

# The Effect of Disclosure and Transparency Criteria In Saudi Banks on The Financial Ratios Indicators

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## ABSTRACT

The study aimed to measure the effect of applying the disclosure and transparency standards criteria adopted by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority on improving performance indicators in the Saudi banking sector, by measuring the extent of the impact of the bank's financial indicators represented by liquidity, profitability and return on assets in Saudi banks by applying the criteria of disclosure and transparency, which is one of the Main principles in the list of governance, which was approved by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority. The analytical approach was followed to achieve the goal of the study, as the financial statements of Saudi banks were analyzed during a period of 8-year to test four hypotheses related to measuring the presence of statistically significant differences between the performance indicators of banks before and after applying the disclosure and transparency standards imposed on Saudi banks. The results of the research confirmed the existence of an inverse relationship between the bank's liquidity and the percentage of Saudi banks' profits. The more liquidity, the lower the profitability level of banks, which indicates that the high liquidity in Saudi banks has led to a low profitability in this time period, and the study recommended that The need to pay attention to the concept of disclosure and transparency among all related parties in Saudi banks, and banks should find a balance between liquidity and profitability

**Keyword's:** Disclosure and Transparency, Saudi Arabia Banks, Financial Ratio Indicators, Return on Assets, cash flow ratio .



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### **1. Introduction :**

The wide prior international literature focused on corporate governance codes started from finding out what exactly constitutes convergence, trying to establish the major impediments that are standing in its way, finally looking for empirical evidence to prove that codes are moving towards or away from convergence <sup>1</sup>. Thus, many researches interested on this topic have been wondering if will ever exist convergence in corporate governance systems. Because Anglo-American model of corporate governance was considered to be “the winner”<sup>2</sup>, everyone expected to find substantial convergence toward it, being often used as a term of comparison

here has been a lot of research on the issue of corporate transparency, analyzing the costs and benefits that the higher degree of transparency generates to a company and its shareholders. Starting from the value maximization proposition, the prevailing line of thought is that disclosure is beneficial from the point of view of company valuation, although these findings are based on different grounds: lower investors’ uncertainty <sup>3</sup> increased market interest, better protection of investor rights<sup>4</sup>; lower cost of capital <sup>5</sup> etc. Lai, Liu, and Wang (2014) find that increased disclosure reduces information asymmetry, which induces managers to act in the best interest of shareholders, and increases the overall efficiency of investments made on the capital market.<sup>6</sup>

On the other hand, research on a sample of Australian companies showed no relationship between the quality and sustainability of a firm’s transparency and its default risk, i.e., its cost of external financing. Enhanced transparency creates unsolicited pressure on the managers whose work is monitored more closely by the market. the controlling shareholders lose their informational advantage and thus the appeal of their position weakens, and it also increases the costs to the initial owners in case of a future sale of the business.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to the vision of 2030, banks are an important part of the Saudi economic system. banks play the role of financial intermediary between investors and savers in order to achieve returns for both shareholders and commercial banks differ from Islamic banks in terms of the nature of deposits and in terms of the uses of those funds and the methods of their use<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Yoshikawa, T. and Rasheed, A. A. (2009).

<sup>2</sup> Hansmann, H. & Kraakman, R. (2004),

<sup>3</sup> Durnev & Kim, 2005; Hail, 2002; Healy, Hutton, & Palepu, 1999

<sup>4</sup> Bebchuk, Cohen, & Ferrell, 2009; Östberg, 2006

<sup>5</sup> Botosan, 2006; Frost, Gordon, & Pownall, 2005,

<sup>6</sup> Lai, S., Liu, C., & Wang, T. (2014).

<sup>7</sup> Masaedeh , saeed 2007



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From this point of view, the extent of the ability of disclosure and transparency standards in banks in the Saudi Arabia to indicators of financial ratios will be discussed and analyzed through the financial statements of banks in Saudi Arabia and knowledge of the effects of financial indicators and financial ratios on the financial performance of banks

### **2. Research Problem**

Based on what has been explained above, the problem of the study is to measure the impact of disclosure and transparency standards on improving financial performance in the banking sector in the Saudi Arabia, by measuring the extent of the impact of the financial indicators of Saudi banks after applying the criteria for disclosure and transparency

#### **2.1 Research Questions:**

- What is banks' disclosure and transparency standards?
- What About disclosure and transparency Criteria approved by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency?
- What is the banking financial indicators?
- What is the percentage of the financial impact of Saudi banks before and after applying the disclosure and transparency criteria?

