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ORIGINAL

Internal control and its influence on the management of fixed assets of a Textile Company in Lima, Perú

Control interno y su influencia en la gestión de activos fijos de una Empresa Textil, en Lima, Perú

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research was to determine the influence between internal control and fixed assets management in a textile company in Lima, 2023. The method used was quantitative, the scope was correlational-causal, cross-sectional and explanatory, since it was possible to establish the relationship between two or more variables, determining their influence. The population consisted of employees and the sample consisted of 35 intentionally selected collaborators. As for the techniques and procedures for the collection of information, a documentary analysis was carried out to identify the procedures and records, which included reports, books, account statements, memos and all the instruments and tools used for internal control. A survey was administered to the aforementioned personnel. The results indicate that internal control had a significant impact on asset management, providing protection, efficiency, regulatory compliance, information for decision making and risk management. In conclusion, it was found that internal control supports a company's asset management for several important reasons; it helps protect company assets against fraud, theft and misuse. By establishing adequate procedures and controls, the risk of loss or damage to assets is reduced.

Keywords: internal control; asset management; procedures; efficiency.

RESUMEN

El propósito de la investigación fue determinar la influencia entre el control interno y la gestión de activos fijos en una empresa Textil, en Lima, 2023. El método empleado fue de enfoque cuantitativo, de tipo y explicativo de corte transversal dado que se pudo establecer la relación entre dos o más variables, determinando su influencia. La población se conformó con los empleados y la muestra estuvo integrada por 35 colaboradores seleccionados de manera intencionada. En cuanto a las técnicas y procedimientos para la recopilación de la información se realizó un análisis documental, para identificar los procedimientos y registros, estos incluyeron informes, libros, estados de cuentas, memorandos y todos los instrumentos y herramientas utilizados para el control interno. Se aplicó una encuesta al personal mencionado. Los resultados indican que el control interno tuvo un impacto significativo en la gestión de activos, proporcionando protección, eficiencia, cumplimiento normativo, información para la toma de decisiones y gestión de riesgos. En conclusión, se halló que el control interno favorece la gestión de activos de una empresa por varias razones importantes, ayuda a proteger los activos de la empresa contra el fraude, el robo y el mal uso. Al establecer procedimientos y controles adecuados, se reduce el riesgo de pérdida o daño de los activos.

Palabras clave: control interno; gestión de activos fijos; procedimientos; eficiencia.

INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly competitive and dynamic business environment, effective fixed asset management is essential to guarantee organizations' financial stability and sustainable growth. Fixed assets represent a significant part of the capital companies invest, and their proper management impacts profitability and the company's ability to maintain its operations efficiently and meet long-term strategic objectives (Serrano et al., 2018). In this context, internal control emerges as a crucial factor that can influence the management of fixed assets and, therefore, the company's overall performance.

This research aims to determine the relationship between internal control and fixed asset management in a textile company. The rationale for conducting this study is based on several key factors, given that fixed assets in a textile company include machinery, production facilities, and other fundamental resources that directly impact quality, efficiency, and production capacity.

Poor internal control could result in premature depreciation of assets, loss of income, and reduced competitiveness. Managing fixed assets directly affects a company's financial statements, including the balance sheet and the income statement (Escobar et al., 2023). Identifying how internal control influences this management is essential to understanding its impact on the organization's financial health (Álvarez et al., 2021).

Textile companies are often subject to specific regulations regarding production and the environment. Inadequate internal control can lead to regulatory non-compliance and possible legal sanctions, which underlines the need to understand its influence on fixed asset management. However, despite the apparent importance of the subject, academic literature and empirical studies investigating the relationship between internal control and fixed asset management in textile companies are limited. This research seeks to fill this gap and provide a solid knowledge base. Therefore, this research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how internal control can influence the management of fixed assets in textile companies, which can have significant implications for strategic and operational decision-making in this key economic sector.

