

# African Research Review: An International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia

AFRREV Vol. 13 (4), Serial No 56, September, 2019: 24-36

ISSN 1994-9057 (Print) ISSN 2070-0083 (Online)

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/afrev.v13i4.3>

---

## **Effects of Employee Voice Management on Firm Performance: A Study of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria**

**Ebimobowei, Tangi S. & Udu, Ama A.**

Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki

Tel: +2348035486420

E-mail: [uduama@yahoo.com](mailto:uduama@yahoo.com)

**Ugo, Sunday & Chukwuma, Evans**

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

### **Abstract**

This study explored the implications of employee voice management on firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Elebele, Yenagoa. Quantitative research design was employed while structured questionnaire designed in 5-point Likert scale was administered on the sample of two hundred and eighty-one (281), out of which, two hundred and seventy-six (276) copies of the questionnaire were returned, hence used for the analysis. Multiple regression models via Ordinary Least Square (OLS) formed the bases for estimation. The results showed that employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme as constructs of employee voice have significant effect on firm performance and concluded that efficient utilization of employee voice management has the potentiality of driving high performance organizations by engendering goal-driven-attitude among the workers especially as their opinions, ideas and interests are considered. The implication of the results is that employees tend to demonstrate higher level of work commitment especially when they perceived that their welfare and interests are considered by the management. The study recommended that organizations especially manufacturing firms that have not yet engendered employee team voice in their communication systems should do so while firms that have instituted employee team voice mechanisms should continue to respond to the yearnings of their workers especially on issues that relate to their welfare for the elicitation of higher commitment to work that result to improved firm performance.

**Key Words:** Employee Voice, Firm Performance, Employee Ombudsman Voice, Employee Team Voice

### **Introduction**

The trend in business environment and the quest for improved firm performance have made organizations to place emphasis on employee voice management in fostering goal-related behaviour amongst their workers in typical organizations. The quintessentiality of engendering employee voice management as it relates to workers welfare and well-being has its antecedent in the neo-classical era when emphasis was placed on individual workers and group relationship in the work place as opposed to scientific era, when Fredrick Taylor's scientific management entrenched the use of piece rate wage system and bonus awards to improve firm performance without any regard for workers welfare, safety, and well-being. Taylor's philosophy focused on the belief that making people work hard as they could was not as efficient as optimizing the way the work was done (Belthroud & Drill, 2017). However, Taylor's philosophy on the principle of scientific management elicited several agitations and criticisms on how workers were merely used as robots without showing concern for their welfare and voice in organizations. These criticisms led to the emergence of Neo-classical Theory or Behavioural approach to management.

The neo-classical theory pointed out the role of psychology and sociology in understanding of individual workers and group behaviour in an organization. In 1927, a group of researchers led by Elton Mayo and Fritz Roethlisberger of the Harvard Business School were invited to join in the studies at the Hawthorne Works of Western Electric Company, Chicago (Hiller, 2015). The Hawthorne Experiments showed that firm performance was not the function of only physical condition of work and money wages paid to the workers but depended heavily upon the satisfaction, interests and better working conditions in their work situation. Mayo's idea was that logical factors were far less important than emotional factors in determining firm performance (Skinner, 2016). Mayo's idea gained ground in the 19th century that most organizations adopted it and there was a paradigm shift from concentrating on the job content to sociological and psychological antecedent of workers with respect to their welfare and general wellbeing. The Hawthorne study suggests that people are motivated by the need for social relationships which subsequently give rise to human relations approach that emphasizes the imperativeness of efficient management of employee voice with regard to their welfare, concerns, interests and so on for the desired performance (Franklin & Duru, 2016).

