



**THE EFFECT OF FORENSIC ACCOUNTING ON
FRAUD PREVENTION, THE MODERATING ROLE
INTERNAL CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS**

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Abstract

A profession in the corporate world, regulatory bodies, and structured finance are becoming more interested in effective internal control to prevent fraud. So, the foremost goal of this research will be to come up with a model to show how impactful forensic accounting is in the intense attention to rigid internal control in the Iraqi context. This article also uses an inductive quantitative research approach to obtain the data, and 230 responses were received from employees working for 110 Iraqi companies, all registered on the Iraqi Stock Exchange. This study used SPSS, a statistical package for study areas, and Smart PLS 3.3 to test hypotheses. The research reveals that the instrumentation of forensic accounting, such as forensic accounting competence and proactive fraud auditing, has a significant impact on fraud prevention in Iraq. Nevertheless, the results show that forensic accounting techniques don't considerably affect its use. Besides that, there seems to be an explanation - based on verification that internal control challenges processes appear negatively to mitigate the effects of community engagement for forensic accounting and fraud prevention in an organization. On account of this, Effective internal control practice enhances the forensic accounting and fraud prevention link.

Keywords: forensic accounting, competence, Techniques, proactive fraud auditing, effective internal control

INTRODUCTION

Fraud is a global problem in the overall business, particularly in nations confronting financial crises or undergoing financial troubles. It is seen as a highly complicated phenomenon that influences all of the economy's main metrics. Perversion and financial fraud have caused massive devastation to businesses all around the world (Toms, 2019; Yusoff et al., 2015). Fraud has a significant detrimental influence on developing countries, particularly Iraq, where it has been a limitless and ongoing challenge. On the other hand, financial frauds led to massive economic collapse, controversies, and the bankruptcy of numerous companies and large businesses. Many under-emerging countries and developing, such as Enron, WorldCom, Xerox, Kmart, and others (Othman, 2015; Tom, 2019).

Therefore, specialization in scam and forensic accounting is required by some of the world's most deceitful businesses and government bodies. Knavery and forensic accounting skills were first published in realms with a lot of money. In Canada (USA), the UK, France, and Australia, the majority of people who have been living there for a long time have added fraud and forensic accounting to their existing accounting frameworks (Hegazy et al., 2017; Peltier-

Rivest & Pacini, 2019: Hossain, 2018). existing accounting in underdeveloped countries under the current framework of their firms demonstrate far less understanding, competencies, and capacities in fraud protection, mitigation, and disincentive than professionals from advanced countries (Azudin & Mansor, 2018: Zhatkin et al., 2017). Heretofore, accounting competencies and practice regarded fraud prevention as a paramount consideration (Meador, 2017: Webster, 2019). However, the fiasco of historic auditing scandals dragged Enron, Arthur Andersen, and WorldCom to their falls, forever altering accounting practices worldwide. Additionally, increased allegations of financial fraud (e.g., Enron, WorldCom, Global Crossing, Adelphia, Sunbeam, Cendant, Lucent, Rite Aid, Waste Management, and Micro Strategy) had also raised significant doubts about the corporate accounting process's honesty and trustworthiness (Jones & Stanton, 2021: Gale, 2017: Church et al., 2019).

Consequently, forensic accounting has evolved as a critical technique in combatting accounting fraud. Moreover, the implementation of forensic accounting facilitates the prohibition of criminal conduct, which increases business efficiency and fosters actual work conditions. Nevertheless, it should be cited that there always exists a shortage of forensic accounting techniques. As a result, the main features of forensic accounting technique as a branch of the accounting line of work are it is mission-critical and is the cross-disciplinary technique of all those who specialize in this sector (Ejoh, 2017: Godwin et al., 2018: Yusoff et al., 2021).

Likewise, The Proactive Fraud Audit, developed in finance institutions, complements a thorough audit process by requiring auditors to seek evidence and evaluate the data acquired to uncover possibly fraudulent activity. Consequently, one element that contributes to the emergence of fraud is the absence of proactive fraud audit processes as a strategy for preventing fraud. The audit, which can be done in conjunction with a person's or companies significant knowledge handling current funds, can quickly reveal even if there isn't a deception threat (Atmadja et al., 2019: Suastawan et al., 2017: Yusoff et al., 2015).

Furthermore, the effectiveness of internal controls gives rise to the avoidance of fraudulent activity and businesses that report false accounting reports. Many different procedures, guidelines, and projects are used to ensure that funds are better protected, fraud is prevented, and financial information is precise and authentic. Internal control should be done well to avoid fraud. Internal control proposals should be crafted and put into place by a company to avoid using them (Luikko, 2017: Chen et al., 2018).