State of the Art

The article's objective by Fonseca (2022) was to determine whether an internal control system affected the company's profitability. It was an applied non-experimental study using a questionnaire on a five-level scale as an instrument, with a sample of 30 workers. Thus, with a significance level of 0,028, which determined a reliability of 95,0%, the results showed significant differences (p 0,05) between the levels of internal control and the impact on profitability, with a higher percentage predominance of the level of deficient internal control (70%) and the level of efficient internal control (30%). After determining that profitability declined last year due to insufficient internal control. As part of his conclusions, he proposed an internal control system to the management team of Mi Negocio EIRL to boost productivity and organization and achieve greater profitability to reach their objectives.

The research work of Curioso & Rivas (2020) set out to analyze how internal control affects the fixed assets of industrial companies in Ate Vitarte during the year 2020. The research approach is quantitative, and it is classified as applied research with a non-experimental and descriptive-explanatory design. The study sample includes 113 workers from the 160 industrial companies in the district of Ate Vitarte. A questionnaire was used as a data collection instrument to assess internal control's influence on fixed assets reliably. The results allowed him to confirm that internal control significantly influences the fixed assets of industrial companies. The significance value p= 0,000< 0,05; therefore, it falls within the significance level; consequently, there is statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. This allowed them to conclude that internal control significantly influences the fixed assets of industrial companies in the district of Ate Vitarte. They observed that these companies have adequate control manuals and procedures that allow them to protect their assets effectively.

Internal control

Internal accounting control refers to the set of plans, methods, principles, standards, procedures, and verification and evaluation mechanisms adopted by an entity to ensure that all activities, operations, and actions, as well as the administration of information and resources, are carried out by the constitutional and legal regulations in force within the policies outlined by management and by the objectives set for a given period (Huamán, 2022). In other words, internal accounting control is a procedure that controls a company's resources and assets and keeps a record of its activity and traceability (Díaz et al., 2018). Some essential elements of internal accounting control include an organizational chart that guarantees the adequate separation of responsibilities between the different areas of the company, policies and practices of respect for personnel, and control methods for supervision and follow-up, including internal auditing (Catagua et al., 2023). The accounting system is critical in internal control since it provides the financial information for the organization and, therefore, the statements contained in the financial statements (Cumbicos et al., 2023).

Dimension: protection and safeguarding controls

Internal accounting control safeguards and protection controls are essential measures companies implement to

ensure the integrity and accuracy of their financial information and protect their assets against fraud, loss, or error. These controls include procedures such as the segregation of duties to avoid conflicts of interest and reduce the risk of embezzlement; the establishment of authorizations and approval limits for significant transactions, ensuring that important operations are reviewed and approved by appropriate personnel; the performance of regular internal and external audits, to examine and verify the accuracy of accounting records; and the implementation of physical and digital security systems to protect assets and financial information. In addition, inventory control policies and periodic bank reconciliation procedures are essential to detect and correct discrepancies promptly. These controls contribute to operational efficiency and transparency and reinforce stakeholders' confidence in the company's financial management.

Compliance checks

Compliance controls within the framework of internal accounting control focus on ensuring that the organization adheres to the internal and external laws, regulations, policies, and procedures applicable to its financial operations. These controls are designed to prevent, detect, and correct any non-compliance or deviation from tax, labor, commercial, and other regulations relevant to the business activity. They include the implementation of periodic reviews of accounting processes, the constant updating of accounting information systems to adapt to new regulations, the continuous training and education of personnel on applicable regulations, and the performance of internal audits that evaluate the effectiveness of controls and suggest improvements. These mechanisms minimize the risk of legal or financial sanctions for non-compliance and reinforce the culture of integrity and transparency within the organization, improving its reputation and relationship with investors and regulators.

Financial and accounting information controls

Financial and accounting information controls are procedures and policies designed to guarantee the accuracy, integrity, and reliability of a company's financial records and reports. These controls range from implementing computerized accounting systems with safeguards to prevent and detect errors to establishing detailed documentation policies for all financial transactions. They also include the periodic review and validation of accounting information by supervisors or internal auditors, the proper classification and recording of transactions according to generally accepted accounting principles, and preparing financial statements according to current regulations. The objective of these controls is to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is reliable and free of significant errors, thus supporting management decision-making and meeting the requirements of regulators.