In 1970, Albert Hirschman heralded the imperativeness of managing employee voice in generating the needed capability and ability by aligning employee interests, voice and concern closely with managerial goals. This according to Albert (1970) is predicated on the assumption that when employees perceive themselves to have opportunities to effectively communicate their concerns to management, they are likely to elicit more positive attitudes and demonstrate higher levels of job commitment that result to improved firm performance. Consequently, Dickson (2015) avers that for organization to achieve and sustain performance in the long-run, they ought to intermittently respond to employees' voice especially on issues that relate to them because they are the life-wire of the organization. Following therefrom, the emergence of trade union has provided workers with a collective voice in order to make their wishes known to the management as it relates to their general working conditions (welfare). Therefore, employee voice is seen as discretionary communication of ideas, suggestions, concerns, or opinions about

work-related issues with the intent to improve on the work (Anyango, O.&Ochieng, 2015). Employee voice covers all types of opportunities where employees' can have their say and exert some influence over work place decisions (Boxall and Purcell, 2011). Most organizations including Bayelsa State Plastic Company has attempted to utilize several dimensions of employee voice management mechanisms in work systems to include team voice, employee ombudsman voice and suggestion schemes for their employees in an attempt to improve firm performance. The extent the management of the identified three constructs of employee voice affects the performance of organizations is the thrust of the study. More so, firm performance explains how organizations successfully appropriate their resources in meeting the demands of the changing environment. Thus, efficiency in resource allocation, utilization and mobilization that result to improved performance is referred to as firm performance. For organization to achieve better performance, every segment of the organization is required to work in synergy that has collective effect on the output, rather than individual output (Nuah, 2010). However, the present study focuses on, market share, increased product lines and business sustainability as the measurement variables of performance. Therefore, the extent the employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and suggestion schemes as construct dimensions of employee voice have affected firm performance, is yet to be established, hence this study.

### **The Problem**

The centrality of effective management of employee voice is necessary in driving high performance organization because of its potentiality of engendering excellent framework of communication systems in the organization (Ferioge & Feril, 2017). This, however, is premised on the fact that when employees' voice is aligned with the managerial goals, employees tend to exhibit more positive attitudes and demonstrate higher levels of job commitment that is goal-driven in attainment of organizational objectives. Firm performance cuts across every segment of the organization, if such performance is to be sustained on the long run. This is imperative because employees' as life-wire of every organization exert considerable efforts in appropriating resources efficiently in meeting the demands of the changing environment, as a result, their voice as it relates to their welfare, interests, conditions of service and so on are to be heard and respond to, for the desired performance. Bayelsa State plastic firm, Yenagoa, for instance, has devoted much time and resources in providing a sustainable framework that brings together the employees and the management through the framework of employee team voice and in deliberating issues relating to them. This practice, however, may not have translated to improved firm performance considering recurrent agitations for improvements in employees' welfare, and conditions of service in Bayelsa State plastic firm, which have resulted to increased labour turnover, absenteeism and leaving before the closer of work and may have affected their performance, but what is not clear is the extent to which such practice has affected their performance, hence this study.

Despite being amongst the leading plastic manufacturing firm in the South South, Nigeria, the management of employee ombudsman voice and the placement of employee suggestion scheme are questioned, since employees' opinions, ideas and suggestions are relegated. A pilot study conducted in March 2019 by the researcher. The possibility of issues relating to impairment of employee ombudsman voice and suggestion scheme could be contributing to the problems of high rate of labour turnover. In all these issues relating to high rate of labour turnover, firm performance is challenged, but what is not clear is the magnitude and the direction of the challenge. However, it would be difficult to ascertain the net effect(s) of employee team voice,

employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme on firm performance, without empirical study. However, the general aim of this study is to examine the effect of employee voice management on firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Elebele, Yenagoa. The Specific objectives are:

1. To ascertain the extent employee team voice affects firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Elebele, Yenagoa.
2. To determine the degree employee ombudsman voice affects firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Elebele, Yenagoa.
3. To investigate the level of employee suggestion scheme affects firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Elebele, Yenagoa.