Following a review of scams and other worrisome actions, institutions have implemented ways to cut down on the numeral of instances that are fraudulent around the world. However, because there isn't a lot of robust internal control, forensic accounting for fraud prevention processes is assumed to be the most important way to stop fraud. For this reason, this article

wants to add more studies on fraud prevention to the current forensic accounting investigation. As well, it's worth noting that a lack of internal control includes the old techniques that keep their staff members from correctly preventing fraud (Rahim et al., 2017; Godwin et al., 2018; Atmadja et al., 2019).

Accordingly, the chief intent of this investigation is to determine and quantify how increased knowledge of forensic accounting techniques and background may aid in the identification and prevention of financial fraud and abuse in Iraq.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND HYPOTHESES

As Othman (2015) says, fraud is a big problem around the global economy when managing money or a global crisis. It's when people in charge of taking assets and not having purchases get them illegally in any way. Organizational scams, unauthorized business ventures, and bad organizational management all fall under the phrase "fraud and corruptions." So, fraud is "a deliberate behavior by one individual to misguide other people to gain authority of their money or even other aspects for one's benefit." (Tom, 2019; Mbugua, 2020). Therefore, Forensic accounting is regarded as a modern procedure to prohibit fraud.

Forensic accounting and fraud prevention

Gradually, there has been a significant emergence in many illegal financial activities, especially in the locations of fraud and manipulation. High- and low-income establishments worldwide have to deal with this issue. Due to these prominent main reasons, Forensic accounting has become a vital factor in resolving this issue (Daniels et al., 2013). Forensic accounting is a part of forensic science that looks at a company's financial records to see if there will be a fraud. Many things can happen, like misappropriation of funds, malfeasance, robbery, tax evasion, and inaccurate financial reporting. Consequently, forensic accounting is a perfect way to look through all kinds of financial crimes (Ashbaugh-Skaife et al 2008; Davis et al., 2010).

H1 There is a positive relationship between Forensic accounting and fraud prevention.

Forensic accounting competency and fraud prevention

Hence, the phrase "forensic accounting" relates to an individual who gave testimony in the trial about what he regards roughly a lawsuit. For example, forensic accounting should know the proof rules when there is a conflict about money in court (Godwin et al 2018; Eze, 2019). This should show that the individual in charge of all the substance and documents did so for care, so a complete set of important information was kept. During the next step, the person who

did the accounting must be ready to make a formal statement that is clear, honest, and convincing (Gligorić, 2017: Rahim et al., 2017).

H1a There is a positive relationship between Forensic accounting competency and fraud prevention.

Forensic accounting Techniques and fraud prevention

Furthermore, a lot of conduct research has talked about how important it is for accountants to do the forensic technique. As a result, forensic accounting is often called in to testify in lawsuits about accounting information and the financial sector (Bartulovic et al., 2017, Davis et al., 2020). This means that understanding the complicated, thus being prepared to describe your viewpoints in a certain way, is very important to the success of forensic accounting. Besides that, process data, tracking, reasoning abilities, and efficient internal documents were all-important techniques for a forensic accountant. Also, fraud prevention and witness statements were designed to assist forensic accountants in learning more about how to analyze and evaluate accounting transactions (Carnes and Gierlasinski, 2001: Gbegi et al., 2014).

H1b There is a positive relationship between Forensic accounting Techniques and fraud prevention.

Proactive fraud audit and fraud prevention

Typically, a fraud audit begins when a whistleblower discloses financial fraud or if the investigators are sufficiently crucial for identifying a deception via a study of economic activities. This kind of fraud auditing, dubbed proactive fraud auditing, begins with recognizing suspected fraud. However, if a scam is permitted to continue to exist for an extended period, the scale of the fraud increases, the likelihood of retrieval decreases, and the money is typically lost. Therefore, avoiding fraud is a preferable way of fraud surveillance. Stop the fraud as quickly as feasible, minimize economic damage, and enhance finances recovered (Silverstone and Davia, 2005: Suastawan et al., 2017). This necessitates proactive measures.

H1c Proactive fraud audit has positive influence on fraud prevention.

Internal control effectiveness moderate the relationship between forensic accounting are fraud prevention

One approach to combating fraud is to perform internal controls effectiveness. It is deemed as measurements are put in place to guarantee that the integrity of the activity in organizations is maintained (Riitho & Wanjala, 2020: Yuniarti & Ariandi, 2017).

H2 Effective internal control Practices moderates the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention.

Effective Internal Control moderate the relationship between forensic accounting are fraud prevention

Likewise, this research strives to pinpoint the effectiveness of internal controls and how they influence the company, particularly fraud prevention (Shashkova, 2018, Bauer, 2016). Internal control forces were shown to be an essential contributing aspect of fraud deterrence throughout this literature review (Jahmani and Niranjana, 2015: Luikko, 2017). Solid internal controls characterized for most procedures include substantial and robust control against badly composed sheet documents, both of which deter scammers from misusing corporate cash. This is amplified if the fraud is well-planned and incorporates staff involvement (Luikko, 2017: Sahdan et al., 2020).

