with much gratitude the invaluable assistance received from the I.T Department of Annual Reports Ghana for supplying us with the annual reports of the listed companies.

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To save the best for the last, we say to God be the glory for the great things he has done, Abba Father, without you, nothing would have been possible; we owe thee our debt of gratitude.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Internationalization of economic trade and globalization of businesses is on the ascendency. Consequently, financial statements prepared according to a nation's local accounting system may hardly meet the needs of investors, business partners, financiers and decision-makers who are conversant with international standards. Meanwhile developing and emerging markets are the target of the world's leading industries that are operating in the saturated western countries. To better undertake their activities in developing countries; they must adopt International Accounting Standards that suit needs (Zeghal and Mhedhbi, 2006). This led to the developing of International Accounting Standards to establish standardization in how financial statements are prepared to ensure comparability.

Financial information disclosure is defined as the release of information concerning the economic performance, position or prospects particularly as measured in monetary terms (Gibbins, 1992).

IAS 1 requires that an entity whose financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards make an explicit and unreserved statement of such compliance in notes. Financial statements shall not be described as complying with IFRS's unless they comply with all the requirements of IFRS's (including interpretations) (IAS 1.16).

The objective of IAS 1 is to prescribe the basis for the presentation of general purpose financial statements, to ensure comparability both with the entity's financial statements of previous periods and with the financial statements of other entities.

IAS 1 sets out the overall requirements for the presentation of financial statements, guidelines for their structure and minimum requirements for their content.

The objective of general purpose financial statements is to provide information about the financial position, financial performance, and cash flows of an entity that is useful to a wide range of users in making economic decisions. To meet that objective, financial statements provide information about an entity's assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses including gains and losses, contributions by and distributions to owners and cash flows.

According to the IAS 1, a complete set of financial statements should include:

i. A statement of financial position (balance sheet) at the end of the period.
ii. A statement of comprehensive income for the period (or an income statement and a statement of comprehensive income)
iii. A statement of changes in equity for the period
iv. A statement of cash flows for the period
v. Notes, comprising a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

General principle and characteristics of good financial statements includes:

i. Fair presentation and compliance with IFRS's
ii. Going concern concept
iii. Accrual Basis of Accounting
iv. Consistency of presentation
v. Materiality and Aggregation
vi. Reporting period
vii. Offsetting
viii. Comparative information
ix. The structure and content of financial statement in general
x. Disclosures about dividends
xi. Capital disclosures
xii. Disclosures about potable financial instruments
xiii. Terminology

In January, 2007, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning - Ghana formally launched the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard. By December 2007, listed companies, government business enterprises, banks, insurance companies, securities brokers, pension and investment banks and public utilities are expected to prepare their financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard. The Institute of Chartered Accounting Ghana (ICAG) is the regulatory body in Ghana with support from the government, responsible for regulating how companies are complying with the standard.

As Baiman and Verrecchia (1996) put it, the provision of quality accounting disclosures would tend to enhance the efficiency of the stock market. Thus a study into the extent of disclosure is not out of place.

1.1 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Firms Listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange are not making adequate voluntary disclosure despite their numerous benefits. This has resulted in firms unable to make adequate, relevant and sufficient disclosure resulting in information asymmetry, high cost of capital, low investor confidence, low transparency and credibility, etc.

1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the extent to which voluntary disclosure is being done by listed companies.
2. To identify the relationship of firm characteristics- firm size, profitability, debt ratio, audit firm size and liquidity influence disclosure.
3. To encourage publicly listed companies to make adequate, relevant and sufficient disclosure in their annual financial reports.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the extent of voluntary disclosure in financial statements of listed companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange?
2. What is the relationship between firm size, profitability, debt ratio, liquidity, audit firm size and financial information disclosure?
3. To identify the extent to which the above factors affect disclosure?

1.4 RATIONAL OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to examine the extent of these disclosures and to see whether the disclosures are based on selected firm specific characteristics – firm size, profitability, liquidity, audit firm size and debt ratio.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The results from the research are expected to provide a significant contribution to the need to disclose sufficient accounting information in the preparation of financial statements, thus ensuring greater comparability of financial information of companies in Ghana with their peers in other parts of the world as well as ensure investor confidence in the financial reporting.

The research will also measure the extent of voluntary disclosure by listed companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange and it expected to contribute to the literature on whether the firms' characteristics that researchers have found to be significant in developed countries can be applied in a developing country like Ghana, and on other related research works

1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The limitation of this study is that this research will concentrate only on Publicly Listed Companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange which may limit the generalizability of the research to other private Ghanaian firms.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTERS

The study was organized in five chapters. Chapter one; the introduction is concerned with the central issues in the research and gives a clear idea of them.

Chapter two; Literature which reviews which covers the relevant literature and conceptual framework of the study.

Chapter three; methodology which discusses the specific research methods used limitations to the study.

Chapter four; Data Analysis consists of systematic presentation of research findings.

Finally chapter five; consist of the Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The chapter looks at the objectives and aspects of listed companies and the Ghana Stock Exchange in Ghana and also discusses mandatory disclosures, voluntary disclosures and their importance. The chapter in addition gives summaries of research works done in other countries relating to the topic of study from which a research gap is noticed and company characteristics were chosen for this study.

2.1 THE GHANA STOCK EXCHANGE

The Ghana Stock Exchange is the principal stock trading house in Ghana. The Ghana Stock Exchange was established in 1989 with commercial operations beginning a year later. The stock exchange was established after the idea laid on the drawing board for almost two decades prior to its implementation. In February 1989, the issue of establishing a stock exchange moved a higher gear when a 10 - member National Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.K. Agama, then Governor of the Bank of Ghana, was set up by the Government as a private company limited by guarantee under the Companies Code 1963.A stock exchange is basically an organized and regulated financial market where securities (bonds, notes, shares) are bought and sold at prices governed by the forces of demand and supply.