## **Conceptual Framework**

### **Concept of Employee Voice**

To Gabriel (2016), employee voice is concerned with the speaking up on important issues and problems in an organization by employees. This could be done by joint consultation, employee team voice, attitude surveys, upward communication frameworks, and employee suggestion scheme and employee voice representation. These voice mechanisms according to Gabriel (2016) are specialized processes through which employees of any given organization air their views, opinions and ideas especially on issues that relate to them. The import of the aforementioned relates to the centrality of employee voice management in driving goal-driven attitude among the workers especially as their opinions, ideas and interests are considered. This consideration, however, makes the workers to be emotionally and psychologically attached to their work, which in turn, results to improved firm performance. More so, Skinner (2016) saw employee voice as the explicit expression of workers dissatisfaction raised with line managers. In other words, employee voice is the contribution to management decision making process through upward communication, problem solving, suggestion schemes and attitude surveys; and lastly, through mutual partnership agreements, joint consultative committees and work councils. McCabe and Lewin (2014), summarized voice as consisting of two elements, the expression of complaints or grievances in a work context by employees to management and the participation of employees in the decision-making processes or communication where there is an opportunity for employees and managers to exchange views about issues on an individual basis and through a collective consultation. It is therefore a say employee have in matters of concern to them in their organization. It describes a form of two-way dialogue that allows employees to influence events at work and includes the processes of involvement, participation, upward problem solving and upward communication (Williams & James, 2015). Employee voice according to Gerupee (2017), is the means by which people communicate their views to their employer. It's the main way employees can influence matters that affect them at work. For employers, effective voice contributes toward innovation, firm performance. Given the avalanche of definitions of the employee voice, the study sees employee voice as specialized framework that enables the employee to directly or indirectly influence the actions of the management. Employee voice is measured with employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and suggestion scheme.

### **Employee Team Voice**

Employee team voice is a specialized process through which group of people represent the workers in face to face discussion on issues of importance (Clerity, 2014). This kind of employee team voice is often referred to as joint consultation, a situation that brings about close interactions between the employers and employees. Micheal (2017) saw it as a direct or face-to-face deliberation, as is the case with many of the current employee involvement initiatives or it may be indirect as it occurs when trade unions represent workers on high-level consultation committees, or workers' councils, or through collective bargaining.

### **Employee Ombudsman Voice**

This kind of employee voice is an official designated task who is charged with the responsibility of representing the interest of the people by investigating and addressing complaints of maladministration in organization (Charlse, 2013). Most private firms often engage the services of ombudsman voice in drawing home their demands especially as it affects them in work place. The ombudsman voice operates more like a channel of employee voice, relative than actual employee voice (McCabe, 2010).

### **Employee Suggestion Scheme**

Suggestion schemes are the established procedures for employees to submit ideas to management with tangible recognition for those suggestions with merit (Arnard 2015). Suggestions schemes are known to reduce feelings of frustration where employees feel they have good ideas that are not recognized in the formed channels of communication. Suggestion boxes or team leaders are used to encourage members of the team to give suggestions (Bekks, 2018). However, organizations should have a committee to vet suggestions so as to pick only what is appropriate. Participation is demonstrated when an employee plays a greater role in the decision-making process by management giving employees the opportunity to influence management decisions and also to contribute to the improvement of organizational performance.

### **Firm Performance**

The aim of any manufacturing firm is not only to gain competitive advantage but to improve on its operations toward the attainment of organizational goal. Firm performance could be sustained through effective thru-put system to improve their output. Veer (2012) argued that most organizations strive to strengthen their supply-chain channels to improve on their sales, thereby enhancing their performance. Improved sales through supply-chain interconnectivity is one of the measurements of performance which according to Veer (2012) must be entrenched for effective flow of products from the manufacturer down to the ultimate consumers. In addition, Jerill (2013) described organizational performance as the nexus between effective cost and realized output and also relationship between output and results achieved over a period of time. However, firm performance is measured with the firm profit margin, return on equity, earnings per share, and market share.