#### **2.2 Research Hypothesis :**

- 1- There are no statistically significant differences between the percentage of net profit margin before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria
- 2- There are no statistically significant differences between the cash flow ratio before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria
- 3- There are no statistically significant differences between the cash balance ratio before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria
- 4- There are no statistically significant differences between the rate of return on the assets before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria

#### **2.3 Importance of Research**

Each society considers the banking sector one of the most important major economic sectors, and collecting and allocating money in the proper way and injecting them into industries are among the main functions in which banks play an important role as the economic situation can be measured according to the status of the banking system of the community, by methods and mechanisms that are extremely important. It contributes to achieving its goals through the Sharia Supervisory Board that controls the work of the bank in all its stages with high transparency and disclosure that achieves the legal commitment in the performance of banking operations and in the management of business within the bank.



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Three topics will be discussed in this research, which are as follows :1)concept of disclosure and transparency 2)clarification of the concept of important financial indicators and ratios in the banking sector3) clarification of the forms of application of disclosure and transparency in Saudi banks in accordance with the regulations approved in the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency

### **2.4 Research Limitation**

- Availability of Data for some years.

### **2.5 Research Period**

Research Period: from 2010 Till 2017

Research Place: Saudi Arabia Banks Sector

## **3.Literature Review and Related Studies and Theoretical framework:-**

### **3.1. : -Transparency and Disclosure :-**

Transparency: is the extent to which investors have ready access to required financial information about a company such as price levels, market depth and audited financial reports. Transparency helps reduce price volatility because all market participants can base decisions of value on the same data. Companies also have a strong motivation to provide disclosure because transparency is rewarded by the stock's performance. Because investor decisions are based on financial reports, the reports should be as transparent as possible. For example, assume two companies have similar leverage, market capitalization, market risk exposure, earnings and return on capital. One company operates with transparency concerning its financial reports while the other company runs multiple businesses with complex financial reports. Investors are more likely to invest in the first company because they can easily understand the company's fundamentals and the risks involved. A strong indicator of future growth is how a business invests its money. When an investor cannot find information stating where a company invests, the investor is less likely to invest in the business. Opaque financial statements may hide a company's debt level, and the business could be facing insolvency.<sup>8</sup>

Disclosure:- refers to the act of releasing all relevant information on a company that may influence an investment decision—making public both positive and negative news, data, and other details about its operations, or that impact its operations, in a timely fashion. Similar to disclosure in the law, the concept is that, in the interest of fairness, all parties should have equal access to the same set of facts.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.investopedia.com/>

<sup>9</sup> Same previous reference



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### 3.2 Financial Ratios Indicators: -

The concept of financial performance means that all operations through which a set of qualitative and quantitative standards and indicators are emerging around the activity of economic projects that contribute to determining the importance of financial and operational activities for that project are done by extracting information from the financial statements and other sources to use these indicators to evaluate Financial performance for financial institutions and companies. The financial ratios can also be defined as a set of indicators used to transfer the entity's financial statements through which highlights potential problems that exist in the economic unit listings<sup>10</sup>

Achieving financial performance assessment goals is linked to several financial indicators by extracting information from the main sources aiming at arriving at a financial analysis clarifying the economic position of the establishment. Where financial analysis means that it is an organized process to process available data, the aim of which is to obtain information that helps in the decision-making process and in assessing the financial performance of economic units. Through this analysis, the future can be predicted, knowledge of the state of the economic unit.<sup>11</sup>

The financial ratios can be classified according to the nature of the activity into a different groups according to its different branches as follows:

- Activity ratios: They can be called turnover ratios or asset management ratios, and they are one of the best ratios that measure the efficiency of employees 'performance and their ability to manage these assets. Among the most important activity ratios are the inventory turnover rate, which represents the number of times the inventory rotation during the financial period and the rate of turnover of fixed assets, an important indicator in clarifying the efficiency of managing fixed assets and finally the asset turnover rate.<sup>12</sup>
- Debit Ratio:- It is also known as the ratios of financial leverage and debt management. These ratios are concerned with knowing the size of long-term debt and the extent of the contribution of these debts to the formation of capital. These ratios are the ratio of total debt to total assets and the ratio of long-term debt to total assets that exclude current liabilities because they are not considered among the Sources of long-term financing, ownership ratio and interest coverage rate<sup>13</sup>
- Market Ratios: They are the ratios that evaluate the market for a company's performance. The ratios are the return on the ordinary share, the multiple of the share price, the book value per share and the ratio of the market book value is

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<sup>10</sup> Matar, Ghassan Falah. (2003).