H2a Effective Internal Control moderates the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention.

Internal Control Challenges moderate the relationship between forensic accounting are fraud prevention

On the contrary, this article also focuses on internal control challenges and how they affect a company, particularly how they lead to corruption and fraud (Luikko, 2017: Bauer, 2016). Internal control failings have been uncovered to be an influential contributing factor in a scam during this whole investigation (Jahmani and Niranjana, 2015: Shashkova, 2018). Inadequate surveillance and a lack of paper documentation are two examples of weak internal controls categorized for most of the profession, both of which enable fraudsters to misappropriate company cash. This is amplified if the deception stood precisely planned and included staff cooperation (Chen et al., 2018, Shashkova, 2018).

H2b Internal Control Challenges moderates the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention

Fraud Triangle Theory

Due to the tough of the research's subject, this investigation relied on the Fraud Triangle hypothesis to justify the survey's elements.

Additionally, researchers use the Fraud Triangle to characterize business scams (Schuchter & Levi, 2016). In 1950, criminology Professor Donald Cressey coined the term "scam" by claiming that human conduct is motivated by motivations—wondering why individuals

commit scams pushed him to concentrate his study on what motivates someone to break trust. Over five months, he analyzed 250 culprits whose actions matched two criteria: (i) individuals accept responsibility for trust in a legitimate intent, and (ii) circumstances compel them to breach the confidence. He contends that three factors (pressure, opportunity, and justification) must exist for a violation to occur (Crassey 1953). "Confidence breakers," Cressey says, "because they regard themselves to be the source of an intractable financial crisis and possess information or competence that this challenge may be handled illegally via a breach of financial confidence." They also encompass behavioral expressions in this situation, assisting individuals in reconciling their views of themselves as graspers with their opinions about themselves as consumers of given financial assets (Mansor & Abdullahi, 2015).

Furthermore, Rodriguez et al. (2015) assert that although forensic accounting and fraud assessment are appropriate terms, they vary in terms of the core goal of each activity. For example, forensic accounting is performed by accountings who foresee lawsuits in a range of sectors, such as embezzlement and valuation. Scam signs refer to both deliberate and reactive efforts to fraud perpetrated by accountants and non-accountants alike. A fraud check focuses entirely on anti-fraud principles. Forensic accounting incorporates accounting, auditing, and perceptive abilities to prosecute corruption and scam. Various aspects and circumstances demand that users take on an assortment of positions; forensic accounting responsibilities interest corporate interrogation tactics, condition aid, unlawful concerns, possible litigation, and govern sector difficulties; thereby, forensic accounting is regarded as the linkage of accounting, auditing, and legal system (Houck et al., 2006). Moreover, forensic accounting aids in the resolution of legal issues such as company disputes, arbitration settlements, contracts breaches, white-collar criminal prosecutions, and delimited immorality (Warshavsky, 2013).

To obtain novel findings, constrain the corruptions situation in Iraq, and close a deficit in prior results, this research will combine the moderating variable internal control effectiveness with the independent variable forensic accounting, as this combination has not been used previously. Additionally, this survey will use internal control effectiveness as a variable to oversee the association between the factors and independent variables since such a relationship has not been used previously.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study's questionnaires were administered to 440 individuals in firms, including CEOs, CFOs, IAs, and the audit committee chairman (CAC). A total of 238 questionnaires have been returned, giving a response rate of 54%. To attain the anticipated response rate, therefor,

the data for this study project has been collected using a quantitative deductive technique from 238 respondents from 110 Iraqi firms, and they are listed on the Iraqi Stock Exchange. The hypotheses have been examined using the Statistical system for the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) with Smart PLS 3.3. Hence, employing a quantitative research technique, this survey used a clarifying approach based on relationships with certain factors, which could be compressed into statistical information and generalized in a satisfactory community (Kumar, 2019). As a result of this research's design, a questionnaire approach was used for survey construction to get research answers and a good comprehension for tracking fraud in Iraqi enterprises.

Data Collection

The survey model serves as the foundation for this research project's portrayal, which incorporates administering questionnaires to 440 management teams, including chief executive officers (CEO), chief financial officers (CFO), internal auditors (IA), and chairman audit committee (CAC), of which 238 surveys were brought back, revealing a 54 percent answer rate. To acquire the chosen number of respondents, regular follow-up by mail to study respondents is necessary to get the comeback of surveys that remain in the hands of sure participants during three weeks.