2.1.1 Definition of Listed Company

A public company, publicly traded company, publicly held company or public limited company (in the United Kingdom) is a limited liability company that offers its securities (stock/shares, bonds/loans, etc.) for sale to the general public, typically through a stock exchange, or through market makers operating in over the counter markets. Public companies, including public limited companies, can be either unlisted or listed on a stock exchange depending on their size and local legislation.

2.1.2 Importance of Listing on the Stock Exchange

When companies decide to list on the stock exchange, it brings to them various opportunities despite traditional owners loosing managerial control of their organization.

Listing on the stock exchange leads to increased capital. When companies register as members of a stock exchange and decide to authorize public offer their capital level is increased depending on their performance over the years.

Access to widespread shareholder base. The stock exchange puts forward companies a right of entry to a wide-ranging and mounting investor base, which contains both entity investors and plentiful local and international institutional investors.

Listing on the stock exchange makes detection of share price easier. A listing facilitates companies to ascertain a price for their shares. This is because at the end of each day's activity the price of each share is publicly made known.

Low cost capital. The primary gain of raising capital from the market is that it avoids a number of the intermediation expenses apparent in the other forms of raising capital. Consequently, the market endows companies with capital at a cheaper cost.

2.1.3 Objectives of the Ghana Stock Exchange

The Ghana Stock Exchange regulates the dealings of members with their clients and other members. The Ghana Stock Exchange is the sole regulator mandated to control dealings or transactions between listed companies who are members of the stock exchange and their clients who purchase their stocks. If they do not control such dealings, it may amount to members or clients infringing upon the rules governing the country.

The Ghana Stock Exchange provides the facilities and framework to the public for the purchase and sales of bonds, shares and other securities. The stock exchange was also set up to provide facilities that will enable individuals, firms and others to trade on the stock market. This objective is achieved through the help of its authorized agents.

To control the granting of quotations on the securities market in respect of bonds, shares and other securities of any company, corporation, government, municipality, local authority or other body corporate.

To co-ordinate the stock dealing activities of members and facilitate the exchange of information including prices of securities listed for their mutual advantages and for the benefit of their clients.

To co-operate with associations of stockbrokers and Stock Exchanges in other countries, and to obtain and make available to members information and facilities likely to be useful to them or to their clients.

2.2 MANDATORY DISCLOSURES

Mandatory disclosures are disclosures that are required by the legal frameworks surrounding the presentation of annual reports. In Ghana, the International Accounting Standard / International Financial Reporting Standard and Companies' code are the accepted set of standards that must be followed in reporting the financial performance of a firm. IAS 1 specifies the minimum items that must be disclosed in the annual financial reports of firms. The standard requires that an entity whose financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards makes an explicit and unreserved statement of such compliance in the notes. Financial statements are not to be described as complying with International Financial Reporting Standards unless they comply with all the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (including Interpretations). [IAS 1.16]

The mandatory disclosures which form the complete set of financial statements as specified by IAS 1 are:

i. a statement of financial position (balance sheet) at the end of the period
ii. a statement of comprehensive income for the period (or an income statement and a statement of comprehensive income)
iii. a statement of changes in equity for the period
iv. a statement of cash flows for the period
v. notes, comprising a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory notes

Though it does not explicitly mention it, IAS 1.15 encourages firms to make additional disclosure in the notes to the accounts aside those specified in the standard to ensure a fair presentation of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity.

2.3 VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURES

Voluntary disclosure in accounting is the provision of information by a company management beyond requirements such as Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules, where the information is believed to be relevant to the decision making of users of the company's annual reports. It describes disclosures, primarily outside the financial statements, that is not explicitly required by GAAP or an SEC rule. (Wong Kei and Sai Chung)

Voluntary disclosure is carried out extensively by many companies, and has also been identified as an important area in financial reporting research. Voluntary disclosures can include strategic information such as company characteristics and strategy, nonfinancial information such socially responsible practices, and financial information such as stock price information. (Meek and Gray, 1995). They are disclosures primarily outside the financial statements that are not explicitly required by the International Accounting Standard / International Financial Reporting Standards. The Financial Accounting Standards Board study classifies voluntary disclosures into six categories: business data, management's analysis of business data, forward-looking information, information about management and shareholders, background about the company and information about intangible assets.

It is important to note that each company is unique and has different key aspects to disclose. The reasons are different companies have different views on their own important aspects and factors and compete with each other by employing different strategies in a same industry.

(Gray 1994) pointed out that accounting should be a social rather than a strictly economic concept and that a broader concept of accountability would recognize a wide range of

groups or individuals that have the potential right to more information that is not strictly measurable in monetary terms and is of a voluntary nature.

A one-size-fit-all accounting standard approach will not work for all companies' disclosure demands. Accounting standards can just rule all companies to disclose some common owned information – cash, liabilities, amount of expenses etc.

2.3.1 Types of Voluntary Disclosure

The Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB) studies over the years have resulted in the identification of two main categories of voluntary disclosure. The first category is made up of five types which are included in the American Institute of Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) Special Committee on Financial Reporting's comprehensive business report model. The last category is made up of intangible assets information.

Business data information is made up of all information relating to the business like high-level operating data.

Management's analysis information is made up of analysis done by management of a firm. It includes management's reasons for changes in operating and performance related data.

Forward-looking information about the firm's operations. For instance information on opportunities and risk including those resulting from key trends in the industry.

Information about management and shareholders, example directors, management and other major shareholders.

Background about the company which includes brief history, broad objectives and strategies.

Information about intangible assets of the firm. This includes research and development, human resources, customer relations, etc.

2.4 BENEFITS OF VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

The following research findings show the benefits of voluntary disclosure made by firms.

Voluntary disclosure provides a good way for firms to disclose their own important aspects to investors and other stakeholders based on uniqueness of their operations. Investors will therefore have more relevant information for making a better investment decision.