Management of fixed assets

Fixed asset management is the process of tracking, supervising, and maintaining an organization's equipment and physical assets. The purpose of this is to monitor the life cycle of the assets that exist in the company, providing them with follow-up and carrying out constant maintenance of the machinery and equipment, as well as of the assets that have a physical form within the organization (Cumbicos et al., 2023). The proper management of fixed assets will make it possible to know the state of each asset, which in the long run will make it possible to detect or prevent failures, as well as to ensure that the inventory is up to date and that the regulatory standards necessary for operation can be met (Loyola-Torres et al., 2020).

It also involves tracking, supervising, and maintaining equipment, computers, vehicles, and other physical assets. This form of fixed asset and equity control allows the company to make decisions at a financial and fiscal level, adjusting the insurance premium to the actual value of the assets, controlling profits and expenses in detail by cost center, and correctly amortizing the helpful life of the assets (Catagua et al., 2023). However, it can be complex, especially for global companies or those with extensive inventories, such as a car rental company or a manufacturing multinational (Hamed, 2023; Okharedia et al., 2023). To facilitate this management, there is software specialized in the control of fixed assets and/or inventoried goods, which offers a reliable way of supervising fixed assets, including functions such as location control, work order processing, and audit trails (Loyola-Torres et al., 2020).

Physical inventory dimension

The physical inventory of fixed asset management is a crucial process that involves verifying and recording all fixed assets owned by a company, such as buildings, machinery, equipment, and vehicles, among others (Romero-Agila et al., 2021). This procedure allows the organization to ensure the accuracy of its accounting and financial records, identifying discrepancies between the accounting records and the actual physical existence of the assets. Periodic physical inventories help to detect possible losses, thefts, deterioration, or mismatches in the valuation of assets, also facilitating compliance with tax regulations and informed decision-making on acquisitions, depreciations, maintenance, or divestments. This control is essential to maintain the integrity of financial information and optimize the management of material resources (Ortega et al. 2017).

Procurement policy

Procurement policy in fixed asset management is a set of guidelines and procedures designed to guide purchasing or acquiring new fixed assets within an organization, ensuring that all acquisitions are made efficiently, economically, and in line with the company's strategic objectives (Huamán, 2022). This policy establishes clear criteria for needs assessment, supplier selection, cost-benefit analysis, and required approvals before purchasing. Furthermore, it promotes transparency and control in using financial resources, minimizing legal and financial risks by guaranteeing that all acquisitions comply with applicable legislation and the required quality standards. Implementing a sound and coherent procurement policy not only optimizes investment in fixed assets but also contributes to the organization's long-term sustainability and financial success.

Accounting department staff

The accounting staff in charge of fixed asset management plays a fundamental role in monitoring and administrating a company's long-lived material resources. These professionals are responsible for recording the acquisition, depreciation, revaluation, and disposal of fixed assets, ensuring the accounting records accurately reflect their current value and status (García-Loor, 2019). They also play an active role in developing maintenance and renovation policies, evaluating asset efficiency in terms of performance and costs, and preparing financial reports related to these assets. Their work involves rigorous attention to detail, a deep knowledge of accounting and tax regulations, and close collaboration with other departments to ensure asset management aligns with the organization's strategic objectives. The effectiveness with which they perform their duties can significantly impact the optimization of resources and the company's overall financial health.

METHOD

The research was approached with a quantitative focus, as this facilitates understanding the phenomenon within its social, cultural, and situational context. This helped to interpret and give meaning to the numerical data collected. (Hernández et al., 2014), According to the peculiar characteristics of the observed phenomenon, the internal control of the fixed asset management of a textile company in Lima, 2023.

In turn, the scope was correlational-causal, cross-sectional, and explanatory, given that it was possible to establish the relationship between two or more variables, determining the degree to which one variable can predict or be associated. For its part, the research design was non-experimental. Therefore, there was no manipulation of the study variables; they were only evaluated and observed in their natural environments, and then descriptive and inferential analyses were carried out to address the study objectives (Villasis-Keever et al., 2018).