### **Empirical Review**

Adeyemi (2017) investigated the role of employee voice and its implications of firm effectiveness. The study aimed at ascertaining the effect of employee voice on firm effectiveness of manufacturing firms in Lagos State. Descriptive research design was employed

such that structured questionnaire was administered on the sample of the study. The data collected were analysed with percentages and Chi-square statistical tool. The findings revealed that employee voice management enhances organizational effectiveness and concluded that organizations should always respond to the voice of the employees especially as it relates to them because it would not only stir-up their commitment on the work but create long-lasting affinity between employees and employers. From the finding and conclusion drawn, the study recommended that firms should create a framework of communication systems that allow the employees to air their opinions, ideas etc., in order to engender goal-related-attitude from the workers. However, the analytical tool used was not appropriate in findings the implications of employee voice on firm effectiveness and also the independent variable was not decomposed to measurable constructs.

In addition, Shack and McGraw (2017) examined the effect of employee voice on business sustainability. The study was aimed at exploring the implications of employee voice on business sustainability in Indonesia. The study employed quantitative design and structured questionnaire was also administered on the sample drawn from the population of the study. Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the internal reliability of the instruments while data collected were analysed with structural equation model. The result revealed that employee voice has a significant and positive effect on business sustainability in Indonesia and concluded that effective application of employee voice in typical organization has the potentiality of driving high performance of organization in sustaining their performance in the long-run. They recommended that firms should adopt and ensure effective implementation of employee voice in achieving the desired performance in the organization.

The meaning and application of employee voice mechanisms on organization was examined by Anyango, Ojera and Ochieng (2015). The study was designed to explore the meaning and application of employee voice in the management of organization. The study was necessitated following the need for organizations to apply employee voice mechanisms in their day-to-day-operations. Survey research design was used and structured questionnaire was also administered on the sample of two hundred and fifty-two (252) respondents drawn from the population of the study. Simple percentage was used to analyse the data. From the results, it was revealed that the application of employee voice strategy results to improved performance and recommended that organizations should come-up with unified communication platforms through which employees could easily contribute their own idea and opinions to the running of the organization. However, every researchable topic must have two variables that is, independent and dependent variables, but the topic has no dependent variable. It is wrong.

More so, the study on employee voice, partnership and firm performance was investigated by Stewart and Adrian (2013). The study aimed at exploring how employee voice and partnership contribute to improved performance in organization. Correlation research design was used, questionnaire designed on 5-point Likert scale was also administered on the sample of the study. The data collected were analysed with product moment correlation. From the result, it revealed that employee voice and partnership enhance firm performance and concluded that employee voice creates that psychological affinity between the employee and the firm, as such, make them put in their best on the work. The study recommended that firms should engender employee voice mechanisms to generating the needed work-related-attitudes that is goal-driven in achieving the objectives of the study. The study topic has three variables, which is not proper and the design used only establishes the degree of relationship between studied variables.

Effect of employee voice and engagement: its connections and consequences were explored by Chris, Kerstin and Mark (2013). The study examined the relationship between employee voice and employee engagement. Quantitative research design was employed and structured questionnaire was employed on the sample of the study. Diagnostic analyses were conducted with five fit indices to determine how the model fitted our data:  $\chi^2$ , goodness of fit index (GFI), comparative fit index (CFI), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) and confirmatory factor analyses. Employee perceptions of voice behaviour aimed at improving the functioning of the work group are found to have both a direct impact and an indirect impact on levels of employee engagement. Analysis of data from two organizations confirms that the direct connection between perceptions of voice behaviour and engagement is mediated by both employee trust in senior management and the employee–line manager relationship.