Voluntary disclosure also prevents information asymmetry. Information asymmetry is the condition in which parties to a transaction have unequal information, resulting in unfair exchanges. Voluntary disclosures ensure that different levels of information between management and investors are avoided and investors can know if there is shirking or insider trading by management.

Voluntary disclosure reduces cost of capital. This is so because when firms disclose more information to investors and the public, they are able to make decisions to invest in the firm through the stock exchange and other mediums which is less costly than the company raising capital through creditors and banks. Informative disclosures that help investors interpret companies' economic prospects are believed to reduce the cost of capital.

Voluntary disclosure enhances transparency and credibility. This is so because firm will provide more information on good news and disappointments that occurred in the firm that period.

Managers tend to disclose information about their performance in order to get favor in stock markets (Mcknight & Tomkins, 1999). This comes about when firms undertake a project that generates profit for the firm. The managers in order to gain favor will disclose beyond legal requirements information depicting the project and its benefit.

Accounting standards only allow a few kinds of intangible assets to be stated in balance sheet. Internally generated goodwill for instance is not allowed to be disclosed in financial statements. In some companies however, the value of their intangible assets are definitely more valuable than tangible assets. Disclosure of such assets will ensure that investors are not repelled and user's decisions based on the financial reports are not misleading as a result of limited information.

2.5 RELATED RESEARCHES

There has been extensive research in developed and some developing countries that discusses financial disclosures and in particular voluntary disclosures in both financial and non-financial institutions. A number of researches done in this area are summarized below. A few of their studies has been discussed below in order to understand the nature, methodology and findings that will help to compare and find the gap with the study.

The study of Kamal, Al-Hussaini, Al-Kwari and Nuseibeh (2006) examined to test the validity of theories employed in the literature to explain variation in the extent of corporate voluntary disclosure within the corporate social disclosure context under Qatari

companies. The findings indicate that variations in corporate social disclosure by the sampled Qatari companies are associated with the firm size, business risk and corporate growth.

Aljifri (2008) examined the extent of disclosure in annual reports of 31 listed firms in the UAE and also determined the underlying factors that affect the level of disclosures. The study hypothesized that four main factors would affect the extent of disclosure in the UAE, are the sector type (banks, insurance, industrial, and service), size (assets), debt–equity ratio, and profitability. His findings further indicated that significant differences were found among sectors; however, the size, the debt–equity ratio, and the profitability were found to have insignificant association with the level of disclosure.

The study of Al-Razeen and Karbhari (2004) investigated the interaction between the compulsory and voluntary disclosures in the annual reports of Saudi Arabian companies. The sample comprised both listed and non-listed companies. The data were analyzed by constructing three separate disclosure indices relating to mandatory disclosure, voluntary disclosure that closely relates to mandatory disclosure and voluntary disclosure that was not closely related to mandatory disclosure. The results revealed that there is a significant, positive correlation between mandatory disclosure and voluntary disclosure related to the mandatory disclosure index. The study also reported that a correlation between voluntary disclosure and the other two indices was found to be weak and insignificant.

Hossain and Reaz's (2007) study reported the results of an empirical investigation of the extent of voluntary disclosure by 38 listed banking companies in India. It also reports the results of the association between company-specific characteristics and voluntary disclosure of the sample companies. The study revealed that Indian banks are disclosing a considerable amount of voluntary information. The findings also indicated that size and

assets-in-place are significant and other variables such as age, diversification, board composition, multiple exchange listing and complexity of business are insignificant explaining the level of disclosure.

The study of Wang et al. (2008) examined empirically the determinants of voluntary disclosure in the annual reports of Chinese listed firms that issue both domestic and foreign shares. The results indicated that the level of voluntary disclosure is positively related to the proportion of state ownership and foreign ownership, firm performance measured by return on equity, and reputation of the engaged auditor. However, there is no evidence, however, that company's benefit from extensive voluntary disclosure having a lower cost of debt capital.

Haniffa and Cooke (2002) examined the relationships between a number of corporate governance, cultural, and firm-specific characteristics, and the extent of voluntary disclosure in the annual reports of a sample of Malaysia companies. A total of 65 items were selected and an unweighted disclosure index was used in the study. The findings indicated significant association between corporate governance and the extent of voluntary disclosure. In addition, one cultural factor (proportion of Malay directors on the board), was found to be significantly associated with the extent of voluntary disclosure.

Cooke's (1991) study sought to investigate the impact of certain firm-specific characteristics on voluntary disclosure of 106 items in Japanese corporate annual reports for the year 1988. The study showed that size was the single most important independent variable that helped to explain variations in voluntary disclosure in Japanese corporate annual reports.

Ben Agyei-Mensah (2011) studied into rural banks in Ashanti Region of Ghana concluded that profitability is the only factor that significantly determines the level of voluntary disclosure in the financial statements, while debt equity ratio, leverage, firm size, and audit size do not significantly determine level of disclosure in annual reports of rural banks in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. This implies that users of financial information with high stake in relation to debt equity, leverage and firm size who are expected to demand more information with increases in these factors do not make such demands.

Ben Agyei-Mensah (2009) concluded based on multiple regression analysis that only liquidity is associated on a significant level as far as disclosure is concerned. His research was based on a sample of listed companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

The related researches above indicate extensive research work in relation to financial accounting disclosures and voluntary disclosures in particular done in various parts of the world. Little attention however, has been given to this area of research in Ghana.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter addresses the design of the study, population and sampling, sampling size and technique, data collection instruments and technique and data analysis.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design type is explanatory research which seeks to measure the impact of a specific change on existing norms and assumptions. This type of research design is mostly used by researchers to reflect testing of hypothesis. The research is also quantitative and qualitative.

3.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

Population refers to a group of potential participants relevant for the purpose of this study.

The target population of the study was companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange. There are a total of 34 companies listed on the Stock Exchange.