Sample design

The population was made up of the employees of the Textile Company; according to (Villasis-Keever et al., 2018), it is a set of subjects or cases determined, limited, and easily accessible, representing the reference for the selection of the sample. In this sample, a series of attributes and criteria are gathered, which were previously established by the researcher. The sample was selected using non-probabilistic convenience sampling. Those cases that were accessible for inclusion in the study were chosen; a sub-region of the population that met the characteristics necessary to respond to the study objectives was considered (Otzen & Manterola, 2017). It was made up of 35 people from the areas of management, accounting management, and administrative assistants: management 5, accounting management: 5, accounting assistants: 8, administrative staff: 17.

Data collection techniques

First, a documentary analysis was carried out, which made it possible to identify the company's procedures and records as part of its internal control. These included reports, books, statements of account, memoranda, and all the instruments and tools used for internal control. In addition, a survey was administered to the aforementioned personnel, with a questionnaire on the internal control variable. This instrument was divided into 11 items, classified according to the variable's dimensions.

The survey comprised 16 items distributed according to the dimensions for the fixed asset management variable. In addition, a document analysis sheet and a fixed asset sheet were prepared. A Likert scale was used for the questionnaires with values assigned as: Very Good (5); Good (4); Fair (3); Bad (2); and Very Bad (1).

Information Processing

Different actions were carried out to analyze and interpret the information. First, descriptive statistical analysis was performed to establish matrices of the parameters for evaluating the sample and its dimensions, that is, to show the subjects' behavior in numerical form. This analysis was carried out using SPSS V.26 statistical software and Excel spreadsheets.

Secondly, a normality test was carried out using inferential statistics to test the study hypotheses, which determined a non-parametric distribution. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test was carried out to ensure that the study

samples were statistically representative of the population, and its p-value will be analyzed in light of the following null and alternative hypotheses.

Likewise, for the contracting of hypotheses, the coefficients of the structural model will be addressed to determine the influence of internal control in the management of a company's fixed assets. This will promote the correlative structural equation model between variables and dimensions to establish the standardized coefficients of said structural model, consequently establishing the goodness of fit indicators of the structural model to establish the degree of incidence between the variables. This was done with the statistical software Amos V.20.

RESULTS

Hypothesis test

The normality test was carried out to determine whether the data follow a normal distribution, which determined the type of non-parametric inferential statistical analysis that was used for the study. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test was carried out to ensure that the study samples are statistically representative of the population, and its p-value was analyzed in light of the following null and alternative hypotheses.

Ha=p<0,05 The data does not follow a normal distribution Ho=p>0,05 The data follow a normal distribution

Table 1. *Test for normality of the data*

	Kolmog	- ·			
	Statistician	gl	Sig.	Result	
Internal control	0,364	35	0,000	Not normal	
Internal control	0,365	35	0,000	Not normal	
Safeguarding and protection controls	0,378	35	0,000	Not normal	
Compliance controls	0,371	35	0,000	Not normal	
Financial reporting controls	0,369	35	0,000	Not normal	
Asset management	0,391	35	0,000	Not normal	
Physical inventory	0,422	35	0,000	Not normal	
Procurement policies	0,344	35	0,000	Not normal	
Accounting processes	0,427	35	0,000	Not normal	

Given that the normality test for the data in table 1 showed that the variables and the dimensions were not normal (the p-value is lower than the theoretical significance value α = 0,05), the structural equation model was used to carry out the hypothesis test using the method of estimation of the asymptotic free distribution.

Hypothesis

There is significant influence between internal control and fixed asset management in a textile company in Lima, 2023.

Specific hypotheses

H0: Internal Control does not have a significant and positive influence on the management of fixed assets of a Textile company in Lima, 2023

Ha: Internal Control has a significant and positive influence on the management of fixed assets of a Textile company in Lima 2023

Level of significance

The theoretical level of significance is set at = 0,05, which translates into a confidence interval of 95%.