Measures

All variables emerged from a previous literature review in which participants were asked to respond on a seven-point Likert scale. Furthermore, all research questions were evaluated using fixers numbered from 1 to 7, one representing strong disapproval, seven representing strong acceptance, 2 and 3 representing poor acceptance, four being medium and 5 and 6 being considered strong acceptance.

Reliability Testing

Acceptable reliability dependability and a Cronbach's alpha score greater than 0.70 were commonly used to indicate trustworthiness (Nunnally, Bernstein & Berge, 1967). In this work, the convergent validity (CR) of each construction in the research framework too was evaluated for content validity, indicating that inner construction dependability exists when construction measurements have identical conceptual measurements. In this case, the CR value should be more than 0.70 to demonstrate that the construction signals accurately represented the hidden variable (Hair, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2011). As a result, all CR values surpassed the suggested cut-off value of 0.70.

Validity Testing

Convergent Validity

Convergent validity ensured that whole construction assessments assessed comparable conceptions or ideas honestly and moved in matching conceptual ways. Convergent validity has been determined in this research by comparing the size of collected variation via various measures to the quantity originating from sampling error (Chin, 1998). Any modeling construct's AVE reached 0.50 to demonstrate satisfactory convergent validity (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

Discriminant Validity

The minimal correlations between both construction measurements in the research framework used to analyze varied notion demonstrated discriminant validity (Hair Jr, Hult, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2016). Discriminant validity was assessed in this research using links between concept correlates and the sq base of AVE. Each construct's sq base grade was more significant than the association score with another construction (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). According to Table 1, the sq base of AVE (shown diagonally) was more significant than the association with other components (represented by off-diagonal values), fulfilling the discriminant validity assessment.

Table 1: Reliability and validity testing

	CR	AVE	EIC	FAC	FAT	FFR	ICC	PFA
EIC	0.936	0.746	0.864					
FAC	0.882	0.520	-0.165	0.721				
FAT	0.919	0.695	0.213	-0.087	0.834			
FFR	0.875	0.505	-0.100	0.610	-0.060	0.710		
ICC	0.869	0.529	0.216	-0.100	0.410	-0.032	0.728	
PFA	0.826	0.551	-0.032	0.720	-0.084	0.319	-0.109	0.742

FINDINGS

Structural Model Evaluation

Following an analysis of the measuring measurement module reliability and validity, the scaling technique involving 500 samples was used to determine the regression coefficient for the hypothesis testing.

Hypothesis Testing Results

The conceptual framework and hypothesis-testing findings were obtained by combining PLS-SEM and using route coefficient assessment to assess the research hypotheses. As a

result, the hypothesized link was analyzed via resampling. Substantial sampling sites were drawn from the original equivalent (with substitution) to present standard errors initiation, providing a suggested t-value for the hierarchical path's test statistic. However, p-values indicating the likelihood of incorrectly rejecting null hypotheses regarding research findings were frequently published (Hair et al., 2011; Hair Jr et al., 2016), since lower p-values implied increased link significance. For example, after performing PLS-SEM, it was determined that H2 (forensic accounting technique -> fraud prevention) was in-significant in the direct modeling techniques; however, the other hypotheses (H1 and H3) showed influential (p-values below 0.05 and T-values over 1.96).