3.3 SAMPLING

A sample is a subset or some part of a larger population. The process of sampling, therefore, involves any procedure using a small number of items or parts of the whole population to make conclusions regarding the entire population (Zikmund, 2000). The process of sample selection must be aimed at minimizing bias in the sample.

Simple random sampling was adopted for the purpose of this study, due to the relatively small size of the population under study. This sampling method adopted

ensured that each element have the same probability of being chosen at any stage during the sampling process.

3.4 SAMPLE SIZE AND TECHNIQUES

Out of a population 34 companies a sample of 32 were used for research based on simple random sampling – accessibility of annual reports. The sampling technique adopted was the simple random sampling, giving each element in the population equal chances for selection.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

The study of relevant literature and an online database of annual reports of listed companies were adopted to collect reliable and sufficient secondary data for this study.

The researchers relied on use of secondary data on the internet for the study. Data collected was 2011 annual reports of the sample companies. Secondary data was derived from financial reports on the internet, literature from previous researchers and other relevant journals and books.

3.6 DATA ANALYSIS

The researchers after gathering all relevant data analyzed the data using relevant charts and tables of correlation and regression analysis. These are statistical tools in Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The Pearson Correlation Chart, Co-efficient Table, Descriptive Statistics Table and Anova Table are some of the table and charts of correlation and regression used for the data analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will discuss the outcome of the study conducted. It will begin with theoretical framework and development of hypothesis of this study and then present the measurement of variables and descriptive analysis of the variable of this study. It also discusses the results of the regression analysis based on the results from the correlation analysis together with testing of hypothesis that have been developed in this work.

4.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

Based on the theoretical and empirical literature reviewed in chapter two, the theoretical framework for this study is developed with the hypothesis to be tested as follows:

Firm Size and Voluntary Disclosure

There have been several arguments that large companies might have sufficient resources to afford the cost of producing information for users in their annual reports. Camfferman and Cooke (2002), Ahmet and Serife (2007), Alsaeed (2006) and Donnelly and Mulcahy (2008) found that there is a positive relationship between a firm's size and its level of voluntary disclosure.

The hypothesis to be tested is:

H1: There is the existence of positive significant relationship between firm size and level of voluntary disclosure of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Debt Equity Ratio and Voluntary Disclosure

The debt equity ratio or leverage is the percentage amount which is financed by foreign resources (TSPAKB, 2004). It is measured as total liabilities over the total value of assets. Studies conducted by Alsaeed (2006) and Al-Shammari (2008) indicated that firms with high level of debt equity will disclose more information to satisfy the needs of equity providers. The hypothesis to be tested is:

H2: There is the existence positive significant relationship between debt equity ratio and level of voluntary disclosure of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Profitability and Voluntary Disclosure

Several researchers have proven that if the level of profitability of a firm increases, the firm is likely to disclose more voluntary disclosure information as evident of good management practice. Barako (2007) found that positive relationship exists between profitability and level of voluntary disclosure. The hypothesis to be tested here is:

H3: there is the existence of positive significant relationship between profitability of firm and level of voluntary disclosure of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Audit Firm Size and Voluntary Disclosure

Most firms listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange have their financial statements audited by audit firms with international affiliation. (KPMG, Ernst & Young, Price Water House Coopers, Deloitte Touché, etc). It is evident that these audit firms can influence their clients to disclose more information due to their international

experience and fame. The variable has been coded as 1 if the audit firm is affiliated to an international firm and 0 if the audit firm is not. Raffournier (1995) found a significant relationship between audit firm size and level of voluntary disclosure. The hypothesis to be tested is:

H4: There is the existence of positive significant relationship between audit firm size and level of voluntary disclosure of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Liquidity and Voluntary Disclosure

Liquidity of a firm is how quickly its assets can be turned into cash. Wallace and Naser (1995) argued that firms with low liquidity positions might disclose more information to justify their liquidity status. The hypothesis to be tested is:

H5: There is the existence of positive significant relationship between liquidity and level of voluntary disclosure of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

4.2 MEASUREMENT OF VARIABLES AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.

This study made use of extent of disclosure made by the firms listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange as the dependent variables. These variables capture the amount of voluntary disclosure items in the annual reports of these listed firms. The study adopted the Voluntary Disclosure Checklist (VDC) adopted by Alsaeed (2006). However in this study only those items applicable to IAS 1 and Ghana's Companies Code were used. The information disclosure items included in the Voluntary Disclosure Checklist have been filled examining the annual reports of the respective firms. If the information in the annual report matches that of the Voluntary Disclosure Checklist, the allocated code is 1. If the information does not match, then the allocated code is 0. Equal weight was however placed on each item despite differences in degree of importance placed by users on the information items. Again since it's not possible to place different weight on information disclosure based on the use of information by users, the assumption that all the information is equal and that all investors place equal importance on the information has been accepted in this study.

The Voluntary Disclosure Checklist can be found in the appendix.

The disclosure index can be mathematically shown as follows;

$$EOD = \frac{\text{total number of items disclosed}}{\text{total possible number of items to be disclosed}}$$

Where EOD = Extent of voluntary disclosure.

Independent variables

Five independent variables were identified based on the related and prior literature in this and other studies. They are firm size (value of net assets), debt equity ratio (leverage), profitability, audit firm size and current ratio (liquidity).

The multivariate test used is the standard multiple regression analysis and the regression model is:

$Y=\beta 0+\beta 1x1+ \beta 2x2+ \beta 3x3+ \beta 4x4+ \beta 5x5+e$

Where Y = Voluntary Disclosure score

β_0 = the constant

β1X1 = Leverage/ Debt equity ratio (total liabilities divided by total assets)

β2X2 = Profitability/ return on equity (net profit divided by equity)

β3X3 = Liquidity (Cash divided by total assets).

B4X4 = Firm size (value of net assets)

B5X5 = A dummy variable for audit firm size (audit firm affiliated with international audit firm = 1 and 0 = audit firm with no affiliation with an international audit firm).

e = error term.