<sup>11</sup> Shamaa Khalil, Abdullah Khaled Amin. (1990). 0

<sup>12</sup> Abbasa 2008

<sup>13</sup> Same reference



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the indicators that serve the investors and their knowledge of the extent to which the common stock achieves profitability<sup>14</sup>

- Liquidity ratios:- are used to judge affirms ability to meet short term obligations<sup>15</sup>

- Profitability ratios :These ratio reflects the bank's efficiency in making its investment and financial decisions, as one of the goals of banks is to achieve the highest profit return through good profit management. There are a group of ratios related to measuring the profitability ratio, which is as follows: the ratio of return on assets, as there is a direct relationship between the total return with the size of the assets invested, the rate of return on property rights represented by the extent of the exploitation of the funds of the owned banks, their ability to generate profits from them, the rate of return on the invested money and the percentage of the total Profit to sales and the percentage of return on sales<sup>16</sup>

### **3.3 Forms of application of disclosure and transparency Criteria in Saudi banks:**

General Directorate of Banking Control in Saudi Arabia Monetary Authority (SAMA) issued a set of instructions to implement the principle of disclosure and transparency for Saudi banks, as follows: -<sup>17</sup>

- The disclosure and transparency principle shall be applied on all operations and activities of the bank. The Board shall publish all financial and non-financial information which concerns depositors, shareholders, investors, market dealers; such information shall be provided to regulatory and supervisory entities and other concerned parties.
- The Board shall provide officials with comprehensive information which could assist them in identifying the future trends and strategic plans of the bank
- The bank should disclose the information that concerns depositors, investors and shareholders, through the annual report of the bank, website or via an appropriate channel. Type and nature of information published shall be in line with the size and activities of the bank
- Disclosure should include, in all cases, the following matters:
  - a. The entities and parties with share ownership in the bank.
  - b. The Board of Directors and its committees.
  - c. Detailed information of compensations paid to the Chairman and members of the Board of Directors in addition to executives whose appointment requires no-objection by SAMA, without giving their names.

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<sup>14</sup> Same reference

<sup>15</sup> Ramadan 2000

<sup>16</sup> Alrabee , rade 2011

<sup>17</sup> General Directorate of Banking Control , Principles of Corporate Governance for Banks Operating in Saudi Arabia , 3-2014



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- d. Information on the system of financial compensation and incentive policy.
- e. Internal control framework.
- f. Ethical and professional principles of the banks' staff.
- g. Information on any transaction with related parties and any transaction involving conflict of interest, if any, and the policies governing them.
- h. Plans and strategic trends of the bank, especially prominent developments concerning take-over, merger, or establishment of subsidiaries.
- i. Principles applied by the bank in the area of Corporate Governance.
- J. Bank's credit ratings by international credit rating agencies

### **3.4 Literature Review:-**

- Cristina Alexandrina, 2011 , Disclosure and transparency in corporate governance codes - comparative analysis with prior literature findings,

The purpose of this study is to compare empirical findings related to the level of disclosure ensured by corporate governance codes in force in European Union member states, by referring in this respect to OECD principles, with prior related research results. The comparative analysis is justified by the fact that our paper approached corporate governance form transparency and disclosure perspective, using other framework for comparison and a different methodology for measuring the disclosure level (Jaccard's similarity coefficient) than those used in previous studies (Latent Semantic Analysis technique or the Leximetric one). The comparative analysis performed considered various features of corporate governance codes already studied, such as their issuer type or country's legal regime. The research methodology used for achieving our goal is based on econometric analysis using various statistical tools, like descriptive analysis, mainly based on computing means, and correlations for identifying the relationship between our results and those of others researchers. The results of the performed analysis reveal that our empirical results, providing a disclosure index developed for all European Union member states, are not consistent with prior research findings related to disclosure as "primary theme" of corporate governance codes. On the other hand, by analysis these codes considering their issuer type have reached to the same conclusion as other researchers interested on this same topic. Thus, those codes issued in collaboration of several institutions, coming from various economic fields, reached the highest level of disclosure, while those developed by industry or trade associations and groups proved to be the less interested in transparency. Similar was the conclusion reached after comparing the level of disclosure in corporate governance codes by