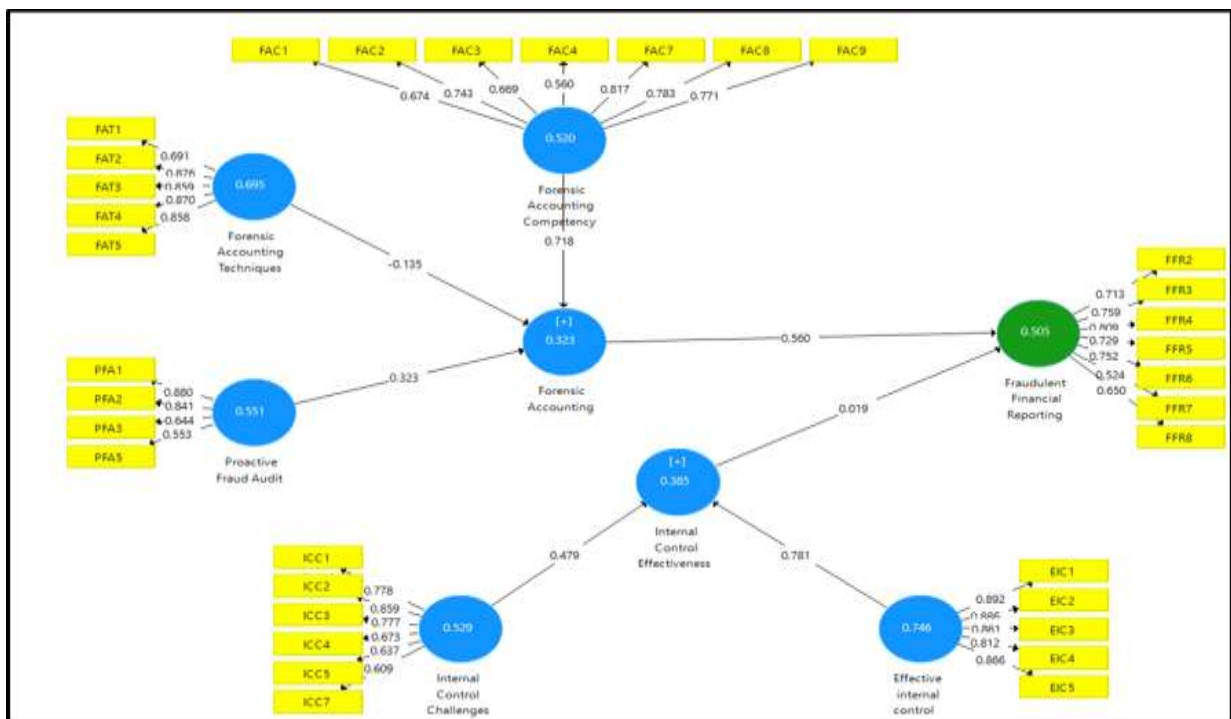


Figure 1 Structural Model of Direct Path

The structural model can then be used to construct consequences for moderating variables. Notably, this research proposed examining the moderating influence of ICE on the link between forensic accounting and fraud prevention in Iraq. A two-phase mechanism was used to develop relations between the moderator (ICE) and three independent research components (FAC, FAT, and PFA). As a result, three research hypotheses were established and tested using PLS. Two of the three hypotheses involving moderation were confirmed. For instance, H2 and H2a were supported, but H2b was not.