4.3 DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

TABLE 4.1 DEPENDENT VARIABLE VALUES AND ITS COMPONENTS

DEPENDENT VARIABLE VALUES AND ITS COMPONENTS			
LIST OF FIRMS	**Actual**	**Possible**	**Disclosure index**
African Champions Industries	19	27	0.7037
Aluworks	18	27	0.6666
AngloGold Ashanti	25	27	0.9259
Ayrton Drugs Manufacturing	18	27	0.6666
Benso Oil Palm Plantation	19	27	0.7037
CAL Bank	20	27	0.7407
Camelot Ghana	16	27	0.5925
Clydestone Ghana	18	27	0.6666
Cocoa Processing Company	27	27	1.0000
Ecobank Ghana	22	27	0.8148
Ecobank Transnational Inc	27	27	1.0000
Enterprise Group	24	27	0.8888
Fan Milk	21	27	0.7777
Ghana Commercial Bank	25	27	0.9259
Ghana Oil Company	23	27	0.8518
Golden Star Resources	23	27	0.8518
Guinness Ghana Breweries	25	27	0.9259
HFC Bank Ghana	21	27	0.7777
Mechanical Lloyd Company	23	27	0.8518
Pioneer Kitchenware	23	27	0.8518
Produce Buying Company	25	27	0.9259
PZ- Cussons Ghana	27	27	1.0000
SG-SSB	22	27	0.8148
SIC Insurance	22	27	0.8148
Standard Chartered Bank Ghana	27	27	1.0000
Starwin Products	22	27	0.8148
Total Petroleum	25	27	0.9259
Transaction Solutions Ghana	15	27	0.5555
Trust Bank-The Gambia	27	27	1.0000
Tullow Oil	27	27	1.0000
Unilever Ghana	27	27	1.0000
UT Bank	26	27	0.9629

Table 4.1 above presents the dependent variable “level of disclosure” of the firms listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange. It could be observed from the table that the disclosure level of the firms varies closely from 0.5555 (Transaction solutions Ghana) to 1.000

(Unilever Ghana, Tullow Oil, Trust Bank-The Gambia, Standard Chartered Bank Ghana, PZ-Cussons, Ecobank Transactional Incorporated, Cocoa Processing Company).

Table 4.2

Descriptive Statistics Table

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
disclosure index	32	.5555	1.0000	.843716	.1299395
debt ratio	32	-1.3902	1.0847	.521966	.4961417
profitability	32	-.8083	25.0938	1.5509500	4.5491921
liquidity	32	-.1390	.2939	.081791	.0855177
firm size	12	.0000	12.1000	1.4176580	3.4410963
audit firm size	32	0	1	.97	.177
Valid N (list wise)	12				

On the bases of the descriptive analysis from table 4.2 above, the mean value of disclosure index is 84.37% with standard deviation 12.99% reflecting that most of the firms listed on the Stock Exchange did not overwhelmingly comply with the IAS 1 requirement.

Debt ratio tested a mean of 52.19% with standard deviation 49.61%. This implies that the sampled firms are lowly leveraged.

The mean value of profitability (ROCE) is 1.5509500 which signifies high profitability level of the firms, as the minimum value is -0.8083 with maximum of 25.0938.The standard deviation of the firms profitability is 4.5491921 indicating wider variability in

the profit performances of the firms. In spite of this, the average profitability could be clarified as being impelled by the extreme profit performance of some firms.

The average liquidity level is 8.18% with standard deviation 8.55%. This gives credence of lesser variance between the various firms liquidity standard.

Out of the 32 firms scrutinized, only 12 disclosed their respective sizes in the year's financial statement. In spite of this, the mean firm size from the descriptive table is 1.4176580 with standard deviation 3.4410963. This portrays greater variation in the sizes of the companies listed.

The audit firm size varies from 0 to 1 with mean 96.88% and standard deviation 17.68%. This depicts that, almost all the firms listed at the stock exchange's financial statements are audited by firms affiliated to internationally accredited firms like Price Waters Coopers, KPMG etc with exception of few.

4.4 CORRELATION ANALYSIS

This section seeks to establish the association between the levels of disclosure of the firms' listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange and their specific characteristics under consideration (Debt ratio, profitability, liquidity, firm size and the audit firm size). The following resolutions were drawn from the correlation table on the next page.

TABLE 4.3 Pearson- Correlation Chart

		EOD	DER	ROCE	LIQ	NA	AUD
EOD	Pearson Correlation	1gh	.326	.271	.218	.312	.405*
	Sig.(2-tailed)		.069	.134	.232	.323	.022
	N	32	32	32	32	12	32
DER	Pearson Correlation	.326	1	-.380*	.176	.212	.703**
	Sig.(2-tailed)	.069		.032	.335	.508	.000
	N	32	32	32	32	12	32
ROCE	Pearson Correlation	.271	-.380*	1	.379*	-.022	.082
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.134	.032		.032	.945	.655
	N	32	32	32	32	12	32
LIQ	Pearson Correlation	.218	.176	.379*	1	.107	.471**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.232	.335	.032		.740	.006
	N	32	32	32	32	12	32
NA	Pearson Correlation	.312	.212	-.022	.107	1	.127
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.323	.508	.945	.740		.695
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12
AUD	Pearson Correlation	.405*	.703**	.082	.471**	.127	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.022	.000	.655	.006	.695	
	N	32	32	32	32	12	32

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Where EOD- ***Extent of Disclosure***

DER- ***Debt Equity Ratio***

ROCE- ***Return on Capital Employed***

LIQ- ***Liquidity***

NA- ***Net Assets Value***

AUD- ***Audit Firm Size***

Debt ratio:

The study found a positively moderate and significant relationship between the debt equity ratio of the firms and their level of disclosure as depicted on table 4.3.The analysis tested significant to support the fact that, there is a linear relationship between the debt equity ratio and level of disclosure of the firms. Meaning, firms with high debt equity may have ample incentives to willingly disclose marginally more financial information to suit the needs of their creditors. Such firms perhaps may be monitored by other financial institutions which could energize them to disclose information in conformity to the IAS 1 requirement than those with entirely low debt equity.