Test function

To apply the structural equation model, the "free asymptotic distribution" method was used. In addition, a direct (or positive) relationship is indicated if the standardized coefficient of the two magnitudes is positive, while in the opposite case an indirect (or negative) relationship is shown).

Decision rule

If the observed significance "p" of the coefficients of the structural model is less than, Ho should be rejected. If the observed significance "p" of the coefficients of the structural model is greater than, Ho should not be rejected.

Table 2.Coefficients of the structural model of the influence of Internal Control on the management of fixed assets of a textile company in Lima, 2023

Relationship			Coefficient	Standardized coefficient	S.E.	C.R.	Sig.
F2: Asset management	<	F1: CI	1,102	0,893	0,210	12,620	***
z1: Protection and safety controls	<	F1: CI	1,000	0,860			
z2: Compliance checks	<	F1: CI	1,314	0,836	0,165	11,971	***
z3: Financial information controls	<	F1: CI	1,209	0,793	0,098	10,012	***
z4: Asset management	<	F1: Asset Management	1,153	0,930	0,870	10,263	***
m21: Physical inventory	<	F2: Asset Management	1,000	0,803			
m22: Procurement policies	<	F2: Asset Management	2,340	0,865	0,143	14,632	***
m23: Accounting processes	<	F2: Asset Management	1,462	0,942	0,154	10,984	***

^{***} Values close to zero

Table 2 shows that the AC had a highly positive effect on asset management given that it can guarantee effective and secure management of the company's assets, providing protection, efficiency, regulatory compliance, information for decision-making and risk management.

Calculations

Similarly, the four dimensions of internal control account for the variable in a unifactorial way, with standardized and positive factor loadings of 0,86, 0,83, 0,79, and 0,93.

In addition, the three asset management indicators account for the variable in a unifactorial way, with high positive standardized factor loadings (0,803, 0,865, and 0,942, respectively), showing indirect relationships between asset protection, efficiency, effectiveness, compliance with standards, the circulation of information for decision-making and risk management.

Structural model: F2=0,89xF1+e8

F1= Internal control

F2= Asset management: 0,89 = consistent with the standard error coefficient.

Measurement models:

z1=0,86xF1+e1

z2=0,83xF1+e2

z3=0,79xF1+e3

z4=0,93xF1+e4

m21=0,80xF2+e5

m22=0,86xF2+e6

m23=0,94xF2+e7

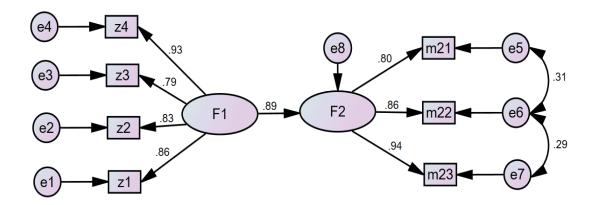
Table 3.Indicators of goodness of fit of the structural model of the influence of internal control on the management of fixed assets of a textile company in Lima, 2023

Pseudo R-squared	Fit measurement	Value	Acceptable limit *
Standardized adjustment index	NFI	0,921	≥ 0,9
Comparative adjustment index	GFI	0,732	≥ 0,9
Adjusted goodness of fit index	AGFI	0,697	≥ 0,85
Relative index of adjustment	RFI	0,672	≥ 0,9
Square root of the mean square error	RMR	0,018	≤ 0,1

^{*} Byrme, B. (2010). Structural Equation Modeling with AMOS. 2da. Ed. New York. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.

Figure 1.

Standardized coefficients of the structural model of the influence of Internal Control on the management of fixed assets of a textile company in Lima. 2023



Two of the fit indicators suggest that the estimated structural rate is tolerable to reach this conclusion. It can be concluded that internal control significantly impacts the continuous improvements evidenced by the sample considered. Thanks to the value of the standardized coefficient, the significance of 0,000 is lower than the theoretical significance of 0,05, and the directionality of 0,893 is higher.

Likewise, the impact of the IC on asset management and the contribution of each dimension are observed. Internal control contributes 86% to the management of company assets, protection and safeguarding controls contribute 84%, compliance controls contribute 79%, and information controls contribute 93%. In addition, the contributions to asset management in the participants' perception are shown as physical inventory at 80%, procurement policies at 87%, and accounting processes at 94%.