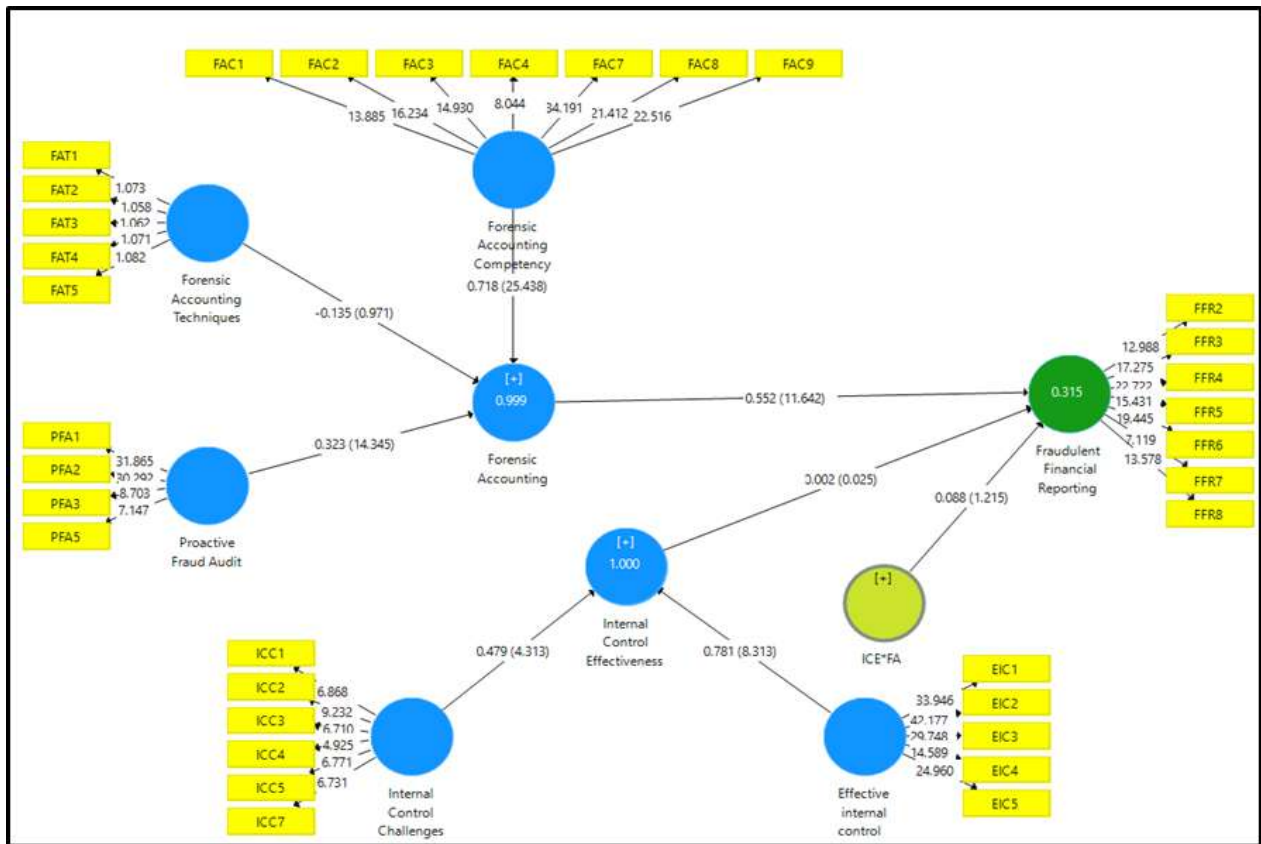


Figure 2 Structural Model of Moderating

The results of the hypothesis test are demonstrated in the Figures 1 and 2. The route coefficients and p-values for overarching relationships are shown in Figure 1. (Direct effect of forensic accounting on fraud prevention). The findings of the moderating impact showed both route coefficients and p-values.

Table 2 Moderating Path Coefficient

No.	Paths	Beta	STDEV	T Statistics	P Values
H2	ICE*FA -> FFR	0.088	0.072	1.215	0.112
H2A	EIC*FA -> FFR	0.170	0.089	1.906	0.028
H2B	ICC*FA -> FFR	-0.022	0.078	0.281	0.389

A fundamental incline analysis was used to fully appreciate the roots of moderating utilizing interaction terms (see Figures 1 and 2). Green, red, and blue bars denoted the top, medium, and minimum moderator locations, respectively, in the preceding graphs. The following are the results of the moderation assessment: (a) The ICE acts as a moderator in the interaction between (1) the FAC link and FP and (2) the PFA connections and FP. (b) The ICE positively moderates the relationship between (1) FAC and firm performance.