From the above the following hypothesis could be tested;

H1: There is a significant positive relationship between debt ratio and level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Ghana stock exchange.

Profitability (ROCE):

This measures the profit performance of the firms. A positively weak relationship was detected between profitability and the level of disclosure of the firms. However, this was proved significant from the correlation analysis table. This pinpoints a strict linear relationship between profitability of the firms and their disclosure level. Holding that, the extent to which information are disclosed by the firms are lessly impelled by their profit

performances. This indicates that, the increment in profitability of the firms has very little impact on the extent to which they display information inconformity to the IAS 1 requirement in their financial statement.

Hypothesis substantiating the above statement**;**

H2: There is a significant positive relationship between profitability and disclosure level.

Liquidity:

This refers to the firm's ability to meet its short term obligations when they fall due. The analysis revealed a positively weak association between liquidity and the level of disclosure of the firms, but significant. This suggests that, to some degree the liquidity standing of the firm has a bearing on its level of disclosure in compliance to IAS1 requirement. Hence a linear association is drawn between both variables.

H3: There is a significant positive relationship between liquidity and level of disclosure.

Firm size:

The study attested a positively moderate relationship between this characteristic and the level of disclosure of the sampled firms, signifying that, in respective of the size of a firm listed on the Stock Exchange, the extent to which information are disclosed in their financial report in accordance to IAS 1 is duly affected marginally.

H4: There is a significant positive association between firm size and the level of disclosure.

Audit firm size:

The IAS 1 ranks audit firm size from 0 - 1. Such that, firms audited by an organization affiliated to internationally accredited firm is assigned 1 and 0 where not. The research arrived on a positive relationship between extent of disclosure and the audit firm size.

From correlation table 4.3, the association was proved insignificant. This emphasizes that firms audited by a body with internationally accredited affiliate will surely adhere to the requirements of IAS 1 and hence lessly reluctant to disclose information. On the other hand, a firm will stand to trespass the set standard when audited by entirely indigenous firm. It is however clear that; this is entirely not a strict ground to thread in determining the level of disclosure of the firms as the analysis deemed it insignificant unveiling non-linear association between the variables.

This results to a fifth hypothesis:

H5: There is an insignificant relationship between the audit firm size and the level of disclosure of the firm listed at the Ghana stock exchange.

4.5 MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS

This aims at formulating a model for the determination of the dependent variable (level of disclosure); then fish-out the factors affecting the dependent variable with statistical proving and construct a hypothesis to validate the researcher's claims vis-à-vis the model formulated.

TABLE 4.4 Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	**(Constant)**	.532	.232		2.297	.061	-.035	1.099
	DER	-.124	.170	-.588	-.728	.494	-.541	.293
	ROCE	-.008	.013	-.380	-.616	.560	-.039	.023
	LIQ	1.106	.832	.701	1.329	.232	-.930	3.142
	NA	.012	.011	.268	1.067	.327	-.015	.038
	AUD	.347	.317	.673	1.093	.316	-.430	1.123

a. Dependent Variable: Disclosure Index

Formulating the Regression model:

$y=\beta_0+\beta_1x_1+\beta_2x_2+\beta_3x_3+\beta_4x_4+\beta_5x_5+e$

Where:

y= Dependent Variable: disclosure index

$\boldsymbol{\beta_0}$ = the constant

X1= debt ratio

X2= profitability

X3= liquidity

X4= firm size

X5= audit firm size (ranges from 0 to 1)

e= the random error component or term. (e =0)

Therefore,

$Y=0.532-0.124\ X_1-0.008\ X_2+1.106\ X_3+0.012\ X_4+0.347\ X_5$

This unveils that any significant change in profitability or debt equity ratio of the firms will cause a reduction in the level of disclosure by 0.008 and 0.124 respectively. Whereas, variations in either liquidity, firm size, or audit firm size will result to a rise in the level of disclosure by 1.106, 0.012, and 0.347 accordingly. The autonomous level of disclosure is declared 0.532. This means, the extent to which information will be disclosed in compliance to the set standard quantitatively will be evaluated 0.532 if all variable are absent.

However given the respective lower and upper bounds to each variable, the probability that the fore mentioned variables could truly prescribe the disclosure level of the firms listed hangs at 0.95 (i.e. 95%).

4.6 T-TEST STATISTICS

The t-test was conducted to determine whether any of the firm characteristics is significant for predicting the level of disclosure.

Note: the null hypothesis H_0 is rejected when the p-value <α-level 0.05.

Debt ratio:

H_0: $\beta_1=0$ {the debt ratio is insignificant to determine level of disclosure of the firms}

H_1: $\beta_1 \neq 0$ {debt equity ratio is significant to determine the level of disclosure of the firms}

Decision: Since p-value 0.494> α- 0.05 from table 4.4, we fail to reject H_0 and conclude that debt equity level of the firms is insignificant to predict the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Profitability:

H_0: $\beta_2=0$ {profitability is insignificant for predicting the level of disclosure}

H_1: $\beta_2 \neq 0$ {profitability is significant for predicting the level of disclosure}

Decision: we fail to reject the null hypothesis since the p-value 0.560> α-level 0.05.

Conclusion: there is enough evidence to resolve that the profitability level of the firms is insignificant to predict the level of disclosure.

