





Presenting an Audit Quality Model Based on Fraud Indicators to Reduce Money Laundering Activities

Narges. Hoseinaei¹, Habibollah. Nakhaei^{2*}, Zohreh. Hajiha³, Karim. Nakhaei²


¹ PhD student in Accounting, Birjand Branch, Islamic Azad University, Birjand, Iran

² Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting, Birjand Branch, Islamic Azad University, Birjand, Iran



³ Full Professor, Department of Accounting, Tehran South Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: hnakhaei@iaubir.ac.ir

Editor

Florence DiGennaro Reed
Professor in the Department of
Applied Behavioral Science,
University of Kansas, US
fdreed@ku.edu

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Manijeh Haghhighinasab
Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran
Email: haghhighinasab@srbiau.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Mehrdad Bayat
Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Payam Noor University, Tehran,
Iran.
Email: bayatmehrdad60@pnu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the sentence "Money laundering has garnered international attention due to its negative repercussions on economies and financial institutions worldwide" is too broad. Consider specifying the exact negative repercussions mentioned in the cited references to provide a clearer context.

In the paragraph describing the qualitative sample, the phrase "16 experts selected using the saturation principle" should be expanded to explain how saturation was determined and why this number was considered adequate.

The methodology mentions "semi-structured interviews" but does not detail the key questions asked. Including a summary of the interview guide or an appendix with sample questions would improve transparency.

The quantitative section notes, "200 questionnaires were distributed, and 185 were collected." Specify the response rate and discuss any potential bias introduced by non-respondents.

The section on the reliability and validity of tools describes various tests used but does not provide the actual values obtained for Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability, AVE, etc. Including these values in a table would enhance clarity.

For the qualitative data analysis, it is stated that "the data analysis method in the qualitative section was thematic analysis using Maxqda 2022 software." Provide an overview of the coding process and how themes were derived.

In Table 3, the factor loadings are presented, but there is no discussion on how these loadings were interpreted. Adding a brief discussion on the significance of the loadings and how they were used to confirm the constructs would be useful.

The conclusion summarizes the findings but lacks a strong statement on the contribution of the study to the field. Explicitly state how this research advances knowledge on audit quality and money laundering.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction does not clearly state the research gap. The statement "After reviewing domestic and international research literature it was found that this topic had not been addressed in previous studies" should be followed by specific examples of what has been addressed and what remains unexplored.

The literature review section references studies on audit quality and money laundering but lacks a synthesis of how these studies interrelate. Adding a summary table of key findings from the literature could enhance comprehension and highlight gaps.

The methodology section states, "The research method was applied in terms of purpose and mixed (qualitative-quantitative) of an exploratory type." It would be beneficial to provide a rationale for choosing a mixed-method approach and how it strengthens the study.

The statement "Goodness of Fit Index (GOF) was calculated at 0.599" needs more context. Compare this value to accepted thresholds in the literature to substantiate that the model fit is indeed "good."

The findings section states, "The research findings showed that audit quality variables based on fraud indicators...impacting the reduction of money laundering activities." Include a discussion on the practical implications of these findings for auditors and policymakers.

The path coefficients mentioned (e.g., 0.291 for pressure) are significant, but the manuscript should explain what these coefficients practically imply for audit quality and money laundering.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.