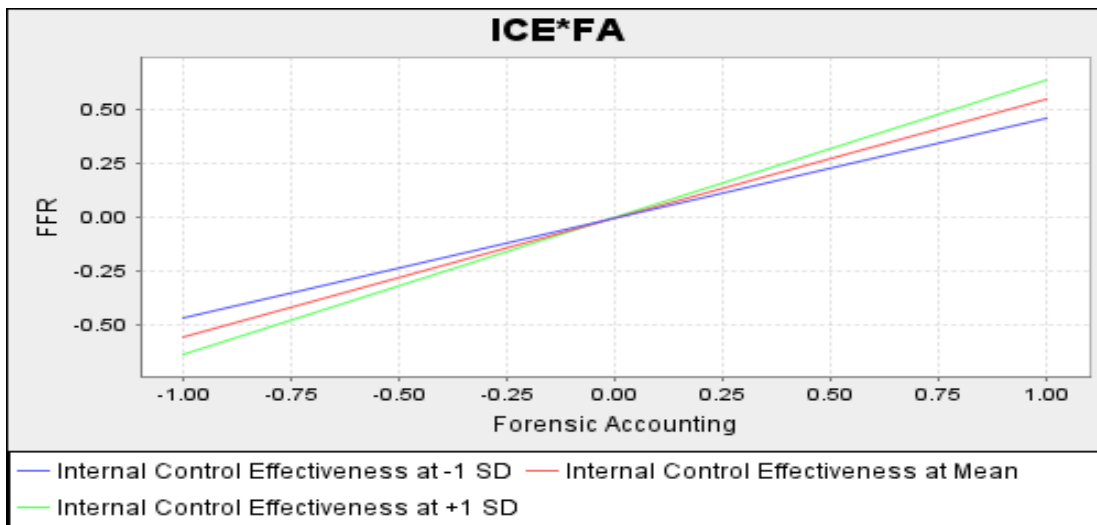


Figure 3 Interaction effects of ICE and FA on FFR

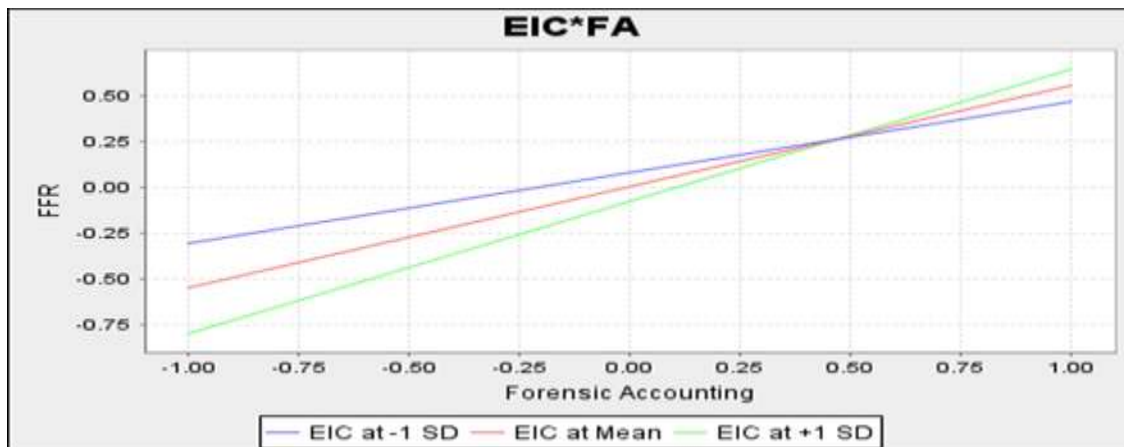


Figure 4 Interaction effects of EIC and FA on FFR

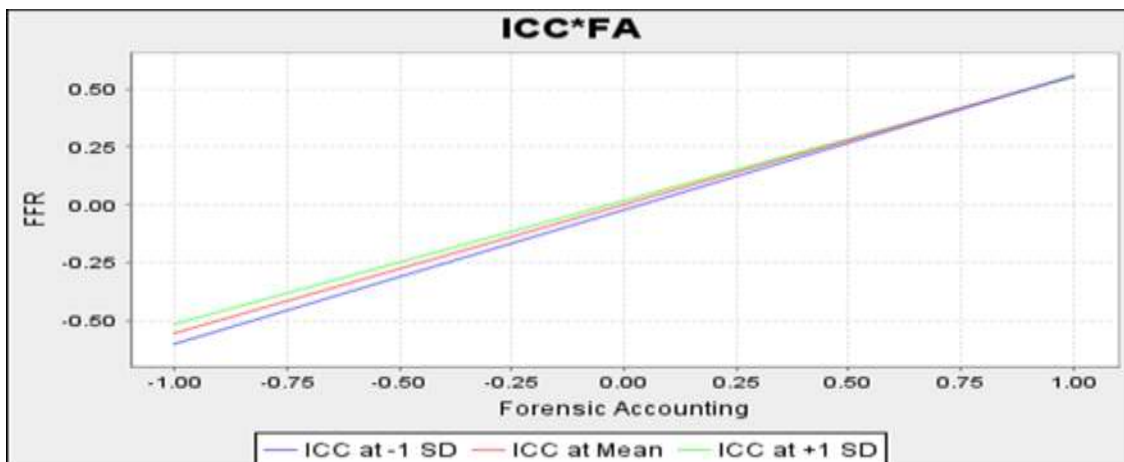


Figure 5 Interaction effect of ICC and FA on FFR

DISCUSSIONS

Discussion on Direct Effect

Forensic Accounting Competence and Fraud Prevention

FAC had a favorable effect on FP in Iraqi enterprises in the research environment. As a result, the predicted link was highly significant at the 95% level of confidence ($\beta = 0.392$, t -value = 2.824, and p -values = 0.007), with significance at $p < 0.01$, so confirming H1 and correlating it to previous studies on firm success (Howieson, 2018; Jenkins, Negangard, & Oler, 2018; Tapang and Ihendinihu, 2020). Furthermore, it was discovered that FAC has a significant effect on FP (Sumartono et al., 2020; Popoola et al., 2014; Ocansey, 2017) due to presumably divergent viewpoints on the tasks to be completed. Unsurprisingly, FAC among FA would result in more competent outcomes, and a more got the better to fraud prevention.

Forensic Accounting technique and Fraud Prevention

This research implied that forensic accounting technique would be an useful strategy for fraud prevention. Furthermore, forensic accounting technology can drive the rapid settlement of fraud issues by using fraud prevention approaches that have enabled the avoidance of corporate finances abuse and the proper investigation of fraud investigations. However, the questionnaire data did not reveal a significant outcome, On the contrary, showed negative correlation between forensic accounting technology and fraud prevention ($\beta = -0.076$, t -values = 0.955, p -values = 0.170). Thus, forensic accounting's technique in evaluating the decrease of corruption in Iraqi organizations was not significantly positive after the questionnaire's outcome that there is no link between the forensic accounting approach and fraud prevention (Akinbowale et al., 2020; Suleiman & Ahmi, 2018).

Proactive fraud audit and fraud prevention

This study indicated a positive, proactive audit association between fraud and fraud prevention. Commencement has been displayed analytically that proactive fraud audits have a significant positive effect on fraud prevention in Iraqi firms (Putra & Dwirandra, 2019). Consequently, significant variations in the association between proactive fraud auditing and fraud prevention were observed. At the 95th percentile significance level ($\beta = 0.181$, t -value = 11.105, and p -values = 0.000), the correlation was significant at the level with significance at $p < 0.05$. Thus, H3 was selected since the outcome was positive and statistically significant at 5%. The outcome is equivalent to preceding analysis on proactive fraud auditing and fraud prevention (Tuanakotta, 2012; Yazid and Suryanto, 2016); as proactive fraud auditing has an impact on potentially improved fraud prevention.