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grouping them according to countries' legal regimes. The most relevant result in this respect is that Common law regime ensures the highest level of transparency through corporate governance requirements. Finally, we can assert that the compliance of corporate governance codes with OECD principles is consistent with prior research findings related to disclosure considering codes' issuer type and countries' legal regime Kasas , Shareef. (2017). *The Impact of Governance Application on Improving the Performance of the Algerian Banking System.*

It aimed to know and analyze the effect resulting from the application of corporate governance to banks in improving performance in Islamic banks in Algeria through the use of the Return on Assets and Return on Private Funds indicators between 2002 and 2010. The researcher relied in her study on the descriptive method of analysis regarding the concept of financial performance in banks, and she reached a set of results, the most important of which is the high capital ratio with high financial indicators when applying governance in the Algerian bank. The study recommended the necessity of creating a strong legal environment that suits international requirements, which in turn contributes to improving the financial performance of Islamic banks in Algeria. It aimed to know and analyze the impact of the application of governance on banks in improving performance in Islamic banks in Algeria through the use of the return on assets and return on private funds indicators In the period between 2002 to 2010. The researcher relied in her study on the descriptive method of analysis regarding the concept of financial performance in banks, and she reached a set of results, the most important of which is the high capital ratio with high financial indicators when applying governance in the Algerian bank. The study recommended the necessity of creating a strong legal environment that suits international requirements, which in turn contributes to improving the financial performance of Islamic banks in Algeria

Srairi Samir. (2015). *Corporate Governance Disclosure Practices and Performance of Islamic Banks in GCC Countries.*

aimed to know the extent of the impact of the level of corporate governance disclosure on the performance of banks by establishing a corporate governance disclosure index for 27 Islamic banks operating in five Arab Gulf countries. And using the analytical method that contains the annual reports of banks for a period of 3 years (2011-2013), and the results showed that Islamic banks adhere to 54% of the features covered in this indicator as they are one of the most important elements that are reported and disclosed in the Sharia Supervisory Board Then the structure of the board of directors and risk management The results related to the Gulf countries revealed that only two countries, the United



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Arab Emirates and Bahrain, have a higher level of initiative and provide regression results that are evidence that Islamic banks have higher levels of corporate governance disclosure through the performance indicator I measured the high return on assets and return on equity.

### **4. Statistical Analysis**

This study was adopted in assessing the financial performance of Saudi banks for the years (2010-2017), through a comparison of the average financial performance indicators of the banks under study before and after the criteria for disclosure and transparency and for the same indicators. The financial ratios were extracted by calculating the average for financial performance indicators and for the same years under consideration For all banks representing the same activity as the banks of the study sample, namely: the study community include all banks in Saudi, which are twelve banks, Alinma, the National Commercial Bank, the first bank, the Saudi Investment Bank, Al Rajhi Bank, Riyadh Bank, the Saudi French Bank, Al Bilad Bank, Al Jazira Bank, Bank Samba, SABB, Arab National Bank

Data was collected for the 12 banks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by entering the Tadawul website and the Arqaam website to obtain the financial statements of those banks and knowing the final reports issued by the banks at the end of the fiscal year

the financial statements of these banks will be studied to find out their commitment to the criteria for disclosure and transparency in their financial statements for eight years (4 years before applying disclosure and transparency and 4 Years after the application disclosure and transparency)

### **4.1 Answers of Questions and Quantitative and descriptive analysis:**

**Table (1) Statistical Analysis<sup>18</sup>**

ITEM	Average	T.Test	Sig.	Correlation
net profit margin before implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	14%	0.35	0.797	0.51
net profit margin after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	13%			

<sup>18</sup> Table (1) Statistical Analysis analyzed by researcher



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The results shown in Table (1) indicate that the probable value of sig between the net profit margin ratio in Saudi banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria under study is 0.797 which is higher than the value 0.05 and therefore we reject the alternative hypothesis and accept the null hypothesis and say that there are no statistically significant differences between the Net profit margin In banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria

Table (2) Statistical Analysis<sup>19</sup>

ITEM	Average	T.Test	Sig.	Correlation
Cash Flow Ratio before implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	18%	3.41-	0.003	0.781
Cash Flow Ratio after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	24%			

The results shown in Table (2) indicate that the probable value of sig between the Cash Flow Ratio in Saudi banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria under study is 0.003 which is lower than the value 0.05 and therefore Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and will accept the alternative hypothesis and say that there are statistically significant differences between the Cash Flow Ratio In banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria

<sup>19</sup> Table (2) Statistical Analysis analyzed by researcher



## The Effect of Disclosure and Transparency Criteria In Saudi Banks on The Financial Ratios Indicators

**Table (3) Statistical Analysis <sup>20</sup>**

ITEM	Average	T.Test	Sig.	Correlation
Cash Balance Ratio before implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	22%	1.741	0.057	0.405
Cash Balance Ratio after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	19.1%			

The results shown in Table (3) indicate that the probable value of sig between the Cash Balance Ratio in Saudi banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria under study is 0.057 which is higher than the value 0.05 and therefore we reject the alternative hypothesis and accept the null hypothesis and say that there are no statistically significant differences between the Cash balance Ratio In banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria

**Table (4) Statistical Analysis <sup>21</sup>**

ITEM	Average	T.Test	Sig.	Correlation
Rate of Return on Assets before implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	1.85%	-1.984	0.081	0.371
Rate of Return on Assets after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria	1.91%			

<sup>20</sup> Table (3) Statistical Analysis analyzed by researcher

<sup>21</sup> Table (4) Statistical Analysis analyzed by researcher



## The Effect of Disclosure and Transparency Criteria In Saudi Banks on The Financial Ratios Indicators

The results shown in Table (4) indicate that the probable value of sig between the Rate of Return on Assets in Saudi banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria under study is 0.081 which is higher than the value 0.05 and therefore we reject the alternative hypothesis and accept the null hypothesis and say that there are no statistically significant differences between the Rate of Return on Assets In banks before and after implementation disclosure and transparency criteria

### **5. Empirical results**

- There was no statistically significant effect of the criteria of disclosure and transparency on all study variables, except for the variable of the cash balance ratio, and this is logical because the standards of disclosure and transparency require the presence of cash balances covering any additional risks that the bank may be exposed to it.
- The results of the research confirmed the existence of an inverse relationship between the bank liquidity and the percentage of profits of Saudi banks, as the more liquidity the less will be the level of profitability of banks

### **6. Recommendations**

- The need for banks to pay attention to disclosure and transparency criteria as they fall within the guidelines of corporate governance imposed by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority in a compulsory manner for banks to ensure the efficiency of their work and the separation of their functions and authorities for top management.
- Saudi banks must balance the size of cash liquidity and profitability factors, as excessive liquidity in an exaggerated manner may affect the profitability and progress of Saudi banks

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## The Effect of Disclosure and Transparency Criteria In Saudi Banks on The Financial Ratios Indicators

### أثر معايير الإفصاح والشفافية في البنوك السعودية على مؤشرات النسب المالية للبنوك السعودية

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#### الملخص

هدفت الدراسة إلى قياس أثر تطبيق معايير الإفصاح والشفافية المعتمدة من مؤسسة النقد العربي السعودي على تحسين مؤشرات الأداء في قطاع البنوك السعودية، وذلك من خلال قياس مدى تاثر المؤشرات المالية للبنك ممثلة بالسيولة والربحية والعائد على الموجودات في المصارف السعودية بتطبيق مبدأ الإفصاح والشفافية والذي يعتبر من المبادئ الرئيسية في لائحة الحوكمة والتي تم اعتمادها من مؤسسة النقد العربي السعودي. وقد تم اتباع المنهج التحليلي لتحقيق هدف الدراسة حيث تم تحليل بيانات القوائم المالية للبنوك السعودية خلال فترة 8 سنوات لاختبار أربعة فرضيات مرتبطة بقياس وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بين مؤشرات الأداء للبنوك قبل وبعد تطبيق معايير الإفصاح والشفافية المفروضة على البنوك السعودية. وأكدت نتائج البحث وجود علاقة عكسية بين سيولة البنك ونسبة أرباح البنوك السعودية، فكلما زادت السيولة كلما كان مستوى ربحية البنوك أقل، مما يدل على أن حجم السيولة العالية في البنوك السعودية قد أدى إلى أن تكون الربحية منخفضة في هذه الفترة الزمنية، وقد أوصت الدراسة على ضرورة الاهتمام بمفهوم الإفصاح والشفافية لدى كافة الأطراف ذات العلاقة في البنوك السعودية، كما وينبغي على البنوك إيجاد معادلة موازنة ما بين السيولة والربحية

**المصطلحات الرئيسية للبحث / الإفصاح والشفافية ، البنوك السعودية ، مؤشرات النسب المالية ، العائد على الموجودات ، نسبة السيولة النقدية ، التدفق النقدي**