DISCUSSION

The application of the structural equation model in this research was an appropriate choice given the lack of normality in the data, as evidenced in the normality test. The hypotheses suggest that internal control can significantly and positively influence the management of fixed assets in textile companies in Lima, 2023. According to the established decision rule, the null hypothesis is rejected if the observed significance (p-value) is less than the theoretical significance level (α = 0,05), indicating a statistically significant relationship between the variables.

The results supported this idea by demonstrating that internal control significantly impacted asset management, providing protection, efficiency, regulatory compliance, information for decision-making, and risk management. The standardized and positive factor loadings of internal control and asset management dimensions indicate a direct and positive relationship between these variables. In this sense, Escobar et al. (2023) point out that it can be affirmed that adequate compliance with internal control has a direct impact on the profitability of service companies. Based on the review and analysis of research, it is confirmed that effective and well-executed internal control contributes positively to the profitability of companies, which in turn ensures the economic stability of the organization. Furthermore, the high contribution percentages of each dimension of internal control to asset management underline the importance of continuously implementing sound internal control practices to improve asset management in textile companies. These findings highlight the fundamental role of internal control in optimizing fixed asset management, which can lead to significant improvements in operational efficiency and business performance in the textile sector in Lima, 2023.

Internal control is a comprehensive process applied by an organization's management and staff designed to effectively address and manage the risks of achieving its objectives. This concept is fundamental in managing fixed assets within textile companies, where investment in machinery, facilities, and other fixed assets is considerable and critical to operational and financial success.

In the context of textile companies, internal control over fixed assets ranges from their acquisition and use to their disposal. The correct implementation of internal control policies and procedures ensures that fixed assets are acquired efficiently, used effectively, and maintained properly to extend their useful life and maximize the company's value.

A crucial aspect of internal control in the textile sector is risk management. This includes identifying, assessing, and mitigating the risks associated with theft, misuse, obsolescence, and damage to fixed assets. Applying adequate controls, such as periodic inventories and the implementation of monitoring systems, helps minimize these risks and ensures the accuracy of accounting records.

Technology plays a fundamental role in improving the textile industry's internal control of fixed assets. Enterprise

resource planning (ERP) systems and other technological tools allow for the integration and automation of processes, facilitating the efficient management of fixed assets from acquisition to disposal. These technologies provide real-time data, improving decision-making and responsiveness to deviations or irregularities.

In the current scenario, sustainability and corporate social responsibility have become essential components of internal control in textile companies. This involves ensuring that the acquisition and management of fixed assets are carried out in a way that minimizes environmental impact and promotes fair labor practices. Implementing internal control practices that consider these aspects reflects the company's commitment to sustainability and can improve its reputation and brand value.

The regulatory environment also significantly influences fixed asset management in the textile sector. Companies must comply with local and international regulations related to safety, quality, the environment, and accounting. An effective internal control system ensures that the company not only complies with these regulations but is also prepared to adapt to future regulatory changes, minimizing legal and financial risks.

Staff training and commitment are fundamental to the success of internal control in fixed asset management. Management must ensure that staff understand the importance of internal controls and are adequately trained to implement them. This includes training in the correct use of assets, the importance of keeping accurate records, and knowledge of policies and procedures related to fixed assets.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, by using the structural equation model and applying hypothesis tests, it was possible to determine whether internal control significantly influences fixed asset management in textile companies in Lima in 2023. The results of this study offer a deeper understanding of the relationship between these key variables and provide valuable information for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of fixed asset management in the textile sector. In addition, it highlights the importance of implementing sound internal control practices to optimize asset management and promote business success in this sector.

Furthermore, internal control plays a vital role in fixed asset management in the textile industry, directly affecting the company's operational efficiency, profitability, and sustainability. As the sector evolves, adaptation and innovation in internal control practices will be key to meeting challenges and taking advantage of opportunities, ensuring long-term growth and competitiveness.

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FINANCING

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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