Effective internal control Practices moderates the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention

An efficient internal system consists of Methods that moderate the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention. The connection $ICE*FA \rightarrow FFR$ represents the moderating effects of effective internal control on the link between forensic accounting and fraud prevention. The results show that the matched t - statistics ($t = 0.088$) are insignificant ($p = 0.112$), showing that Hypothesis 2 is not verified in this analysis.

Effective Internal Control moderates the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention

This has been proposed that effective internal control may have a moderate influence on the link between forensic accounting and fraud prevention ($ICE * FA \rightarrow FP$). The pattern matching with t-statistics ($t = 1.906$) and (p -value = 0.028) which is smaller than the urged threshold of 0.05. As a result, good internal control between forensic accounting and fraud prevention was critical; implying that forensic accounting combined with effective internal control had a major impact on fraud prevention in Iraqi firms. In this respect, current findings on the association between forensic accounting and corporate fraud prevention corroborated the idea (Yuniarti & Ariandi, 2018: Taufik, 2019). Take note of the influence of forensic accounting on fraud prevention, which is also the study's key and distinguishing feature (for which the first practical evidence was presented). Respondents noted in this light that forensic accounting could improve fraud prevention in Iraqi organizations.

Internal Control challenges moderates the relationship between forensic accounting and fraud prevention

Internal control challenges were hypothesized to have a moderating influence on the link between forensic accounting and fraud prevention ($ICE * FA \rightarrow FP$). As a consequence, the negative pattern ($= -0.853$) in conjunction with the t-statistic ($t = 0.281$) and p-value ($p = 0.389$) indicated that the hypothesized moderation effect was statically significant in a negative direction, confirming H2B. In this sense, it is feasible to profit from forensic accounting in Iraqi businesses without involving internal control forums that prevent fraud in Iraqi businesses. Internal control challenges were a fundamental basis of fraud and corruption (Hamdani & Albar, 2019: Nawawi & Salin, 2018), but they were not substantially associated with fraud prevention via forensic accounting, as this research shown (Joseph et al., 2015: Omonyemen et al., 2017).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

This research contributed significantly to the present body of knowledge about forensic accounting, fraud prevention, and effective internal control processes in the current Iraqi Stock Exchange. As such, the research's results have probably aided emerging economies, particularly Iraq, in their knowledge of internal control under the fraud triangle hypothesis. This paper has many novel insights. First, the fraud triangle hypothesis explored the influence of forensic accounting and fraud prevention via effective internal control as a mediating variable in Iraq. An emphasis on Iraq was essential to study the relationship between forensic accountability and fraud prevention via the triangle theory of fraud lens, given Iraq's different organizational origins. With the advent of corporations trading on the Iraqi Stock Exchange, it was determined that efforts to concentrate on forensic accounting inside Iraqi enterprises were essential to prevent fraud. It's worth mentioning that this is the first research of its type to examine the effect of forensic accounting competence and proactive fraud audits on fraud prevention in Iraqi businesses through internal control effectiveness

CONCLUSION

The strength of the analysis design is based on how well users can admit that one's research has flaws. In the preceding sections, we contributed to the literature on financial institutions. Unfortunately, the above steps were only worthwhile when we discovered difficulties with the research. Correspondingly, the research outcomes showed weaknesses that need to be considered once the data is evaluated and new locations for future study. In the subsequent sentences, we'll talk about the study's weaknesses.

It's vital to ensure that the research only looked at the critical factors: the efficiency of forensic accounting, forensic accounting techniques, proactive audit fraud, effective internal control, and fraud prevention. Because respondents only examined businesses that were already in existence, the outcomes may not show the total scenery of the firm's essential aspects. Plus, the impacts of internal control challenges on fraud prevention were problematized and may not be possible to show in this study. Moreover, the research framework found that important factors that could impact fraud prevention (computer-assisted audit tools, computer-related and statistical techniques, and red flag detection technologies) were not considered.

Forthcoming studies may look at the constraints referenced ahead to get even more comprehensive information about the research field. Much research needs to be done to find out how forensic accounting jobs affect fraud in businesses. This includes looking into how competence, techniques, and proactive fraud audits affect forensic power in Iraqi companies. A clearer picture of forensic practices and how they influence corporate fraud could be gained by

connecting specific fields of study. Research into how forensic working groups (audits, external audits, and corporate governance) work together to prevent fraud in organizations could be further motivated. Plus, more research could look into how each of the task forces noted above affects the fraud prevention of Iraqi businesses that have been listed.

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