Seril (2013) studied implication of employee voice on competitive advantage of manufacturing firms in Brazil. The study aimed at examining the effect of employee voice on achieving competitive advantage among manufacturing firms in Brazil. Descriptive research design used; questionnaire administered on the sample drawn from the population of the study. Data collected were analysed chi-square. The study found that employee voice has a significant positive effect on competitive advantage and concluded that firms can achieve competitive advantage if employee voice is adequately utilized. The study recommended that organizations especially manufacturing firms should create sustainable communication framework that will encourage upward communication systems in the work place. This will enable the employees to always contribute in their own ideas and opinions necessary for improved performance. However, the research methodology employed was not proper; chi-square is used to establish fit-between variables under investigation and the variables were not operationalized in the statement of the problem.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The underpinning theory of this study is anchored on social exchange theory propounded by Blau (1964). The theory believes that employees engage in reciprocal relationships that can develop into trusting, loyal and mutual commitments, if certain ‘rules of exchange’ are followed. The theory says that employees are motivated within the employment relationship to demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours when they perceive that their employer values them and their own contributions. Organizational practices send overt and implicit signals to employees about the extent to which they are valued and trusted, giving rise to feelings of obligation on the part of employees, who then reciprocate through demonstrating positive behaviours.

In these terms, it is assumed that if employees perceive their work environment to be one in which they can share their opinions, ideas and concerns, they will in turn be more likely to demonstrate higher levels of commitment to work. The particular exchange relationships considered are twofold: first those with senior management and second those with the employees’ immediate supervisor or line manager. Blau (1964) argued that if employees have trustful relationships with their senior managers, and believe they are supported by their line manager, they will likely respond with positive behaviour, and hence their levels of commitment will rise. The theory assumes that employees will put in greater efforts in the work place when they perceive that their ideas and opinions are incorporated by their employers.

That the best way to motivate employees for greater work performance is to show concern for them in terms of their interests and concerns in a work place. Therefore, the theory fits in to the present study because it laid credence on the mutuality of relationship that exists between the employees and the employers as a result of aligning their opinions and ideas into the managerial policies of the organization.

**Methodology**

The study employed quantitative research design. The research design was built on mathematical models that captured the relationship among modelled variables. The questionnaire designed with 5-point likert scale was administered on the sample of two hundred and eighty-one (281), drawn from the population of the study, out of which, two hundred and seventy-six (276) copies of the questionnaire were returned, hence used for the analysis. The test re-test approach was employed such that Cronbach alpha coefficient was used to determine the reliability of the research instrument. Therefore, the reliability result was 0.87 or 87 percent suggesting that the data instrument was reliable. The data collected via structured questionnaire was analysed with the classical linear regression model, such that Ordinary Least Square (OLS) formed the basis for the estimation. The study used multiple regression models to ascertain the effect of employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme as constructs of employee voice on firm performance such that:  $Y=f(X_1, X_2, X_3 \dots X_n)$ . These explanatory variables represent the scaled response values of employee team voice ( $X_1$ ), employee ombudsman voice ( $X_2$ ), employee suggestion scheme ( $X_3$ ) while Y represents firm performance. Generally, the above equation is additive. In order to use the equation to predict the implications of  $X_1$  on FP,  $X_2$  on FP,  $X_3$  on FP, and the sum of  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ , and  $X_3$ , on Firm Performance (FP). Therefore, the general function becomes:

$$FP = f(ETV, EOV, ESS,) \tag{1}$$

Mathematically, the relationship is expressed as:

$$FP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ETV + \beta_2 EOV + \beta_3 ESS + \mu \tag{2}$$

Where:

- FP = Firm Performance
- ETV = Employee Team Voice
- EOV = Employee Ombudsman Voice
- ESS = Employee Suggestion Scheme
- $\beta_0$  = The regression intercept (constant term)
- $\beta_1 - \beta_3$  = Coefficients of the explanatory variables

$\mu$  = Residual or Disturbance term, which represents the composite effect of exogenous variables outside the model which were not explicitly identified in the model.