Liquidity:

H_0: $\beta_3=0$ {liquidity level is insignificant for predicting the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Ghana stock exchange}

H_1: $\beta_3\neq0$ {liquidity level is significant for predicting the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Ghana stock exchange}

Decision: The p-value of liquidity ratio from table 4.4 is evaluated 0.232 which is greater than α-level 0.05.Therefore, the researcher fails to reject H_0 and conclude that liquidity level is insignificant for predicting the disclosure level of the firms listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Firm size:

H_0: $\beta_4=0$ {firm size is insignificant to determine level of disclosure of the companies}

H_1: $\beta_4\neq 0$ {firm size is significant to determine the level of disclosure of the companies}

Decision: the p-value of firm size, 0.327> α- 0.05, we fail to reject the null and conclude that the factor {firm size} is insignificant to determine the level of disclosure of the companies.

Audit firm size:

H_0: $\beta_5=0$ {the audit firm size is insignificant for predicting the level of disclosure of the companies listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange}

H_1: $\beta_5\neq 0$ {the audit firm size is significant for predicting the level of disclosure of the companies listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange}

Decision: since the p-value= 0.316> α-level 0.05, the test fails to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore there is enough evidence to conclude that, as well, audit firm size is

insignificant to estimate the level of disclosure of the companies listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange.

After the syntactical analysis, the researcher found all the factors are insignificant to prescribe the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Stock Exchange. This implies that non-of the factors under consideration is strictly a prevalent indicator to the determination of the firms' disclosure level.

TABLE 4.5

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics			
					R-Square Change	F Change	df1	df2
1	.809[a]	.654	.366	.1183068	.654	2.270	5	6

a. PREDICTORS: (CONSTANT), AUDIT FIRM SIZE, FIRM SIZE , PROFITABILITY, LIQUIDITY, DEBT RATIO

4.7 DETERMINING FACTORS AFFECTING LEVEL OF DISCLOSURE

The co-efficient of determination is evaluated 0.654 from table 4.5 above. This reflect that 65.4% of the overall level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Stock Exchange cannot be explain by the linear relationship between the factors under consideration (audit firm size, firm size , profitability, liquidity, debt ratio) and the firms extent of disclosure. Meaning, 34.6% of the total disclosure level can be defined by the factors examined. Hence, there is enough statistical evidence to resolve that, to some extent all the factors

contribute substantially to the companies' level of disclosure, but none stands as a predominant indicator.

TABLE 4.6

ANOVA[b]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.159	5	.032	2.270	.173[a]
	Residual	.084	6	.014		
	Total	.243	11			

a. Predictors: (Constant), audit firm size, firm size , profitability, liquidity, debt ratio

b. Dependent Variable: disclosure index

4.8 F-TEST STATISTICS

The f-test was performed to test the significance of the regression model.

H_0: $\beta_1=0$ {the model is insignificant for prediction purpose}

H_0: $\beta_1\neq0$ {the model is significant for prediction purpose}

Rejection rule: reject H_0 when p-value< α- 0.05

Decision: since the F-test statistic is evaluated 2.270 with p-value 0.173 > α- 0.05. We reject the null hypothesis.

Conclusion: There is ample evidence to say, that the model formulated is insignificant for prediction purpose. This communicates that the regression function stated cannot give

substantial ground in our quest to determine the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange.

The factors scrutinized affected the level of disclosure to some extent. The regression function uncovered that a significant fluctuation in the firms' profitability/debt equity ratio will strike the disclosure level to diminish. Whereas variations in liquidity level, firm size or audit firm size opted for increment in the extent of disclosure of the firms listed.

On the bases of this analogy, it could be recapped that for firms to disclose adequate, sufficient and relevant information in compliance to the set standard (IAS-1), it will certainly be prudent to observe the following pragmatic benchmarks:

Profitability contributed negatively to the disclosure level. Firms are hence entreated not to be profit conscious as it has no significant impact on their quest to conform to the IAS 1 disclosure requirements.

Debt financing as well posed insignificant impact on the extent of disclosure of the firms. This shows that regardless of the percentage of the firms' capital solicited from investors; firms are pushed not to deliver financial information as required. It then stands to be good if desisted from debt financing so as to disclose fair information.

Liquidity level proved significant to some extent hence having positive impact on the extent of disclosure of the firms. Meaning, variability's in the firms willingness to off-set short term obligations when fall due will possibly cushion them to disclose accordingly.

Firms are then charged to endeavor to streamline possible means of acquiring liquid assets so as to improve their chances of countering short term financial obligations on time; which may enable them to disclose to the set standard.

From the analysis displayed, it is obvious that, if the market share of the firm revamps; disclosure level will be duly impacted. With all things being equal the firms will opt for massive financial disclosure upon anticipating or accruing a glamorous market share. All firms listed may however strategize to attain to this status to boost their willingness to display financial information to the set standard.

The size of the audit firms had significant implement on the level of disclosure to some extent. This conveyed the message that, when the firms are audited by internationally accredited bodies, it will have enormous influence on their eagerness to disclose financial information as required; since they will be compelled by their auditors to deliver accordingly with all things being equal. It is thence clear that firms listed at the Ghana Stock Exchange must begin to linger themselves with auditors solely accredited internationally.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the results drawn from the findings of this research are discussed in relation to hypothesis and research question. The main findings and implications will be highlighted based on the findings of the study and draw conclusion.

5.1 SUMMARY

The objective of the study is to investigate the influence of firm-specific characteristics which include firm size, debt ratio, liquidity, profitability and audit firm size on disclosure level of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange. Twenty -seven disclosure items, adapted from the Voluntary Disclosure Checklist used by Alsaeed (2006), was used to measure voluntary disclosure level of the companies. A total of thirty-two (32) annual reports from 2011 of the respective companies were used in the sample.

Descriptive analysis was performed to provide the background statistics of the variables examined in the study. This was followed by correlation and regression analysis which formed the main data analysis methods. A t-test was also performed to determine the significance of the firm characteristics in influencing voluntary disclosure. An f-test was also conducted to determine the significance of the regression model.

5.2 FINDINGS

This section seeks to give answers to the objectives of this research or aims to provide answers to the research questions based on the result of the data collected.

