

ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the influence of financial autonomy and the effectiveness of the Internal Control System on the number of audit findings in Indonesian Public Higher Education. The research used 51 Audit Reports published by BPK RI during the 2015–2024 period and analyzed the data using multiple linear regression. The results show that financial autonomy does not have a negative effect on the number of audit findings. The effectiveness of the Internal Control System has been proven to have a negative effect on the number of audit findings. The implications of this research indicate that increased financial autonomy has not been consistently converted into increased accountability. Internal control is the main determinant in maintaining compliance and quality of public higher education financial management. The organizational complexity factor also contributed positively to the number of findings, reflecting governance challenges at institutions with extensive academic structures. These results support agency theory and the concept of autonomy with accountability and provide practical implications for public higher education and policy makers to further strengthen internal control capabilities in order to reduce audit findings.

Keywords: *financial autonomy, public higher education, internal control, audit findings.*