## Results

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics**

	FP	ETV	EOV	ESS
Mean	28.9824	4.2983	9.3876	11.3002
Maximum	45.10	34.00	15.00	18.01
Minimum	22.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Std. Dev.	8.11243	4.84521	3.77636	2.54201
Skewness	-.4320	.3211	-2.453	.42531
Kurtosis	-1.2553	-1.5341	-1.7852	-.6542
Observations	276	276	276	276

**Source:** Researcher's Compilation from SPSS Version 0.20

Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics of firm performance, employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme, respectively. The results showed average (mean) of 28.9824, 4.2983, 9.3876 and 11.3002 for firm performance, employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme. The result of the standard deviation indicated the measures of dispersion in the values. It revealed the standard deviation of 8.11243, 4.84521, 3.77636 and 2.54201 for firm performance, employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme while skewness measures the degree of asymmetry of distribution of the values around its mean. The skewness of a normal distribution is zero. While positive skewness implies that the distribution has a long right tail and negative skewness implies that the distribution has a long-left tail. From Table 1 firm performance and employee ombudsman voice have negative skewness while employee team voice and employee suggestion scheme have positive skewness, respectively. Kurtosis measures the flatness of the distribution of the values. If the kurtosis is greater than three, the distribution is said to be peaked or leptokurtic as compared to the normal and when less than three, such distribution is said to be flat or platykurtic relative to others.

**Table 2: Correlation Results**

		Firm Performance	ETV	EOV	ESS
Pearson Correlation	Firm Performance	1.000	.676	.552	.712
	ETV	.676	1.000	.666	-.381
	EOV	.552	.666	1.000	.098
	ESS	.712	-.381	.098	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Firm Performance	.	.000	.000	.140
	ETV	.000	.	.000	.000
	EOV	.000	.000	.	.104
	ESS	.140	.000	.104	.
N	Firm Performance	276	276	276	276
	ETV	276	276	276	276
	EOV	276	276	276	276
	ESS	276	276	276	276

**Source:** Researcher's Compilation from SPSS Version 0.20

The correlation analysis in Table 2 revealed that all the predictor variables of employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion voice have positive signs and are significantly correlated with firm performance and it implies that a unit increase in any of them

as a predictor variable will result, to a significant increase on firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company, Elebele, Yenagoa.

**Table 3: Regression Diagnosis**

Variables	Unstandardized		Standardized		P.value	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	
C	46.352	.722		67.242	.000	
ETV	43.223	.079	-1.100	-42.299	.040	
EOV	39.164	.072	.074	5.331	.021	
ESS	4.746	.086	-.343	13.430	.000	
R <sup>2</sup> =	0.771					
DW	1.805					

Source: Researcher's Compilation from SPSS Version 0.20

$$FP = 46.352 + 5.223X_{ETV} + 0.164X_{EOV} + 4.746X_{ESS}$$

Table 3 shows the regression results of the explanatory variables obtained via Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation. The three predictor variables of  $X_{ETV}$ ,  $X_{EOV}$ , and  $X_{ESS}$  represent employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme. The result showed the coefficient of the constant term of 46.352 and shows where the line intercepts the Y axis and statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This implies that holding these explanatory variables constant, the firm performance of Bayelsa State Plastic Company will increase by 46% significantly. The possible increase is due to extraneous factors outside the modelled variables. Also, the  $R^2$  value of 0.771 indicates that 77% total variations in the firm performance are explained by the explanatory variables. The result of the computed Durbin-Watson was 1.805. At 5% level of significance with three explanatory variables and 267 observations, the tabulated DW for DI and DU are 1.702 and 1.805, respectively.