The results of this research indicated that the extent of voluntary disclosure by firms listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange varies closely from 0.5555 (Transaction Solutions Ghana) to 1.0000 (Unilever Ghana, Tullow Oil, Trust Bank-The Gambia, Standard Chartered Bank Ghana, PZ-Cussons, Ecobank Transnational Incorporated and Cocoa Processing Company. This was indicated in the Table 4.1 which allocated a dummy variable of 1 when a company discloses an item and 0 when they fail to disclose an item from the Voluntary Disclosure Checklist.

In determining the relationship between firms specific characteristics and financial information disclosure, the use of correlation analysis produced these results.

The study found that there is a positively moderate and significant relationship between the debt equity ratio of firms and their level of disclosure as depicted in table 4.2. The analysis found a linear relationship between debt equity ratio and financial information disclosure.

A positively weak relationship was detected between profitability and the level of disclosure of the firms. This was proved significant from the correlation analysis table. This pinpoints a strict linear relationship between profitability of the firms and their disclosure level.

The analysis also revealed a positively weak but significant association between liquidity and the level of disclosure of the firms.

The study also attested a positively moderate relationship between firm size and the level of disclosure of the sampled firms.

The research also arrived on a positive relationship between extent of disclosure and the audit firm size.

In identifying the extent to which the firm characteristics affected the level of disclosure, the model summary of table 4.5 was used. With the co-efficient of determination evaluated from the table 4.5, which reflects that 65.4% of the overall level of disclosure of firms on the Ghana Stock Exchange cannot be explained by linear relationship between the firms' specific characteristics and the extent of disclosure by firms. This means that only 34.6% of the total disclosure level can be defined by the firm specific characteristics.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The factors scrutinized affected the level of disclosure to some extent. The regression function uncovered that a significant fluctuation in the firms' profitability/debt equity ratio will strike the disclosure level to diminish. Whereas variations in liquidity level, firm size or audit firm size opted for increment in the extent of disclosure of the firms listed.

On the bases of this analogy, it could be recapped that for firms to disclose adequate, sufficient and relevant information in compliance to the set standard (IAS 1), it will certainly be prudent to observe the following pragmatic benchmarks:

i. Profitability contributed negatively to the disclosure level. Firms are hence entreated not to be profit conscious as it has no significant impact on their quest to conform to the IAS 1 disclosure requirements.

ii. Debt financing as well posed insignificant impact on the extent of disclosure of the firms. This shows that regardless of the percentage of the firms' capital solicited from investors; firms are pushed not to deliver financial information as

required. The firms are however advised to fairly apportion their capital structure (i.e. equal debt/equity finance).

iii. Liquidity level proved significant to some extent hence having positive impact on the extent of disclosure of the firms. Meaning, variability in the firms willingness to off-set short term obligations when fall due will possibly cushion them to disclose accordingly. Firms are then charged to endeavour to streamline possible means of acquiring liquid assets so as to improve their chances of countering short term financial obligations on time; which may enable them to disclose to the set standard.

iv. From the analysis displayed, it is obvious that, if the market share of the firm revamps; disclosure level will be duly impacted. With all things being equal the firms will opt for massive financial disclosure upon anticipating or accruing a glamorous market share. All firms listed may however strategize to attain to this status to boost their willingness to display financial information to the set standard.

v. The size of the audit firms had significant impact on the level of disclosure to some extent. This conveyed the massage that, when the firms are audited by internationally accredited bodies, it will have enormous influence on their eagerness to disclose financial information as required; since they will be compelled by their auditors to deliver accordingly with all things being equal. It is thence clear that firms listed at the Ghana stock exchange must begin to linger themselves with auditors solely accredited internationally.

5.4 CONCLUSION

After the syntactical analysis, the researcher found all the factors are insignificant to prescribe the level of disclosure of the firms listed at the Stock Exchange. This implies that none of the factors under consideration is strictly a prevalent indicator to the determination of the firms' disclosure level. What it means is that none of the firm characteristics can independently alone be a significant predictor of the level of disclosure in the financial reporting of listed companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

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APPENDICES

Voluntary Disclosure Checklist (Adapted from Alsaeed, 2006)

	Voluntary Disclosure Checklist
1.	Comprehensive analysis of shareholder equity changes
2.	Value of pension contribution
3.	Fixed asset cost shown by major categories
4.	Basic earnings per share
5.	Acc. Depreciation disclosed by category
6.	Acc. Depreciation disclosed in total
7.	Depreciation method used
8.	Depreciation rate disclosed
9.	Information on commitments and contingencies
10.	Report of the chairman or CEO
11.	Audit report
12.	Interest amount on long term debt
13.	Dividends per ord. Share
14.	Brief narrative history of the company
15.	Name of top employees with position
16.	Shareholders' equity: no. of shares authorized
17.	List of directors
18.	Equity reserves – policies mentioned
19.	Remuneration of directors
20.	Amount and source of rev. for period
21.	Operating profit or loss
22.	Amount and breakdown of operating exp.
23.	Cost of sales
24.	Allowance for doubtful debt
25.	Bad debt expenses
26.	Income from investment
27.	Discussion of operating result for the year

LIST OF FIRMS
African Champions Industries
Aluworks
AngloGold Ashanti
Ayrton Drugs Manufacturing
Benso Oil Palm Plantation
CAL Bank
Camelot Ghana
Clydestone Ghana
Cocoa Processing Company
Ecobank Ghana
Ecobank Transnational Inc
Enterprise Group
Fan Milk
Ghana Commercial Bank
Ghana Oil Company
Golden Star Resources
Guinness Ghana Breweries
HFC Bank Ghana
Mechanical Lloyd Company
Pioneer Kitchenware
Produce Buying Company
PZ- Cussons Ghana
SG-SSB
SIC Insurance
Standard Chartered Bank Ghana
Starwin Products
Total Petroleum
Transaction Solutions Ghana
Trust Bank-The Gambia
Tullow Oil
Unilever Ghana
UT Bank