### Discussion of the Results

The results in Table 3 showed that employee team voice has a significant effect on performance. This was shown by the estimated value of the coefficient of 43.223, which implies that as the firm continues to engage employee team voice, it will bring about a significant increase of 43% on firm performance. Aside from the estimated coefficient, the result showed the p-value of 0.040 which was lesser than  $\alpha$  level of significance (0.05), which resulted to the acceptance of the alternate hypothesis and rejection of the null hypothesis. The significant and positive effect of employee team voice on firm performance demystifies the positive perception developed by employee considering the fact that their voice as it relate to their welfare were considered by the management, as a result, they tend to demonstrate higher levels of commitment on the work, which in turn, result to improved firm performance. The empirical evidence points to the fact that employee team voice has positive effect on firm performance.

More so, the result in Table 3 shows that employee ombudsman voice has a significant effect on performance. This was evidenced given the estimated value of the employee ombudsman voice coefficient of 39.164 as shown in Table 3. This implies that per unit increase on the rate at which Bayelsa State Plastic Company utilizes employee ombudsman voice, it will bring

about an increase of 39% significantly on firm performance. Furthermore, the regression result also shows that p-value (0.021) was lesser than  $\alpha$  level of significance 0.05, which led to the acceptance of alternate hypothesis and the rejection of null hypothesis.

The result in Table 3 showed that employee suggestion scheme has a significant effect on performance. This was also shown by the estimated value of employee suggestion scheme coefficient of 4.746. The positive sign on the coefficient suggests that the more the firm provides and continues to responds on those issues of concerns kept in the suggestion boxes; it will bring about a proportionate increase by 5% significantly on firm performance. This is not unconnected to the fact that suggestions schemes are known to reduce feelings of frustration where employees feel they have good ideas that are not recognized in the formed channels of communication. On the other hand, the result showed that the p-value 0.000 was lesser than  $\alpha$  level of 0.05, which led to the acceptance of alternate hypothesis and the rejection of null hypothesis.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

From the avalanche of literature, empirical reviews and the findings, the study logically concludes that employee voice management affects firm performance. The import of the findings is that any unit increase on employee team voice, employee ombudsman voice and employee suggestion scheme will bring about a significant increase in firm performance and vice versa. This study, however, provided empirical evidence that employee voice management derives largely from the need for firms to engender work-related-attitude amidst their workers by aligning their voice into the managerial polices of the firm. The imperative of the aforementioned is that it forestalls counter-productive attitude of the workers in ensuring goal-driven-attitudes amongst them.

Another implication of the findings of this study is that any firm that responds to yearnings of their workers especially as it relates to their welfare tends to elicit psychological affinity between the workers and the management. Such psychological attachment to work would make them more committed in discharging their duties toward the attainment of organizational goals. From 'the findings, the study made the following recommendations:

- i) From the results, it was revealed that employee team voice has a positive and significant effect on firm performance and therefore recommends that organizations especially manufacturing firms that have not yet engendered employee team voice in their communication systems should do so while firms that have instituted employee team voice mechanisms should continue to respond to the yearnings of their workers especially on issues that relate to their welfare for the elicitation of positive attitude among the workers in the organization.
- ii) The management of this firm should continue to explore the opportunities of engendering employee ombudsman voice in creating a sustainable framework of upward communication systems between the employees and the management. This is imperative because when employees perceive that their opinions and ideas were aligned into the managerial polices of the organization, it will motivate them to put in their very best to the attainment of organization goals.
- iii) The result showed that the employee suggestion scheme has a positive and significant effect on firm performance, though weak. This suggests that the

utilization of employee suggestion scheme is not optimal therefore recommends that the management should not relegate the full implementation of employee suggestion scheme in generating its potentials, since it reduces the feelings of frustration especially when employees feel they have good ideas that are not recognized through formal channel of communication.

## References

- Adeyemi, R. (2017). The role of employee voice and its implications on firm effectiveness of manufacturing firms in Lagos State. *International Review of Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, 12(8):3511-3525.
- Adeoye, T.S. (2012). The conceptualization of employee participation in decision making and its effect on performance. *Journal of Academy of Management Review*, 2(3):175-186
- Arnold, E. M. (2015). *Changing toward participative management approaches*. Kenya: Kroll publications.
- Albert, M.T. (1970). *Conceptualization of employee voice*. New-York: Bough Press.
- Anyango, C., Ojere, P. & Ochiengo, I. (2015). The meaning and application of employee voice mechanisms in organization. *International Journal of Scientific Research and Innovative Technology*, 2(5):2313-2328.
- Belthroud, T. E. & Drill, T. (2017). *Management*. 3rd Edition, London: New Creese Press.
- Boxal, C. & Purcell, B. E. (2011). A comparison of the effectiveness of employee voice arrangements in Australia. *Journal of business education and statistics*, 4(2):419-427.
- Bekks, G. H. (2018). Employee voice behaviour: Integration and directions for future research. *The Academy of Management Annals*, 5(1), 373-412.
- Blau, K. P. (1964). *Social exchange relationships in organization*. New-York: Bough Press.
- Clarity, D. H. (2014). The effect of joint consultation in decision making in organization. *The Journal of Applied Behavioural Science*, 31 (3) 324-342.
- Charlse, B. (2013). Integrating justice and social exchange: The differing effects of fair procedures and treatment on work relationships. *Contemporary Middle Eastern Issues*, 2(2), 153-167.
- Chris, R., Kerstin, A. & Mark, G. (2013). Employee voice and engagement: connections and consequences, *International Journal of Human Resource Management*, 24 (14):2780-2798.
- Dickson, A. (2015). Performance management in organizations. *Global Journal of Psychology and Anthropology*, vol.5, (6),548-559
- Franklin, M. & Duru, K. L. (2016). Achieving long-term performance through the employment of employee voice mechanisms in organizations. *Journal of Business Education and innovation* 4, (2),179-185.
- Ferioge, K. & Feril, C. (2017). Employee Voice: A human resource management perspective. *California Management Review*, 34(3), 95-111.

- Gabriel, K. (2016). Conceptualizing employee voice for the desired performance. *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*, 15(3), 261-266
- Gerupe, M. D. (2017). *Employee participation in decision making*. London: Sage Publications.
- Hiller, T. R. (2015). Improving decision making by means of dissent,' *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 31(8):48-58.
- Jerill G. H. (2013). The role of small business in economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Virginia. *An empirical analysis research paper 2004-10*.
- McCabe, D. & Lewin, E. R. (2014). *Predicting voice behaviour in work groups*. London: Bough Press.
- McCabe, D. (2010). *Changing patterns of employee voice*. 2nd Edition, London: Bough Press.
- Micheal, B. N. (2017). Leadership behaviour and employee voice: Is the door really open?' *Academy of Management Journal*, 5(4): 869-884
- Muoka, L.R. & Frankly, E. (2016). Effect of employee team voice on performance. *Journal of organizational design and innovation*, 4(2)529-538.
- Nuah, G. H. (2010). *Performance management*. 3rd Edition, New York: Bruce Press.
- Obasam, T. P. (2014). The alignment of employee voice into managerial policies. *Journal of personality and social psychology* 52(2), 333-344.
- Seril, B.E. (2013). Implications of employee voice on competitive advantage of firms in Brazil. *Journal of Sustainable Development in African* 13, (4):127-137.
- Sheck, H. & McGraw, P. (2017). Effects of employee voice on business sustainability in Indonesia. *Journal of technological innovation*, 5(3):483-497.
- Stewart, L. K. &Adriam, D. (2013). Effects of employee voice, partnership and firm performance. *Journal of business education*, 5(6): 627-639.
- Veer, S. R. (2012). *Performance management. A key for improve performance measurements in organizations*. New Delhi: Bough Press.
- Williams, O. D. & James, M. (2015). *Dimensions of employee voice*. 2nd Edition, USA: Oxford University Press.